

*Ninth International Robert Graves Conference*

**'Innovation and Tradition:  
Robert Graves in the Twentieth Century'**

St John's College, Oxford, UK

9 – 13 September 2008

*Organised by the Robert Graves Society  
with the St John's College Robert Graves Trust*

**Tuesday 9 September**

1.00 – 5.30 pm: Registration (*Garden Quad Foyer*), checking into accommodation, etc.

6.00 – 7.30 pm: Welcome to Participants (*Garden Quad Auditorium*)  
John Kelly, St John's College, Oxford, Honorary Vice-President of the  
Robert Graves Society  
Dunstan Ward, President of the Robert Graves Society

Opening Address (*Auditorium*):  
Michael Schmidt (University of Glasgow, UK, Carcanet Press):  
**'Takes on Robert Graves: Carcanet Perspectives'**  
Introduced by Dunstan Ward (President, Robert Graves Society)

7.30 pm: Welcoming Dinner (*Dining Hall*)

**Wednesday 10 September**

8.15 – 9.15 am: Breakfast (*Dining Hall*)

9.15 – 10.15 am: Key Address (*Auditorium*)  
John W. Presley (Illinois State University, USA, Vice-President  
(Americas) of the Robert Graves Society):  
**'One Story Only: Robert Graves's Reputation in America'**  
Introduced by Michael Irwin (University of Kent, UK, Chairman of the  
Thomas Hardy Society, UK)

10.15 – 10.45 am: Refreshments

10.45 – 12 noon: Session 1: Poetic Affinities (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: Devindra Kohli (formerly University of Kashmir, India, and  
Universities of Muenster and Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

- Joseph Bailey (Robert Graves Society): **“To Whom Else?” and “What will survive of us is love”: Aspects of the Love Poetry of Robert Graves and Philip Larkin**
- Anne Mounic (Université de Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle): **‘One Story, One Theme, Two Poets: Robert Graves and David Jones’**

- 12.00 – 1.00 pm: Special Talk (*Auditorium*)  
David Constantine (Queen’s College, Oxford, UK):  
**“A grace it had, devouring ...”: Apparitions of Beauty, Love and Terror in the Poetry of Robert Graves**  
Introduced by Bernard O’Donoghue (Wadham College, Oxford, UK)
- 1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.30 – 3.45 pm: Session 2: Robert Graves Online (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: John W. Presley (Illinois State University, USA, Vice-President (Americas) of the Robert Graves Society)
- Katharine Lindsay (Project Manager, First World War Poetry Digital Archive, Oxford University Computing Services, UK): **‘The First World War Poetry Digital Archive and Robert Graves’**
  - Michael Basinski (Poetry Collection, State University of New York at Buffalo, USA): **‘Robert Graves @ Buffalo: Past, Present, Future’**
  - Carl Hahn (Bibliographer and Book Collector, USA) **‘The Bibliographies of Robert Graves: Past, Present and Future’**
- 3.45 – 4.15 pm: Refreshments
- 4.15 – 4.45 pm: Special Talk (*Auditorium*)  
Caroline Shaw (Library Archivist, St John’s College Library, UK)  
**‘The Life of the Archive and the Life in the Archive: The St John’s College Robert Graves Trust Archive Collection’**  
Introduced by Michael Riordan (Archivist, St John’s College, UK)
- 4.45 – 5.30 pm: Round Table (1): Accessing Robert Graves (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: Michael Riordan (Archivist, St John’s College, UK)  
Michael Basinski (Poetry Collection, State University of New York at Buffalo, USA), William Graves (Robert Graves’s Executor), Caroline Shaw (Library Archivist, St John’s College Library)
- 5.30 – 8.00 pm: Reception to mark the arrival of the Canellun Archive at the St John’s College Library (*Garden Quad Reception Room*)  
John Kelly (St John’s College, Oxford, UK)  
William Graves (Robert Graves’s Executor)  
Guest speakers: **Ruth Fainlight** and **Alan Sillitoe**:  
**‘Correspondences with Robert Graves’**
- Exhibition of Manuscripts, Books and Documents (*Garden Quad Foyer*)

Organised by Caroline Shaw and Silke Schaeper and (St John's College Library), and Jane Eagan (Oxford Conservation Consortium)

8.00 pm: Buffet Dinner (*Reception Room*)

### Thursday 11 September

8.15 – 9.15 am: Breakfast (*Dining Hall*)

9.15 – 10.15 am: Key Address (*Auditorium*)  
Hugh Haughton (University of York, UK):  
**'Graves and Ghosts'**  
Introduced by Edna Longley (Queen's University, Belfast, UK)

10.15 – 10.45 am: Refreshments

10.45 – 12 noon: Session 3: Allegories and Mythologies (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: Nancy Rosenfeld (University of Haifa and Jezreel Valley College, Israel)

- Marisa Saracino and Antonio Eduardo Favale (Universita Degli Studi di Lecce, Italy): **'Allegories of Love and Otherness in Robert Graves, C. S. Lewis and Peter Russell'**
- Devindra Kohli (formerly University of Kashmir, India, and Universities of Muenster and Duisburg-Essen, Germany): **'Mythologising the Hand: Graves's Sensuous Mode'**

12.00 – 1.00 pm: Special Talk (*Auditorium*)  
Fran Brearton (Queen's University, Belfast, UK):  
**'"A new sword on an old anvil": Yeats, Graves and Tradition'**  
Introduced by John Kelly (St John's College, Oxford, UK)

1.00 – 2.30 pm: Lunch (own arrangements)

2.30 – 3.45 pm: Session 4: Robert Graves and Contemporary Thought (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: John Presley (Illinois State University, USA, Vice-President (Americas) of the Robert Graves Society)

- Christopher Nicholson (affiliation): **'"The needle dips and pokes": Graves, Childhood and Psychoanalysis'**
- Nancy Rosenfeld (University of Haifa and Max Stern College of Jezreel Valley, Israel): **'"There is no 'unless' for poets": Robert Graves and Postmodern Thought'**

3.45 – 4.15 pm: Refreshments

4.15 – 5.15 pm: Round Table (2): 'Placing' Robert Graves (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: Bernard O'Donoghue (Wadham College, Oxford, UK)  
Hugh Haughton (University of York, UK), Peter McDonald (Christ Church, Oxford, UK)

- 5.15 – 5.30 pm      Break
- 5.30 – 7.45 pm:      Poetry Reading (*Auditorium*)  
**David Constantine, Michael Longley**  
Interval (15 minutes)  
**Bernard O’Donoghue, Vincent O’Sullivan**  
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 (President, Robert Graves Society)
- Followed by drinks with the poets (*Garden Quad Reception Room*).
- 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)

### **Friday 12 September**

- 8.15 – 9.15 am:      Breakfast (*Dining Hall*)
- 9.15 – 10.15 am:    Key Address (*Auditorium*)  
Peter McDonald (Christ Church, Oxford, UK):  
**‘Graves and the Shapes of Lyric’**  
Introduced by Fran Brearton (Queen’s University, Belfast, UK)
- 10.15 – 10.45 am:    Refreshments
- 10.45 – 12 noon:    Session 5: ‘A Painful Process’: Robert Graves at Work (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: Carl Hahn (Bibliographer and Book Collector, USA)
- Michael Basinski (State University of New York at Buffalo):  
**‘Robert Graves’s Poetry Manuscripts: In the Beginning’**
  - Dunstan Ward (formerly University of London Institute in Paris):  
**‘Robert Graves at Oxford: A Poetical Progress’**
- 12.00 – 1.00 pm:    Special Talk (*Auditorium*)  
Mark Jacobs (Nottingham Trent University, UK):  
**‘Contemporaries and Snobs by Laura Riding, A Survey of Modernist Poetry by Laura Riding and Robert Graves, and the New Criticism’**  
Introduced by Patrick McGuinness (St Anne’s College, Oxford, UK)
- 1.00 – 2.30 pm:      Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.30 – 3.45 pm:      Session 6: Robert Graves and Music (1) (*Auditorium*)  
Chair: Dunstan Ward (Robert Graves Society)
- Julia Simonne (Dancer and Choreographer): **“Be Prepared for Music”: Inspiration and the Last Muse’**
  - Geoffrey Álvarez (Composer): **‘Serving Graves’s Last Muse: “Never sing the same song twice”’**
- 3.45 – 4.15 pm:      Refreshments

4.15 – 5.15 pm: Special Talk (Auditorium)  
Colin Wells (Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, USA):  
**‘Robert Graves’s Latin Translations’**  
Introduced by Paul O’Prey (Roehampton University, UK, War Poets Association)

5.30 pm: Departure by coach to **Boar’s Hill** for Literary Walk and dinner

### **Saturday 13 September**

8.15 – 9.15 am: Breakfast (Dining Hall)

9.15 – 10.15 am: Key Address (Auditorium)  
Patrick McGuinness (St Anne’s College, Oxford, UK):  
**‘Robert Graves and the Contemporary Poet’**  
Introduced by Paul O’Prey (Roehampton University, UK, War Poets Association)

10.15 – 10.45 am: Refreshments

10.45 – 11.45 am: Session 7: Robert Graves and Music (2) (Auditorium)  
Chair: Geoffrey Álvarez (Composer)  
• Richard Carder (English Poetry and Song Society): **‘Gurney’s Journeys to Graves’**

11.45 – 12 noon: Round-up Session (Auditorium)

12.00 – 1.00 pm: **Biennial General Meeting of the Robert Graves Society (Garden Quad Reception Room)**

End of conference