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ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

July 18, 1964

Dear Don Gold:

Since I last wrote to you I have been in touch with our Father Abbot, who has still not returned here. He wrote quite a long letter stating his objections to the idea of an article about the monastery. They are not absolutely final but they are final enough for me to stop insisting. I think the article is now out of the question. His main reason is that he has refused a dozen other magazines and will be in a bad position if he says "yes" to Holiday. Also, I think, he is not too happy about any presentation of the monastery that will not be fully official and therefore dull enough to be totally useless.

Perhaps in a couple of years the question might be reopened in the form of an article about the various monasteries of the Trappists in the United States. There are places in several states, from Massachusetts to North Carolina, Georgia, Utah, California etc. The general view of the Order would probably be more interesting and new. I would be glad to consider the job, if you contact me say in 1966. But again, I promise nothing too definite.

I am sorry that this project did not get off the ground. I would have enjoyed it.

Cordial good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Merton