

Poets and
Mystics
L

E. I. WATKIN

POETS AND MYSTICS

By E. I. WATKIN

What is the relationship between these two vocations? Poet and mystic are, in a sense, doing the same job; both are in search of reality and to look for that is to look for beauty and truth, to say nothing of goodness. On the whole, mystics do look as if that were what they were searching for. But poets? Artists have often combined amazing spiritual perception with a whole galaxy of most unedifying characteristics. What, then, are the similarities and differences between the artist's vision and the mystic's?

E. I. Watkin wisely refrains from attempting any easy answer to so complex a question. His chief concern is to enable his examples to speak for themselves; and although some of his choices are quite familiar figures, others will be new ground for most readers—Margery Kempe, John Smith the Cambridge Platonist, Goodwin, William Crashaw and the like. The book closes with a study of the poetry of Ruth Pitter. A fascinating subject, all the more so because the last word can never be said on it.

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The Scholasticate
Abbey of Gethsemani
Kentucky

A merry Christmas

To

Dearest Father Louis

From

Norrie

With most Love

XXXXXXX

1954

POETS AND MYSTICS

By

E. I. WATKIN

*The Scholasticate
Abbey of Gethsemani
Kentucky*

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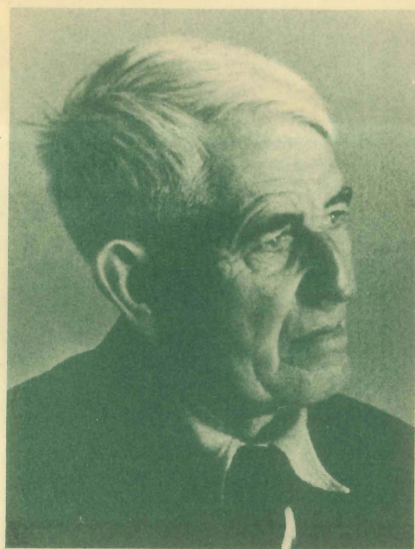
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EDWARD INGRAM WATKIN was born in England in 1888. He is a convert, having entered the Church in 1912, while he was a student at Oxford. He is married and has four daughters and a son who is a Benedictine monk. His other books include *The Praise of Glory*, a commentary on Lauds and Vespers; *The Catholic Centre*; *Catholic Art and Culture*; and *A Philosophy of Form*. Among his hobbies he includes the study of wild plants and of Church architecture.

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