

FOREST BOOKS

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

GEO MILEV was born in Radnevo, Bulgaria on 15 January 1895 and died at the age of 30 in 1925. He went to Sofia University when he was sixteen, but the following year continued his literary studies at Leipzig. During his short life he became known as a talented poet and artist. He also translated more than 50 books of prose, poetry and drama, enriching Bulgarian culture with his translations of writers such as Sophocles, Shakespeare, Omar Khayyam, Byron, Rilke, Verlaine, Verhaern, Pushkin, Blok and Mayakovski. He lost an eye in the First World War, but returned to Bulgaria determined to bring about a revolution of national cultural standards in all the arts. His ambitions were stifled when his new magazine *Plamak* (Flame), which was directed against the official terror at that time, was suppressed and he was arrested and brought to trial. After disappearing without trace his skull was found thirty years later in a pit near Sofia together with the bones of hundreds of other victims.

EWALD OSERS is a native of Prague but has lived in England since 1938. Among his published works are translations of over 90 books (24 of them poetry). He is also a poet and a volume of his own poetry has been translated into Czech and was published in Prague in 1986. He has also lectured on translation internationally. His awards include the Schlegel-Tieck Prize 1971, the C.B. Nathhorst Prize 1977, the Josef Dobrovský Medal 1980, the Goldene Ehrennadel des BdÜ 1982, the Silver Pegasus of the Bulgarian Writers' Union 1983, the Gold Medal of the Czechoslovak Society for International Relations 1986, the Dilia Medal, Czechoslovakia 1986, the Order of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Bulgaria 1986, the European Poetry Translation Prize 1987 and the Pierre-François Caillé Medal in recognition of his service to the translating profession.