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Merton and Friends A Joint Biography of Thomas Merton, Robert Lax and Edward Rice

By James Harford

Bloomsbury Academic. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 320 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.2in. x 1.3in. Thomas Merton, Robert Lax, and Edward Rice were college buddies who became life-long friends, literary innovators, and spiritual iconoclasts. Their friendship and collaboration began at Columbia College in the 1930s and reached its climax in the widely acclaimed magazine, which ran from 1953 to 1967, a year before Merton's death. . Rice was founder, publisher, editor, and art director; Merton and Lax two of his steadiest collaborators. Well-known on campus for their high spirits, avant-garde appreciation of jazz and Joyce, and indiscriminate love of movies, they also shared their Catholic faith. Rice, a cradle Catholic, was godfather to both Merton and Lax. Merton, who died some 30 years before the other two, was the first to achieve fame with his best-selling spiritual autobiography, *The Seven-Story Mountain*. Lax, whom Jack Kerouac dubbed one of the great original voices of our times, eventually received recognition as one of America's greatest experimental poets, a true minimalist who can weave awesome poems from remarkably few words (*New York Times Book Review*). He spent most of the last 35 years of his life living frugally on one of the remotest of...

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