

Thomas Merton's Writings In German

In *Seeds of Destruction* (1964), Thomas Merton said of Karl Rahner: "No Catholic theologian has so squarely faced the critical seriousness of the Church's task in the modern world." Merton never met this man he admired, but Rahner toured the Thomas Merton Studies Center during his recent visit to Louisville and Gethsemani. When asked if Merton were read in German, he replied: "Oh, my, yes, Merton is much read, much read in German."

The continuing availability of Merton's major works translated into German, both from publishers and from antiquariat booksellers, bears out Fr. Rahner's statement. A number of articles on Merton have appeared in German journals and one book-length study was published in 1977, Elizabeth Ott's examination of Merton's fascination with the East, *Thomas Merton – Grenzgänger Zwischen Christentum Und Buddhismus: Über Das Verhältnis Von Selbsterfahrung Und Gottesbegegnung* (Wurzburg, Echter Verlag, 1977).

In addition to the major works (or works published as books), some thirty essays and poems translated into German have appeared in periodicals in West Germany and Austria. It is interesting that eight of these major works, nearly one-third, have appeared in the 1970's since Merton's death.



Early Photograph of Thomas Merton

Used on the Dust Jacket of *Der Aufstieg Zur Wahrheit*.

1. (The Ascent to Truth) *Der Aufstieg Zur Wahrheit*; tr. into German by Hans Grossrieder (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1952). 316p.
2. (The Asian Journal of Thomas Merton) *Wie Der Mond Stirbt: Das Letzte Tagebuch Des Thomas Merton*; tr. into German by Heinz G. Schmidt (Wuppertal, Peter Hammer Verlag, 1976). 231p.
3. (Basic Principles of Monastic Spirituality) *Wir Suchen Den Christus: Grundlegungen Monastischer Spiritualität*; tr. into German with an introd. by Margret Meilwes (Trier, Johann Josef Zimmer Verlag, 1972). 83p.
4. (The Black Revolution) *Die Schwarze Revolution: Um Die Bruderlichkeit Der Menschen*; tr. into German by Hans Schmidthus (Freiburg, Herder Verlag, 1965). 126p.
5. (Bread in the Wilderness) *Brot In Der Wüste*; tr. into German by Annemarie von Puttkamer (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1955). 176p.
6. (Contemplative Prayer) *Wahrhaftig Beten*; tr. into German by Margret Meilwes (Freiburg, Paulus Verlag, 1971). 137p.
7. (Exile Ends in Glory) *Von Der Verbannung Zur Herrlichkeit: Das Leben Der Trappistin Mutter M. Berchmanns*; tr. into German by Dr. Irene Marinoff (Luzern, Rex Verlag, 1953). 372p.
8. (Figures for an Apocalypse) *Apokalypse Der Neuen Welt*; tr. into German by Alfred Kuoni (Zurich, Verlag der Arche, 1956). 64p.
9. (Life and Holiness) *Heilig In Christus*; tr. into German by Eugen Kende (Freiburg, Verlag Herder, 1964). 152p.
10. (The Living Bread) *Der Mit Dir Lebt*; tr. into German by Dr. Irene Marinoff (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1958). 185p.

11. (Mystics and Zen Masters) **Weisheit Der Stille: Die Geistigkeit Des Zen Und Ihre Bedeutung Fur Die Moderne Christliche Welt**; tr. into German by Margret Meilwes (Munich, Otto Wilhelm Barth Verlag, 1975). 238p.
This translation includes four essays from the U. S. edition.
12. (New Seeds of Contemplation) **Verheissungen Der Stille**; tr. into German by Magda Larsen and Paul F. Portmann (Luzern and Stuttgart, Raber Verlag, 1963). 285p.
This edition retains the same title as the earlier translation of **Seeds of Contemplation**.
13. (No Man is an Island) **Keiner Ist Eine Insel: Ein Buch Der Betrachtung**; tr. into German by Annemarie von Puttkamer (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1956). 248p.
14. (Rain and the Rhinoceros) **Meditation Im Regen**; tr. into German by the Abtei Mariawald (Heimwald, Abtei Mariawald, 1977). 18p.
15. (Renewal and Discipline) **Monch Zwischen Gestern Und Morgen**; tr. into German by George Tepe, trappist; with a foreword by Bernardin Schnellenberger, trappist (Frankfurt/Main, Verlag Gerhard Kaffke, 1977). 48p.
This pamphlet is a translation of one chapter from the British edition of **Contemplation in a World of Action**.
16. (The Secular Journal of Thomas Merton) **Weltliches Tagebuch 1939 - 1941**; tr. into German by Alfred Kuoni (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1960). 182p.
17. (Seeds of Contemplation) **Verheissungen Der Stille**; tr. into German by Magda Larsen (Luzern, Raber Verlag, 1951). 215p.
18. (Selected Poems) **Grazias Haus/Gedichte**; tr. into German by Marta Gisi and Lili Sertorius with an afterword by Hans Urs von Balthasar (Einsiedeln, Johannes Verlag, 1966).
19. (The Seven Storey Mountain) **Der Berg Der Sieben Stufen**; tr. into German by Hans Grossrieder (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1950). 442p.
20. (The Sign of Jonas) **Das Zeichen Des Jonas**; tr. into German by Annemarie von Puttkamer (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1954). 377p.
21. (Silence in Heaven) **Schweigen Im Himmel**; tr. into German by Erna Melchers (Weisbaden, Rheinische Verlagsanstalt, 1957). 72p.
22. (The Silent Life) **Lebendige Stille**; tr. into German by Dr. Irene Marinoff (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1959). 191p.
23. (Spiritual Direction and Meditation) **"Die Meditation" in Meditationen Eines Einsiedlers**; tr. into German by Marianne Wilke (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1976). 142p.
24. (Thoughts in Solitude) **"Gedanken Eines Einsiedlers" in Meditationen Eines Einsiedlers**; tr. into German by Marianne Wilke (Zurich, Benziger Verlag, 1976). 142p.
The above two works were combined in one volume in Benziger's **"Klassiker Der Meditation"** series.
25. (The Way of Chuang Tzu) **Sinfonie Fur Einen Seevogel Und Andere Texte Des Tschuang-Tse**; tr. into German by Johann Hoffmann-Herreros (Dusseldorf, Patmos Verlag, 1973). 158p.
26. (What are These Wounds?) **Auserwahlt Zu Leid Und Wonne: Das Leben Der Flamischen Mystikerin Luitgard**; tr. into German by Pater Sales Hess with an introduction by Dr. Leodegar Hunkeler (Luzern, Raber Verlag, 1953). 206p.
27. (What is Contemplation?) **Vom Sinn Der Kontemplation**; tr. into German by Alfred Kuoni (Zurich, Verlag der Arche, 1955). 64p.
28. (Zen and the Birds of Appetite) **Weisheit Der Stille: Die Geistigkeit Des Zen Und Ihre Bedeutung Fur Die M. Moderne Christliche Welt**; tr. into German by Margret Meilwes (Munich, Otto Wilhelm Barth Verlag, 1975). 238p.