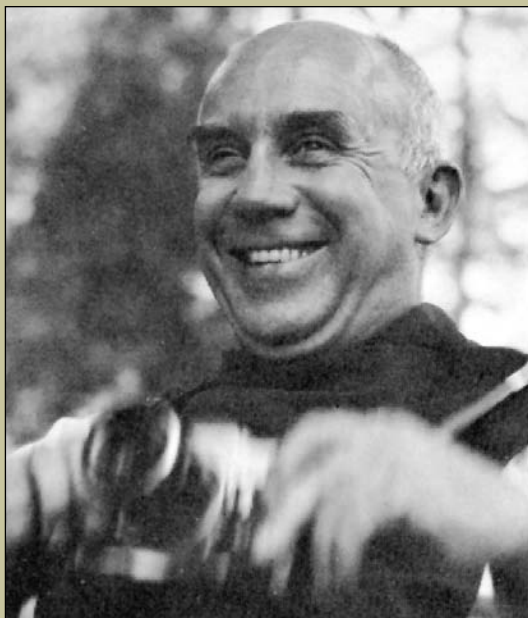


SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Photo of Merton by Ralph Eugene Meatyard



Thomas Merton in France

Prades, France
June 24–July 4, 2004

*An offering of the Pilgrimage
Program, in cooperation with
the Humanities Department
at Simon Fraser University
and the Thomas Merton
Society of Canada*

A PILGRIMAGE TO PRADES, FRANCE,

for longtime lovers of Merton and his writings as well as new friends of this great and mischievous hermit ...

“On the last day of January 1915, under the sign of the Water Bearer, in a year of a great war, and down in the shadow of some French mountains on the borders of Spain, I came into the world.”

This is the memorable first sentence of *The Seven Storey Mountain*, Thomas Merton’s autobiography. And as he says, it was on January 31, 1915, that he was born at Prades in the department of Pyrénées-Orientales, in the Midi, the sunny south of France.

Prades is a lovely town, now twice as populous (currently about 6,000) as it was when Merton was born there. The house in which he was born still stands at the corner of Rue du 4 Septembre and Rue du Palais de Justice, where in the summer, a beautiful bougainvillea grows in the narrow walled garden.

Merton’s parents took him to the United States early in the war. But he returned to France in 1925, to live and go to school in St. Antonin Noble Val, and later to a boarding school in Montauban which he very much disliked, the Lycée Ingres.

After a few years in Britain, he spent the rest of his life in the United States. But he was very proud of being French by birth, and was identifiably French in many of his sensibilities.

Merton was many things in his all-too-short life (he died in 1968, in Thailand)—poet, photographer, essayist, social critic, Zen calligrapher, theoretician of monastic renewal, ecumenist. Most of all, however, he was a contemplative—both as monk and writer. He is arguably the most significant spiritual writer of the western Christian tradition in the second half of the 20th century.

In this ten-day program, we will have the privilege of inviting Merton’s presence among us in the place where he was born and spent part of his growing-up years. We will review his life, with special attention to the ways in which he cherished and expressed his French origin. We will spend time on his great themes—contemplation, non-violence and interfaith encounter—and we will visit St. Antonin and Montauban.

The program is intended both for longtime lovers of Merton and his writings as well as new friends of this great and mischievous hermit. It will include lectures, discussions, ample free time, and a chance to meet local members of L’Association Française Thomas Merton.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

Students of SFU (or other universities) may be able to take this program in partial fulfillment of requirements for a directed studies course. Usual credit course fees apply in addition to the basic cost of the tour. Enquiries may be directed to Christine Prisland, Departmental Assistant in the Humanities Department, 604-291-4094 or Don Grayston, 604-291-5516.



Drawing by Owen Merton, Thomas Merton’s father.

PILGRIMAGE FACULTY



DONALD GRAYSTON, the tour leader, is director of the Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University, where he also teaches religious studies. His dissertation was on Merton, and he has published books and articles on various aspects of Merton's life and thought. He is also a lover of Shakespeare and the tango.



JUDITH HARDCASTLE, the tour coordinator, is a candidate for ministry in the United Church of Canada, and a part-time student at Vancouver School of Theology. Founding member of the Thomas Merton Society of Canada, she is active in Merton research, particularly on Merton as social critic and prophetic voice.



MONICA WEIS SSJ is professor of English at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY, specializing in rhetoric, and American literature. She is a frequent contributor to *The Merton Seasonal* and other scholarly journals. She is currently working on a book about Thomas Merton and nature.

If you have any questions about this program, contact Don Grayston at 604-291-5516, donald_grayston@sfu.ca or Judith Hardcastle at 604-669-2546, judithhardcastle@telus.net or visit www.sfu.ca/international or www.merton.ca



SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY

THE PROGRAM

June 24

Thursday

- 1:00 pm Arrive at Hotel Les Glycines in Prades, register and settle in.
- 6:00 pm Apéritif de bienvenue at the Bureau de Tourisme.
- 8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines.
Orientation after dinner.

June 25

Friday

- 7:30 – 9:30 am Breakfast at the hotel, and so every day.
- 10:00 am – noon Opening session.
Lunch at the restaurant of your choice, and so most days.
- 2:00 pm Walking tour of Prades, including a visit to Merton's birthplace.
- 3:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session.
- 8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines.

June 26

Saturday

- 9:00 am – noon Morning session.
Lunch out—your choice.
- 2:00 pm Chartered bus to the Abbey of St. Michel de Cuxa, 3 km from Prades (from which part of The Cloisters in Manhattan was taken).
- 6:00 p.m. Barbecue and soirée with local members of L'Association Française Thomas Merton.

June 27

Sunday

Free day.

June 28

Monday

- 9:00 am – noon Morning session.
Lunch out—your choice.
- 2:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session.
- 8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines.

June 29

Tuesday

Free morning to visit the weekly public market at *la Place*.
Lunch out—your choice.

1:00 pm

Bus departs for overnight trip to St. Antonin, where Merton's father built what is now the Villa Diane.
Dinner at Hotel des Thermes.

8:00 pm

June 30

Wednesday

- 8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel.
- 9:30 am Morning session and visit to Villa Diane.
- 12:00 noon Lunch at Auberge de la Source in St. Antonin.
- 2:30 pm Leave for Montauban.
Brief stop at the Lycée Ingres.
- 8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines.

July 1

Thursday

- 9:00 – noon Morning session.
Lunch out—your choice.
- 2:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session.
- 6:30 pm Canada Day Wine & Cheese Reception with local members of L'Association Française Thomas Merton (hosted by the Thomas Merton Society of Canada)
Dinner out—your choice.

July 2

Friday

- 9:00 – noon Morning session.
Lunch out—your choice.
- 2:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session.
Dinner out—your choice.

July 3

Saturday

- 9:00 – noon Morning session.
Lunch out—your choice.
- 2:00 – 3:30 pm Closing session and evaluation.
- 7:30 pm Dinner at Les Glycines... party!

July 4

Sunday

Breakfast and departure. Bus to Perpignan for those wishing to use it.
Bon voyage, tous et toutes!

REGISTRATION

As the tour is limited to 26 people, we advise early registration. Minimum age is 19 unless traveling with a parent or guardian.

COST

Inclusive cost: \$1,975.00 Canadian (approx. \$1,480.00 US). Cost for full-time students at SFU: \$1,675.00. Payment of \$975.00 with registration; balance of \$1,000.00 payable by May 1, 2004. **A discount of 10% is offered if you register by December 31, 2003.** A receipt from the University in response to your deposit will confirm your registration.

Cost includes tuition fee of \$695.00 which may be income tax-deductible and is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy, if desired and available, will be at an additional charge of \$295.00 (approximately \$225.00 US).

Cost also includes: Ten nights accommodation, breakfast daily, one noon meal, seven evening meals, scheduled land transportation, instructors' services and taxes.

Cost does not include: Transportation to and from Prades (air and land), other meals, health and accident insurance, alcoholic beverages, medical costs, laundry, personal items, excess baggage charges, individual accommodation surcharges, tips, or expenses arising from any causes beyond the reasonable control of the tour leader.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Before May 1: Deposit of \$975.00 will be refunded, less a \$45.00 processing fee. *Between May 1 and May 30:* A full refund, less the processing fee, will be possible only if someone from the waiting list is able to take your place. *After May 30:* No refund will be possible. *Original receipts issued by SFU must accompany any refund request. Simon Fraser University reserves the right to cancel the tour in the event of insufficient registration.*

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

Please complete and mail the registration form with your deposit cheque or credit card number in the amount of \$975.00 (*payable to Simon Fraser University*) to *The Pilgrimage Program*, International and Exchange Student Services, MBC 1200, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Everyone will be making their own way to Prades, and departing on their own. From North America, fly to Paris, take the fast train (TGV) to Perpignan (or fly to Barcelona and take the regular train to Perpignan), then the local train from Perpignan to Prades.

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes! Please register me for Thomas Merton in France.
June 24–July 4, 2004 (one registration form per person please)

Full Name (*as it appears in your passport*) _____

Address _____

() _____

Day Telephone

() _____

Evening Telephone

() _____

Fax

E-mail

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian Other _____

Smoker: Yes No Age group: 19–30 31–45 46–60 60+

Accommodation: Single Share with _____

Arrive via: _____

I heard about the tour from: _____

Deposit of \$975.00 CDN is made by:

Cheque (*payable to Simon Fraser University*)

VISA MasterCard

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Issue Date (*MasterCard only*) _____

Cardholder's Name (*if different from registrant above*) _____

Signature (*mandatory for credit card payment*) _____

Balance of \$1000 CDN is due May 1, 2004.

I have carefully read and accept all the conditions stated in the brochure. I confirm that I am 19 years of age or older, that I will be responsible for any health or travel insurance which I will need on the study tour, and for any person(s) of minor age accompanying me; and that I hereby release and discharge Simon Fraser University and its agents and employees from any and all claims, actions and demands that I or anyone in my charge may have for any injury, accident or loss arising from my participation in the program.

Signature of registrant _____

We respect your privacy. The mailing information you have provided is included in our SFU mailing list; however we do not sell our mailing lists.

Please check here and sign below if you DO NOT want to be on our mailing list.

Signature of registrant _____