

Sixth International Robert Graves Conference

‘Robert Graves and the Experience of War’

**The British Council and the University of London British Institute in Paris
9–11 rue de Constantine 75007 Paris, France**

6th–10th July 2004

*Organised by the Robert Graves Society
and the St John’s College, Oxford, Robert Graves Trust*

Tuesday 6 July

1.00 – 6.00 pm: Registration (*Conference venue, second floor*), checking into hotels, etc.

6.00 – 8.00 pm: Reception (*Stevenson Room*)

Welcoming Speeches (*Turner Room*):

Dunstan Ward, President, Robert Graves Society

John Tod, Director, British Council, France

David Horner, Head of the English Department, University of London
British Institute in Paris

Opening Key Address (*Turner Room*):

Nicholas Carter (University of Trieste, Italy): **‘The Great War and
Graves’s Memory’**

Introduced by Dunstan Ward (University of London British Institute in
Paris, France)

8.30 pm: Welcoming Dinner (restaurant *Chez Françoise*, almost opposite the
conference venue)

Wednesday 7 July

8.30 – 9.00 am: Breakfast (*Stevenson Room*). A complimentary light breakfast will be
provided at the conference venue on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
mornings.

9.00 – 10.00 am: Key Address (*Turner Room*):

Patrick Quinn (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester,
Massachusetts, USA):

**‘The Literary Ramifications of the Great War on Robert Graves:
Good-bye to What Still Goes On’**

Introduced by Dunstan Ward (University of London British Institute in
Paris, France)

10.15 – 11.30 am: Parallel Session 1A: The Great War and its Representation (*Bell Room*)

Chair: Robert J. Bertholf (State University of New York, Buffalo)

- Tom Quinn (Queen's University, Belfast, N. Ireland): **'Robert Graves and the Writers of Modern Memory of the Great War'**
- Dawn B. Caplinger (Sam Houston State University, Texas, USA): **'He Said? She Said? Robert Graves's *Good-bye to All That* versus Evadne Price's *Not So Quiet*. . . : A Study of the Gendering Discourse of War'**
- Elizabeth Prelinger (Georgetown University, Washington, USA): **'Brushes with Death: Images of World War I'**

Parallel Session 1B: War and the Goddess (I) (*Turner Room*)

Chair: Grevel Lindop (Poet and Critic, UK)

- Chris Nicholson (University College Northampton, UK): **'From All That to All This: Trauma, Repressions and Integration'**
- Maria Palaska (University of Essex, UK): **'The Ultimate Trench: Poetic Consciousness and the Experience of War'**
- Andrew Painter (Independent Scholar): **'The Goddess with Trench Feet'**

11.30 – 11.45 am: Refreshments (*Stevenson Room*)

11.45 – 1 pm: Special Talk (*Turner Room*):

Helen McPhail (Wilfred Owen Association):

'Actuality and Imagination: The Poet as Eye-Witness', with a briefing on Thursday's museum visit and battlefield tour
Introduced by Paul O'Prey (Roehampton University, UK)

1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)

2.30 – 3.45 pm: Parallel Session 2A: Robert Graves's Poetry (I) (*Bell Room*)

Chair: Patrick Quinn (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA):

- Frank Kersnowski (Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, USA): **'The Pier-Glass: Visions and Revisions'**
- Matthew Betts (University of York, UK): **'"What Venus Did with Mars": Love and War in Robert Graves's Early Poetry'**
- Julia Simonne (Dancer and Former Muse): **'"The Love that We Contest": Conflict in Graves's Late Love Poetry'**

Parallel Session 2B: War and the Goddess (II) (*Turner Room*)

Chair: John Kelly (St John's College, Oxford, UK)

- Fran Brearton (Queen's University, Belfast, N. Ireland): **'Revising the Revival: Graves's *The White Goddess*'**
- Nancy Rosenfeld (University of Haifa & Jezreel Valley College, Israel): **'The Wars of the Trees: Robert Graves's Battle of the Trees and Jotham's Fable of the Trees'**
- Selma Karayalçın (Girne American University, Cyprus and University College Northampton, UK): **'Graves's Heroic Death:**

An Exploration of the Significance of Robert Graves's War Experience in *The Golden Fleece*

- 3.45 – 4.00 pm: Refreshments (*Stevenson Room*)
- 4.00 – 5.00 pm: Special Talk (video-conference link with the USA) (*Bell Room*):
John W. Presley (Illinois State University, USA):
[*The Anger of Achilles*]
Introduced by Robert J. Bertholf (State University of New York, Buffalo, USA)
- 5.30 – 8.00 pm: Poetry Reading (*Turner Room*):
Ruth Fainlight, Grevel Lindop, Stephen Romer, Alan Sillitoe, Jon Stallworthy
The poets will read **poems by Robert Graves** which have a particular appeal to them personally, and then **a selection of their own work**.
Introduced by Dunstan Ward (University of London British Institute in Paris, France)
Followed by a *vin d'honneur* with the poets
- 8.30 pm: Dinner (own arrangements; pay-for-oneself group booking with poets at restaurant: *Thoumieux*, 79 rue Saint-Dominique, Paris 7^e)

Thursday 8 July

- (early): Breakfast at hotels (own arrangements)
- 8.30 am: Coach departs from *venue* for Péronne (Somme)
- 10.00 – 12.00 am: **Visit to l'Historial de la Grande Guerre, Péronne** (WWI museum), guided by Helen McPhail (Wilfred Owen Association)
- 12.00 – 1.30 pm: Lunch (at the museum)
- 1.30 – 6.00 pm: **Tour of Somme Battlefields**, guided by Helen McPhail
- 6.00 pm: Return by coach to Paris
Evening free (own arrangements)

Friday 9 July

- 8.30 – 9.00 am: Breakfast (*Stevenson Room*)
- 9.00 – 10.00 am: Key Address (*Turner Room*):
Dominic Hibberd (Author of *Wilfred Owen: A New Biography* (2002)):
[**'The Poetry of the First World War'**]
Introduced by John Kelly (St John's College, Oxford, UK)
- 10.15 – 11.15 am: Parallel Session 3A: Robert Graves's Poetry (II) (*Turner Room*)
Chair: Nicholas Carter (University of Trieste, Italy)

- Paul O’Prey (Roehampton University, UK): **‘Double Life, Double Death: Robert Graves and the Great War’**
- Dunstan Ward (University of London British Institute in Paris, France): **‘Posthumous Poet: Unpublished War Poems of Robert Graves’**

Parallel Session 3B: Graves and his Contemporaries (I) (*Bell Room*)

Chair: Anne Mounic (University of Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle, France)

- Clive Sinclair (Novelist and Critic, UK): [**‘Isaac Rosenberg’**]
- Adrian Grafe (University of Paris IV Sorbonne, France): **‘Edward Thomas’s War(s)’**

11.15 – 11.30 am: Refreshments (*Stevenson Room*)

11.30 – 1.00 pm: Special Presentations (*Turner Room*):

- William Graves: **The *Fundacio Robert Graves*, Mallorca**
- Elizabeth Grove-White and Chris Petter (University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada): **The Robert Graves Diary Project**
- Ian Firla (St John’s College, Oxford, Robert Graves Trust, UK): **The Robert Graves Trust Website**

1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)

2.30 – 3.30 pm: **Robert Graves Society Biennial General Meeting** (*Turner Room*)

3.30 – 3.45 pm: Refreshments (*Stevenson Room*)

4.00 – 5.15 pm: Parallel Session 4A: Graves and his Contemporaries (II) (*Bell Room*)

Chair: Paul O’Prey (Roehampton University, UK)

- John Kelly (St John’ College, Oxford, UK): [**‘Yeats and World War I’**]
- Robert J. Bertholf (State University of New York, Buffalo, USA): [**‘American Poets and World War I’**]
- Anne Mounic (University of Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle, France): **‘Des “blés moissonnés” au “temps vécu”: French Poetry and the Great War’**

Parallel Session 4B: Graves and his Contemporaries (III) (*British Institute, first floor, Room 112*)

Chair: Chris Petter (University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada)

- Charles Ferrall (Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand): **‘Early Twentieth Century Literature and “The Great Sacrifice”’**
- Patricia McErlain (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, Spain): **‘Robert Graves and Spain’**
- Nibir K. Ghosh (Agra College, India): **“‘The Issue is the Same’: Robert Graves and W.H. Auden’**

5.15 – 6.30 pm: Break

6.30 – 8.00 pm: **Reception to launch the War Poets Association**, British Ambassador's Residence, 39 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris 8^e
Guest Speaker: Dominic Hibberd (Biographer and Critic)
Poetry Reading: Poems by Edmund Blunden, Robert Graves, Wilfred Owen and Isaac Rosenberg, read by **members of their families**

8.30 pm: Dinner (own arrangements)

Saturday 10 July

8.30 – 9.00 am: Breakfast (*Stevenson Room*)

9.00 – 10.00 am: Key Address (*Turner Room*):
 Colin Wells (Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, USA):
“The Eagle of the Twentieth”: The Experience of War in *I, Claudius* and *Count Belisarius*
 Introduced by Richard Perceval Graves (Biographer of Robert Graves)

10.15 – 11.15 am: Session 5: War and Historical Fiction (*Turner Room*)
 Chair: Ian Firla

- Peter G. Christensen (Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, USA): **‘*Count Belisarius* and Procopius’s Wars’**
- Paul Skrebels (University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia): **‘Cock’d Hats and Firelocks: The Ethnography of Soldiering in *Sergeant Lamb of the Ninth*’**

11.15 – 11.30 am: Refreshments (*Stevenson Room*)

11.30 – 12.30 pm: Special Talk (*Turner Room*):
 Richard Perceval Graves (Biographer of Robert Graves):
“Artistic Truth” and *Good-bye to All That*
 Introduced by Lucia Graves

12.30 – 1.00 pm: Round-up Session and Farewell (*Turner Room*)

1 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)