## **NEW SEEDS**

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I find myself writing to you, once again with a kind of apology; since our first edition of 'New Seeds' I have had no correspondence with regard to the content of the journal and only one letter taking advantage of the book offer which appeared in the last issue. I do realise that people are very busy and perhaps find letter writing a chore but the quality of this journal depends chiefly on you and the offerings you are prepared to make.

As a kind of incentive to potential correspondents it is my intention to offer a prize for the first letter received and published within these pages; a further prize will be offered to the first article received and published. These prizes will be, in each case, a copy of a book by Thomas Merton.

Since the last issue there has been held a conference in London, sadly, at the time of going to press I did not have a report available but I do hope to be able to let people know what happened in the next issue: I understand that it was a success and that the speakers spoke very well. As a result of this conference our membership have been increased, perhaps a measure of the quality of the speakers and of the growing interest in the work and life of Merton.

If anyone is perhaps wishing to read a little more deeply the writings of Thomas Merton there are a great many books still readily accessible; there are also many second hand bookshops which have now begun to respond to the growing demand for Merton's earlier works. I will always be happy to advise on such matters. Do please remember that you can get many of Merton's books from the society by mail order [cash with order please].

Your's sincerely,

Stephen J. Hotchen, General Secretary.