

## Augustine Baker Talks to the Nuns at Cambrai

SO MUCH to say. The Cambrai days were long  
and the nuns didn't have to attend,  
which meant they didn't, except one,  
and then one by one, until there were ones  
all over Christendom. The first words, though,  
the early tentative drafts, the bird song  
while the hill above the trees stood still  
in the mist. What of those, before they were books,  
when there were only a few words, and those  
the same: silence, solitude, love, and love again.

## Meeting St John of the Cross

I WOULD look for signs of weather  
at the edges of your clothes, your hands  
for the way you hold your pen, and put it down.  
I would glance to notice shifts of sun and shadow  
of the alternating poetry and prose in you.  
I would be curious, acute to sense  
such mundane sacraments. The drawing  
small and aerial, of Christ, seen  
from the Father's desperate height, and the voice  
which reached down songs from such tall trees,  
would pose questions, as unanswerable  
as why the storks so love the towers of Avila.

DAVID SCOTT has contributed an essay on Augustine Baker to *That Mysterious Man*, the newly published collection of writings on Augustine Baker, whom Merton wrote about in *Mystics and Zen Masters*. *That Mysterious Man* includes 18 illustrations and an Introduction by Rowan Williams. It is available from Three Peaks Press at £17.50.