

*Eleventh International Robert Graves Conference*

**Robert Graves and Modernism**

St John's College, Oxford, UK

4th – 8th September 2012

*Organised by the Robert Graves Society*

**Programme**

**Tuesday 4th September**

- 1.00 – 5.30 pm: Registration (*Main Porters' Lodge*), checking into accommodation, etc.
- 6.00 – 6.15 pm: Welcome to Participants (*Garden Quad Auditorium*)  
Fran Brearton, President of the Robert Graves Society
- 6.15 – 7.15 pm: Opening Address (*Garden Quad Auditorium*):  
John Goodby (University of Swansea):  
'Modernism, myth and the Movement: Reassessing Robert Graves'  
[Chair: Fran Brearton]
- 7.30 pm: Welcoming Dinner (*Dining Hall*)

**Wednesday 5th September**

- 8.15 – 9.15 am: Breakfast (*Dining Hall*)
- 9.15 – 10.15 am: Lecture (*Auditorium*) [Chair:]  
William Graves:  
Collateral Issues in translating *The White Goddess*
- 10.15 – 10.45 am: Refreshments
- 10.45am – 12.15 pm Session 1: Origins and Intertextualities [Chair: ]  
(i) Selma Ahmet: 'Reinterpreting the Myth of Jason: Intertextuality and Manipulation in *The Golden Fleece*  
(ii) Alicja Bemben, 'Graves, Repetition, and Modernism'
- 12.30 – 1.00 pm: Session 2 Report:  
Michael Basinski, 'Robert Graves at the Poetry Collection, 2012'

- 1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.30 – 4.15 pm: Session 3: On War [Chair: Fran Brearton]  
 (i) Charles Mundy, “‘He alone on this Isotonic Plain’”: Graves, Roberts, Rhys, and the situation of the poet in war.’  
 (ii) Alexander Matthews, ‘Adjectives in Armageddon’  
 (iii) Allan Mallinson, ‘Captain Robert Graves: A Military Appreciation’
- 4.15-4.45 pm: Refreshments
- 4.45- 5.45 pm: Lecture [Chair: Dunstan Ward]  
 Richard Perceval Graves, ‘Literary Approaches to World War I’
- 6 pm: Reception and launch of Keidrych Rhys, *Collected Poems*, edited by Charles Mundy. Seren Books in association with the Robert Graves Society. Guest speaker: Patrick McGuinness.
- Dinner (own arrangements)

### **Thursday 6th September**

- 8.15 – 9.15 am: Breakfast (*Dining Hall*)
- 9.15 – 10.15 am: Lecture [Chair: Edna Longley]  
 Helen Goethals, “‘A militant disdain’”: Modernism and *A Pamphlet Against Anthologies*’
- 10.15 – 10.45 am: Refreshments
- 10.45 – 12 noon: Session 4: Theorising Modernism [Chair: David Wheatley]  
 (i) Tomislav Pavlovich, ‘Robert Graves - a Nietzschean Modernist Poet’  
 (ii) Joseph Bailey, ‘Some Versions of Modernism: Robert Graves, Laura Riding, William Empson, and the Origins of the New Criticism’
- 12.00 – 1.00 pm: Lecture: [Chair: Peter McDonald]  
 Michael Longley: ‘On Editing Robert Graves’s *Selected Poems*’: talk with readings
- 1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.30pm - 9pm: Visit to Islip followed by pub meal, and poetry reading by David Wheatley and Patrick McGuinness (further details to follow)

### **Friday 7th September**

- 8.15 – 9.15 am: Breakfast (*Dining Hall*)
- 9.15 – 10.15 am: Lecture [Chair: Patrick McGuinness]

Fran Brearton, “Beauty in Trouble”: Graves, MacNeice, and Aestheticism

- 10.15 – 10.45 am: Refreshments
- 10.45 – 12 noon: Session 5: Archipelagic Affinities [Chair: John Goodby]  
 (i) Zosia Kuczynska, “...afterwards always came after before”: post-catastrophic space-time in the plays of Graves and MacNeice’  
 (ii) Nancy Rosenfeld, “A poet you shall be, my son”: Robert Graves and Dylan Thomas’
- 12.00 – 1.00 pm: Lecture [chair: Fran Brearton]  
 Peter McDonald, ‘The Face in the Mirror’
- 1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.30 – 4.15 pm: Session 6: Modernism & Traditionalism [chair: Helen Goethals]  
 (i) Michael Joseph, ‘Graves’s Poems for Children: Modernism v. Traditionalism’  
 (ii) Aaron Smith, “But it still goes on”: Modernism and Graves’s sense of tradition’  
 (iii) Alisha Mitchell, ‘Hunting the Radical Rat: Militant Anti-Modernism and Ideological Warfare in Robert Graves’s *The Owl*’
- 4.15 – 4.45 pm: Refreshments
- 4.55 – 5.45 pm: Lecture [Chair: Michael Joseph]  
 Chris Nicholson, ‘“Where art and agony meet”’: The Modernism of Robert Graves and T.S. Eliot’
- 6.00 pm: Reception
- 7.00 pm: Poetry Reading by Ruth Fainlight and Michael Longley

### Saturday 8th September

- 8.15 – 9.15 am: Breakfast (*Dining Hall*)
- 9.15 – 11.00 am: Session 7: On Music and Dance [Chair: Richard Perceval Graves?]  
 (i) Arthur Newman, “When news (true or false) failed, ballads were published about ancient events”: Graves and modern ballad tradition’  
 (ii) Richard Carder, ‘Songs of Graves’s and Gurney’s Friends’  
 (iii) Julia Simonne, “Dance of Words”: Cultural Influences on Robert Graves’s life and later works’
- 11.00 - 11.30 am Refreshments
- 11.30 - 12.30 pm Biennial General Meeting of the Robert Graves Society (location)
12. 30pm Lunch (own arrangements)

End of conference