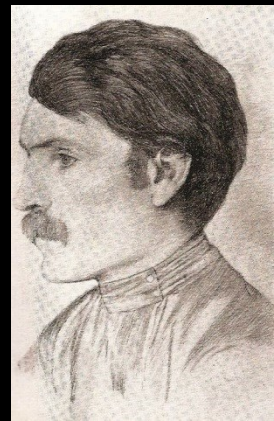




Stephen Graham

AN ANGLO-SCOT IN SEARCH OF HIMSELF (AND RUSSIA AND!)



Identity and its ambiguities

- *Part of the Wonderful Scene* (1964): 'I was born in Edinburgh in a house near the Calton Hill' (though he moved when a baby)
- Living with a deerhound called Ossian!
- Peter Anderson Graham and the borderlands: a place of porous identity:
 - Law-abiding but poachers
- --Not 'over-civilized'
- --'a peculiar aptitude for setting law at defiance'
- *Lost Battle* (1934) 'John Belfort', Bonny Brae and Border Ballads
- 'Highways and Byways in Northumbria' (1920): the symbolism of Berwick



Stephen Graham and the Search for Identity

- Inheriting from his father dissatisfaction and the fascination with place as both imagined and real
- The youthful Graham in Edwardian London: the flight from mundane living and the search for 'x'
- 'Holy Russia' as the tantalising other ('*somewhere-out-beyond*')
- The search for 'completeness' and mystery
- English or Scottish?
- Russia and the sense of personal transformation (*Undiscovered Russia*):
 - *'Are not the English, like everybody else, children lost in a garden, and waiting for someone to come and get them'*
 - Russian experience as transformative:
 - *'I have had a life that might be thought very beautiful'*

England / English / British

- *Vagabond in the Caucasus* (1911):
 - England (37)
 - English (40)
- *Undiscovered Russia* (1912):
 - England (35)
 - English (53)
- The conventional language of Empire?
Giving his nationality as Scottish in 1913
- 'A SCOTCHMAN who loves Russia because he has lived there and has been in close touch with the common people, the peasantry, sharing their daily poverty and going on their yearly pilgrimages to the Holy Land, is in New York this week for the avowed purpose of studying humanity here at close range'
New York Times (1913)

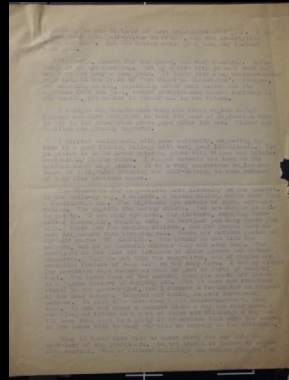
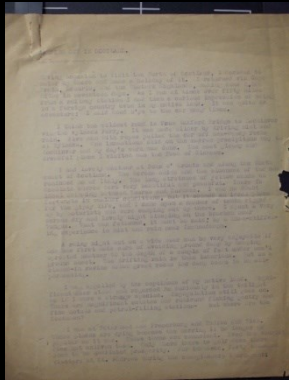
The Collapse of Holy Russia and 'Trying on Identities'

- The death of 'Holy Russia' and Graham's search for new horizons (and new income)
- Tramping with Vachel Lindsay in Glacier Park
- The Urban 'flaneur': London and New York
- Yugoslavia



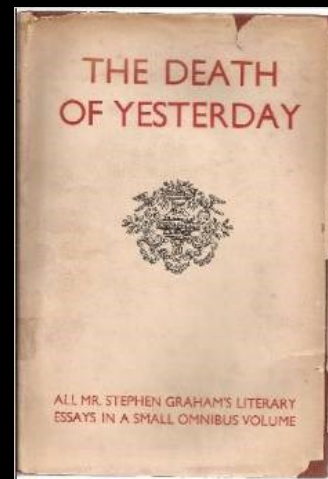
'Trying on' Scotland

- Had ('tellingly'?) joined Scots Guards in 1917
- Personal crisis of the 1920s
- The 1926 trip to re-engage with his parents and 'his' country
- The growing self-identification as a Scot
- *'the curious impression of being in a foreign country even in my native land'*
- *'I was appalled by the emptiness of my native land'*
- *'my native city [Edinburgh] half-dead and has been for many a long year'*
- *'The more you see of Scotland the more wild and beautiful you see it to be'*



Scottish Friends

- The focus on Scottish friends in *Part of the Wonderful Scene* but evident from the late 1920s: Compton Mackenzie and Cunninghame Graham (politician, nationalist, traveller and searcher for the exotic)
- Essay: 'Laird and Caballero' (dour Scot and Romantic Hispanist)
- Criticism of religion
- *'I was aware of kinship, not only in name but in spirit' (Part).*
- *'Belief in another country not one's own is very human, it is part of the homesickness of the spirit'*
- *'for him Spain is romance, his sweet dream, his illusion'*
- Quoting Cunninghame Graham *'Misery seemed to reign triumphant in the wilderness of bricks'*



The Lost Book