

In Memoriam

IVO THOMAS  
(1912-1976)

OTTO BIRD

Logic lost a good friend and devoted follower in the death of Professor Ivo Thomas, February 2, 1976. He had a relatively short illness. The first symptoms of disease appeared during the summer; by November he was worse, and he consulted a doctor, was hospitalized and operated upon, only to learn that he had an inoperable cancer of the stomach; he returned home for Christmas and died a little more than a month later. His funeral was held at Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame, with a eulogy preached by his old friend, Rev. Philip L. Hanley, O.P. He was buried in Niles, Michigan, where he had made his home since 1972.

Herbert Christopher Thomas was born in Kensington, London, January 17, 1912, of an upper middle class British family. His mother was a Muirhead, of Scots publishing fame, and a descendant of Matthew Boulton, who, with James Watt, established the first steam engine factory in Birmingham. His father's family were Welsh, engaged in the soap and leather business; his father was a barrister-at-law. His parents moved to Cirencester in the west of England when he was two, and he received his early education there at Oakley Hall. At the age of fourteen he entered Shrewsbury School, a "public school" that dated from Tudor times and that was known for its excellence in classical studies. In his final year there he was the head prefect, a position of considerable responsibility as well as honor. Half way through that year he became a convert to Catholicism and, because of that, was encouraged to leave the school. He completed his preparatory education with the Benedictines at their school in Downside. Although he had won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, he chose to enter The Queen's College, Oxford, where he studied from 1932-1935, graduating with first class honors in Litterae Humaniores, the "Greats" program. His tutor there was Mr., later Lord, Franks, who served as ambassador to the United States.

Upon graduation, Thomas entered the Order of Preachers and took the name Ivo. He did his philosophical studies with them at Hawkesyard Priory in Rugeley, Staffs, from 1936-1938, and his theology at Blackfriars, Oxford,

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