

The Robert Graves Society

Dunstan Ward

'To promote interest in, and research on, the life and works of Robert Graves': this is the object of the Robert Graves Society as stated in its new Constitution, which was adopted at a meeting during the 2000 Graves Conference at Buffalo last June, thus putting the Society on to a more organized basis.

We are delighted to announce that Beryl Graves, widow of Robert Graves, and Professor John Kelly, of St John's College, Oxford, have kindly agreed to be Honorary President and Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

The Council and Officers of the Society, elected at the Buffalo meeting, are as follows: President, Dunstan Ward (British Institute in Paris, University of London); European Vice-President, Paul O'Prey (University of Bristol); American Vice-President, John W. Presley (State University of New York at Oswego); Secretary and Treasurer, Patrick Villa; Journal Editor, Ian Firla (St John's College, Oxford); Robert J. Bertholf (State University of New York at Buffalo); Joan M. Fiol (University of the Balearics); Alice Kersnowski (St Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas); Stella Reeves; William Graves, *ex officio*, member of the St John's College Robert Graves Trust Management Committee representing the Graves family.

The Council meets at least twice a year. The General Meeting of the Society is held every two years, at the biennial Robert Graves Conference. The first meeting under the new Constitution will thus be in Rome in July 2002.

Preparations for the Rome conference are well advanced, and registrations are coming in. It is also planned to hold a series of events between conferences, following the successful day school at Oxford

and the University of the Balearics in 1999. Readings and talks by 'Writers on Robert Graves' are to be held in September this year, and there will be an annual dinner in December. Details are being sent to members in the Society newsletter, which will serve as a noticeboard enabling members to keep in touch with the Society between issues of *Gravesiana*. Copies of the new Constitution will be posted to members with the newsletter, which will also be available on the Robert Graves website (www.robertgraves.org).

Now that the Society and its journal *Gravesiana* are being relaunched, the immediate aim is to build on the foundations laid by the previous President, Patrick Quinn: to consolidate and boost membership, and to ensure that the Society continues as a thriving, intellectually stimulating and convivial forum.