

# MERTON SMORGASBORD:

## A "Feast" of Merton Projects for 1986

—by **Robert E. Daggy**

1985 was a busy year in Merton Studies with the appearance of the authorized biography by Michael Mott, the first volume of the Merton letters edited by William H. Shannon, a book of interviews by Paul Wilkes, a collection of symposia papers (reviewed on pp. 14-15 by Sister Mary Luke Tobin), books by Donald Grayston and Victor A. Kramer, a reprint of Edward Rice's *Man in the Sycamore Tree* and a paperback edition of Anthony Padovano's *Human Journey*. 1986 promises to be as "busy," with a variety of Merton projects in the offing. Following are some upcoming projects.

**JONASTECKNET.** The first item to arrive in 1986 was the first translation into Swedish of Merton's *The Sign of Jonas*. Translated by Sven Heilo, a Swedish Catholic who corresponded with Merton [Merton's letters to Heilo will be included in the second volume of the Merton Letters], *Jonastecknet* is the fifth Merton book to be translated and published in Sweden, the first in nearly thirty years. The others were:

1. [Bread in the Wilderness] *Brod i Odemarken*; tr. by Marianne Fauchard & Kajsa Rootzen (Stockholm: Petrus de Dacia Forlag, 1959): 133p.
2. [Seeds of Contemplation] *Vagen till Kontemplation*; tr. by Daniel Andreae (Stockholm: Petrus de Dacia Forlag, 1955): 155p.
3. [The Seven Storey Mountain/ Elected Silence] *Kallad till Tystnad*; tr. by M. & S. Stolpe (Lund: Gleerupska Universitetsbokhandelns Forlag, 1956): 308p.
4. [Silence in Heaven] *Den Heliga Tystnaden*; tr. by Erik Cinthio (Malmo: Allhems Forlag, 1956): 149p.

Sven Heilo translated Merton's essay "Advent" which appeared in a Swedish periodical in 1963 and Hans Granlid did some articles on Merton in the early 1980s which were published in Stockholm. Heilo has provided several useful appendices on Cistercian life for this edition and he also did the illustrations. We feature a detail from his drawing for the jacket on the front cover of this issue (and this first Merton publication in 1986 also "inspired" us to the rather cutesy title for this article).

**GETHSEMANI POEMS.** The second item which has already appeared in 1986 is Ron Seitz's *Gethsemani Poems*, a selection from which appeared in the Autumn 1985 *Merton Seasonal*. This limited edition, subtitled "Written from within the Walls of the Abbey of Gethsemani," has been issued in 50 hardcover and 500 softcover copies.

**MERTON PAPERBACKS.** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich will reissue eight Merton titles in paperback in the Spring of 1986. These reissues will be part of their Harvest/ HBJ Paperback Series. All have been provided with new jackets with reproductions of paintings and will include:

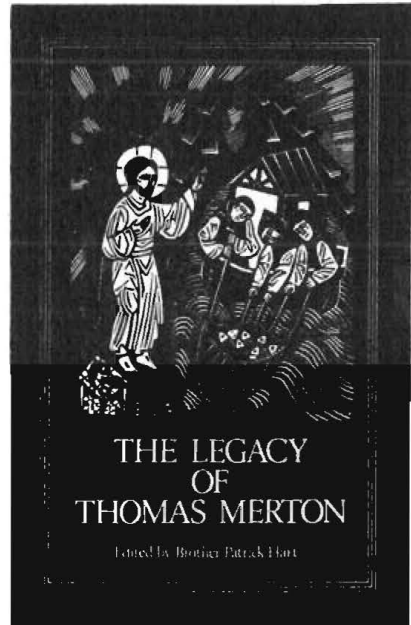
- The Ascent to Truth* / \$6.95
- Disputed Questions* / \$6.95
- The Last of the Fathers* / \$4.95
- Love and Living* / \$5.95
- No Man is an Island* / \$4.95
- The Seven Storey Mountain* / \$7.95
- Also available in hardcover / \$17.95
- The Sign of Jonas* / \$6.95
- The Waters of Siloe* / \$6.95

**NEW BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Marquita E. Breit and Robert E. Daggy have completed the revision and updating of Ms. Breit's 1974 *Thomas Merton: a Bibliography*. The new edition, titled *Thomas Merton: a Comprehensive Bibliography*, is scheduled for publication by Garland Publishing Company in March 1986. The format has been altered from earlier bibliographies, not only to include the vast amount of publication since 1974, but also to facilitate easier use. The bibliography has been completely indexed and divided into seven sections (each section includes English-language publications as well as publications in translation) as follows:

SECTION I.	Books, Pamphlets, Limited Editions by Thomas Merton
SECTION II.	Shorter Prose Writings by Thomas Merton [Includes Essays, Reviews, Chapters in Books, Contributions to Periodicals, Journals, Newspapers, and Unpublished Essays]
SECTION III.	Poetry by Thomas Merton
SECTION IV.	Books, Pamphlets and Tapes about Thomas Merton
SECTION V.	Theses about Thomas Merton
SECTION VI.	Articles, Poems & Reviews about Thomas Merton
SECTION VII.	Media Presentations & Sound Recordings by and about Thomas Merton
APPENDIX	Merton's Pseudonyms

**MERTON SYMPOSIUM.** Father M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O., of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts, has coordinated a "Merton Symposium" to be held in conjunction with the 1986 Cistercian Studies Conference/ International Congress on Medieval Studies. The symposium will be held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where the Institute of Cistercian Studies and Cistercian Publications are located. The conference will be held May 8 - May 11, 1986. Papers will be delivered by David D. Cooper, Lawrence S. Cunningham, Robert E. Daggy, Donald Grayston, George A. Kilcourse, Victor A. Kramer, Scott Nelson, Anthony T. Padovano, M. Basil Pennington, William H. Shannon, Joachim Viens, and Paul Wilkes — making this the largest "Merton Symposium" since those held at Vancouver and Columbia in 1978. A complete schedule for the symposium is given on pp. 18-19 of this issue.

**A MERTON Festschrift.** Brother Patrick Hart has edited a collection of papers on Thomas Merton which appeared originally in *Cistercian Studies*. Brother Patrick says in his Foreword: "It was felt that these studies warranted a wider audience than was possible in the pages of this rather limited circulation." He further says: "As the twentieth anniversary of the death of Thomas Merton approaches, rather than a diminishment of interest in his life and writings, there appears an ever increasing awareness of Merton as a spiritual force in our own time. This is evidenced by the ever wider distribution of his earlier books in paperback editions, and since his death the appearance of a number of collections and posthumous works. . . The present volume, it is hoped, will make a positive



contribution in the same direction by bringing together in one volume a dozen significant studies that have appeared during the past decade following the publication of two earlier volumes: *Thomas Merton/ Monk: A Monastic Tribute* (revised edition) and *The Message of Thomas Merton*. Published in matching format with the present volume, they comprise a trilogy, and manifest a progression in the field of Merton studies." The book is titled *The Legacy of Thomas Merton* and will be published in the Spring of 1986 by Cistercian Publications at \$14.95 clothbound and \$7.95 paperback. It will include:

- Foreword, *Patrick Hart*
- Within a Tradition of Prayer, *Michael Casey*
- The Far East, *Joseph Chu-Cong*
- Pilgrim: Freedom Bound, *Hilary Costello*
- High Culture and Spirituality, *Lawrence S. Cunningham*
- A Monastic Exchange of Letters: Leclercq and Merton,  
*Patrick Hart*
- Poetry as Exemplification of the Monastic Journey,  
*Victor A. Kramer*
- The Solitary Life, *Dorothy LeBeau*
- A Coincidence of Opposites, *Jean Leclercq*
- Signs and Sources of Spiritual Growth, *Elena Malits*
- Ecclesiological Development, *Mary L. Schneider*
- The Spirituality of Peace, *Gordon C. Zahn*
- Epilogue: A Memoir, *Timothy Kelly*

**NEW JOURNAL.** Turkey Press in Isla Vista, California, will publish a limited edition of *The Alaskan Journal of Thomas Merton* in 1986. The journal was edited by Robert E. Daggy from Merton's accounts of his trip to Alaska before leaving for Asia in 1968. The Alaskan trip was undertaken in part to scout out possible locations for a more isolated hermitage and Daggy says in the introduction: "His brief experience in Alaska was a positive and enjoyable one. After it, the monk of Gethsemani was off to California and Asia convinced that Alaska would provide "ideal solitude" in the United States.