

**THE SILENT DIALOGUE: ZEN LETTERS TO A TRAPPIST MONK, by David G.  
Hackett.**

New York: Continuum Publishing Company, 1996.

This book is essentially a personal story, originating in a 1974-76 correspondence with Fr. Thomas Keating and the monks at a Massachusetts Trappist monastery. Hackett relates that in his youth he was a humanist, and that he experimented in the early 70s with alternative psychologies and religious practices; he then toyed briefly with Zen before his conversion to Catholicism in 1974. The letters presented here (written from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Southeast Asia) concern issues raised by Hackett's belief in "the use of a Buddhist technique [i.e., Zen meditation] to deepen Christian faith." This book is thus a case study of a Westerner who looks East, then centers himself in his own tradition. It will interest those concerned with interfaith dialogue.

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