Books Left at St. Bonaventure When Merton Entered Religious Life

Compiled by Paul J. Spaeth

These are books which Merton left at St. Bonaventure College, presumably with the director of the library at that time Fr. Irenaeus Herscher, just prior to his leaving the college and secular life to travel to Kentucky to enter the Trappist monastery at Gethsemani in December of 1941. There is little, or no marking in these books. In the few cases when there is something of a more substantial nature, it is noted with the entries. Many of the books would seem to have been purchased new, but even in these cases it is not always certain that the markings are from Merton. The most important markings are Merton’s ownership signatures along with the dates when he received them. The list is broken down into only a few categories which seemed to be the most appropriate.

F. Matthias Alexander (1869-1955)
Constructive Conscious Control of the Individual
New York: Dutton, 1923.
[Autograph: “Thomas Merton. 1937.”]

John Bartholomew (1831-1893)
The Oxford Advanced Atlas.

The Holy Bible, Translated from the Latin Vulgate.
New York: Benziger Brothers, 1938.
[Autograph: “Thomas James Merton”]

George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824)
Don Juan, and Other Satirical Poems / ed. Louis I. Bredvold.
Garden City, NJ: Doubleday, Doran, 1935. (Doubleday-Doran Series in Literature)
[Autograph: “Tom Merton. Nov. 1937.”]

Jean Cocteau (1889-1963)
Grant Ecart
Paris: Delemain, Boutelleau, 1924.
[Autograph: “Thomas James Merton July 1939.”]
Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)
*Select Poetry & Prose* / ed. Stephen Potter.
[Presentation: “Tom Merton from Uncle _____ Jan 31, 1936”]

William Congreve (1670-1729)
London: Peter Davis, 1930.
[Underlining and notes in “The Way of the World”]

Garcilaso De la Vega (1503-1536)
*Obras.*
Argentina: Espasa-Calpe, 1939. (Coleccion Austral ; 63)

John Donne (1572-1631)
[Autograph: “Thomas Merton. 1937”]

John Dryden (1631-1700)
[Autograph: “T. F. Merton. 1933”]

Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936)
*Asi Que Pasen Cinco Anos. Poemas Postumos.*
Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, 1940. (Obras Completas ; 6)
[Autograph: “T. Merton. 1941”]

Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936)
Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, 1938. (Obras Completas ; 2)

Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936)
*Romancero Gitano. Poema del Cante Jondo. Llanto por Ignacio Sanchez Mejias.*
Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, 1938. (Obras Completas ; 4)

William Gaunt (b.1900)
London: The Studio ; Berlin: Deutsche Bauzeitung, 1926.

Luis de Gongora (1561-1627)
*Poemas y Sonetos.*
Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, 1939. (Las Cien Obras Maestras de la Literarura y del Pensamiento Universal ; 16)
[Autograph: “T. Merton. 1940”]

Richard Hakluyt (1552-1616)
*Voyages, Volume Eight.*
London: Dent ; New York: Dutton, 1926. (Everyman’s Library ; 389)
Richard Hughes (1900-1976)
_In Hazard._
[Autograph: “Tom Merton 1939”]

Richard Hughes (1900-1976)
_An Omnibus._

Franz Kafka (1883-1924)
_The Trial._
[Autograph: “Tom Merton. April 1939”]

John Keats (1795-1821)
_The Poetical Works of John Keats._

G. Wilson Knight (b.1897)
_The Burning Oracle: Studies in the Poetry of Action._
[Autograph: “T. Merton”]

Otto Kummel (1874-1952)
_Die Kunst Ostasiens._
Berlin: Bruno Cassirer, 1922. (Die Kunst des Ostens ; 4)
[Autograph: “T. Merton 1935” (in pencil)]

Herman Melville (1819-1891)
_Moby Dick, or, The Whale / ill. Rockwell Kent._

Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936)
_Sei Personaggi in Cerca d'Autore: Commedia da Fare._
Rome: A. Mondadori, 1930. (Opere. Maschere Nude ; 3)

Alexander Pope (1688-1744)
_Complete Poetical Works of Alexander Pope._

Francois Rabelais (1490-1553?)
_Gargantia and Pantagruel / tr. Thomas Urquhart & Peter Le Motteux._
London: Oxford University Press, 1934. (3 vols.) (The World’s Classics ; 411-413)
[Autographs: “Thomas Merton. N.Y. 1938” (v.1); “Thomas Merton. N.Y. 1938” (v.2)]

Francois Rabelais (1490-1553?)
_Gargantua Pantagruel / ed. M. Rene Doumic._
Paris: Le Grands Classiques Illustres, [n.d.]
[Autograph: “Tom Merton, November 1936”]
Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)
_Brieke an einen jungen Dichter._
Leipzig: Insel-Verlag, 1929.

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)
_The Journal of My Other Self / tr. M. D. Herton Norton & John Linton._

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)
_Die Sonette an Orpheus._
Leipzig: Insel-Verlag, [n.d.]

Rainer Marie Rilke (1875-1926)
_Spate Gedichte._
Leipzig: Insel-Verlag, 1935.

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)
_Complete Poetical Works / ed. Edward Dowden._
New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, [n.d.]
[Autograph: “T. F. Merton”]

Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816)
_The Dramatic Works / ed. Joseph Knight._
London: Oxford University Press, 1940. (The World’s Classics ; 79)

Francis Thompson (1859-1907)
_The Poems of Francis Thompson._

E. M. Tillyard (1889-1962) & C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)
_The Personal Heresy: A Controversy._
London: Oxford University Press, 1939

Vergil.
Chicago: Scott, Foresman & Company, 1928. (Lake Classical Series)
[Autograph: “Tom Merton, March 1936”]

Charles A. Ward.
_Oracles of Nostradamus._
New York: Scribner’s Sons, 1940.
[Some markings in red pencil, mainly concerning French texts and their translation]

John Webster (1580?-1625?) & Cyril Tourneur (1575?-1626)
_Webster and Tourneur / ed. John Addington Symonds._
London: Ernest Benn ; New York: Scribner’s, [n.d.]. (Mermaid Series)
[Autograph: “Tom Merton. March 1936”]
K. Wichmann. 
*Pocket Dictionary of the German and English Languages = Taschenworterbuch der deutschen und englischen Sprache.* 

William Wordsworth (1770-1850) 
*The Poetical Works of Wordsworth / ed. Thomas Hutchinson & Ernest de Selincourt.* 
[Autograph: “T. Merton”]

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Oakham Materials: September 1929-February 1933

*Oakhamian.* 

Catullus 
*Carmina / ed. Robinson Ellis.* 

Alfred De Vigny (1797-1863) 
*Poesies Completes / ed. Henri de Regnier.* 
[French Prize VI.C1. July 1932. Special binding with embossed school seal in gold on front cover]

Theophile Gautier (1811-1872) 
*Romans et Contes.* 
[Autograph: “T. F. Merton. 1932 – August”]

Homer 
*Odyssey of Homer, Done into English Prose / tr. S. H. Butcher & A. Lang* 
[Bayley English Prize. Summer Term 1931. Special binding with embossed school seal in gold on front cover]

Horace. 
London: Clarendon Press, 1912. (Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis) 
[Autograph: “T. F. Merton, School House, Oakham, July 1932”]

Jean Jules Jusserand (1855-1932) 
*English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages (XIVth Century)* 
London: Ernest Benn, 1929. 
[Dr. Wood’s English Essay Prize. Summer Term 1931. Special binding with embossed school seal in gold on front cover]
Alphonse de Lamartine (1790-1869)
*Meditations Poétiques.*
Paris: Payot Editeur, 1925.
[French VI, C1 Prize. July 1932. Special binding with embossed school seal in gold on front cover]

David Herbert Lawrence (1885-1930)
*The Plumed Serpent.*

Martial.
*Epigrammata / ed. W. M. Lindsay.*

John Milton (1608-1674)
*Poetical Works / ed. H. C. Beeching.*
[French (V.A.) Prize. July 1930. Special binding with embossed school seal in gold on front cover]

[Bailey English Prize, June 27th 1932. Special binding with embossed school seal in gold on front cover]

Persius & Juvenal.
*Saturae / ed. S. G. Owen.*
Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907. (Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis)
[Some underlining and notes. Hand drawn monogram. Some drawings of heads in the text]

Voltaire.
*Romans et Contes / ed. G. Charpentier.*
[Autograph: “T. F. Merton. 1932 August”]

William Wordsworth (1770-1850) & Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)
*Lyric Ballads 1798 / ed. H. Littledale.*
[Autograph: “T. F. Merton. Lower VI -- Classical, Sept 1930”]

W. B Yeats., 1865-1939
*Poems.*
London: Ernest Benn, 1929.
[Bailey English Prize, June 27th 1932. Special binding with embossed school seal in gold on front cover]
Edited Works

*English Conversation Pieces: Exhibition in Aid of the Royal Northern Hospital at 25 Park Lane, London.*

London: Oxford University Press, 1934. (The World's Classics ; 422)
[Contents: Capaspe / John Lyly.—The Old Wife’s Tale / George Peele.—Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay / Robert Greene.—The Shoemaker’s Holiday / Thomas Dekker.—The Merry Devil of Edmonton / Anonymous]

*Five Pre-Shakespearean Comedies (Early Tudor Period)* / ed. Frederick Boas.
London: Oxford University Press, 1934. (The World's Classics ; 418)
[Autograph: “Tom Merton. Dec 1938”]
[Contents: Fulgens and Lucrece / Henry Medwall.—The Four PP. / John Heywood.—Ralph Roister Doister / Nicholas Udall.—Gammer Gurton’s Needle / ‘Mr. S. Mr. Of Art’.—Supposes / George Gascoigne]

London: Dent. New York: Dutton, 1933. (Everyman’s Library ; 491)
[Contents: Gorboduc / Thomas Norton & Thomas Sackville.—Arden of Feversham.—David and Batheshebe / George Peele.—The Spanish Tragedy / Thomas Kyd.—Cambyses, King of Persia / Thomas Preston]


Firenza: Felice le Monnier, 1934.
[Autograph: “Thomas Merton. October 1936”]

*Spanish Masters.*
[Black and white reproductions of paintings by El Greco, Ribera, Zurbaran, Velasquez, Murillo, Goya]

Journals

*Horizon*. 1:5 (May 1940)
[A review of literature and art. Edited by Cyril Connolly]

*The Hound & Horn*. 4:4 (July-September 1931)
[Includes: “Charles Baudelaire” / Charles de Bos (461-497). “Rainer Maria Rilke, Part II” /Hester Pickman (512-555)]

[Edited by Eugene Jolas]
A Few Rare Books

Battista Guarini (b.1538)
_Il Pastor Fido._
Paris: Prauls, 1768.

*Reflections: ou, Sentences et Maximes Morales* / de Monsieur de la Rochefoucault [François, duc de la Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)]. _Maximes / de Madame la Marquise de Sable [Madeleine de Souvre, Marquise de Sable (1599-1678)]. Pensees Diverses / de M.L.D. [Abbe d’Ailly]. Les Maximes Chretiennes / de M. **** [Marguerite Hessein de Rambouillet de La Sabilere (1640-1693)]
Amsterdam: Jean Fred. Bernard, 1712.
[Autograph: “T. Merton. 1934”]

Paul Scarron (1610-1660)
_Roman Comique._
Paris: Libraries Associes, 1784. (3 vols.)
[Autograph: “T. F. Merton. Cambridge. 1933” (v.1)]

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)
_Tale of a Tub, Written for the Universal Improvement of Mankind._
[Some notes in pencil]
[Autograph: “T. Merton. October 1934”]

Tacitus.
_Opera / ed. Jacob Gronovius._
Glasgow: Rob. & And. Foulis, 1753.
[Holdings: Vol. 3]