

*Twelfth International Robert Graves Conference*

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

**Palma and Deià, Mallorca, Spain**

**8th–12th July 2014**

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

**Programme**

**Tuesday 8 July**

- 2.00 – 6.00 pm: Registration (“CaixaForum” Cultural Centre, Palma), checking into hotels, etc.
- 6.30 pm: Welcome to Participants (*Lecture Theatre*)  
Fran Brearton (President, Robert Graves Society)  
William Graves (Robert Graves’s literary executor; Director, Fundació Robert Graves),  
Patrick Villa (Robert Graves Society Secretary & Treasurer)
- 7.30 pm: Coaches 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 by Jay Ansil (harp).
- 10.00 pm Coaches return to “CaixaForum” Cultural Centre, Palma

**Wednesday 9 July**

- 9.15 – 10.30 am: Plenary Lecture:  
David Harsent
- 10.30 – 11.00 am: Refreshments
- 11.00am – 12.30 pm: Panel Session (2):  
Viviane Carvalho da Annunçiação, ‘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, ‘Tragi-Comic influences on Graves’s later life & poetry’

12.30 – 2.00pm: Lunch (own arrangements)

2.00-3.30pm Panel Session (3)  
 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’  
 Matthew Betts, ‘Strange Beasts in the Poetry of Robert Graves’

3.30-3.45 pm: Break

3.45 – 5.15pm: Panel Session (4) (*Lecture Theatre*)  
 Candida Ridler, ‘A poet, an actress, a knight and a Queen: Graves’s contributions to U.S. magazines’  
 Anett Jessop, ‘Theorizing the Balearic Islands in the works of Gertrude Stein, Robert Graves, and Walter Benjamin’  
 Michael Basinski, ‘Report from the Stacks’ and ‘Of Use – Poetry Manuscripts: A line from Robert Graves to Charles Abbott

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.

Refreshments

9.00pm: 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: ]  
 Sean O’Brien

10.30-11.00 am: Refreshments

- 11.00 – 12.30pm: Panel Session (5):  
Nicholas Carter, ‘Who is it who can tell me who I am?’  
Grevel Lindop, title tbc
- 12.30-2.00pm: Lunch (own arrangements)
- 2.00 – 3.00pm: Special Session [Chair: Charles Mundy]  
Jake Empson on William Empson’s *The Face of the Buddha*
- 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.
- 6.30 – 7.30 pm: Poetry reading at Ca N’Alluny:  
Alan Gillis  
Miriam Gamble  
Grevel Lindop  
Patrick McGuinness  
Peter Mackay
- Refreshments
- 8.00 – 8.30 Presentation of Penguin edition of *Good-bye to All That* 1929 by  
Richard P. Graves
- 8.30 – 9.30 pm Concert – Robert Graves poems set to music by Ivor Gurney. Arranged  
by Jay Ansil. On the lawn of La Residencia Hotel.
- 9.30 – 10.30 pm: Coach arrives in Palma at “*CaixaForum*”

### **Friday 11 July**

- 9.15am – 10.30am: Plenary Lecture [Chair: Fran Brearton]  
Neil Corcoran
- 10.30 – 11.00am: Refreshments
- 11.00 – 12.30pm: Panel Session (6):  
Alicja Bembien, ‘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 – 3.15pm: Panel Session (7):  
 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'

3.15-3.30 pm Break

3.30 pm -4.45pm Panel Session  
 Edna Longley, 'Irony and Syntax in Graves and Larkin'  
 Patrick McGuinness, Graves and Roberts [tbc]

4.45 – 5.00 pm Break

5.00 – 5.30pm: Special Session:  
 Lucia Graves on 'The Graves Birthday Plays'

5.30 – 6.00 pm: 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 (*Restaurante Club Nautico?*)

### Saturday 12 July

9.15 – 10.45 am: Panel Session (8) [Chair: Dunstan Ward]  
 Helen Goethals (University of Toulouse), 'Homage to unevent: *Poems (1938-1945)* in the context of Second World War Poetry.  
 Eve Cobain (Trinity College Dublin), "'The Foolish Senses": Graves, Berryman and the tragicomic body'  
 Aaron Smith [tbc]

10.45 – 11.15 am: Refreshments

11.15 am – 12.15 pm Panel Session (9)  
 Charles Mundye, "'But if you stare aghast perhaps": Robert Graves's early poems and the role of the grotesque'  
 Alan Gillis, 'Poetry and Satire'

12.15 – 1.00 pm: Meeting of the Robert Graves Society  
End of conference