

THE OLD VICARAGE
GREAT MILTON
OXON
TELEPHONE GREAT MILTON 202

31/8/67

Dear Bill,

The enclosed proofs
arrived without instructions.
I'm not clear whether
I should send them
to you or direct
to Berlin —

Yours ever

Smiles

Professor Ernst Grumach, who died suddenly of a heart attack in London on the evening of Thursday, October 5th, was a polymath in the best German tradition. A Classical philologist, and engaged at the time of his death on a new edition of the Byzantine lexicographer, Stephanus, he is perhaps best known for his work on Goethe. This he undertook in gratitude for the strength and consolation derived from Goethe during war years spent in Berlin, when as a Jew he was expecting from day to day to be carried off to the gas chambers. He served at first as Secretary of the joint East-West Commission appointed by the Berlin Academy to prepare a definitive edition of Goethe, but eventually retired to West Berlin where he and his wife devoted themselves to editing the Conversations of which two volumes are already in print. In recent years Grumach had been able to give some of his time to a pre-war interest in the Bronze Age scripts of the Aegean area. He was sceptical about the widely accepted decipherment of the latest of these scripts, the so-called Linear B, as Greek, and wrote forcefully against it. At the same time he laboured, not without success, to bring an atmosphere of dignity and tolerance to a controversy where feeling often ran high. In 1962 he founded "Kadmos", an international periodical for discussion of the early Aegean scripts and allied subjects. He spoke and wrote English fluently, and was often in

this country where he had many friends. The stimulus of his energetic and enquiring spirit, his wide-ranging interest and awareness of problems, linked with clear and vigorous exposition, will be deeply missed by all who knew him.