

TWO POEMS

Prompted by Merton's Writings

THE SWIMMING TEACHER

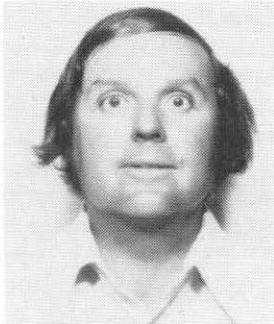
by **Ronald Webster**

This poem is based on the cover of the paperback edition of
The Sign of Jonas (Doubleday Image Books, 1963).

God's green sign of Jonas
Swam warmly through unabridged chromas in the brown
Jacket surrounding Thomas Merton climbing white
On the seven storey mountain above his white cloister

Of green day by day experiences lettered
Solitary Trappist monk who's gazing
At Doubleday's green Image and D31 upon God's green
World pierced with the cross redeeming his

White original edition
Of \$3.50 below Canada's \$1.35 in the heaven of brown's
Trinity eye peering mystically at your own deep sea
Swim with Jonas at Gethsemani.



RONALD WEBSTER

□ **Ronald Webster** lives in Colville, Washington, and works in the timber industry in the northeastern section of the state. He has published poems in various small journals. His most recent work appeared in *Deep Down Things* (Washington State University Press), an anthology of Pacific Northwest poets.