

# Thomas Merton - A brief bibliography

## *Autobiography:*

The Seven Storey Mountain (*early UK editions called Elected Silence*)  
The Intimate Merton - His life from his Journals - ed P Hart & J Montaldo

## *Biography:*

Silent Lamp by William Shannon  
Living with wisdom by Jim Forest  
The Seven Mountains of Thomas Merton by Michael Mott - Vast & Authoritative

## *Commentary:*

Merton's Palace of Nowhere by James Finley

## *Thomas Merton' Writings:*

### *Anthologies:*

A Thomas Merton Reader by Thomas McDonnell  
Thomas Merton - Essential Writings by Christine M Bochen

### *Journals:*

The Sign of Jonas  
The Asian Journal

### *Spirituality:*

New Seeds of Contemplation  
Contemplation in a World of Action

### *Zen:*

Mystics and Zen Masters

### *Essays / Social Concerns:*

Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander  
Passion for Peace - ed W Shannon  
The literary essays of Thomas Merton

### *Letters:*

The Courage for Truth - Letters to writers  
Witness to Freedom - Letters in times of crisis  
The School of Charity - On religious renewal and spiritual direction  
The Road to Joy - To old and new friends  
The Hidden Ground of love - On religious experience and social concerns

### *Poetry:*

#### *Individual volumes:*

Of the ten volumes of poetry collections by Merton only The Geography of Lograire (1968) is currently available as an individual volume of poetry.

#### *Collections:*

The Collected Poems - (runs to nearly 1100 pages - includes all the above)  
In the Dark before Dawn: New Selected Poems - Ed. Lynn Szarbo  
The Thomas Merton Reader contains an excellent selection of poems  
(There is no poetry in Thomas Merton - Essential Writings)

#### *Getting Started with Merton:*

The best place to start reading Merton is not at the beginning of his publishing life with The Seven Storey Mountain but at the end with Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander - mature Merton at his peak.

After that I would suggest either of the two excellent anthologies cited above. In addition New Seeds of Contemplation has 39 short chapters (5/6 pages each) which form an excellent starting point for prayer and meditation.

Stephen Dunhill - compiled 2/3/2013