



The Robert Graves Diary

Stephen Miller

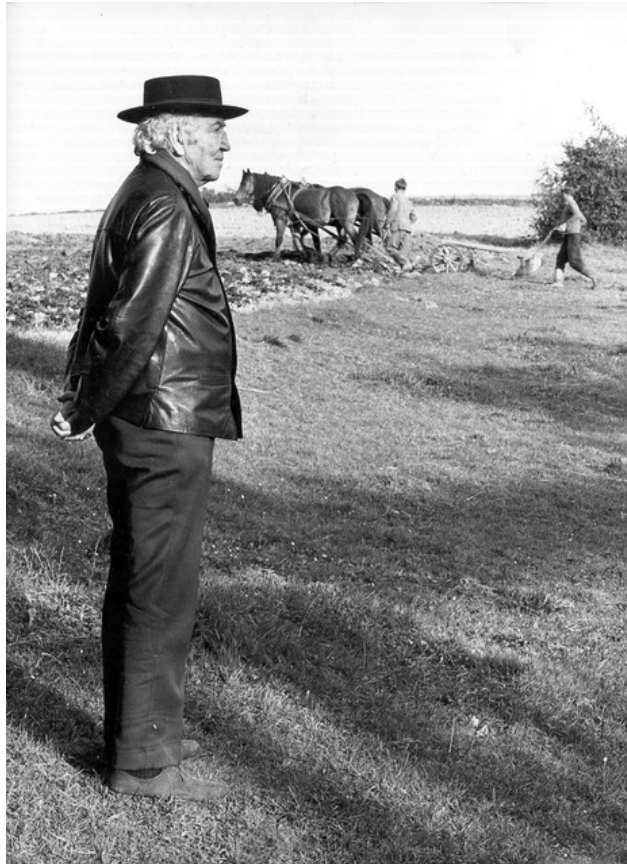
AAC / ÖAW

Texts & Files WS 2006/07

Universität Wien



Robert Graves (1895-1985)





Diary 1935–39

- Diary contains not only entries but also enclosures
- So what is the “entry”?
 - Enclosures relegated to a footnote
 - Summarised, rarely, if ever, reproduced
 - <http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/graves/gravdiary2.htm>



Diary Menu

Information

03_02_36

24_06_37

11_05_38

02_09_38

30_01_39

05_02_39

06_05_39

[End of Diary]



Names mentioned

List of persons referred to:

1. **Catherine Nicholson**: (1922-) third of four children of Robert Graves and Nancy Nicholson ([1899-1977] first wife of Robert Graves; married 1918, separated 1927, divorced 1949).
2. **Juan Marroig Mas, called Gelat**: Landowner on Deya and friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
3. **Karl Goldschmidt, later Kenneth Gay**: Graphic artist, friend and secretary of Robert Graves and Laura Riding since 1934.
4. **Born Laura Reichenthal (1901-1991), married Gottschalk 1920, renamed Riding, married Jackson 1941**: Poet, theorist, partner and collaborator of Robert Graves 1927-1939.
5. **San Juan Bautista (Saint John the Baptist)**: Saint John the Baptist; patron Saint of Deya; Feast Day June 24
6. **?McCormack**: Friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
7. **John Aldridge**: Painter, friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
8. **Lucie Aldridge, née: Brown**: Wife of John and friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
9. **Harry Kemp**: Poet and friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
10. **Alix Kemp**: Wife of Harry Kemp, friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
11. **William Heinemann**: Publisher.
12. **A.S. Watt**: Literary agent.
13. **Anita Vives**: Sister of Gelat, lived at Rennes, France in 1937.
14. **Harold Evans?**: unidentified.
15. **Len Lye**: Maker of animated films, working in advertising; friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
16. **Alan Hodge**: Poet and friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding; coauthored The Long Weekend among others; Beryl's husband 1938-1943.
17. **Jenny Pyrdie Nicholson**: (1918-1964) dancer, first of four children of Robert Graves and Nancy Nicholson.
18. **(Otto Kubler?)**: Unidentified.
19. **Herod (Herod the Great, Herod I)**: Became king in 37 BC and ruled until his death in 4 BC. He was about 73 years old at the time when Jesus was born; discussed as husband of Mariamne in part III of Lives of Wives by Laura Riding.
20. **William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)**: Famous Irish poet and playwright.
21. **Beryl Hodge**: Née Pritchard (1915-), wife of Alan Hodge 1938-1943, lived with Graves from October 1939, married to Robert Graves 1950, four children together.
22. **Dorothy Simmons**: Sculptor and friend of Robert Graves and Laura Riding.
23. **Mimie Perou**: Possibly an acquaintance of Robert Graves and Laura Riding in France.



Diary Entry 3 February 1936

03_02_36

Feb 3 Monday

[Deya, Majorca 1936] [Catherine's](#) birthday



Cold wind. [Gelat](#) sprinkling nitrate in garden. Enclosed letter from Mitchell. [\[Enc\]](#)

Replied through [Karl](#) that no necessity for letter & that since the situation had been thus complicated I would stabilize it at non-recognition

Going over [Stealing](#) homily with [Laura](#)



To Posada where paths now finished and lemon & apricot planted.

Karl decided to take holiday in Palma.

Finished going over [Stealing](#) late.

Have had canary in my work room for the last few days.

Freezias & wild anemones at their best.

Facsimile of entry

Feb 3 Monday. GYL-347
Catherine's birthday
Cold wind. Gilet sprinkling nitrates
in garden. Enclosed letter from
Mitchell. Replies through Karl that
no necessity for letter & that since
this situation had been uncomplicated I
would stabilize it at non-recognition
Young over stealing horns with Laura
to Posada where paths now finished
and lemon & apricot planted.
Karl decided to take holiday in Palma.
Finished young over stealing lake.
Have had canary in my work room
for the last few days.
Freesias and wild anemone at
their best.




Enclosure

03_02_36


Feb 3 Monday

[Deya, Majorca 1936] [Catherine's](#) birthday

 Cold wind. [Gelat](#) sprinkling nitrate in garden. Enclosed letter from Mitchell. [\[Enc\]](#)

Replied through [Karl](#) that no necessity for letter & that since the situation had been thus complicated I would stabilize it at non-recognition

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24_06_37

11_05_38

02_09_38

30_01_39

 3rd January, 1936,
Robert Graves, ESQ.,
Deya. Majorca.
Dear Mr Graves,

You were, at ~~Oxford~~ ~~Isip~~ on the occasion that you do not recall, and recently ~~on the~~ when you called on me at the fonda here, very kind to me and that is why I am writing you now although I know that you do not wish to have any more to do with the forieign colony in Deya than you can help, in order to be able to get on with your very significant literary work. It is of course up to me to respect your wishes in the matter ~~and to~~ by leaving you alone now that I have decided to live for some considerable time in Deya, but there is one thing which will be rather awkward for me unless I clear it up. Takhat is the question of whether when we meet, as we are bound to do in such a small place and have done twice already, we are going to recognize each other. I am quite prepared to respect your wishes in this matter also: I just want to know, one way or the other, and I am affraid that you may already think I have deliberately ignored you, thus repaying with rudeness your kindness.


We met twice since ~~y-ou~~ came to see me at the fonda, once in the little café opposite the post office and once, last night, at the café deportivo. The first time I thought that you deliberately did not notice me, and for this reason I did the same thing last night to you; but it has since occuredd to me that perhaps you did not recognize me in the imperfect light of the little café, when I was too diffident to speak to you first and only tried to catch your eye.

I shall do whatever you wish in the matter. I think you are a genius, a and that you are quite right to put your work first, but I find the present uncertain position very embarrassing, and would like to end it.

Yours sincerely,
David M. Mitchell



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Facsimile of enclosure

Gri-347-03


HOTEL COSTA D'OR
LLUCH-ALCARI (DEYÁ)
MALLORCA - ESPAÑA

3rd January, 1936
Robert Graves, Esq.,
Deya, Mallorca.
Dear Mr Graves,

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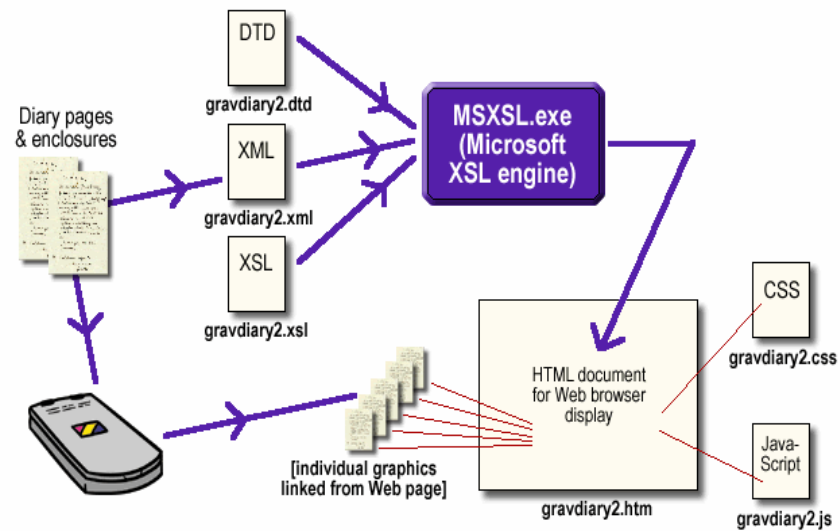
Editorial Comment

<p>hand: presumed author place: two parallel strokes through status: unremarkable</p>	<p> 3rd January, 1936; Robert Graves, ESQ., Deya. Majorca. Dear Mr Graves, You were, at Oxford Islip on the occasion that you do not</p>
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The Magic involved...

Creating the interactive transcription



This is a chart showing the way short transcription extract was created. Click on the items in the graphic to get more information.

[Technical work, including this graphic, was done by [Martin Holmes](#).] [[Back to Top](#)]