

Housman Society Newsletter

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The Ludlow Commemoration, 29 April 2017:
Councillor Paul Draper, Mayor of Ludlow, the Rev.
Kelvin Price, Rector of St Laurence's, and our
Chairman, Peter Waine

Housman Society Annual General Meeting, Ludlow, 29 April 2017

It was decided this year to combine the A.G.M. with the Ludlow Commemoration and this initiative was a most definite success. The committee and a good number of members of the Society duly met at the Charlton Arms for coffee, followed by the business of the A.G.M., which was notable in particular for the election of our new Chairman, Peter Waine. He closed that part of the meeting by paying tribute to those members of the Committee who were standing down, thanking them for their hard work over a number of years.

Principal amongst those was Peter Sisley, who has served as both Treasurer and Secretary and will continue to organise the highly successful Book Exchange. Peter had offered to speak after the formal business and his talk, intriguingly titled "*Chansons d'Outre-tombe*", although introduced by Peter with his customary self-deprecating wit as likely to be of little interest, was in fact an engaging and thought-provoking exploration of the literary history and content of those poems published after AEH's death, particularly *More Poems* but with reference also to *Additional Poems*. The full text of Peter's talk will be published in the next Society Journal and it will be well worth reading, with its fascinating explanation of the path to publication, mainly in the hands of Laurence Housman, of the posthumous poems

and their impact upon the public. Peter examined Laurence's role as AEH's literary executor, the errors that crept into the published poems and the highly personal nature of at least a dozen of those published as "*More Poems*". Peter's talk included the reading of a good number of these, with the sensitivity and understanding that he always demonstrates and which made the talk such a delight. As he suggested he would, Peter left his audience wanting more and the close of his talk, with its remarkably sensitive reading and analysis of AP XVIII ("*Oh Who is that Young Sinner...*"), left us a great deal to consider.

A very pleasant lunch followed in the riverside splendour of the Charlton Arms' dining room, where we were delighted to welcome Councillor Paul Draper, Mayor of Ludlow, and the Rev. Kelvin Price, Rector of St Laurence's, as guests of the Society; their good company was very much appreciated by all. We then climbed the hill to St Laurence's for the Commemoration itself, imploring "imperishable peace" for AEH as we gathered around the spot by the North Wall, where his ashes are laid, to read a little of his poetry, lay flowers and pray in thanksgiving for the inspiration and enrichment that the life and works of Housman and his literary fellows have provided.

From the Secretary's Desk

Well, I am pleased to say that the note of optimism struck in my February report has proved well-founded. In Peter Waine, voted into office at the A.G.M., we have a new Chairman whose past experience, skills and contacts are already benefiting the Society in a number of ways which will be evident from other reports in this issue. With Richard Aust also well established as Treasurer we can look to the future with considerably more confidence.

I think all who joined us for the new style A.G.M. combining with the Ludlow Commemoration at the end of April found this a positive change in our organisation. A well attended meeting at the Charlton Arms was treated to a scholarly address from Peter Sisley under the intriguing title of "Chansons d'Outre-tombe". The text will be printed in the next edition of the Journal. It was good then to be joined at lunch by both the Mayor of Ludlow, Councillor Paul Draper and the new Rector, Rev. Kelvin Price, who later conducted our customary Commemoration at St Laurence's during the afternoon. I am hoping we can follow a similar pattern next year.

Mention of Ludlow reminds me of the English Song Weekend in late May which the Society helps sponsor. Under the artistic direction of Iain Burnside the programme which was much enjoyed by many of our members included Housman content throughout the weekend. Also encouraging was the continued role for the Society in the now well-established Bromsgrove Summer School in early July. Capitalising on the publicity recently generated by the Jackson letters, Julian Hunt in collaboration with Gregory Leadbetter of Birmingham City University provided interesting insights under the title "A.E. Housman, Man of Letters". I hope we can maintain our 'slot' in next year's programme in Bromsgrove.

At the end of July the undoubted highlight of our 2017 calendar was the Cambridge visit. A full report on the archive treasures set out before us both in the University Library and at Trinity appears elsewhere. I won't attempt to duplicate our Vice-Chairman's account but I shall long remember the awed expression on Andrew's face when he realised that immediately in front of him on a table in the University Library was Siegfried Sassoon's hand-written note book with commentary on A Shropshire Lad. Altogether a wonderful day which, judging by all the positive messages received over the days following, was much enjoyed by all who managed the journey.

Lest I get too carried away with enthusiasm I must also

report the major disappointment of the year in our failure to stage the Housman Lecture. My hopes that we might find a new home at the Cheltenham Literary Festival eventually came to nought and I must now work with our new Chairman on possible options for 2018. At least one literary festival is having a Housman day. On 16 May 2018, Julian Hunt will be speaking about A.E.H. at the Chalfont St Peter Literary Festival in Buckinghamshire.

Finally an altogether unexpected challenge has arisen, literally as I am putting these notes together. Those members who have supplied email addresses will have received my alert about the alarming planning application to site a large development of static holiday caravans within sight of Bredon Hill. The Society's formal objection has been lodged and it is to be hoped that Wychavon District Councillors will reject such an intrusion on so precious a landscape. Our position is strengthened through Chairman Peter Waine's past leadership of CPRE, but other representations will no doubt be helpful.

Perhaps I should plan a summer visit for next year's programme repeating our 2013 climb to the summit of Bredon in the hope that we shall be celebrating a successful defence of that precious view.

Max Hunt

Our new Chairman

Peter Waine was born in Warwickshire in 1949 and was educated at Worksop College and Bradford University where he read history and politics and became chairman of the Debating Society. He is married with one daughter and lives in Hertfordshire and Bath.

Peter's career in business saw him on main boards of a number of companies, PLCs, private and start-ups, often as chairman. He was also co-founder of Hanson Green, for many years the principal source for chairmen and non executive director appointments. He is currently chairman of two search firms. Previously, he was a director at the CBI and a visiting professor at both Warwick and Cass Business Schools. In politics, he has been a local councillor, stood for Parliament, wrote on occasion for Margaret Thatcher and was vice-chairman of the Bow Group.

Peter has been national chairman of CPRE (the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England), was chairman of the Tree Council and of the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale. Peter has also been a trustee of the Royal Opera House and a member of ICC, the

governing body for world cricket. He is on the board of the Gardens Trust, the statutory body to protect listed designed landscapes. In addition, Peter is a contributor to Country Life, is on the judging panel for the Wainwright Literary Prize-for books on the countryside, and is a judge for the Contrarian Prize. He is author or co-author of five books, two on business, one a business novel which reached number seven in the Top 10, a collection of poetry entitled 'Under a Passing Sky' and, most recently, '22 Ideas That Saved The English Countryside.'



Peter Waine, Chairman of the Housman Society

Bromsgrove Commemoration, 24 March 2017

On a bright, if chilly March afternoon members of the Housman Society, with District Councillors, gathered around the statue in Bromsgrove High Street for their first event of 2017. Secretary Max Hunt opened the proceedings by pointing out that it was the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of this annual ceremony. The statue itself had been unveiled by the Duke of Westminster in 1985. Just two years later in March 1987 had been launched the idea of a Civic Commemoration to coincide with the birth date of Bromsgrove's most famous son.

The Society's "Guest of the Day" this year was Simon Carter, Director of the Avoncroft Museum. Simon read both from Last Poems and Additional Poems, drawing strong relevance to present day concerns. Just two days after the Westminster terrorist attack, he saw Last Poems XII as railing against the intolerance of those who must "Wrest their neighbour to their will." From Additional Poems XVIII, published of course after Housman's death, Simon drew an equally strong message of understanding and acceptance for what today we embrace as the LGBT community.

Over refreshments provided in the Council's Parkside Suite, Simon shared reflections on the challenges facing museums like Avoncroft which rely on their ability to attract a paying public. The appeal of nostalgia suggested a growing interest in the buildings and artefacts of the late twentieth century, many of which were already being too readily sacrificed to redevelopment.

Max closed the proceedings by thanking Simon Carter for his well-chosen contribution and Cllr Helen Jones for the Council's much appreciated hospitality.



Simon Carter, Director of Avoncroft Museum, speaking at the Housman Commemoration, Bromsgrove, 24 March 2017

Ludlow Weekend of Song 19-20 May 2017

The first Ludlow Weekend of Song took place in 2001 and for the first five festivals it was held on a triennial basis. However it was announced at the weekend this summer that in future it would become an annual event - with Director Iain Burnside assuring the audience that there was no shortage of repertoire to fill the programmes.

By holding it in Ludlow there are always special Housman connections to be made and this year we had fine performances of two of the best known settings, On Wenlock Edge and Somervell's cycle of ten poems from A Shropshire Lad. Somervell was one of the first composers to set Housman and he received a robust response from A.E.H. who commented that "I am disposed to agree with you as to the difficulty of sitting down at the piano and warbling out 'rotten'. But I am not willing that poetry should make any concessions to music, at any rate to modern European music, which I regard as unsuitable for union with words." A fine performance from Roderick Williams with Iain Burnside at the piano in Ludlow's beautiful Parish Church made a convincing case for music being able to add to the depth of the poetry.

In Vaughan Williams' On Wenlock Edge tenor Robin Tritschler was joined by the very talented young Gildas Quartet and a remarkably sensitive performance resulted. A feature of these weekends has always been the talks and discussions that are slotted in between the concerts. This year had the benefit of the eloquent Peter Parker taking part in two of them. First with Katy Hamilton on 'off the beaten track' settings in which we were introduced to works by Peter Pope (a real find), E.J. Moeran, Armstrong Gibbs, Martin Bussey and the Scot Erik Chisholm. Live performances of their songs by excellent students from The Royal Welsh College added to the fascination of this event. In the other session Katy Hamilton's additional guest was the distinguished film maker John Bridcut and on the topic of "O Albion: British landscape as a spiritual force" influences from far and wide were discussed with real insight but the magic of the Shropshire countryside was always central.

Jim Page

Bromsgrove Summer School 11 July 2017

The Bromsgrove Summer School is now in its seventh year and going from strength to strength. It is organised by the Bromsgrove Society in association with Bromsgrove School. As the Summer School always includes a course related to A.E. Housman, it can be said to continue the tradition established by the Housman Society of having Housman weekends at Perry Hall, once the home of the poet's father Edward Housman. As Perry Hall (now renamed Housman Hall) is these days part of Bromsgrove School, it is still possible to use it as a venue for the Summer School's Housman course.

For this year's Summer School, Julian Hunt and Gregory Leadbetter presented a course entitled 'A.E. Housman, Man of Letters,' providing a new slant on the life of A.E. Housman by using the poet's own letters as their primary source. They used the existing Oxford University Press edition of AEH's letters, compiled by Archie Burnett, plus the Housman Society's own collection of over 100 letters written by AEH to his sister Kate Symons, photocopied by the Society's then Chairman, John Pugh, in the 1970s. Three original letters of AEH to his sister, which remain in the Society's collection, were on display. They also used scans of several of AEH's letters to his godson, Gerald Jackson, which were only this year acquired by Trinity College, Cambridge.



Gregory Leadbetter

The letters were read by Gregory Leadbetter, who is the Director of Birmingham City University's Creative Writing course. Although Gregory is best known for his biography of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, he is a great enthusiast for A.E. Housman and read his letters with great feeling.

After an excellent lunch in Bromsgrove School's former Chapel, the students walked to Housman Hall where they sat in what must have been the Housman family's drawing room. Gregory Leadbetter read poems from 'A Shropshire Lad' and expounded on the themes of AEH's poetry. The students each read a poem or two of their own choice which led to a further discussion of AEH's attitudes to religion, politics and life in general.

Preparations are already under way for the Bromsgrove Summer School 2018. The 'Housman slot' next year will be filled by a view of A.E. Housman through the eyes of his younger brother. Peter Sisley, in his address at Ludlow, showed how crucial was Laurence Housman's role as literary executor of A.E.H. in preserving or destroying his brother's papers. As A.E.H.'s first biographer, Laurence's choice of what to say and what not to say very much shaped the views of later students of A.E.H.'s life. This course on Alfred and Laurence Housman is likely to be held on 10 July 2018.

Visit to the University Library and Trinity College, Cambridge, 22 July 2017

For the Society's annual summer jaunt this year, 20 members travelled to Cambridge. The initial plan had been to visit Trinity College to see the recently acquired 53 letters from Housman to Gerald Jackson, AEH's godson and son of his lifetime friend, Moses. However, after the visit had been planned, a visit to the "spacious dignity" of the University Library (as AEH described it in a document written in the role of University Orator to King George the Fifth) was added in the morning.

As the college clocks of Cambridge struck eleven, we were met by Mr Liam Sims, a curator of rare books at the University Library; he led us through the hushed halls of learning to the Sir Geoffrey Keyes Room, where he had put together a most interesting and wide-ranging display of Housman-related artefacts. Having explained something of the history of the Library itself, he then introduced us to the materials themselves; for someone who claimed to have known nothing of Housman a fortnight before, his scholarly credentials were made very clear by his comprehensive and easy knowledge, both of AEH's life and works and of the documents themselves.



Housman Society members at Whewell's Court, Trinity College, Cambridge, 22 July 2017

These ranged from early copies of Housman's poetry, including an un-cut First Edition of *A Shropshire Lad* which AEH had sent as a gift to A.S.F. Gow only six months before Housman's death, through his academic work in lecture notes on Ovid and Textual Criticism, which both displayed the familiar wit with which they were written even if not, we are told, delivered, to letters to friends and fellow academics. Other materials included a memorial booklet published by Bromsgrove School after Housman's death in 1936, the war-time notebook of Siegfried Sassoon in which, in immaculate and tiny handwriting, Sassoon had copied out verses from ASL XIX, "To an Athlete Dying Young", alongside a similar poem "The Song of the Ungirt Runners" by C.H. Sorley, and early designs for the Folio Society edition of ASL. There was even a small selection of erotic literature, passed by Laurence Housman to the Library from AEH's collection after his death.

After all too short a time to examine this plethora of delights, the party moved, via lunch and with swollen numbers, to meet Dr Nicolas Bell, the Librarian of Trinity College. Before visiting the Library itself, Dr Bell took us to the secluded Victorian Gothic of Whewells Court where, on J staircase, AEH had lived for most of his time in College. Crossing back to Great Court, we were then told how Housman had hoped in his latter years to move into the prestigious set of rooms over the gate itself, installing a lift at his own expense to make access to the first floor rooms easier. We were then most privileged to visit Housman's last set of rooms, with their "palatial bathroom", on the ground floor of B staircase in Great Court.

Our visit culminated in the magnificent Wren Library itself. Dr Bell explained the history of the building and how it had served as a place for the public display and study of all manner of historical artefacts in centuries gone by. At the far end of the library he had prepared another fascinating display of Housman-related papers, including the Jackson letters themselves, the acquiring of which he credited to the persistence of Society member Linda Hart. Besides the letters was an eclectic but remarkable range of manuscripts, including the final copy text of ASL, pencil portraits of the great man, annotated classical texts, Housman's own bible, inscribed with his name and place of residence by the seven year old AEH and, as light relief, the Fellows' "Suggestions and Complaints" Book for the College Kitchens, covering the years 1909 to 1955. For the period of his time in Trinity, Housman, ever the gourmand, was the most prolific complainant, although

his comments were offered, as ever, with sardonic and gentle wit.

To close our visit, Julian Hunt quoted from another letter to Gerald Jackson, which caught the mood and intimacy of the letters perfectly. Dated 6th Jan 1931, the letter includes an apology from AEH for settling his godson's college bill for him,

"If you could have any idea of what my feeling for your father was, and still is, you would not grudge me the pleasure."

Particular thanks must go to both Julian and Max Hunt for all the hard work and organisation that went into arranging the day. This most memorable of visits illuminated further the complex character of AEH, his academic life at Cambridge and the enduring engagement of his writing, be it in his lectures, his poetry or his personal letters and comments. In the splendour of this finest of university cities, it was as if he were, for a little while, walking beside us; all of us fortunate enough to have been there, sharing one another's company as well as his, are much the richer for the experience.

Andrew Maund

Pause for Thought

One intriguing question to come out of the Cambridge visit arose from the final manuscript version of *A Shropshire Lad* that we were able to see during our time at Trinity. This version was produced, with the scrupulous approach to accuracy that we would expect of AEH, to pass to the printer, and it contained nothing in addition to the faultless text except instructions for the use of capitals in the printing.

However, the seventh line of ASL II ("*Loveliest of Trees...*") appears in the manuscript with an additional comma as follows:

"And, take from seventy springs a score,"

The first comma does not appear in the version printed in Burnett's definitive Oxford edition, neither is there any mention of it in his extensive notes, nor, to my knowledge, does it appear in any other version. Given the thorough scholarship associated with versions of Housman's poetry and ASL in particular, one does wonder why not. The Librarian of Trinity, Dr Nicolas Bell, has been indulgent enough in my correspondence

with him even to find a version of the poem that in 1922 Housman wrote out for General Sir Henry Jackson, a Fellow of Trinity. Jackson pasted this copy into the front of his copy of *ASL*, which he subsequently gave to the College. In this version there is no hint of a comma, which, as Dr Bell comments, “suggests at least that Housman was quite comfortable with the punctuation in the first and subsequent editions”.

So does the comma make a difference? A very slight nuance, at most, and no more. Whether it is of any importance is a matter of personal interpretation. I feel it provides a pause, a breath or hesitation at that moment in the poem, which adds to its pathos. “take from seventy springs a score” becomes a subordinate clause when bracketed off by the two commas, somehow making “It only leaves me fifty more” more definite and, to my ear at least, more moving. The sense of loss of innocence with untimely death, which infuses so much of the writing, is a little more painfully felt.

I am indebted to Dr Bell for his help with my enquiries; for any member interested in exploring the manuscript further, the original manuscript version of *ASL* is available via the following link: <http://trin-sites-pub.trin.cam.ac.uk/james/viewpage.php?index=1071>

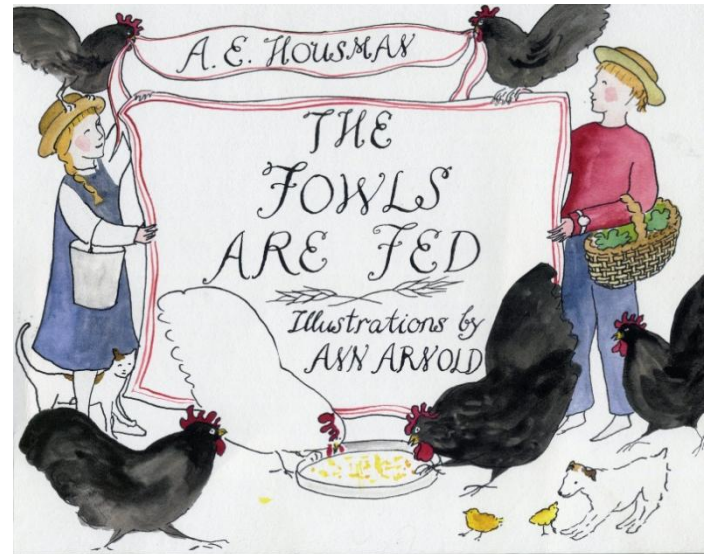
Andrew Maund

The Fowls are Fed

AEH's friendship with the Wise Family is well documented and the Woodchester House Visitors' Book is the source of many of Housman's comic verses. 'The Fowls are Fed' was entered into the second Visitors Book in May 1902, though Archie Burnett thinks it possible that AEH may have sent the verses after his stay, as they are sewn in over dates and entries of other guests. The poem was first published in Fraser Drew's 'The Poet as House Guest' in 1961.

A beautifully illustrated edition has recently been published in America by Ian Jackson's Stinehour Editions and his wife, Ann Arnold, has produced wonderfully apt and amusing coloured illustrations that fill every page of this delightful book. It is available in UK from <j.fergusson@btinternet.com> at £17.50. This would make an intelligent present for a grandchild.

Jim Page



Colin Dexter, 29 September 1930 – 21 March

The death of Colin Dexter has been fully covered in the national press but no mention was made of the fact that his love of Housman began when he was seventeen years old and his English master at Stamford School read the class *A Shropshire Lad* LXII - 'Terence, this is stupid stuff' - the poem that includes the fourteen words (all but one a monosyllable):

And I will friend you, if I may,
In the dark and cloudy day.

which he considered throughout his life the most precious couplet in English poetry. This revelation was made when he gave the Hay lecture in 2004 to an audience of over 400. He went on to recall his first Housman purchase, the *Collected Poems* (bought in Cambridge in 1950), to his latest *The Road of Danger, Guilt and Shame* in which he found himself in sharp disagreement with its author Carol Efrati. He recalled his time when he was Head of School Examinations with the Oxford Board and he reiterated his theme of reading the books themselves and not the books about the books. He ended by quoting the whole of *More Poems* XVI, the last three words of which - 'The Remorseful Day' - he choose for the title of his final Morse novel.

Colin was a Vice President of the Society and an active supporter, attending and contributing to our weekends in Housman Hall, where he performed the opening ceremony in 2004, after Bromsgrove School had bought it for use as a sixth form boarding house, and changed the name from Perry Hall.

Dieter Baer 20 Oct 1926 - 22 March 2017

Dieter Baer joined the Society when in the early 1990s the Society was preparing to regenerate itself by making an impact through the forthcoming centenary of A Shropshire Lad in 1996. We applied to the REACH Foundation for a retired executive looking for voluntary work and were very fortunate that contact with Dieter was made. He already had marketing skills so he joined the 1996 sub-committee of myself, Roy Birch, Robin Shaw and Jennie McGregor-Smith and many were the happy meetings we had in moving the project forward. A student had come up with an excellent design for a logo (later adapted to be the Society's logo) and in no time Dieter was having ideas for merchandise, and it was through him that Housman pens, mugs, ties, paperweights and even ash trays (!) with our 1996 logo on were being sold at centenary events.

When the centenary was over we needed a membership secretary and Dieter volunteered for that - a job that he carried out with efficiency and willingness for ten years before retiring in 2006. His funeral in St Andrew's, Ombersley, the church to which Dieter had given so much of his time since retirement, was a moving affair packed with family and distinguished friends from his career in industry in the West Midlands. His son and daughter by his first marriage gave an account of his life and told how he had only explained to them the true circumstances of his coming to England a few years ago. His father was a judge and after escaping with the family to France after Kristallnacht, in 1939, at the last moment his parents managed to find sponsors for Dieter and his sister in England, where he was treated as a son by the headmaster of a school in East Anglia. He also told them the detail of the predictable fate of his parents.

Dieter was a kind and extremely generous person whose desire to make the world a better place touched all the people knew.

Jim Page

The Housman Society Book Exchange

About eighteen months ago I travelled down to London to bid in person for a Housman rarity which was being offered for sale at Public Auction. The single lot was a copy of the 1929 Alcuin Press set of *A Shropshire Lad* and *Last Poems* which had been bound together in calf leather by the publisher in direct contravention of Housman's explicit instructions that the two volumes should be sold separately. I know of only seven copies of the 325 print run which received this treatment but the undoubted rarity of this volume is greatly increased by

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Housman's signature on the half-title page. I was very pleased to be the successful bidder and thus acquire this volume for my personal collection. A wonderful bonus, loosely inserted within the book, was a copy of the menu for a meeting of 'The Family' Dining Club, of which Housman was a member from 1919 up to his death in 1936, and the Auctioneer suggested that the book may have been signed at that Dinner.

In an attempt to educate myself about 'The Family' I obtained, after a lengthy search and a payment of £30, a copy of S.C. Roberts book of the same name on the history of the club which provided much useful background information including a copy of a menu of a dinner hosted by Housman which seemed, to my non-gourmet eye, to have striking similarities to the menu now in my possession. My email enquiry to Dr Nicolas Bell, Librarian of Trinity College, about the location of the archives of 'The Family' ultimately led to the confirmation by staff at the Cambridge University Library that the dinner for which I held the menu was indeed hosted by Housman.

And that, so to speak, might have been the end of the matter but, just a couple of weeks ago, Dr Bell emailed me to say that a handful of copies of the original print run of Roberts' book had come to light at Trinity and he has most kindly donated them to the Book Exchange for the benefit of Society funds. As with all items offered for sale on these pages these books will be disposed of on a first-come, first-served, basis.

Do also have a look through the Bargain Basement section at the end of this listing where we have greatly reduced the price of this stock and are also offering a further quantity discount in order to attempt to solve our storage problems. The descriptions are limited as, in instances, we have multiple copies but I can advise that most of the ex-library material is from the reference section of the library and is in very nice order.

Please note that my fax machine facilities are now discontinued. All enquiries, please, to Peter Sisley at Ladywood Cottage, Baveney Wood, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8HZ on telephone number 01299 841361 or e-mail at sisley.ladywood@talk21.com

SALES LIST - SEPTEMBER 2017

Postage and Packing are additional to the prices quoted.

ALDINGTON (Richard). A.E. HOUSMAN & W.B. YEATS. The Peacocks Press, Hurst, Berkshire; 1955. First edition. 8vo. 35 pages. Green cloth missing the tissue jacket. Limited edition. One of 350 copies. These

lectures were originally given in New York in 1938.
Very Good. £35

BAYLEY (John). HOUSMAN'S POEMS. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1992. First edition. 202 pages. A critical appraisal of Housman's Poetry. Fine 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 60 of 125 copies. In fine condition. £60

BRINK (C.O.). ENGLISH CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP. James Clarke & Co. Ltd., Cambridge, 1985. First edition. 8vo. 243 pages. Reflections on Bentley, Porson and Housman by a successor Kennedy Professor of Latin. Fine in a very good dust jacket. £20

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE LIBRARY. THE NAME AND NATURE OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Bryn Mawr College Library, Pennsylvania, 1986. First edition. 4to. 54 pages. With an introduction by Seymour Adelman. The catalogue of the amazing Housman collection donated to the College by Adelman. A superb work. Fine. £25

CARTER (John) and SCOTT (Joseph) CATALOGUE ON AN EXHIBITION ON THE CENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH. University College, London, 1959. First edition. 8vo. 35 pages. Green paper covers. Contains a preface by Carter and a biographical Introduction by Scott. A rare catalogue. Small spot to front cover therefore almost very good. £40

DIGGLE (J) and GOODYEAR (F.R.D.). THE CLASSICAL PAPERS OF A.E. HOUSMAN. VOLUME I 1882 -1897, VOLUME II 1897 -1914, VOLUME III 1915 - 1936. Cambridge University Press, 1972. First edition. 8vo. Three Volumes totalling 1318 pages. Fine in near fine dust jackets. A beautiful set of books. £200

GARROD (H.W.) [contributes]. ESSAYS AND STUDIES BY MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1940. First edition. 8vo. 114 pages. Green cloth. Contains a 15 page essay by Garrod 'Housman: 1939'. Ex reference library. Very good. £5

HABER (Tom Burns). THE MANUSCRIPT POEMS OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Oxford University Press, 1955. First English Edition. 146 pages. Blue cloth in the dust jacket. The first attempt at unravelling the notebook fragments. Very good indeed. £25

HABER (Tom Burns). THE MANUSCRIPT POEMS OF A.E. HOUSMAN. The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1955. First American edition. 8vo. 146 pages. Brown cloth missing the dust jacket. The first attempt at unravelling the notebook fragments. Very good. £20

HAMILTON (Robert). HOUSMAN THE POET. Sydney Lee, Exeter, 1953. First edition. 8vo. 74 pages. Paper covers. One of the earliest books to concentrate on an evaluation of Housman's poetry. Scarce. Very good indeed. £45

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. With the book-plate of Housman collector P.B. Morris otherwise fine. £30

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. John Lane, The Bodley Head, New York, 1897. The First American edition. 12mo. 96pp. Paper boards on parchment back. One of about 150 (Grant Richards says 162) copies sent to the US out of the first London edition of 500 copies. Carter and Sparrow label B. Soiling to boards and rubbing to extremities. Corners bumped. Soiling and small loss to spine label. Previous ownership signature to title page. Internally some browning to pages but a very good tight copy. A hand-written paper label giving the book title and author has been affixed to the front cover and is the major defect. Without the stated imperfections this book would be offered at a four-figure sum. An opportunity to own a piece of history at modest cost. £400

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Grant Richards, London, 1898. 12mo. 96 pages plus advertisements at rear. The first Grant Richards edition. As long ago as 1940 Carter and Sparrow described this

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If you have anything of interest please get in touch with Peter Sisley on telephone number 01299.841361 or by email at sisley.ladywood@talk21.com.

Forthcoming Events

Monday 26th March 2018, 12.30pm

By the statue in Bromsgrove High Street

A.E.H. BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION

The annual ceremony by the statue will be followed by a buffet lunch.

Guest of the Day will be Gregory Leadbetter of Birmingham City University.

Saturday 28th April 2018, 11.00am

The Charlton Arms, Ludlow.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

with a presentation by Julian Hunt:- "AE Housman, Man of Letters".

To be followed by lunch at 1.00 pm..

Saturday 28th April 2018, 3.00pm

St Laurence's Ludlow

LUDLOW COMMEMORATION

11th to 13th May 2018

LUDLOW ENGLISH SONG WEEKEND

16 May 2018, CHALFONT ST PETER LITERARY FESTIVAL, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Julian Hunt will be speaking about A.E.H..

10th to 12th July 2017

BROMSGROVE SUMMER SCHOOL.

A course on Laurence Housman: how his younger brother has coloured our view of A.E.H.

Saturday 21st July SUMMER VISIT

Venue to be determined.

The *Housman Society Newsletter* is published by the Housman Society, Abberley Cottage, 7 Dowles Road, Bewdley DY12 2EJ. The next Newsletter will be circulated in February 2018 and contributions should be sent to the Editor at julianmhunt@btinternet.com by the middle of January