

Twelfth International Robert Graves Conference

**Robert Graves:
Humour, Irony, Tragedy, and the Grotesque**

Palma and Deià, Mallorca, Spain

CaixaForum, Placa Weyler 3, 07000 Palma de Mallorca

8th–12th July 2014

*Organised by the Robert Graves Society
with the Fundació Robert Graves and the University of the Balearics*

Programme

Tuesday 8 July

- 2.00 – 6.00 pm: Registration (“*CaixaForum*” Cultural Centre, Palma), checking into hotels, etc.
- 6.15 pm: Welcome to Participants & announcements (*Lecture Theatre*)
Fran Brearton (President, Robert Graves Society)
William Graves (Robert Graves’s literary executor; Director, Fundació Robert Graves)
Patrick Villa (Secretary & Treasurer, Robert Graves Society)
- 6.30 pm Plenary Lecture [Chair: Fran Brearton]
David Harsent, ‘Between the Lines’
- 7.30 pm: Coach to Castillo de Bellver (Bellver Castle), Palma
- 8.00 pm Welcome Reception at Bellver Castle offered by the Ajuntament de Palma (Palma Town Hall)
Recital of Graves Poems set to music by Jay Ansill: Jay Ansill (harp) with Anne Hills.
- 9.30 pm Coaches return to “*CaixaForum*” Cultural Centre, Palma

Wednesday 9 July

- 9.15 – 10.30 am: Panel Session (1): [Chair: Helen Goethals]
Edna Longley, ‘Irony and Syntax in Graves and Larkin’
Patrick McGuinness, Graves and Roberts.
- 10.30 – 11.00 am: Refreshments

- 11.00am – 12.30 pm: Panel Session (2): [Chair: Michael Basinski]
 Viviane Carvalho da Annunciacao, ‘Robert Graves and the Ecstasy: A residue of John Donne’
 Carolann North, ‘“Sister of the Mirage and Echo”’: Abjection, Nature and Patriarchal Distance in Graves’s Goddess Poetry’
 Julia Simonne, ‘Real Love is Based on Suffering’: Tragicomic elements in Graves’s life and late poems)
- 12.30 – 2.00pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.00-3.30pm Panel Session (3) [Chair: Peter Mackay]
 Michael Joseph, ‘The *Selva Oscura* of “Hide and Seek”’
 Zosia Kuczynska, ‘“Nonsense that can keep / Horror bristling round the head”’: nightmare, nursery, and threefold present in Graves and MacNeice’
 Laura McKenzie, ‘Shell Shocked Translations: Trauma and Irony in Graves’s *The Anger of Achilles*’
- 3.30-3.45 pm: Break
- 3.45 – 5.15pm: Panel Session (4) [Chair: Michael Joseph]
 Candida Ridler, ‘A poet, an actress, a knight and a Queen: Graves’s contributions to U.S. magazines’
 Michael Basinski, ‘Report from the Stacks’ and ‘Of Use – Poetry Manuscripts: A line from Robert Graves to Charles Abbott
- 5.15 – 6.00pm: Refreshments
- 6.00 – 7.15pm: Film (*Edificio Riera, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Calle Miquel Sants Oliver*):
The Labour of Giants. A documentary narrated by Michael Douglas about the Serra de Tramuntana in which Deià nests.
 Presented by William Graves (Robert Graves’s Literary Executor; Director, Fundació Robert Graves)
- 7.30 pm: Exhibition (*Edificio Riera, UIB*):
Robert Graves’s *The Poet and the War*
 An exhibition of books, documents and annotated maps
 Presented by Dunstan Ward.
- 8.30pm: Dinner (own arrangements; a booking will be made for a pay-for-oneself group to dine at a nearby restaurant)

Thursday 10 July

- 9.15 – 10.30am: Plenary Lecture [Chair: Alan Gillis]
Sean O'Brien, 'Missing Presumed Dead? Graves and Contemporary Poetry'
- 10.30-11.00 am: Refreshments
- 11.00 – 12.30pm: Panel Session (5): [Chair: Edna Longley]
Nicholas Carter, 'Who is it that can tell me who I am?'
Grevel Lindop, 'Captain Graves, or the Future of the Grotesque'
- 12.30-2.30pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.30 – 3.00pm: Special Session [Chair: Dunstan Ward]
Lucia Graves on 'The Graves Birthday Plays'
- 3.15 pm: Coach to Deià
- 4.00 – 5.00 pm: Visit: Deià. Option to go down to the Cala for a swim, walk up to the graveyard to visit Graves's tomb, have a coffee in the village etc.
- 5.00 – 6:00 pm **La Casa de Robert Graves:**
A private visit to Ca N'Alluny, Robert Graves's home, and its garden
Introductory film (15 mins) (*Auditorium*).
Unveiling Alan Sillitoe's plaque in the olive grove. [Ruth Fainlight & William Graves]
- 6.00_– 7.00 Poetry reading at Ca N'Alluny:
Alan Gillis
Miriam Gamble
Grevel Lindop
Patrick McGuinness
Peter Mackay
- 7.00 – 8.00 Buffet and launch of Penguin edition of *Good-bye to All That 1929*, edited by Fran Brearton. Speaker: Richard Perceval Graves
- 8.30 – 9.30 pm Concert – Robert Graves poems set to music by Ivor Gurney. Arranged by Jay Ansill; Harp (Jay Ansill) and string quartet and sung by Anne Hills. On the lawn of La Residencia Hotel.
- 9.30pm: Coach departs for Palma, "*CaixaForum*"

Friday 11 July

- 9.15am – 10.30am: Plenary Lecture [Chair: Grevel Lindop]
Neil Corcoran, 'Robert Graves: Keeping Walking'
- 10.30 – 11.00am: Refreshments

- 11.00 – 12.30pm: Panel Session (6): [Chair: Michael Joseph]
Alicja Bemben, ‘When Claudius Wept’
Tomislav Pavlovich, ‘Graves’s John Milton as a Rabelasian Hero’
Nancy Rosenfeld, ‘*Good-bye to All That* and Humour’.
- 12.30 – 2.00pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.00 – 3.30pm: Panel Session (7): [Chair: Patrick McGuinness]
Arthur Newman, ‘Primitive gods for a primitive people: The White Goddess, the Eternal Champion, and the limits of ritual’
Richard Carder, ‘Graves, Ghosts, Madness, Magic, and Religion’
- 3.30-3.45 pm Break
- 3.45 pm -5.00 pm Special Session [Chair: Charles Mundy]
Jake Empson on William Empson’s *The Face of the Buddha*, and in conversation with Charles Mundy
- 5.00 – 6.00 pm: Break & Refreshments
- 6.00 – 7.15 pm: Poetry Reading (*Lecture Theatre*)
David Harsent
Ruth Fainlight
Sean O’Brien
Michael Longley
- Followed by drinks with the poets
- 9.00 pm: Conference Dinner (*Es Baluard Museum of Modern Art*)

Saturday 12 July

- 9.30 – 10.30 am: Panel Session (8) [Chair: Dunstan Ward]
Helen Goethals, ‘Homage to unevent: *Poems (1938-1945)* in the context of Second World War Poetry.
Eve Cobain, ‘“The Foolish Senses”: Graves, Berryman and the tragicomic body’
- 10.30 – 11.00 am: Refreshments
- 11.00 am – 12.00 pm Panel Session (9) [Chair: Fran Brearton]
Alan Gillis, ‘Poetry and Satire’
Charles Mundy, ‘“But if you stare aghast perhaps”: Robert Graves’s early poems and the role of the grotesque’
- 12.15 – 1.00 pm: Meeting of the Robert Graves Society
- End of conference