



NEWSLETTER

February 2016

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Blue Plaque placed on Bromsgrove School's refurbished Cookes House

In 1996 The Society, in conjunction with the Bromsgrove District Council, placed blue plaques on five buildings associated with A.E.H., but these have become rather faded, so with Bromsgrove School carrying out an extensive refurbishment of Cookes House, the Society offered to provide a top quality replacement.

As part of Sir Thomas Cookes Foundation Deed of 1693, Bromsgrove School moved from the Elizabethan Town Hall to its present day site during the reign of William and Queen Mary. We read that "Sir Thomas Cookes of Bentley, in the County of Worcester, Baronet, hath built at Bromsgrove a large and convenient School-house with a very good dwelling-house for a School-master". Incised on a corner stone at the north-west angle of Cookes House is the date 1695.

In A.E.H.'s day Cookes House and the Chapel (now the "Old Chapel") were the heart of the school and when in 1875 the other Housman children developed scarlet fever Alfred was told to stay at the school as a boarder until the household was free of infection. The letter he wrote to his stepmother Lucy shows how much he preferred home life.

Dear Mater,

Yesterday I went into the churchyard, from which one can see Fockbury quite plainly, especially the window of your room. I was there from two o'clock till three. I wonder if you went into your room between those hours. One can see quite plainly the pine tree, the sycamore and the elm at the top of the field. The house looks much nearer than you would expect, and the distance between the sycamore and the beeches in the orchard seems very great, much longer than one thinks when one is in Fockbury.

Give my love to Father, and to my brothers and sisters and believe me your affectionate son,

Alfred.



Cookes House is a listed building and has now been fully renovated by the firm of architects, Rowbothams, as part the School's "Day House Project". The object is to keep all historic buildings within the school campus in good condition.

The work to Thomas Cookes Day House involved a comprehensive external refurbishment including roof and leadwork renovation, stone inspection and replacement, brick and chimney repointing, sash window repairs and basement structural repairs. The buildings electrical and mechanical systems have been

overhauled and replaced where necessary.

Internally the kitchen was re-located to the ground floor with the existing fireplace opened up and the toilets were replaced. Upstairs all dayrooms were repaired and redecorated with considerable work on the top floor to open up the common room by removing some relatively recent bedroom partitions. The works also included the re-decoration of the



adjacent Cookes Room with acoustic enhancement to improve isolation from the Dayrooms above and the incorporation of new visitor toilets and cloakroom.

The blue plaque was made by the Whitby firm of Croft Castings, who also made the

plaque erected on Laurence Housman's home in Street last summer. The other plaques in Bromsgrove are on Housman Hall, Housmans (the birthplace), The wall outside the Clock House and at the bottom of the path up to the Parish Church called Adams Steps.

The Life and Poetry of A.E. Housman

The BBC series 'Mastermind' featured Housman on 8 January 2015 when Sarah Greenham, a barrister, was asked the following questions. Answers - should any member need them! - on page 4.

1. Two collections of Housman's poems were published in his lifetime; "A Shropshire Lad" was the first in 1896. What was the title of the second, published in 1922?
2. In which town did Housman spend most of his early years? He went to the local grammar school from where he won a scholarship to Oxford.
3. According to the first line of Poem 23 of "A Shropshire Lad", to which town do 'the lads in their hundreds come in from afar'?
4. In what subject was Housman appointed as a Professor at University College London in 1892. He left in 1911 for a similar post in Cambridge.
5. Which future politician attended Housman's lectures in Cambridge and wrote that "the severity of Housman's presentation was the severity not of passionlessness but of suppressed passion, passion for true poetry and passion for truthfulness"? (*Quotation from HSJ Volume 1. Ed*)
6. What event of 1895 prompted the writing of the poem, the opening line of which is, 'Oh who is that young sinner with the handcuffs on his wrists'?
7. How did Housman describe the epigraph of Poem 50 of "A Shropshire Lad" whose opening line is 'Clunton and Clunbury'?
8. Housman's edition of the poem "Astronomica" was written between 1903 and 1930. To which Roman astrologer is the original attributed?
9. In which branch of the Patent Office did Housman work from 1882 to 1892?
10. Which hill did Housman celebrate in Poem 21 of "A Shropshire Lad"?
11. An annual lecture, named after the first editor of The Dictionary of National Biography, was given by Housman in 1933. What was his name?
12. What is the title of the poem prompted by the death of a soldier which was published at the height of the Boer War, which begins, 'Oh hard is the bed they have made him and common the blanket and cheap....'?
13. What is the name of Housman's brother who published a biography of him and a posthumous collection of his poetry?
14. Which distinguished physicist wrote when Housman delivered his last lecture before his death in 1936, "He was terribly ill and must have had invincible determination to lecture in such a state"?

Laurence's 150th Anniversary

For most of its life the Society's attention has inevitably centred on Alfred but since the publication of Elizabeth Oakley's splendid book *Inseparable Siblings* Laurence's star has been rising and last year, the 150th anniversary of his birth, there were two days which not only celebrated "the Younger Brother" but also reminded us just what a talented, versatile and interesting man he was.

'Longmeadow' was the Street home of Laurence Housman for the last thirty-five years of his life and on a perfect summer's day it was an idyllic setting for a gathering of members of the Housman and Street Societies and guests. The plaque, beautifully made by Croft Castings of Whitby, was duly erected and it is well placed under the 'Longmeadow' sign and so clearly visible to passers by on the road. The day was impeccably planned and we are indebted to Elizabeth Oakley and the Street Society for such good organisation. After the unveiling of the plaque and a pleasant buffet lunch in the garden, Elizabeth Oakley gave a talk in Street Library on the work of Laurence and his sister Clemence. The books on display, which we were able to handle, had beautiful examples of engraving and embellishment by both Clemence and Laurence, which were reminiscent of the artistry found in a medieval manuscript.



The year of celebration concluded in splendid style at Housmans Bookshop, Caledonian Road near King's Cross Station on the evening of 22nd July. The bookshop generously hosted a free drinks reception at 7 pm at which Jill Liddington spoke on Laurence's considerable contribution to the Women's Suffrage movement and Elizabeth Oakley followed with a talk on Laurence's pacifism. The radical bookshop, named after Laurence and opened by him in 1945, continues to flourish and the owners were delighted that so many people attended the event. The audience were fully engaged and asked some most interesting questions which generated much fruitful discussion. The Housman Society took the opportunity to produce a sheet on Laurence's career which is now kept permanently on display at Housmans for people to take when they visit the shop. It was a pleasing coda to the year that the long *TLS* review of the film 'Suffragette' (23/10/15) began with a reference to Laurence Housman's suffrage campaigning and a quotation from his *Anti-Suffrage Alphabet* in which he pokes fun at the opposition.

From the Secretary's Desk

When, in 2006, I stepped into the breach as the Society's Treasurer it would not have occurred to me for a single moment that ten years on I would be penning a Newsletter column as Secretary. As an historian rather than a literary enthusiast I don't claim to be driven by a particular passion for Housman's verse, though I might contribute some limited competence as an administrator. And so, now the Committee is coming to terms with Jim Page's decision to step down as Chairman, I find myself taking on what was my father's role when he and John Pugh founded the Society forty-three years ago.

In those first few years, with John as Chairman, the two roles were distinct and well defined. As we know, over nearly three decades Jim Page has gradually shouldered more and more of the administrative burden and that is why his retirement at the forthcoming AGM will be such a momentous event for the Society. And of course it poses a significant challenge for the present Committee, notwithstanding the reallocation of roles outlined by Peter Sisley in the last Newsletter. Hence I do hope as many members as possible will come along to the AGM both to show appreciation for Jim's mammoth contribution and to share thoughts as to future directions.

The problems of an ageing membership have been rehearsed before. Do we simply accept a gradual winding down as energies flag? I would hope not. The Society has in the past mounted some very successful residential events. Would there still be viable support for a Housman study week-end? I am not at all sure. Some of you may know that I also act as Secretary to a Club providing support for the owners of a particularly rare vintage motor car, with an international membership comparable in size to that of the Society. Though the youngest of the cars is now seventy-seven years old they do change hands over time and consequently the Club draws in new members. A literary society has no such obvious mechanism for regeneration and efforts to engage the interest of local schools through the Poetry Reading Competition have stalled. We need good ideas.

Lest this should all sound too gloomy there is good news to share. I am delighted to report that, following my plea last time for volunteers to keep an eye on the newly revealed Housman graves in the Catshill churchyard, Valerie Richardson has offered to organise occasional visits to clear fallen twigs and leaves. She would, of course, be pleased to hear from other members willing to join in and I will happily pass on any offers. Meanwhile my brother Julian is gearing up to take on responsibility for production of the Newsletter. He will be looking for contributions reflecting current activities and can be contacted by e-mail at <julianmhunt@btinternet.com>.

Positive news too of the Society's programme for 2016 (see "Forthcoming Events"). Our guest for the Birthday Commemoration in Bromsgrove, as previously announced, will be Dennis Norton, well-known amongst Bromsgrovians for his remarkable Museum Collection and much appreciated more recently for his efforts in resolving difficulties with the refurbished Housman statue. A month later the Ludlow Commemoration provides an opportunity for those who missed last year's Bromsgrove Summer School study day on "The Housman Family in Peace and War" to catch a condensed presentation by Liz Oakley and Andrew Maund.

In May we will be welcoming Peter Parker to Hay to give this year's Housman Lecture and the re-introduced Summer Outing will be to Woodchester, near Stroud, on July 23rd. Details of this outing are to be found on page 4. I do hope we shall have good support for this event as not only did A.E.H.'s mother come from there but he visited as a child and found friendship and comfort with the Wise family all his life. Please fill in the return slip and send back to me.

I shall look forward to renewing acquaintance with many of you over the coming months.

Max Hunt
(01299 401135)

Christopher Ricks' 'Private Passions'

One of the most enduring quality programmes on Radio 3 is *Private Passions*, a weekly music discussion programme, which has been running for over twenty years now. Michael Berkeley, a well known composer, is the host and his guest on 29th November, was Housman Society President Christopher Ricks. Michael's father, Lennox, was also a composer and set a number of Housman poems to music. Michael was appointed a CBE for services to music in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2012 and the next year was made a non-party political peer in the House of Lords. The success of the programme is rooted in the fact that Michael Berkeley is an expert communicator, not least reflected in his ability to have engaging and insightful conversations with his guests and this was never truer than when he was talking with Christopher Ricks.

After discussing his meditations on Youth and Age Ricks' first choice was Haydn's 'Ombre insepolti' from *Orlando Palatino*. Bob Dylan followed with the first of two songs, 'This Old Man' and 'Wigwam'. An opportunity to hear T.S. Eliot reading *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* was rare and his other very varied choices included Vaughan Williams 'Linden Lea' and Holst's 'Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal' which Christopher Ricks contrasted with Britten's version sung by Neil Mackie with an orchestral accompaniment from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra conducted by Stuart Bedford. Haydn (5 Variations in D) and Beethoven (Variations on 'God save the King') followed and finally we had the calm of an evening as reflected in Prince Albert's *Abendruhe*.

Summer Outing to Woodchester

The plan for the Woodchester visit is that we should meet at **St. Mary's Church** at 11.00am for a brief introduction followed by a walking tour of the village picking out buildings of particular significance to A.E.H. during his frequent visits to the Wise family. We will be sharing the results of recent re-examination of the very detailed visitors' books from **Woodchester House**. Lunch will be available at the Royal Oak Inn in the village.



Woodchester House - drawing by Robin Shaw

Victorian Gothic Mansion

For those who wish it the day will be rounded off by a visit to the nearby **Woodchester Mansion**, a remarkable exercise in Victorian Gothic that was abandoned part way through its building in the 1870s. It is now maintained in its incomplete form by a local trust — and it boasts a tea room! We can only conjecture how much A.E.H. would have been aware of its strange history, but it is hard to believe that its construction was never a subject of conversation at Woodchester House.



The chancel arch of the old church

Drawing by Robin Shaw

It will be helpful to have an indication of members' intentions on the enclosed events response form. Those declaring an interest

in the Woodchester visit will be sent joining instructions in late June. Anyone in the Bromsgrove area wishing to come but not wanting to drive should let the Secretary (max@maxhunt.orangehome.co.uk) know so that he can link them with members willing to offer spare seats. In this connection it will be useful to have e-mail addresses.

Richard Vicary

Inspirational Teacher and Printmaker

In the early days of the Society Richard Vicary was an enthusiastic member and he offered some of his Housman prints for sale for the benefit of the Society. One of these, 'Is my team ploughing', has recently been donated by retiring chairman Jim Page to Bromsgrove School and now hangs in the English Department.

Richard Vicary was a printmaker, teacher and typographer with his roots in the principles of William Morris. He was born in Sutton, Surrey and his early years were spent drawing or on the rugby field, but it was art that became his life's work. He studied at Medway, Camberwell and Central Schools of Art and by 1946 was exhibiting at the progressive AIA and Whitechapel galleries in London.



Is my team ploughing

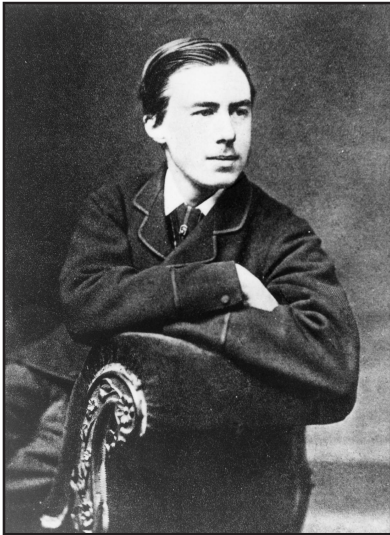
In the late 1940s he began teaching at Tiffin school, Kingston-upon-Thames, but it was his appointment as head of graphics at Shrewsbury School of Art in 1950 that was a turning point. He grew to love the Shropshire countryside and made frequent visits to the quarries and chapels of mid- and west Wales. He also proved to be an inspirational teacher, and many students became lifelong friends. After the death of his first wife in 1961 he rarely painted, and turned increasingly to printmaking, particularly with the acquisition of a magnificent Victorian offset litho press, around which he built his workshop. Always a champion of the underprivileged, Vicary abandoned his earlier leftwing ideals, becoming disillusioned and cynical. At the time of his last illness, he was represented in a show at the Bankside Gallery, London, of "neglected" printmakers 1950-1980. The success of this exhibition gave him great pleasure. Vicary died peacefully in his beloved Shropshire in 1986.

Mastermind Answers

1. *Last Poems*
2. Bromsgrove
3. Ludlow
4. Latin
5. Enoch Powell
6. Trial of Oscar Wilde
7. The quietest places under the sun
8. Manilius
9. Trademarks Registry
10. Bredon
11. Leslie Stephen
12. *Illic Jacet*
13. Laurence
14. J.J. Thompson.

'A Worcestershire Lad' in Malvern

On Friday 29 January, Julian Hunt gave a talk to Malvern Museum Society entitled 'A.E. Housman, a Worcestershire Lad.' Although it was a wet and windy night, about 35 members turned out to hear him. Julian explained that the Housmans were farmers and merchants in Lancaster until one of them, the Rev Robert Housman, became a clergyman and obtained



a curacy in Leicester. There he married Jane Adams whose brother John Adams was sent to Bromsgrove to manage a newly-opened mill to spin worsted yarn for the Leicester hosiers. When John Adams' wife died in childbirth, he practically adopted the children of his sister Jane, including the Rev. Thomas Housman, the first curate of Catshill near Bromsgrove.

Having explained how the Housmans came to Worcestershire, Julian went on to describe A.E. Housman's upbringing in Bromsgrove, his meeting at Oxford with Moses Jackson, and the publication of *A Shropshire Lad*, inspired by his lifelong friend. A generous vote of thanks was given by Cora Weaver of the Malvern Museum Society.

Stafford Northcote, Boulderson and Laurence and Clemence

Elizabeth Oakley has done much research into the lives of Laurence and Clemence and on a recent visit to Cambridge has read letters that Clemence wrote to Ida Stafford Northcote, whose maiden name was Boulderson.

An American researcher, Kristin Mahoney, is coming to the UK in March and specifically Bromsgrove to read Laurence's letters and is especially interested in Shadwell Boulderson. Cecil Stafford Northcote (1870 - 1912, 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade) married Ida Sybil Mary Boulderson in 1906. Their son Cecil Henry Stafford Northcote (1912-2003) married Winifreda Iola Williams in 1936..

If any member has any memories which could add to the picture please get in touch with Liz Oakley.

e-mail: <elizabethoakley70@yahoo.co.uk>

Miscellanea

- BBC Radio Four's 'Poetry Please' on 24 January ended with Ian McKellan reading 'The laws of God, the Laws of Man' - *Last Poems* XII. There was a nice link to the previous poem, Robert Burns' 'Now westlin winds', as it was read by Scotland's National Poet, Liz Lochhead who had visited Bromsgrove in December.
- 15 autograph letters from A.E.H. to his godson **Gerald Jackson** were included in Sotheby's New York sale last December but failed to reach the reserve.
- Patrick Dunachie, son of Steve Dunachie, long time member of the **Polly Bolton Band**, has just been announced as a new member of The King's Singers, replacing the retiring lead counter-tenor David Hurley.
- First editions of *A Shropshire Lad* and *Last Poems* were up for sale at Bonhams in December with a reserve of \$800-1,200 placed on them.
- **Colin Dexter's** choice in 2008 of A.E. Housman for Matthew Parris's 'Great Lives' can still be heard on BBC IPlayer.

Brooke and Housman: A Correction

In my article in the September Newsletter (# 42) I wrote about two Rupert Brooke poems submitted for a competition on the theme 'letters to live poets'. I stated that both poems were about A.E. Housman. This is what Lorna Beckett says in her book about Rupert Brooke, *The Second I Saw You*, but it is incorrect. This has been pointed out to me by Peter Parker, whose book about *A Shropshire Lad*, Housman and Englishness will be published this summer by Little, Brown under the title *Housman Country*.

Only one of the two Brooke poems was about Housman — the one titled 'A Letter to a Shropshire Lad', written after Brooke had read in *The Times* about Housman's appointment as Professor of Latin at Cambridge. But the other poem, titled 'Letter to a Live Poet', is most likely about one of the Dymock Poets, Lascelles Abercrombie. Brooke's early biographer, Christopher Hassall, states this in chapter VII of *Rupert Brooke: a Biography*.

Re-reading the poem, I can see that this makes a good deal of sense. For example: "And ah! the stress on the penultimate! / We never knew blank verse could have such feet." Brooke was friendly with Abercrombie. The two of them together with Wilfrid Gibson and John Drinkwater published their poems in *New Numbers*, the quarterly poetry journal published at Dymock in Gloucestershire from 1914-15.

Linda Hart

The Housman Society Book Exchange

Regular readers of these pages will have noted that I often conclude these opening remarks by advising that the Society has a large quantity of lower-value books which because of space restrictions are never advertised. Well, as the last six months have been somewhat slow in obtaining new material I thought I'd take the opportunity of advertising some of this stock after the usual Collector's copies.

Of the 'usual fare' we are offering a lovely example of the matched brace of 'A Shropshire Lad' and 'Last Poems' by the Alcuin Press of Chipping Campden, a fine set of Burnett's edition of Housman's letters and a copy of the very rare 1918 Grant Richards Limited 16mo 'A Shropshire Lad'. The Introduction to Volume V of Housman's *Manilius* looks back over the thirty-year process – "Of each volume there were printed 400 copies: only the first is yet sold out, and that took 23 years; and the reason why it took no longer is that it found purchasers among the unlearned, who had heard that it contained a scurrilous preface and hoped to extract from it a low enjoyment". The Book Exchange has halved the cost of this book in its attempt to find a purchaser.

As always the items offered for sale on these pages are on a first-come, first-served basis irrespective of the means of contact used. All enquiries, please, to Peter Sisley at Ladywood Cottage, Baveney Wood, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8HZ on telephone number 01299 841361 or facsimile 01299 841582 or e-mail at sisley.ladywood@talk21.com

SALES LIST - FEBRUARY 2016

Postage and Packing are additional to the prices quoted.

BAYLEY (John). HOUSMAN'S POEMS. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1992. First edition. 202 pages. A critical appraisal of Housman's Poetry The first free endpaper has a withdrawal stamp from a University library otherwise the book is unmarked and probably unread. A difficult book to find. Very good in a similar dust jacket. £40

BELL (Alan) [editor]. FIFTEEN LETTERS TO WALTER ASHBURNER. The Tragara Press, Edinburgh, 1976. First edition. 8vo. 24 pages. Blue paper wrappers. Ashburner was an academic lawyer, a Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford, a book collector and, like Housman, a gourmet. These letters were not featured in Maas. Number 73 of 125 copies. In fine condition. £60

BURNETT (Archie) [editor]. THE LETTERS OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2007. 8vo. First edition. Two volumes in slipcase. 8vo. Volume 1 - 1872-1926. liv. 643 pages. Volume 2 - 1927-1936. 585 pages. Over 2200 letters are here listed and the notes and commentary are simply superb. A remarkable production. In fine condition in similar slipcase. £145

HAWKINS (Maude M.). A.E. HOUSMAN: MAN BEHIND A MASK. Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, 1958. First edition (not published in the U.K.). 292 pages. The author's writing style and tendency to assumption has resulted in this book being regarded as an unreliable biography but Hawkins did spend much time with Laurence Housman in the book's preparation. Very good in a very good dust jacket. £20

HOLDEN (Alan) and BIRCH (Roy). A.E. HOUSMAN. A REASSESSMENT. MacMillan, London, 2000. 8vo. 225 pages. Black cloth with dust jacket. A dozen essays on Housman have been brought together in this book, which although recently published is very difficult to acquire on the second-hand market. Fine condition in similar dust jacket £30

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Thomas B Mosher, Portland, Maine, 1906. 12mo. 91 pages. The first of the pirated Mosher editions. A delightful edition of 925 copies with paper covers with yapped edges. Bookplates of two previous owners on endpapers together with a pencilled note from the legendary bibliophile Alan Clodd. Apart from these additions the book is in near fine condition in the original printed but broken slipcase. £40

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Grant Richards Limited, London, 1918. 16mo. vii. 96 pages. Blue cloth. One of the most difficult 'Shropshire Lads' to acquire. Overall in decent condition although the book bears a gift inscription and an anonymous manuscript poem to the endpapers. Very good minus. £50

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD [and] LAST POEMS. The Alcuin Press, Chipping Campden, 1929. Two volumes. 8vo. 91pp [and] 67pp. Plain light grey boards with linen spines and paper labels. The hand-numbered limited edition of 325 sets printed in black and red inks on heavy watermarked laid paper. This is the only matching edition of his poems ever approved by Housman and is often considered the best presentation of his work. A beautiful set, the nicest I have seen in over twenty years, contained within the original slipcase. Very good indeed. £180

HOUSMAN (A.E.). M. MANILII ASTRONOMICON LIBER QVINTVS. The Richards Press, London, 1930. First edition. 8vo. 46 pages of introduction followed by 199 pages of text. Original blue boards with paper spine label. Extremely rare. Very good. Reduced to sell. £75

HOUSMAN (A.E.). M. MANILII ASTRONMICA. EDITIO MINOR. Cambridge University Press, 1932. First edition. 8vo. xiv. 181 pages. An ex-reference library copy, the book contains a neat pocket on the inside cover and on the first free endpaper a small barcode, a 'reference only' stamp and a fragment of a paper label. The spine contains a neat numerical reference. Otherwise the book is in immaculate condition. The book appears never to have been used as the blue covers are as bright as the day of issue, and almost

certainly the book has never been read. Fine but for stated defects. £25

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. George Harrap, London, 1940. 8vo. 99 pages. Brown cloth with the scarce dust jacket depicting 'The Recruit'. The first edition with the delightful woodcuts by Agnes Miller Parker. Very good in similar dust jacket. Scarce in this condition. £50

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. George Harrap, London, 1940. Proof Copy. 8vo. 99pp. With the evocative wood engravings by Agnes Miller Parker. Brown paper covers endorsed 'Advance Proof Copy. Unrevised and Confidential'. An interesting and unusual survivor. Rare. Very good. £40

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A MORNING WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY. The Green Horn Press. Los Angeles, 1941. 8vo. 18 pages. Decorated hardback with paper spine label. Written by Housman for family entertainment in the late 1870's it was printed, without permission, in the *Bromsgrovia* in 1882 it is here published in book form for the first time. Illustrated by Frederick Childs in a limited edition of 125 copies. Some sunning to exterior boards. Discolouration to endpapers and stain (perhaps from removal of bookplate) now partially covered by smaller bookplate. Nick to paper label. Internally the text and illustrations are fine. Very scarce. Priced to reflect the books flaws. £75

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Colby College Library, Waterville, Maine, 1946. 8vo. 125 pages. Cloth in the dust jacket. The limited edition of 500 copies. This edition was timed to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of 'A Shropshire Lad' and to mark the donation to the library of Professor Carl J. Weber's extensive collection of Housman's first book of poetry, which is detailed here in a seventeen-page bibliography. The book also contains notes on the poems and concludes with an eight-page section of eulogies on Housman and his poetic work. Very good in similar dust jacket. £40

HOUSMAN (Laurence). ALFRED EDWARD HOUSMAN'S "DE AMICITIA". The Little Rabbit Book Company, London, 1976. First edition. 8vo. 39pp. Laurence Housman's account of one aspect of his brother's life, written soon after Alfred's death and deposited at the British Museum in 1942, with the injunction that it remained sealed for twenty-five years. First published in *Encounter Magazine* in 1967, this unauthorised volume remains the only edition of the text in book form. A beautifully produced publication. One of 200 numbered copies. In fine condition. £75

HOUSMAN SOCIETY JOURNALS. A FULL SET. 1974 – 2015. The Society is pleased to offer a full set of Journals to the membership at a fraction of the cost that would be charged on the open market. Forty-one issues. The condition varies from Very Good to Mint. This is the last set we possess, so first-come, first-served. £180

MARLOW (Norman). A.E. HOUSMAN. SCHOLAR AND

POET. Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1958. First edition. 192 pages. Hard back. The first full-length study of Housman's poetry. Very good indeed in the elusive dust jacket. £25

SYMONS (Katharine). MEMORIES OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Grant Mellhuish, Bath, 1936. 8 pages. Paper covers. Pamphlet written by Housman's sister extracted from the magazine of King Edward's School. Bath. Contains the first appearance of seven of Housman's comic verses. Very good. £20

WITHERS (Percy). A BURIED LIFE. Jonathan Cape, London, 1940. First edition. 133 pages. Blue cloth missing the dust jacket. Withers first met Housman in 1917 at Cambridge and this book records their association over the next twenty years. With a manuscript dedication by Withers dated August 1940. Very good. £40

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CARTER (John), SPARROW (John) and WHITE (William). A.E. HOUSMAN – A BIBLIOGRAPHY. St. Paul's Bibliographies, Godalming, 1982. 8vo. 94 pages. An updated, revised and considerably enlarged version of the 1952 first edition. Very good £10

GOW (A.S.F.) A.E. Housman – A SKETCH. Cambridge University Press. 1936. First Edition. 8vo. 137 pages. Green cloth in the dust jacket. A delightful sketch of Housman by a fellow professor, together with a comprehensive list of his writings and indexes to his classical papers. Very good. £15

GRAVES (Richard Perceval). A.E. HOUSMAN ; THE SCHOLAR-POET. Routledge and Kegan Paul, London. 1979. First Edition, 304 pages. The first comprehensive biography. Near fine in similar dust jacket. £15

MAAS (Henry). THE LETTERS OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Rupert Hart-Davis, London, 1971. First edition. 8vo. 458 pages. Red cloth with dust jacket. Very good indeed. £20

PAGE (Norman). A.E. HOUSMAN – A CRITICAL BIOGRAPHY. Schocken Books, New York, 1983. First edition. 8vo. 236 pages. Yellow cloth in dust jacket. A beautifully written biography. Fine. £15

PUGH (John). BROMSGROVE AND THE HOUSMANS. The Housman Society, Bromsgrove. We have several copies from 1974 and 1975. 178 pages plus 84 pages of appendix. Hardback and softback, some signed. £5

RICHARDS (Grant). HOUSMAN 1897-1936. Oxford University Press, London, 1941. First edition. 8vo. 493 pages. In addition to Richard's reminiscences there is an excellent set of appendices by other hands. Very good missing the dust jacket. £10

WATSON (George L.). A.E. HOUSMAN – A DIVIDED LIFE. Rupert Hart-Davis, London, 1957. First edition. 235 pages. The first attempt at a comprehensive biography. Near fine in a very good dust jacket. £15

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 2 March 2016, 7.30pm

Old Chapel, Bromsgrove School

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting will be followed by wine and refreshments. The evening will conclude with a recording of a talk Laurence Housman gave on the radio entitled 'A Poet in the Making'.

Tuesday 29 March 2016, 12.30pm

By the Statue in Bromsgrove High Street

A.E.H. BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION

Because A.E.H.'s birthday falls this year on Easter Saturday the annual ceremony is being held after Easter. It will be followed by a buffet lunch at Housman Hall, by kind invitation of the Headmaster of Bromsgrove School. The Guest of the Day will be Dennis Norton, creator of Bromsgrove's Norton Collection.

Saturday 30 April 2016, 11.00am

St Laurence's, Ludlow

LUDLOW COMMEMORATION

The ceremony by the plaque on the north wall will be followed by coffee in St Laurence's. Lunch will be held in the Charlton Arms, preceded at 12 noon by a presentation from Elizabeth Oakley and Andrew Maund on *The Housman Family in Peace and War*.

Tuesday 31 May 2016, 5.30pm - PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATE. Time tbc

The Hay Festival of Literature

THE HOUSMAN LECTURE

The Name and Nature of Poetry

Peter Parker, whose book on Housman and Landscape will be published later this year, will give the 2016 Housman Lecture. Please fill in the form if you would like complimentary tickets.

Saturday 23 July 2016

SUMMER OUTING TO WOODCHESTER

A.E.H.'s mother came from Woodchester and Alfred visited it as a child and found friendship with the Wise family, who moved into Woodchester House after William and Mary Housman had left. If you have never visited Woodchester this is a MUST! Full details are given in page 4.

A Life and Landscape in Words and Music at the Oxford Lieder Festival

Graham Johnson had a strong line-up of artists (Simon Callow, Robert Murray, Joshua Ellicott and Mark Stone) for his almost complete *Shropshire Lad* in the Holywell Music Room last October. In a well varied programme which strongly evoked the heart-penetrating quality of Housman's poetry, one's only regret was that there were no settings by any of the contemporary composers who have set Housman so successfully. As it was we had settings by Butterworth (9), Ireland (8), Orr (6), Vaughan Williams (3), Gurney (1) Moeran (1) and Barber (1) with Simon Callow reading 20 poems.

The Housmans in Victorian Bromsgrove

The 2016 Bromsgrove Summer School includes a Housman day on Tuesday 12 July 2016 which will feature three sessions.

How the Housmans came to Bromsgrove: Julian Hunt will assess the roles of John Adams and Thomas Brettell in Bromsgrove society. He will also discuss how Revd Thomas Housman came to the new Catshill church.

Up with the Tories and down with the Radicals! Elizabeth Oakley will speak further on how Thomas and Edward Housman tried to establish themselves as prominent figures in the public affairs of the town.

'And I will friend you, if I may, In the dark and cloudy day': A personal study of the figure of the Outsider in the Poetry of A E Housman. Andrew Maund discusses the theme of the outsider in Housman's poetry.

Now in its sixth year the Bromsgrove Summer School has six courses to choose from, all featuring the rich industrial, architectural and cultural history of Bromsgrove and district. All courses are held at Bromsgrove School with registration being at 9.30am and lectures beginning at 10.00am. Lunch is at 1.00pm. Proceedings should finish at approximately 4.00pm. The other courses are:

Tuesday 12 July Georgian Bromsgrove with Stephen Price
Afternoon walk along Bromsgrove High Street.

Wednesday 13 July - The Midland Automobile Club
with Max Hunt.

Afternoon visit to Shelsley Walsh.

Wednesday 13 July - Bromsgrove Water Mills - Julian Hunt, Jenny Townshend

Afternoon walk to Bromsgrove Mill sites.

Thursday 14 July - In and Out of the Workhouse - the New Poor Law in Bromsgrove - with Sarah Bradley, David Finlow, Anna Kingsley-Curry. Afternoon walk to the Old Bromsgrove Workhouse and the Union Workhouse.

Thursday 14 July - Francis Brett Young and the English Regional Novel: Midland Novelists from Lawrence to Lodge. Dr Michael Hall.

Further details from Mrs Chris Nesbitt, Hon. Secretary, the Bromsgrove Society, 31 Barley Mow Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove B61 0LU Tel: 01527 877227. The fee for each course is £45 inclusive of morning coffee and an excellent lunch, or £40 for members of the Bromsgrove Society.

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