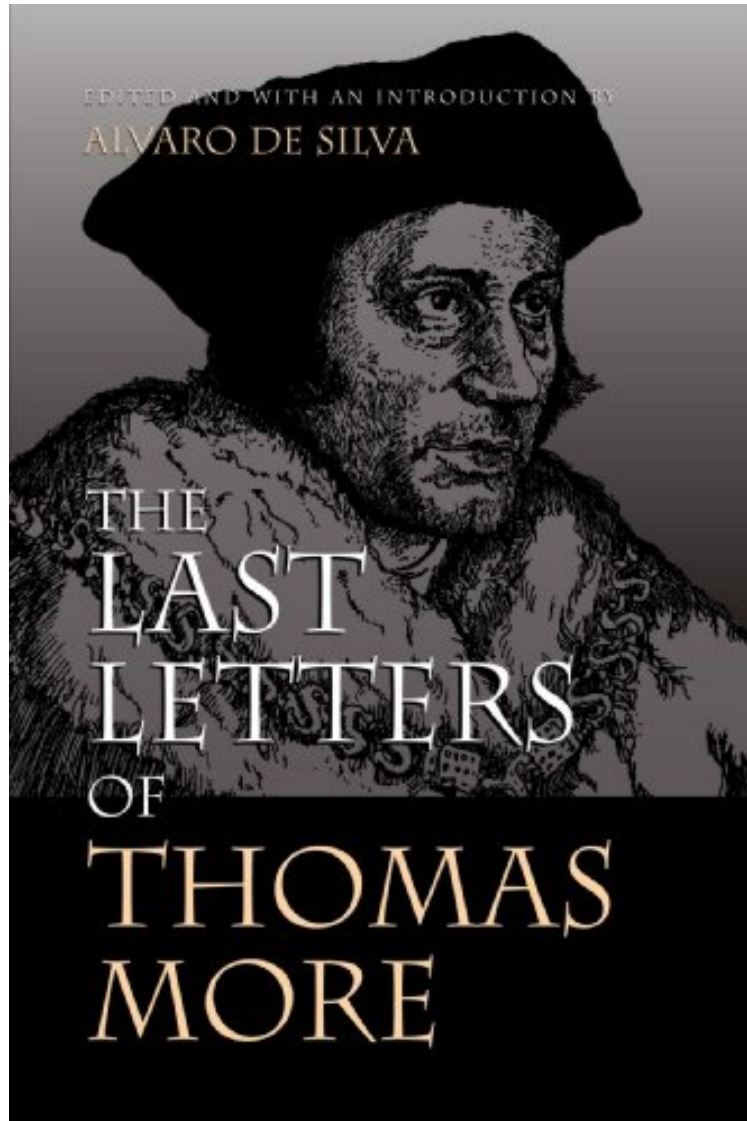


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The Last Letters of Thomas More

Thomas More

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Thomas More : The Last Letters of Thomas More before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Letters of Thomas More:

17 of 20 people found the following review helpful. The man himselfBy S. LloydHere is the man in his own words in letters to his daughter, his king and his friends. Much from A Man for All Seasons is taken from these letters. Wonderful!1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Santiago Luis PupiSame as in "Life and Writings of Sir Thomas More". Feel cheated.11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. ...but God's firstBy B. HodulikMore didn't burn anyone at the stake. As Chancellor, he did his duty and gave every chance for the 3

'heretics' that refused to budge on what was eventually political matters. A 'heretic' in those days was so much more than one who simply had 'different beliefs.' Some people today simply are too ignorant to understand that representative democracy did not exist then. More's 'Last Letters' poignantly reminds Christians of what it means to be a real disciple of Christ.

Written from the Tower of London, these letters of Thomas Moore still speak powerfully today. The story of Thomas Moore, recently told in Peter Ackroyd's bestselling biography, is well known. In the spring of 1534, Thomas Moore was taken to the Tower of London, and after fourteen months in prison, the brilliant author of *Utopia*, friend of Erasmus and the humanities, and former Lord Chancellor of England was beheaded on Tower Hill. Yet Moore wrote some of his best works as a prisoner, including a set of historically and religiously important letters. *The Last Letters of Thomas Moore* is a superb new edition of Moore's prison correspondence, introduced and fully annotated for contemporary readers by Alvaro de Silva. Based on the critical edition of Moore's correspondence, this volume begins with letters penned by Moore to Cromwell and Henry VIII in February 1534 and ends with Moore's last words to his daughter, Margaret Roper, on the eve of his execution. Moore writes on a host of topics—prayer and penance, the right use of riches and power, the joys of heaven, psychological depression and suicidal temptations, the moral compromises of those who imprisoned him, and much more. This volume not only records the clarity of Moore's conscience and his readiness to die for the integrity of his religious faith, but it also throws light on the literary works that Moore wrote during the same period and on the religious and political conditions of Tudor England.

From *Library Journal* De Silva (theology, Thomas More Coll. of Liberal Arts) has gathered together the letters Thomas More wrote to Margaret Roper, Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell, Dr. Wilson, and others two years before his execution. Any More enthusiast will treasure this collection beyond measure, as it offers a clear window onto the soul of one of history's noblest figures. The statesman's plight becomes the reader's very own: confined in the Tower of London, awaiting the inevitable chopping block. What emerges most poignantly from the letters is More's selfless integrity as distinct from the stubborn individualism so often attributed to him. According to de Silva's own lucid and informative introduction, "More did not exhibit an individualism or an autonomy of the 'I' that has no room for anything else...he simply knew that to take the oath [to Henry VIII] would mean the loss of his own self, his own spiritual integrity." Endnotes elaborate on cultural, political, and religious allusions that would otherwise confuse one unfamiliar with the time period. This book makes for a fine supplement to Peter Ackroyd's recent biography, *The Life of Thomas More* (LJ 6/1/98). Essential for academic libraries; highly recommended for large public libraries. DLoren Rosson III, Nashua P.L., NH Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Any More enthusiast will treasure this collection beyond measure. -- *Library Journal*, May 15, 2000