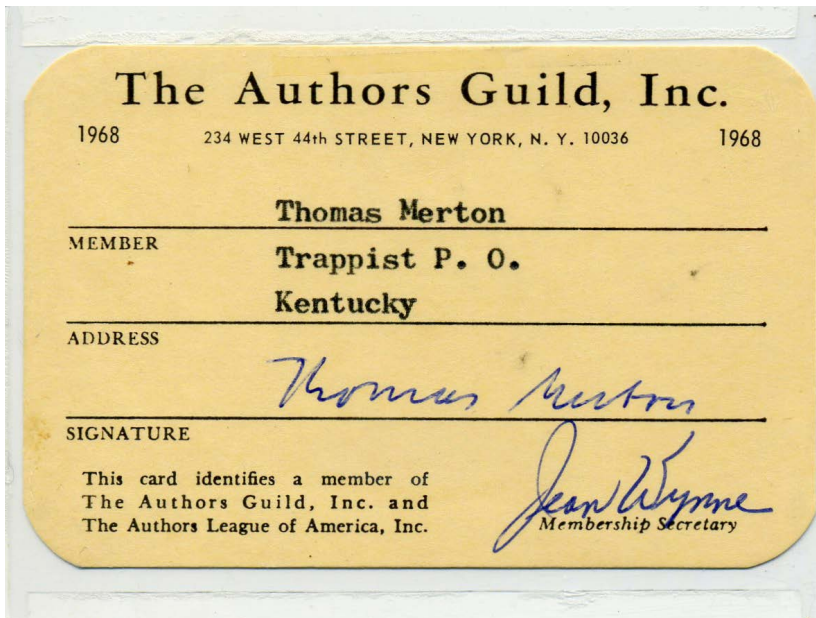


LEADERSHIP & LEGACY IN KENTUCKY HISTORY
THOMAS MERTON | 1915-1968



Thomas Merton was a member of The Authors Guild. (1999.10 Abbey of Gethsemani Collection, Kentucky Historical Society)

CONTEMPLATION – Jazz lover, contemplative monk, radical writer, philosophical hermit – Thomas Merton was at once a man of deep spirituality and one dedicated to preserving the world around him. Merton adopted Kentucky as his home when he entered the Abbey of Gethsemani in 1941. Although part of a monastic order that emphasizes silence and physical separation from the world, his superiors encouraged him to write and publish. That pursuit brought him in contact with people throughout the world. His thoughts, published during his lifetime and posthumously, speak to such issues as world peace, care for the environment and social justice, and continue to draw a worldwide audience.

KHS Historical Marker #2004 tells some of Merton's story. Search marker number 2004 [here](#) to learn more.



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