Robert Graves by EFVF ERTR

While you’re busy burning the midnight oil

Robert Graves

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Robert Graves

Biography

Early life

Born in Wimbledon, the son of an English father and German aristocratic mother, Graves received his early education at King's College School and Cnopthorne Prep School, Wimbledon and Charterhouse School and won an exhibition (a form of scholarship) to St John's College, Oxford.

First World War

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, Graves enlisted almost immediately, taking a commission in the Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF). He published his first volume of poems, Over the Brazier, in 1916. He developed an early reputation as a war poet, and was one of the first to write realistic poems about his experience of front line conflict. In later years he omitted his war poems from his collections, on the grounds that they were too obviously "part of the war poetry boom". At the Battle of the Somme he was so badly wounded by a shell fragment through the lung that he was expected to die, and indeed was officially reported as dead of wounds. He gradually recovered, however, and apart from a brief spell back in France, he spent the remainder of the war in England.[citation needed]

One of Graves's very close friends at this time was the poet Siegfried Sassoon, who like Graves was an officer in the RWF. In 1917 Sassoon tried to rebel against the war by making a public anti-war statement. Graves, who feared Sassoon could face a court martial, intervened with the military authorities and persuaded them that he was suffering from shell shock, and to treat him accordingly. As a result Sassoon was sent to Craiglockhart, the military hospital near Edinburgh, where he was treated by Dr. W. H. R. Rivers and met fellow patient Wilfred Owen. Graves also suffered from shell shock, or neurasthenia as it was sometimes called, although he was never hospitalised for it.[citation needed]

The friendship between Graves and Sassoon was documented in Graves' biographies, and the story is fictionalised in Pat Barker's novel Regeneration. The intensity of their early relationship is demonstrated in Graves's collection Fairies and Fusiliers (1917), which contains a plethora of poems celebrating their friendship. Sassoon himself remarked upon a "heavy sexual element" within it, an observation supported by the sentimental nature of much of the surviving correspondence between the two men. Through Sassoon, Graves also became friends with Wilfred Owen, whose talent he recognised. Owen attended Graves's wedding to Nancy Nicholson in 1918, presenting him, as Graves recalleed, "with [a] "set of twelve Apostle spoons, the thirteenth, he joked, had been shot for cowardice".[citation needed]

Post-war period

Following his marriage and the end of the First World War, Graves belatedly took up his place at St John's College, Oxford. He later attempted to make a living by running a small shop, but the business soon failed. In 1926 he took up a post at Cairo University, accompanied by his wife, their children, and the poet Laura Riding. He returned to London briefly, where he split up with his wife under highly emotional circumstances (at one point Riding attempted suicide before leaving to live with Riding in Dei, Majorca. There they continued to publish letterpress books under the rubric of the Seizin Press, founded and edited the literary journal, Epilogue; he also wrote two successful academic books together: A Survey of Modernist Poetry (1927) and A Pamphlet Against Anthologies (1928); both had great influence on modern literary criticism, particularly new criticism.

Literary career

In 1927, he also published Lawrence and the Arabs, a commercially successful bio of T. E. Lawrence. Good-bye to All That (1929, revised by him and republished in 1957) proved a successful but cost him many of his friends and their books, notably Siegfried Sassoon. In 1934 he published his most commercially successful work, I, Claudius. Using classical sources he constructed a complex and compelling tale of the life of the Roman emperor Caligula, a tale extended in the sequel Claudius the God (1935). Another historical novel by Graves, Count Belisarius (1938), recounts the career of the Byzantine general Belisarius.[citation needed]


After returning to England, Graves began a relationship with Beryl Hodge, then the wife of Alan Hodge, his collaborator on The Long Week-End (1941) and The Reader Over Your Shoulder (1943; republished in 1947 as The Use and Abuse of the English Language). In 1946 he and his new wife Beryl re-established a home in Dei, Majorca. The house is now a museum. 1946 also saw the publication of the historical novel, Kino. Jesus. He published The White Goddess (1948), one of the most influential works in the history of modern scholarship (form of scholarship) to St John's College, Oxford.
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See The Greek Myths for further discussion.
^ a b c Stuffed Eagle, Time magazine, 31 May 1968
^ http://net.lib.byu.edu/english/wwi/poets/poets.html
^ BYU library archive

External links
Wikiquote has a collection of quotations related to: Robert Graves
The Robert Graves Collection in The First World War Poetry Digital Archive by Oxford University contains images of Graves' War poetry manuscripts, letters, service records, plus a searchable full text corpora.
Works by Robert Graves at Project Gutenberg
Robert Graves Trust
Pegasos article on Robert Graves
Website of the film 'Poetic Unreason'
War Poets Association
PDF Collection of Robert Graves Poems
Diary of Robert Graves, 1935-1939
Robert H. Canary, "Utopian and Fantastic Dualities in Robert Graves's Watch the North Wind Rise"
"Robert Graves in Deia, Majorca"
"Official website for 'La Casa de Robert Graves' in Deia, Majorca. Robert Graves Foundation"
The Complete Works of Robert Graves by Carcanet Press
Robert Graves fonds at University of Victoria, Special Collections
Robert Graves Papers at Southern Illinois University Carbondale Special Collections Research Center
Persondata
NAME
Graves, Robert
ALTERNATIVE NAMES
Graves, Robert
SHORT DESCRIPTION
English novelist, poet
DATE OF BIRTH
24 July 1895
PLACE OF BIRTH
Wimbledon, London, England
DATE OF DEATH
7 December 1985
PLACE OF DEATH
Deia, Majorca, Spain
Categories: 1895 births
1985 deaths

Alumni of St John's College, Oxford
British Army personnel of World War I
British World War I poets
English expatriates
English literary critics
English memoirists
English novelists
English people of German descent
English poets
English historical novelists
Literary collaborators
Old Carthusians
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Robert von Ranke Graves (24 July 1895 – 7 December 1985) was a British poet, historical novelist, critic, and classicist. His father was Alfred Perceval Graves, a celebrated Irish poet and figure in the Gaelic revival; they were both Celticists and students of Irish mythology. Graves produced more than 140 works. Graves's poems together with his translations and innovative analysis and interpretations of the Greek myths; his memoir of his early life, including his role in World War I, Good-Bye to All Browse all poems and texts published on Robert Graves. Robert Graves Poems. 1805 by Robert Graves. 1915 by Robert Graves. A Ballad Of Nursery Rhyme by Robert Graves. A Boy in Church by Robert Graves. A Child's Nightmare by Robert Graves. A Dead Boche by Robert Graves. A First Review by Robert Graves. A Frosty Night by Robert Graves. A Lover Since Childhood by Robert Graves. A Pinch of Salt by Robert Graves. A Rhyme Of Friends by Robert Graves. A Slice of Wedding Cake by Robert Graves. A Song For Two Children by Robert Graves. Advice To Lovers by Robert Graves. After The Play by Robert Gr... Robert Graves's wiki: Robert von Ranke Graves (24 July 1895 – 7 December 1985), also known as Robert Ranke Graves and most commonly Robert Graves, was an English poet, novelist, critic and classicist. In a way similar to Oscar Wilde, Robert Graves was a Celticist and student of Irish mythology, by the influence of his father Alfred Perceval Graves, a celebrated Irish poet with William Wilde, these families were inheritors of the Gaelic revival. He produced more than 140 works. Graves's poems together with his translations and innovative analysis and interpretations of the Greek myt