

From the Editors

Focus on Robert Graves and His Contemporaries is an international, interdisciplinary journal devoted to furthering discussion on the cultural consequences of the Great War. Founded in 1972 as *Focus on Robert Graves* by Professor Ellsworth Mason, this journal published articles of great scholarly value for almost twenty years. In early 1988 Professor Mason yielded the Editorship of the magazine to a group of scholars associated with the European Division of the University of Maryland. After much reflection, it was decided to change the name of the journal to *Focus on Robert Graves and His Contemporaries* and significantly widen the editorial perspective of the magazine. This widening has taken three related directions.

First, in keeping with the original purpose of *Focus*, we continue to promote Graves' scholarship in every way possible. Robert Graves remains one of the great unexplored writers of the twentieth century: The diversity of his *oeuvre*, the quality of his poetry, and the richness of his personal experience guarantee him a place among the truly important men of our time. This importance has all too often been masked by recent critical trends. *Focus* aims to reverse this tendency.

Second, this journal is intent on establishing a dynamic forum for reflection on works of literature, painting, philosophy, and psychoanalysis which have been influenced, both directly and indirectly, by the Great War. Over the last fifty years in hundreds of works of criticism, biography, and *Kulturkritik* the cultural significance of the Great War has been reduced to clichés such as "disillusionment," *Fronterlebnis*, and *retour au réalisme*. The editors of this journal believe that the individual works written in the aftermath of the Great War must be reexamined in detail. We are firmly committed to opening the pages of this journal to scholars and writers of all languages and literatures who are interested in thinking with renewed energy and insight about the Great War.

Third, because in many ways the Great War is the determining event of the twentieth century, *Focus* will always seek to publish articles that grapple with the significance and implications of the 1914-18 war.

Besides these thematic directions, *Focus on Robert Graves and His Contemporaries* is deeply involved with three projects that should be of considerable service to anyone interested in Robert Graves or the Great War.

The Collected Works of Robert Graves will be published in a new edition by Carcanet Press Limited of Manchester, England. The initial volumes of this major project will appear in 1995 and will include a new *Selected Poems*, *Collected Short Stories*, *Collected Essays on Poetry*, and several volumes of the new *Collected Poetry*, edited by Beryl Graves and Dunstan Ward.

An international conference marking the centenary of Graves' birth will be held at St. John's College, Oxford on August 8-12, 1995. A formal request for papers can be found at the end of the present issue of *Focus*. A more informal conference will be held in Deya, Mallorca in November of 1995.

In May of 1993, the St. John's College Robert Graves Trust was formally constituted. The Robert Graves Trust will serve as a scholarly nodal point for the organization of Graves' texts and letters. It will have primary responsibility for the various centenary celebrations. Moreover, a data base project has already been initiated.

In this issue we are especially pleased to acknowledge our indebtedness to the Matsuyama University Research Association (4-2 Bunkyo-Cho, Matsuyama, Ehime, Japan), which kindly permitted us to publish an excerpt from H. Koike-Ferrick's *Robert Graves: The Poet and the Muse*. Moreover, we are indebted to Mick Kelly for allowing us to print a text—a flashback concerning the Great War—from his forthcoming novel *Falling!* Later in the year Mr Kelly will exhibit a cycle of paintings dealing with Graves and the 1914-18 War in London, Oxford, and Palma.

The editors welcome suggestions and questions about all aspects of *Focus on Robert Graves and His Contemporaries*. Readers should feel free to use the fax and e-mail numbers listed on the title page. Each inquiry will receive a prompt and personal response.