THOMAS MERTON'S WRITINGS IN SLAVIC LANGUAGES

Translation of Merton into the several Slavic languages has been minimal except in Poland where his shorter works, though only six of his major ones, have been translated extensively. Those who speak a Slavic language as their mother tongue live mostly in Communist countriesand this has undoubtedly been a factor in the slowness to translate Merton, a man inextricably identified with religion and the organized church. Only two years ago the first translation of a Merton work into Russian was circulated with the permission of the Soviet government. It was permitted, but the translation was printed in Paris and copies in Russian were then "imported" into the Soviet Union. Reports to the Merton Center indicate that a number of Merton works have been translated into Czech and Bulgarian, but because of suppression, they are circulated in mimeograph as "black market" items. The Center has not yet acquired any of these.

It is not surprising that most Merton translations in Slavic languages - - - Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Slovene - - - have been in the ditionally associated with the Roman Catholic Church. Despite his interest in the Orthodox tradition, an interest which seems from his notes and readings to have increased in the ecumenical climate of the 60's, a reciprocal interest in Merton has not obtained.

His writings on orthodoxy include the review of two Alexander Schmemann works, "Orthodoxy and the World," MONASTIC STUDIES 4 (Advent 1966): pp. 105 - 115; and the Preface for RUSSIAN MYSTICS by Serge Bolshakoff, finally published by Cistercian Publications in 1977.

The majority of the translations have been of works on spirituality and the monastic life, little interest having yet been shown in Merton as a literary figure or social critic. For a more complete listing of Merton in Polish, see the SEASONAL 2:3 (Fall 1977) and 3:1 (Spring 1978).

CZECH

 (The seven storey mountain) HORA SEDMI STUPNU. Tr. into Czech by Vladimir Vyhlidka. Rome, Krestanska Akademie, 1968.

This edition includes translations of seven letters from Merton to the translator.

POLISH

- (Conjectures of a guilty bystander) DOMYSLY WSPOLWINNEGO WIDZA. Tr. into Polish by Zygmunt Lawrynowocz. Cracow, Znak, 1972.
- (The living bread & Thoughts in solitude) MYSLI W SAMOTNOSCI/CHLEB ZYWY. Tr. into Polish by Felicja Zielinska. Cracow, Znak, 1975.
- (No man is an island) NIKT NIE JEST SAMOTNA WYSPA. Tr. into Polish by Maria Morstin-Gorska. Cracow, Znak, 1960.
- (The seven storey mountain) SIEDMIOPIETROWA GORA. Tr. into Polish by Maria Morstin-Gorska. Cracow, Znak, 1972 (2d edition, 1973).
- (The sign of Jonas) ZNAK JONASZA. Tr. into Polish by Krystyna Poborska. Cracow, Znak, 1962.
 335p.

RUSSIAN

- (Extracts from Thomas Merton) "Viderzki iz Tomasa Mertona." Excerpts from Conjectures of a guilty bystander, New seeds of contemplation, "Orthodoxy and the world," The seven storey mountain, and The waters of Siloe. Tr. into Russian by Valentin Prussakov. LOGOS (Brussels and Moscow) (Winter 1978): nos. 29 - 32, pp. 231 - 244.
- (Pasternak/Merton: six letters) "Perepiska Borisa Pasternaka c Tomasom Mertonom." Tr. into Russian by Valentin Prussakov. KONTINENT (Paris) 15 (1978): pp. 323 - 341.

SERBO-CROATIAN

- (New seeds of contemplation) NOVE SJEMENKE KONTEMPLACIJE. Tr. into Serbo-Croatian with an introd. by Mihael Cuckovecki, O.F.M. Split, Yugoslavia, Symposium, 1978.
- (No man is an island) NITKO NIJE OTOK. Tr. into Serbo-Croatian by Mihael Cuckovecki, O.F.M. Afterword by Sr. Marija od Presv. Srca. Split, Yugoslavia, Symposium, 1979.
- (Thomas Merton6monk; ed. Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O.) THOMAS MERTON/MONAH. Tr. into Serbo-Croatian by Fr. Karlo Prendivoj. Zagreb, Yugoslavia, Biblioteka Svijetla Tocka, 1979.

SLOVENE

 (Life and holiness) ZIVLJENJE IN SVETOST. Tr. into Slovene by Fr. Nikolaj Bregant. Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, Kartuzija Pleterje, 1977.