

*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.

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 (*Turner  
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): **['The Art of the First World War']**

Parallel Session 1B: War and the Goddess (I) (Bell 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 (University of Surrey Roehampton, 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'**
- Juli Simonne (Independent Scholar): **“'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 Rosenberg (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 Ahmet (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<sup>e</sup>)

### **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 (University of Surrey Roehampton, 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 (University of Surrey Roehampton, 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<sup>e</sup>  
**Guest Speaker:** Dominic Hibberd (Biographer and Critic)  
**Poetry Reading:** Poems by **Edmund Blunden, Robert Graves, Wilfred Owen, 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 – 11.30 am: Session 5: War and Historical Fiction (*Turner Room*)  
 Chair: Ian Firla

- Michael Brus (Independent Scholar, USA): **‘I, Robert: The Autobiographical Creation of Robert Graves and Tiberius Claudius’**
- 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*’**

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

11.45 – 12.45 pm: Special Talk (*Turner Room*):  
 Richard Perceval Graves (Biographer of Robert Graves):  
**“Artistic Truth” and *Good-bye to All That***  
 Introduced by Lucia Graves

12.45 – 1.00 pm: Closing Speeches (*Turner Room*)

1 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)