

**Thomas Merton's Betrayers...The Case Against Abbot James Fox and Author John Howard Griffin**  
**By Hugh Turley and David Martin**  
**McCabe Publishing, Hyattsville, Maryland**  
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## A Modern Thomas à Becket

By Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

In 1968, someone spoke regarding Thomas Merton as Henry II spoke regarding Thomas a Becket on Christmas Day, AD 1170, "*Will no one rid me of this meddlesome priest?*" And, as in 1170 so in 1968, someone did rid the speaker "*of this meddlesome priest.*" The difference in the two cases is that in 1170, Pope Alexander immediately started an investigation, determined who the murders were—four knights, a bishop and Henry II— and excommunicated them. In 1968, however, the powers that be in the Church, the State and media fabricated a story on how Merton died, adopted it and extensively and exclusively publicized it.

In 1968, Thomas Merton was the last in the triad of murder of men of global eminence who exercised commanding and compelling voices on behalf of the wretched of the earth in the U.S. and beyond. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy being the other two. And as religious and secular realpolitik would have it, the murderers of all three were protected by government, corporate and religious systematic deceit operations nearly as impenetrable to this day as they were in 1968.

For this reason, I think Hugh Turley and David Martin deserve to be honored and that their two books on the murder of Thomas Merton (*The Martyrdom of Thomas Merton* and *Thomas Merton's Betrayers*) be read and pondered for what they reveal, namely, information based on empirical evidence, which no one else inside or outside the Catholic Press or the Catholic Peace and Justice movement or Catholic academia or the Catholic Church, let alone the corporate U.S. media or the U.S. government, has been willing to investigate. Yet, as Turley and Martin document, there is *prima facie* evidence that puts the lie to the official story that Merton died because he touched an ungrounded fan after coming out of a shower. The popularized story of Thomas Merton's death is as porous as the official factitious narratives of the King and Kennedy murders. This *prima facie* evidence was given a blind eye by those who were given eyes to see and minds to understand and the means to communicate truth to the public and to the Christian community, so that each could build a future better than the present.

Turley and Martin do not name who murdered Merton. They only uncovered beyond all reasonable doubt that a systematic religious and secular deceit laden cover-up process began immediately after his death. The why, and who desired to be "*rid of this meddlesome priest,*" remain to be uncovered. Turley and Martin conclusively prove that, while at this moment the perpetrators of Merton's murder are as invisible as atoms, they must exist, and that those dedicated to covering for them are accomplices in more than murder.

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