

## Graves Society News and Information

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### Robert Graves and *The White Goddess*

#### A FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

1998 is the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the first edition of *The White Goddess*, Robert Graves's celebrated 'historical grammar of poetic myth', and a text now widely recognised as seminal in the formation of modern literary culture.

The Robert Graves Society wishes to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of *The White Goddess* by organising a major academic conference to explore the meaning and influence of the book and to evaluate its legacy for 20th-century thought and writing. 1997 sees the publication of a new edition of *The White Goddess* published by Carcanet and edited by Grevel Lindop as part of the Carcanet Press Robert Graves Programme. Appropriately, Faber and Faber intend in 1998 to reissue the Carcanet version as their standard paperback edition of the book, lending significance to the fiftieth anniversary of its first appearance and underlining its enduring merit and appeal.

Against this backdrop, the 1998 White Goddess Conference will provide a forum for:

- literary critics, teachers and researchers from around the world
- creative writers, poets and artists
- folklorists
- anthropologists and comparative mythographers
- all with an interest in 20th poetry and modernism

The Conference will seek to develop a series of important themes arising out of *The White Goddess* and its reception from 1948 to the present day, including:

- the origins and construction of the text of *The White Goddess*
- the anthropological and historical roots of Graves's key ideas
- the influence of *The White Goddess* on succeeding generations of writers and poets
- its value as a work of scholarship and imagination
- its impact on contemporary feminism and women's studies
- its place in modern interpretations of myth and ritual

The Robert Graves Society proposes to mount the Conference in the

first week of September 1998 at the University of Manchester. It is expected that, as in the important Graves Centenary Conference in Oxford in 1995, special events with leading literary figures will be a feature of the gathering.

The conference will be held at the University of Manchester on September 3, 4 and 5, 1998. Further details of the White Goddess Conference will be released soon. Expressions of interest and abstracts (up to 300 words) of submissions for consideration by the conference organisers should be sent to:

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