

MORE MERTON "STOREYS"

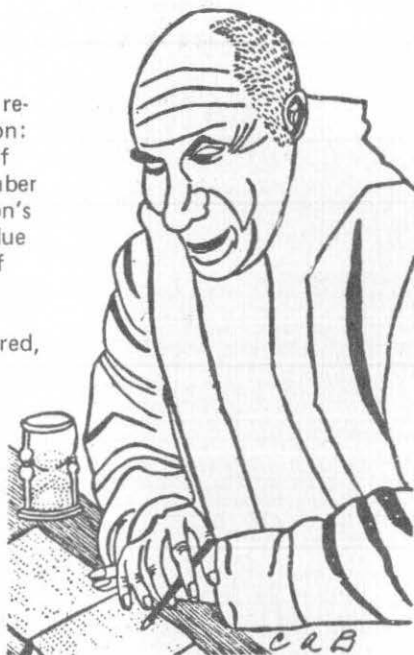
Deba Patnaik, in a Louisville newspaper, recently called his review of four books by and about Thomas Merton "Thomas Merton: four more storeys." Fr. Daniel O'Hanlon, S.J., titled his review of Merton literature "Merton buffs not starved for words" in November 1979. Rather than subsiding after the tenth anniversary of Merton's death, publication continues unabated with several publications due this spring and summer. We are giving information about some of these new publications in this issue of the SEASONAL.

The "official" biography of Thomas Merton has not yet appeared, but there has been a significant change. John Howard Griffin, first appointed as the "official" biographer, has, primarily for health reasons, given up the position and task. Michael Mott, poet and educator, has been appointed in Griffin's place to do the "official" biography and will, under terms outlined in the Merton Trust Agreement, have access to all materials restricted solely to the "official" biographer. No definite publication date has been set. Two other "biographic" studies, one by Jim Forest, longtime friend of Merton, and the other by the English Monica Furlong are described more fully on pages 4 and 5.

Merton, for a man who loved and who lived in solitude, has to be one of the most, if not the most, photographed, drawn, and depicted monk in history. We give samplings of these depictions of Merton, including those on dust jackets of recent and forthcoming publications.

Poetic tributes are not rare. On the facing page is one published this past fall by Dr. James Thomas Baker. Dr. Baker wrote his doctoral dissertation on Merton during Merton's lifetime and is the author of THOMAS MERTON--SOCIAL CRITIC as well as a play, UNDER THE SIGN OF THE WATERBEARER, and several articles on Merton. His wife, Jill Baker, painted the only extant portrait of Merton done from life sketches.

These depictions, the poems, the new publications -- -- all add more "storeys" to the burgeoning body of Mertoniana.



THOMAS MERTON

A rather crude caricature of Merton taken from the photograph by John Howard Griffin appeared in a Buffalo newspaper review.



The Serbo-Croatian translation of Hart's THOMAS MERTON/MONK whimsically used Merton's head as the "O"