

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# **Guide to the William S. Reese Collection of Robert Graves**

**GEN MSS 1137**



by Karen Spicher

2007-05-16

P. O. Box 208330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1137

**CREATOR:** Reese, William S., 1955- , collector

**TITLE:** William S. Reese Collection of Robert Graves

**DATES:** 1916-1987

**BULK DATES:** 1920-1980

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.89 linear feet (10 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Papers relating to English author Robert Graves and his literary and social circle, collected by William S. Reese. The papers contain correspondence, 1916-1987 and undated, most autograph letters, signed, from Graves to correspondents including Desmond Flower, Dorothy and Ward Hutchinson, Violet and Walter McCormack, W. S. Merwin, Albert R. Mills, Frank Sanders, Siegfried Sassoon, Martin Secker, and other literary colleagues, friends, and family, with third-party correspondence about Graves, including letters from Beryl Graves, Siegfried Sassoon, and Laura (Riding) Jackson; autograph manuscript poems, 1920s-1960s; drafts, proofs, and correspondence relating to his novel *An Ancient Castle*, 1980-1981; a galley proof for *Old Soldier Sahib*, a memoir by Frank Richards, 1936; photographs of Graves, 1917-1934 and undated; a watercolor caricature of Graves by Sassoon, 1926; other correspondence and ephemera removed from books owned or inscribed by Graves, 1920s-1930s and undated; a storage box owned by a literary agent of Graves, undated; and exhibit labels for "Robert Graves: A Centennial Exhibition," curated by Reese at the Grolier Club, 1995.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.graves>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.graves>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of William S. Reese (Yale 1977), 2002 and 2015; gift of James Arsenault in memory of William S. Reese; and purchased from William S. Reese on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2002-2010.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The William S. Reese Collection of Robert Graves is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Preferred Citation

William S. Reese Collection of Robert Graves. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat MSS 381, Uncat MSS 584, Uncat MSS 1235. In 2014, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including partial rehousing and minimal organization. The collection was reclassified under one call number, materials were organized by acquisition, and containers were renumbered in a single sequence. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the donor and vendor, while some were assigned by Library staff. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

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## Robert Graves (1895-1985)

Robert Graves, English poet and author.

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## William S. Reese (1955-)

William S. Reese (Yale 1977), rare book and manuscript collector and vendor; founded the William Reese Company, New Haven, Connecticut, in 1975.

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## Scope and Contents

Papers relating to English author Robert Graves and his literary and social circle, collected by William S. Reese. The papers contain correspondence, 1916-1987 and undated, most autograph letters, signed, from Graves to correspondents including Desmond Flower, Dorothy and Ward Hutchinson, Violet and Walter McCormack, W. S. Merwin, Albert R. Mills, Frank Sanders, Siegfried Sassoon, Martin Secker, and other literary colleagues, friends, and family, with third-party correspondence about Graves, including letters from Beryl Graves, Siegfried Sassoon, and Laura (Riding) Jackson; autograph manuscript poems, 1920s-1960s; drafts, proofs, and correspondence relating to his novel *An Ancient Castle*, 1980-1981; a galley proof for *Old Soldier Sahib*, a memoir by Frank Richards, 1936; photographs of Graves, 1917-1934 and undated; a watercolor caricature of Graves by Sassoon, 1926; other correspondence and ephemera removed

from books owned or inscribed by Graves, 1920s-1930s and undated; a storage box owned by a literary agent of Graves, undated; and exhibit labels for "Robert Graves: A Centennial Exhibition," curated by Reese at the Grolier Club, 1995.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into four groupings: September and November 2002 Acquisitions; September 2002 Acquisition Addition; March 2010 Acquisition; and Other Acquisitions.

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## Collection Contents

### September and November 2002 Acquisitions, 1916-1987, undated

0.84 linear feet (5 boxes)

Organized into three series: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers

#### Correspondence

Autograph letters, signed, from Graves, unless otherwise noted

|                |  |                                 |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1     | Anderson, Wallace L. (to Graves, with draft reply)   | 1948 February 17                |
| b. 1, f. 2     | Begnal, [Michael H.?)  | 1972 April 28                   |
| b. 1, f. 3     | Bleiler, E. F. (Everett Franklin)  | [1951] March 10                 |
| b. 1, f. 4     | Blunden, Edmund (from J. C. Dunn)<br>About Blunden's <i>Undertones</i> and Graves's <i>Good-bye to all that</i><br>Accompanied by clippings about Graves   | 1929 December 17                |
| b. 1, f. 5     | Cape, Jonathan<br>About T. E. Lawrence   | [1927]                          |
| b. 1, f. 6     | Cassell & Company  | [1938?]                         |
| b. 1, f. 7     | Columbia Records, Inc. (contract for poetry readings)  | 1965 March 5                    |
| b. 1, f. 8     | Cresswell, Mr.   | [1946] June 29                  |
| b. 1, f. 9     | Diefenbach, Larry  | 1971 March 27                   |
| b. 1, f. 10    | Edwards, Ralph   | no year February 10 and undated |
| b. 1, f. 11-12 | Flower, Desmond<br><i>2 Folders</i><br>Includes related letters to Norman Flower and others<br><br>Includes draft publicity blurbs, with autograph manuscript annotations by Graves, for <i>The Anger of Achilles</i> , with letter from T. R. Nicholson, of Cassell & Company; <i>The Penny Fiddle</i> ; and <i>Seven Days in New Crete</i> | 1938-1960, undated              |
| b. 1, f. 13    | Garber, Howard J. (from Beryl Graves)  | 1977 April 4                    |
| b. 1, f. 14    | Garnett, David   | 1922-1923                       |
| b. 1, f. 15    | Graves, Amalie von Ranke<br>On verso: <i>The Reader Over Your Shoulder</i> , typescript fragment   | 1943 December 13                |
| b. 1, f. 16    | Graves, John (to Graves's nephew, from Siegfried Sassoon)  | 1947 August                     |
| b. 1, f. 17    | Graves, Richard  | 1958 December 5                 |
| b. 1, f. 18    | Greenleaf, Sheila  | 1961 December 5                 |

## Correspondence (continued)

|                |   |                       |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 19    | Harrisson, Hilda  | 1922 July 25          |
| b. 1, f. 20    | Heppinstall, Rayner   | 1947 March 31         |
| b. 1, f. 21    | Hutchinson, Dorothy and Ward  | 1943-1972             |
| b. 1, f. 22    | Hutchinson, Dorothy and Ward (from Beryl Graves)  | [1942] April 18       |
| b. 1, f. 23-24 | Hutchinson, Dorothy and Ward (from Laura (Riding) Jackson)<br><i>2 Folders</i><br>With autograph manuscript notes by Ward Hutchinson  | 1936-1940             |
| b. 1, f. 25    | Judson, Mr.   | [1924?]               |
| b. 1, f. 26    | Karlen, Arno (from John Cushman)<br>Correspondence between Karlen, assistant editor for an anthology, and Cushman, literary agent for Graves, about Graves's essay "Why Read Poetry?" | 1963 November         |
| b. 2, f. 27-28 | <a href="#">Keary, Jacquita</a><br><i>2 Folders</i>   | 1966-1972,<br>undated |
| b. 2, f. 29    | Landstrom, Mr.<br>Declining to speak "off record" about the post-war world  | 1943 October 26       |
| b. 2, f. 30    | Lawrence, Seymour   | 1952-1963             |
| b. 2, f. 31    | Lind, L. R.   | 1948 June-<br>August  |
| b. 2, f. 32    | McCormack, Jennifer   | 1942-1965             |
| b. 2, f. 33    | McCormack, Violet and Walter  | 1936-1946,<br>undated |
| b. 2, f. 34    | McCormack, Violet and Walter (from Laura (Riding) Jackson)  | 1935-1939,<br>undated |
| b. 2, f. 35    | Mathewson, Mr.  | 1922 September<br>12  |
| b. 2, f. 36    | Maxon, C. M.  | 1957 October 23       |
| b. 2, f. 37    | Merwin, W. S. (William Stanley) and Dorothy   | 1951, 1960            |
| b. 2, f. 38-39 | Mills, Albert R. (The Old Curiosity Shop)<br><i>2 Folders</i>   | 1937-1940,<br>undated |
| b. 3, f. 40    | Mills, Albert R. (The Old Curiosity Shop) (from Laura (Riding) Jackson)   | 1938-1939             |
| b. 3, f. 41    | Mills, Albert R. (The Old Curiosity Shop) (from Ward Hutchinson, Dorothy Simmons, and Montague Simmons)   | 1938-1939,<br>undated |
| b. 3, f. 42    | Montgomery, John  | 1934 October 21       |
| b. 3, f. 43    | Murray, Mary  | 1922 February 6       |
| b. 3, f. 44    | Orlandini, Edward   | 1957 September        |

## Correspondence (continued)

|             |   |                       |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 3, f. 45 | Owen, Ben Evan  | 1965, 1971            |
| b. 3, f. 46 | Parker, Kenneth<br>About T. E. Lawrence   | 1962 July 29          |
| b. 3, f. 47 | Pereira, H. P. E.<br>About <i>Sergeant Lamb of the Ninth</i>  | 1941 February 7       |
| b. 3, f. 48 | Pinker, Eric (from Martin Secker)<br>From Graves's publisher to his literary agent about <i>Country Sentiment</i>   | 1919 July 28          |
| b. 3, f. 49 | Powys-Evans, Mr.<br>About a caricature and a visit by Powys-Evans to Oxford   | 1921, 1922            |
| b. 3, f. 50 | Reese, William S. (from Laura (Riding) Jackson and Ted Wilentz)<br>About "vulgar errors" in cataloging Graves material  | 1987 July             |
| b. 3, f. 51 | Roberts, Mr.<br>Volunteering for national service   | [1940]                |
| b. 3, f. 52 | Roberts, Philip   | 1960-1963             |
| b. 3, f. 53 | Sanders, Frank<br>Includes letter, dated 1929, about Laura (Riding) Jackson   | 1929-1939,<br>undated |
| b. 3, f. 54 | Sanders, Frank (from Laura (Riding) Jackson)<br>Draft agreement to sell Graves's copy of <i>The Seven Pillars of Wisdom</i> , and receipt for payment by Sanders  | 1963                  |
| b. 3, f. 55 | <a href="#">Sassoon, Siegfried</a><br>Includes "Escape" (poem), two drafts, with pen-and-ink illustrations  | 1916-1939,<br>undated |
| b. 3, f. 56 | Saunders, Geoffrey<br>With poems  | 1957 September<br>31  |
| b. 3, f. 57 | Saunders, Sally   | 1963 January 6        |
| b. 3, f. 58 | Secker, Martin  | [1920] March 26       |
| b. 3, f. 59 | Sitwell, Sacheverell (from Siegfried Sassoon)<br>Expressing his disgust for <i>Good-bye to All That</i> , and warning it is "lucky for [Graves] that he is in Spain"<br><br>With two drawings, including one drawing of Sassoon punching Graves on the nose | 1930 January 10       |
| b. 3, f. 60 | Snodgrass, Mr.<br>On verso: <i>The Golden Fleece</i> , typescript fragment  | [1944]                |
| b. 3, f. 61 | Spectorsky, A. C. (Auguste C.) and Rob McAuley ( <i>Playboy</i> )<br>With "The Noose," poem, typescript   | 1970-1971,<br>undated |
| b. 3, f. 62 | Squire, John Collings, Sir  | [1920] March 21       |
| b. 3, f. 63 | Taylor, Robert  | 1967 April 18         |



## Correspondence (continued)

|  |  |                     |
|--|--|---------------------|
| b. 3, f. 64  | Tiller, Terence  | 1950, 1951          |
| b. 3, f. 65  | <a href="#">Todd, Ruthven</a>  | 1960-1968           |
| b. 3, f. 66  | Watson, Francis  | 1958, 1959          |
| b. 3, f. 67  | Weltmann, Lutz<br>About <i>The Nazarene Gospel Restored</i>  | 1952 April 1        |
| b. 3, f. 68  | Unidentified   | [1925]-1972         |
| Writings   |  |                     |
| Autograph manuscripts, unless otherwise noted                    |  |                     |
| See also: writings accompanying letters in Correspondence series |  |                     |
| b. 4, f. 69  | "All Who Fell Short of Love" (poem)  | [circa 1960]        |
| b. 4, f. 70  | "The Corner-Knot" (poem)   | [1926]              |
| b. 4, f. 71  | "A Dark Lady" (poem)<br>Accompanied by an autograph letter, signed, to an unidentified recipient, about the poem   | [circa 1928]        |
| b. 4, f. 72  | "The Demon" (poem). Typescript, signed, with autograph manuscript revisions  | [1956]              |
| b. 4, f. 73  | "The Haunted House" (poem; published in <i>Mock Beggar Hall</i> )  | [1924]              |
| b. 4, f. 74  | "A History Of Peace" (poem)  | [circa 1928]        |
| b. 4, f. 75  | <i>The Pier-Glass</i> (collection of poems). Autograph manuscript and typescript   | [1921]              |
| b. 4, f. 76  | "Suavia graviora" (collection of poems)<br>Laid in: autograph letter, signed, to Siegfried Sassoon, presenting the manuscript, undated   | 1925 Christmas      |
| b. 4, f. 77  | "Talk on Books" (radio presentation for the BBC)   | [1924]<br>September |
| b. 4, f. 78  | "To Boys & Girls" (poem)   | 1956 March 20       |
| b. 4, f. 79  | "Why Read Poetry?" (essay). Conclusion, revised  | [circa 1928]        |
| Other Papers   |  |                     |
| b. 4, f. 80  | "The Classics and the Man of Letters" ( <i>Arion</i> questionnaire, completed in autograph manuscript by Graves)   | [circa 1960]        |
| b. 4, f. 81  | Invitation to a memorial service for Graves at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, 1986 January 22<br>Addressed to the director of the Humanities Research Center, University of Texas<br>Printed by New Seizin Press, Deia | 1985                |
| b. 4, f. 82  | Photograph of Graves in Palma de Mallorca, Spain   | [1934]              |

## Other Papers (continued)

|                           |   |         |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| b. 4, f. 83               | Photograph of Graves and his daughter Jenny<br>Inscribed to an unidentified recipient   | 1920    |
| b. 4, f. 84               | Promotional photographs of Graves, with mimeograph press releases from<br>Doubleday and Company, Inc.                               | undated |
| b. 4, f. 85               | Reproduction of a photograph of Graves (newspaper clipping)   | undated |
| b. 5 (Oversize), f.<br>86 | Reproduction of a drawing of Graves possibly by Eric Kennington<br>(photograph)<br>Inscribed to Siegfried Sassoon, 1926, "New Year" | undated |
| b. 6, f. 87               | Storage box owned by a literary agent of Graves<br>Accompanied by a key   | undated |

**September 2002 Acquisition Addition, 1917-1981, undated**

1.84 linear feet (4 boxes)

Organized into three series: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers

## Correspondence

Autograph letters, signed, from Graves, unless otherwise noted

|             |   |                       |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 7, f. 88 | Armbruster, C. H. (Carl Hubert) (with letter from Armbruster)               | 1947 October<br>10-14 |
| b. 7, f. 89 | Cape, Jonathan  | 1929 December<br>30   |
| b. 7, f. 90 | Cassell & Company   | 1968 November<br>29   |
| b. 7, f. 91 | Sanders, Frank (envelope only)  | 1962                  |
| b. 7, f. 92 | Sanders, Frank (from Amalie von Ranke Graves and Alfred Perceval Graves)    | 1929, 1930            |
| b. 7, f. 93 | Sassoon, Siegfried  | 1923 Christmas        |
| b. 7, f. 94 | [Stolt?], Raymond T.<br>Removed from <i>Good-bye to All That</i>            | 1929 November<br>30   |
| b. 7, f. 95 | [Turgen?], Elliot<br>Removed from <i>Hebrew Myths: the Book of Genesis</i>  | 1966 December<br>17   |
| b. 7, f. 96 | Unidentified<br>removed from proofs of <i>The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam</i>  | 1967 August 6         |
| b. 7, f. 97 | Unidentified (From Nancy Cunard)<br>Removed from <i>Ten Poems More</i>      | no year March<br>26   |
| b. 7, f. 98 | Unidentified (from Beryl Graves)<br>Removed from <i>New Collected Poems</i> | no year October<br>12 |
| b. 7, f. 99 | Unidentified (from Laura (Riding) Jackson)                                  | 1933 January 12       |

## Writings

|                  |   |                       |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 7, f. 100-103 | <i>An Ancient Castle</i> (novel). Drafts, proofs, and related correspondence<br>4 Folders | 1980-1981,<br>undated |
| b. 7, f. 104     | Books about Graves (reviews, drafts, by an unidentified author)                           | undated               |

## Other Papers

|              |  |         |
|--------------|--|---------|
| b. 7, f. 105 | Photograph of Graves in uniform of Royal Welsh Fusiliers | [1917]  |
| b. 7, f. 106 | Photograph of Graves                                     | undated |
| b. 7, f. 107 | Frame, fragment, from unidentified photograph            | undated |
| b. 7, f. 108 | Sassoon, Siegfried. Caricature of Graves (watercolor)    | [1926]  |

Other Papers (continued)

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|                              |   |         |
|------------------------------|---|---------|
| b. 7, f. 109-111             | Exhibit labels for "Robert Graves: A Centennial Exhibition," curated by Reese at the Grolier Club, 1995<br><i>3 Folders</i> | undated |
| b. 8, f. 112-119             | Exhibit labels for "Robert Graves: A Centennial Exhibition," curated by Reese at the Grolier Club, 1995<br><i>8 Folders</i> | [1995]  |
| b. 8a (Oversize),<br>f. 119a | Exhibit labels for "Robert Graves: A Centennial Exhibition," curated by Reese at the Grolier Club, 1995                     |         |

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**March 2010 Acquisition, 1925-1972, undated***0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

|              |  |                       |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 9, f. 120 | Autograph letter, signed, from Graves to Edith M. Scott                                  | 1946 February<br>22   |
| b. 9, f. 121 | Autograph letter, signed, from unidentified to "Helen," about Graves, with related notes | 1972 April 17         |
| b. 9, f. 122 | Notes by Graves  | undated               |
| b. 9, f. 123 | Clippings by and about Graves  | 1925-1955,<br>undated |
| b. 9, f. 124 | Richards, Frank. <i>Old Soldier Sahib</i> (memoir). Galley proof                         | [1936]                |

**Other Acquisitions, 1924-1956, undated**

8 Folders

|              |   |                     |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| b. 9, f. 125 | Ernest Benn Ltd. Printed advance copy announcement for <i>The English Ballad</i><br>Removed from <i>The English Ballad</i> (call number 2007 1198)          | undated             |
| b. 9, f. 126 | Graves, Robert. Autograph manuscript note, signed, to Siegfried Sassoon<br>Removed from <i>Poems (1914-27)</i> (call number 2007 1121)                      | undated             |
| b. 9, f. 127 | Jonathan Cape (Firm). Printed advance copy announcement for <i>But it Still Goes On</i><br>Removed from <i>But it Still Goes On</i> (call number 2007 1257) | undated             |
| b. 9, f. 128 | Secker, Martin. Typed letter, signed, to Robert Graves<br>Removed from <i>Deyá: a Portfolio of Five Poems and Lithographs</i> (call number 2008 Folio 79)   | 1924 July 18        |
| b. 9, f. 129 | Serendipity Books (Firm). Manuscript receipt<br>Removed from <i>Poems 1965-1968</i> (call number 2008 881)  | undated             |
| b. 9, f. 130 | Unidentified. Christmas card sent to Hester and Siegfried Sassoon<br>Removed from <i>Poems (1914-1926)</i> (call number 2007 1118)                          | 1934                |
| b. 9, f. 131 | Graves, Robert. Autograph letter, signed, to an unidentified recipient  | no year February 28 |
| b. 9, f. 132 | Graves, Robert. Autograph letter, signed, to Ida Baird  | 1956 July 21        |

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Authors, English -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Book collectors -- United States  
Manuscripts -- Collectors and collecting --  
United States  
World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives,  
English

### Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works) -- Great Britain -- 20th  
Century  
Photographs -- Great Britain -- 20th Century  
Storage boxes -- Great Britain -- 20th Century

### Occupations

Authors -- Great Britain -- 20th Century  
Book collectors -- United States -- 20th Century

### Names

Flower, Desmond, 1907-1997  
Graves, Beryl  
Graves, Robert, 1895-1985  
Hutchinson, Dorothy, active 1936-1972  
Hutchinson, Ward  
Jackson, Laura (Riding), 1901-1991  
MacCormack, Violet  
MacCormack, Walter  
Merwin, W. S. (William Stanley), 1927-  
Mills, Albert R.  
Reese, William S., 1955-  
Richards, Frank, 1883-1961  
Sanders, Frank, active 1929-1963  
Sassoon, Siegfried, 1886-1967  
Secker, Martin, 1882-1978

### Contributors

Reese, William S., 1955- , collector  
Graves, Robert, 1895-1985