

#### Graves Manuscripts at the University of Victoria--Fourth Report

In his review ("Prolific and Protean", Times Literary Supplement, April 15-21, 1988, 434) of the second edition of the Bibliography, Martin Seymour-Smith denigrates the Robert Graves archive in the McPherson Library at the University of Victoria, B.C., Canada, as "largely bizarre and frivolous." This opinion is definitely not held by the people here at the University of Victoria, and, because we believe the Robert Graves holdings are significant to our large collection of modern English literature, we continue to struggle to find more material and to spend dwindling funds wherever and whenever we are able.

Since our last report to Focus, Number 6, September 1982, pp. 102-104, we have added the following items:

Lot 15 (Catch-all for single letters... ) One short typed letter (July 6, 1972) to RG from Moshe Dyan.

Lot 25 contains the Aemelia Laracuen material (see Focus, Number 1, January 1972, 12-14; Number 3, December 1973, 45-46) and was the first collection purchased by us directly from Robert Graves through Bertram Rota Ltd. The purchase of this first lot included an "Assignment of Copyright--University of Victoria, Robert Graves and Aemelia Laracuen-Lee," but because of the restrictions placed on this collection of approximately 500 letters (2,000 pages) by Robert Graves, we have locked the material away after a very general sorting and counting. In March 1975, with the assistance of Franklin Gilliam, Brick Row Books, San Francisco, we acquired more letters and a few manuscript poems from Mrs. MacKinley (Aemelia Laracuen). In June 1977, we made another small purchase of similar material (letters and poems) from Mr. F.B. Minarovich of Elora, Ontario. We are now in the process of accessioning this lot leaf by leaf.

Lot 26 has been assigned to Laura Riding. In July 1975, 315 sheets of typescript and holograph manuscript were purchased from Christopher P. Stephens, Bookseller, Ltd., New York City. News of the "Diary" of Lot 1 led to a brief correspondence with Laura (Riding) Jackson between the years 1975-1977 and the acquisition of a corrected typescript of the The Telling with a nine page addendum.

Lot 27 contains 78 "hand-written signed personal letters by my friend of long standing the late poet Robert Graves" to John Auerbach (see Lot 13). These letters are dated from 1956 to 1986.

The final statement for this report is to correct the description of Lot 20. An Ancient Castle is no longer "unpublished." William David Thomas and the publisher Peter Owen persuaded Robert Graves to have the "manuscript" brought out as a book with illustrations by Elizabeth Graves.

H. Gerwing  
McPherson Library  
University of Victoria  
British Columbia  
Canada