

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
Merton - A Biography by Monica Furlong

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
Merton's complete journals are published in 7 volumes.

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
A Thomas Merton Reader contains an excellent selection of poems

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 5/10/2017