

Seventh International Robert Graves Conference

‘Robert Graves and the Art of Collaboration’

Palma and Deià, Mallorca, Spain

4th–8th July 2006

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

Tuesday 4 July

1.00 – 5.30 pm: Registration (*Fundació “la Caixa” Cultural Centre, Palma*), checking into hotels, etc.

5.30 – 7.00 pm: Welcome to Participants (*Lecture Theatre*)
Dunstan Ward, President of the Robert Graves Society
Conference Sponsors

8.00 pm: Coaches to Castillo de Bellver (Bellver Castle), Palma

8.30 pm Welcoming Reception at Bellver Castle (light buffet) offered by the Ajuntament de Palma (Palma Town Hall). The evening will include music performed by an ensemble of players from the Balearic Symphony Orchestra.

10.30 pm & 11.00 pm: Coaches to main conference hotels in Palma

Wednesday 5 July

To 9.00 am: Breakfast at hotels or nearby cafés

9.00 – 10.00 am: Opening Key Address (*Lecture Theatre*)
Michael Irwin (Chairman of the Thomas Hardy Society, UK; University of Kent, UK):
“A Sense of Kinship”: Robert Graves and Thomas Hardy’
Introduced by Dunstan Ward (University of London Institute in Paris, France)

10.00 – 10.15 am: Break

10.15 – 11.30 am: Session 1: Formative Friendships (*Lecture Theatre*)
Chair: Dunstan Ward (University of London Institute in Paris, France)

- Dominic Hibberd (Biographer and critic, UK): “**For God’s Sake Cheer Up**”: **Graves’s Advice to Owen and its Results**’
- Steven L. Wright (Archivist/historian, Winthrop Group, USA): “**A Sniff at Every Flask and a Lick at Every Stopper**”: **Robert Graves and Sir Edward Marsh – An Influential and Enduring Friendship, 1913–1953**’
- Georgianne Ensign Kent (Author, USA): ‘**Poet to Poet: T. E. Lawrence and the Riddle of “S.A.”**’

11.30 – 12.00 noon: Refreshments

12.00 – 1.00 pm: Special Talk (*Lecture Theatre*)
 Richard Perceval Graves (Biographer, UK):
 ‘**Robert Graves and T. E. Lawrence: A Study in Friendship, 1919–1935**’
 Introduced by Joan Miquel Fiol Guiscafré (Universitat de les Illes Balears)

1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)

2.30 – 3.45 pm: Session 2: Robert Graves and Laura Riding (*Lecture Theatre*)
 Chair: Fran Brearton (Queen’s University, Belfast)

- Karen R. Daubert (Independent scholar, USA): “**Free-lance Modernists**” at Work, Together: **The Early Textual Dialogue of Robert Graves and Laura Riding**’
- Elizabeth Grove-White (University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada): ‘**Authorship, Collaboration and “Radiant Textuality”**: **Reflections on Robert Graves’s Diaries (1935–39) and the Epilogue Project**’

3.45 – 4.15 pm: Refreshments

4.15 – 5.15 pm: Special Session: An Interview with Alastair Reid (*Lecture Theatre*)
 Alastair Reid, poet, essayist, translator, and friend and collaborator of Robert Graves, interviewed by Paul O’Prey, editor of Graves’s correspondence, poetry and criticism.

5.30 – 8.00 pm: Poetry Reading (*Fundació “la Caixa”, upper floor*)
Ruth Fainlight, Grevel Lindop, Biel Mesquida, Alastair Reid, Alan Sillitoe
 The poets will read poems by Robert Graves that have a particular appeal to them personally, and then a selection of their own work.
 Introduced by Dunstan Ward (University of London Institute in Paris, France)

Followed by drinks with the poets and an opportunity to view:

Exhibition of Books and Photographs (*Fundació “la Caixa”, upper floor*)

An exhibition of books by Robert Graves organised by Miquel Pastor, Director of Library and Documentation Services, Universitat de les Illes Balears; and an exhibition of photographs of Robert Graves taken by Rab Shiell and Peter Stark in the 1960s and 1970s.

8.30 pm: Dinner (own arrangements; a booking will be made for a pay-for-oneself group to dine with the poets at a nearby restaurant)

Thursday 6 July

(early): Breakfast at hotels or nearby cafés (own arrangements)

8.15 am: Minibus departs from *Fundació “la Caixa” Cultural Centre* for Deià (including those needing transport to top of hill in Deià)

8.30 am: Coach departs from *Fundació “la Caixa” Cultural Centre* for Deià

9.15 am: Minibus arrives in Deià. Mini-bus takes those needing transport to the church square.

9.30 am: Coach arrives in Deià.

9.45 am: Ecumenical Service in Deià church, in the presence of the British Consul, Mr Paul Abrey, and other dignitaries, and serving members of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Professor Paul O’Prey, Vice-Chancellor of Roehampton University and Chairman of the War Poets Association, will speak on the significance of the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, in which Robert Graves was severely wounded, and read an extract from his autobiography, *Good-bye to All That*.

Prayers will be said by the English Pastor for all those who fought in the Somme, and for those who died in that and other conflicts.

The church bell will toll (amid silence) for the dead.

The Parish Priest will lead the Lord’s Prayer in Latin and give the blessing.

10.00 am: Wreath-laying Ceremony (*Deià cemetery*)

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers group will lead the way out of the church to Robert Graves’s graveside, followed by the British Consul and other dignitaries.

The rest of the congregation will leave the church through the main door at the back, and enter the cemetery through the side door, past the tomb of Beryl Graves.

Poems will be read by Alan Sillitoe, novelist, poet and friend of Robert Graves.

The British Consul will say a few words.

The RWF officer will lay a poppy wreath from the Royal Welch Fusiliers on the tomb of Captain Robert Graves, 2nd Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers.

The RWF drummer will sound the Last Post and (after one minute's silence) Reveille.

- 10.15 am: The British Consul and other dignitaries and the RWF group will leave and reassemble for refreshments (*Sa Tanca, Ajuntament de Deià / Deià Town Hall*).
- The minibus will take those requiring transport to Sa Tanca.
- 10.45 – 11.15 am: Refreshments (*Sa Tanca, Ajuntament de Deià / Deià Town Hall*)
- 11.15 am–12.15 pm: Special Session: Len Lye and the Seizin Press (*Sa Tanca*)
- Candida Ridler (British Library, London, UK): ‘**Len Lye, Robert Graves and Laura Riding: Designing Books for the Seizin and Hours Presses**’
 - Tomás Graves (Author and founder of the New Seizin Press, Mallorca): ‘**The Seizin Press: A Non-Intellectual Collaboration**’ Introduced by Carl R. Hahn (Bibliographer and book collector, USA)
- 12.15 – 12.30 pm: Break.
- 12.30 – 1.30 pm: Special Session: Robert Graves's Diary and Archives (*Sa Tanca*)
- Chris Petter and Linda Roberts (University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada) will give a presentation on the newly-completed first scholarly edition of Robert Graves's 1935–1939 diary.
 - William Graves (St John's College Robert Graves Trust, Oxford, UK, and Mallorca) and Catherine Hilliard (St John's College, Oxford, UK) will give a presentation on the collection of books and papers from Robert Graves's home which have been donated to the library of St John's College, Oxford.
- 1.30–3.00 pm: Light lunch (*Sa Tanca*), hosted by the Mayor of Deià, Sr Jaume Crespí, by courtesy of the Ajuntament de Deià
- 3.00–3.15 pm: Break
- 3.15–3.30 pm: Walk or take minibus to Ca N'Alluny
- 3.30 – 5.45 pm: Private visit to Ca N'Alluny, Robert Graves's home, which will have just opened to the public. (Soft drinks available in garden.)
- 6.00 – 7.00 pm: Song Recital: 'Counting the Beats: Graves Poems Set as Songs' (*Ca N'Alluny Theatre*)
- Jay Ansill and Claudia Balant will perform poems by Robert Graves set to music by Jay Ansill at the open-air theatre below Ca N'Alluny.

- 7.00 – 7.30 pm Walk or take minibus to la Cala de Deià (the beach)
- 7.30 – 10.00 pm: Swimming and supper at la Cala (restaurant opens at 8.00 pm)
- 10.00 – 10.30 pm: Minibus to coach at top of Cala road
- 10.30 & 10.45 pm: Minibus and coach leave for Palma
- 11.15 & 11.30 pm: Minibus and coach arrive Palma (main conference hotels)

Friday 7 July

- To 9.00 am: Breakfast at hotels or nearby cafés
- 9.00 – 10.00 am: Key Address (*Lecture Theatre*)
Max Egremont (Biographer, UK):
‘Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon’
Introduced by William Graves (St John’s College Robert Graves Trust, Oxford, UK, and Mallorca)
- 10.00– 11.15 am: Session 3: Varieties of Collaboration (1) (*Lecture Theatre*)
Chair: Grevel Lindop (Poet and critic, formerly University of Manchester)
- John W. Presley (Illinois State University, USA): **‘Antigua, Penny, Puce: Robert Graves’s Other Most Successful Novel’**
 - Joan Miquel Fiol Guiscafré (Universitat de les Illes Balears): **‘Many a Winter in Majorca: Robert Graves and/on George Sand’**
- 11.15 – 11.45 am: Refreshments
- 11.45 am – 1.00 pm: Session 4: Between Poet and Poet (*Lecture Theatre*)
Chair: Michael Irwin (Chairman of the Thomas Hardy Society, UK; formerly University of Kent, UK)
- Matthew Betts (York University, UK): **‘The General Eliott and Captain Carpenter: Graves’s Collaboration with John Crowe Ransom on *Grace After Meat*’**
 - Selma Karayalçın (Girne American University, Cyprus, and University College Northampton, UK): **“As for *The White Goddess*, You’re Largely Responsible for My Writing that Book”: The Collaboration between Robert Graves and Lynette Roberts’**
 - Frank Kersnowski (Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, USA): **‘Robert Graves and Valentin Iremonger: The Irish Poet and *The White Goddess*’**
- 1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)

- 2.30 – 3.45 pm: **Session 5: Robert Graves, Joshua Podro, and Raphael Patai** (*Lecture Theatre*)
Chair: Frank Kersnowski (Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, USA)
- John W. Presley (Illinois State University, USA): “**All God’s Words in his Left-Hand Coat Pocket**”: **Joshua Podro, Robert Graves, and *The Nazarene Gospel Restored***
 - Nancy Rosenfeld (University of Haifa and Jezreel Valley College, Israel): ‘**Poet and Scholar: Robert Graves’s and Raphael Patai’s *Hebrew Myths***’
- 3.45 – 4.15 pm: Refreshments
- 4.15 – 5.30 pm: **Special Session: Recalling Robert Graves** (*Lecture Theatre*)
Chair: Richard Perceval Graves (Biographer and nephew of Robert Graves, UK)
- Guy Cooper (Garden and landscape designer, writer and broadcaster, UK): ‘**Memories of Robert**’
 - Alexander Matthews (Retired academic, UK): ‘**Robert and Tom in Wonderland**’
 - Rab Shiell (Retired academic, Poland): ‘**A Welcome Disturbance**’
- 5.30 – 8.30 pm: Break
- 8.30 pm: **Conference Dinner** (*Restaurant Bahia Mediterráneo, Paseo Marítimo, 3, 5th floor*)

Saturday 8 July

- To 9.00 am: Breakfast at hotels or nearby cafés
- 9.00 – 10.00 am: Key Address (*Lecture Theatre*)
Grevel Lindop (Poet and critic, formerly University of Manchester, UK): ‘**From Witchcraft to the *Rubaiyyat*: Robert Graves and the Shah Brothers**’
Introduced by Raquel Gelabert Goldinger (Universitat de les Illes Balears)
- 10.00 – 10.15 am: Break
- 10.15 – 11.30 am: **Session 6: Robert Graves and Translation** (*Lecture Theatre*)
Chair: Joana Maria Seguí Aznar (Universitat de les Illes Balears)
- Sam Abrams (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya): ‘**The *Rubaiyyat* of Omar Khayyam: A Poem by Robert Graves**’
 - Francisco José Díaz de Castro (Universitat de les Illes Balears): ‘**Los Poemas de Graves en Castellano**’
 - Josep Maria Jaumà (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) : ‘**Love Translated: Some Catalan Versions of Graves’s Love Poems**’

11.30 – 12.00 noon: Refreshments

12.00 – 1.00 pm: Special Talk (*Lecture Theatre*)
 Fran Brearton (Queen’s University, Belfast): **‘Beyond Graves: Collaborations with the Dead’**
 Introduced by Grevel Lindop (Poet and critic, formerly University of Manchester)

1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)

2.30 – 3.45 pm: Session 7: Varieties of Collaboration (2) (*Lecture Theatre*)
 Chair: Dunstan Ward (University of London Institute in Paris, France)

- Joana Maria Seguí Aznar (Universitat de les Illes Balears): **‘The Unwitting Collaborators’**
- Joseph Bailey (Lawyer, U.K.): **“‘An Absolute Criminal’: Robert Graves and the Case that ‘Made Legal History’”**
- Julia Simonne (Ballet dancer and last ‘muse’ of Robert Graves): **“‘Twin Poets’: The Collaborative Role of the Muse in Graves’s Late Poetry’**

3.45 – 4.15 pm: Refreshments

4.15 – 5.15 pm: Special Session: Owen Sheers on Keith Douglas (*Lecture Theatre*)
 The Welsh poet and writer Owen Sheers will discuss his forthcoming play, *Unicorns, almost*, based on the life of the World War II poet Keith Douglas, with Josie Rourke (actress) and Kate Pakenham (producer) of the Old Vic New Voices company, London. (Sponsored by the British Council.)
 Introduced by Paul O’Prey (Chairman of the War Poets Association)

5.15 – 5.30 pm: Round-up Session and Farewell (*Lecture Theatre*)

End of conference

5.30 – 7.00 pm: **Biennial General Meeting of the Robert Graves Society**