



Housman Society Newsletter

No. 47

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From the Secretary's Desk

As I write during this first weekend of February, it seems that the media are gearing up to mark the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act. This, of course, was the reform which gave some women the vote for the first time in national elections. For Clemence and Laurence Housman, Lloyd George's espousal of the suffrage cause was the culmination of ten years of campaigning. It was on 30 June 1908 that Clemence, with twelve other members of the Women's Social and Political Union, had delivered a formal resolution from their Caxton Hall meeting to the House of Commons. They were denied entrance and Christabel Pankhurst was later to write "Window breaking began that night."

Laurence Housman's contribution to the 1908 suffrage marches was to design the huge banner for the Kensington Union, which was described in the WSPU's newspaper *Votes for Women* as showing "the symbolic figure of a woman with broken fetters in her hand and the words From Prison to Citizenship." Three years later Clemence was herself to experience a brief spell in Holloway for her defiant stance as a leading light in the Women's Tax Resistance League.

Hardly surprising then that Laurence should write, on hearing of the Bill's successful passage through

the Lords in January 1918, "Clem and I fell into each other's arms on the stairs this morning when we learned that the House of Lords had climbed up to Woman Suffrage....."

The 1918 Act fell well short of giving all women the franchise, but as Liz Oakley (whose obituary sadly appears elsewhere in this issue) put it in her 2009 *Inseparable Siblings*, brother and sister "like most suffrage supporters consoled themselves with the hope that it was the first step to equal voting rights with men." That final step would come ten years later by which time Laurence and his sister were settled at Longmeadow, their new house in Street.

Now Longmeadow, like Bredon Hill when I was penning my last set of Secretary's notes, is under some threat from planners. Just last week we heard from present owners Mr and Mrs Kevin Davis that the latest instalment of Mendip District Council's Local plan includes a proposal to build 200 houses on the fields looking out from the Housmans' home and intruding on Laurence's view when writing from the "Elbow Room." Details of the proposals can be found on the Mendip Council website.

As for the alarming scheme to site static caravans within the view from Bredon summit here in Worcestershire, the good news is that Councillors rejected the application at the Wychavon November Planning Committee meeting. However there are indications that the applicants will take the matter to appeal and the Society continues to monitor the situation. To demonstrate our concern I have firmed up on the idea that our Summer visit this year should be to Bredon on Saturday July 14th. Lunch at a local hostelry will be followed by a gentle walk up the hill and members' readings of their own chosen verses. Details are included in the events calendar and on the enclosed booking form so that I shall have some idea of numbers to assist with the lunch reservation. I hope we can show a goodly measure of support for the local campaign to protect this treasured landscape.



Gregory Leadbetter, guest speaker at the Birthday Commemoration, 26 March 2018

Prompt return of the booking form will be particularly helpful in advising our hosts at Bromsgrove School of numbers for the Birthday Commemoration lunch on March 26th. Our Guest of the Day this year, as previously announced, will be Gregory Leadbetter, who leads the Creative Writing Department at the Birmingham City University and whom some members met at last year's Bromsgrove Summer School. Numbers too are needed for the lunch at the Charlton Arms in Ludlow on April 28th when we shall follow the new AGM pattern established last year. We shall again be joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ludlow both for lunch and in the Commemoration at St Laurence's.

I shall look forward to renewing acquaintance with many of you at these events.

Max Hunt

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 two-course lunch, courtesy of Bromsgrove School. Guest of the Day will be Gregory Leadbetter of Birmingham City University.

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th April 2018

St Laurence's Ludlow

LUDLOW ENGLISH SONG WEEKEND

Bookings 01584 878141 or to

aileen.ludlowsong@gmail.com

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

Wednesday 16th May 2018, 8.00pm

Chalfont St Giles Literary Festival

Julian Hunt "A.E. Housman, the Worcestershire Lad".

Saturday 19th May 2018, 4.00pm

Ibis Hotel, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham

ALLIANCE OF LITERARY SOCIETIES

Julian Hunt: "A.E. Housman, The Worcestershire Lad".

10th July 2018

BROMSGROVE SUMMER SCHOOL

Learning Resources Centre, Bromsgrove School

Laurence Housman: his role in shaping the image of A.E.H. Andrew Maund, Julian Hunt

Saturday 14th July 2018

SUMMER VISIT

Bredon Hill, Worcestershire

Light lunch at a local hostelry followed by a gentle stroll to the summit and members' verse readings

Saturday 13th October 2018

AUTUM VISIT

St John's College, Oxford

A visit to the Library and a tour of the College

Andrew Motion our new Vice-President

Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate 1999-2009, has agreed to become a Vice-President of the Housman Society. In responding to our Chairman's invitation, Andrew wrote, "It's a great honour for me to be invited to become a Vice-President of the Housman Society. I admire and enjoy his poems in the highest degree - for their formal expertise, the beauty of their cadences, their direct but compassionate gaze at the facts of suffering and loss, and their evocation of a part of England that by subtle expansions of focus becomes an epitome of England itself. There's no one like him, yet he speaks for multitudes".

New Year's Honour for Jennie McGregor-Smith

Jennie McGregor-Smith, who has been at the heart of the Housman Society Committee for 30 years, has been awarded the BEM in the New Year's Honours List. Joining the committee in 1987, when the Society's finances were in a poor way, she immediately showed her skills by offering to set the Journal, something she continued to do in style for the next eight years. As a member of the sub-committee planning the celebrations for the centenary of A Shropshire Lad in 1996, she not only bristled with ideas but also had the practical skills to carry them out and continued to provide the design for the Society's publicity material to the present day. But her contribution to the Housman Society was only one of the many organisations through which her influence was felt. She was at the forefront of the long campaign to create an Arts Centre in Bromsgrove, which began in 1986, and finally reached its fulfilment when Artrix was opened in 2005. For over 30 years she was the adventurous spirit behind the succession of imaginative programmes and weekends promoted by Bromsgrove Concerts, and her own series of Celebrating English Song at Tardebigge made a real contribution to the revival of interest in English Song. At a regional level she was Chair of the National Federation of Music Societies (later to become Making Music) which put on simultaneous performances of Verdi's Requiem in the region's three cathedrals; she also chaired the Music Societies sub-committee which bought a Steinway for use in the region. She was a prime mover in the foundation of The Bromsgrove Society and the literary organisation WORDS. She has written three local history books and is at present working on one about Finstall, the village where she lives.

Jim Page

Housman featured on Antiques Road Trip

A.E. Housman's 'A Shropshire Lad' was one of the themes in a recent episode of the BBC's Antiques Road Trip. The show featured Nick Owen, the presenter, talking to Philip Serrell, antiques expert, and Robin Shaw, who was Vice-President of the Housman Society until 2014. Nick Owen is a life-long Housman enthusiast and always carries a small edition of 'A Shropshire Lad', although he knows many of the poems by

heart. He was the main presenter of BBC Midlands Today, and, indeed, as a very young Birmingham Mail reporter, covered the Society's inaugural meeting in 1973. Philip Serrell is a well-known Worcestershire auctioneer with auction rooms in Malvern. They chatted both at Housmans, the birthplace in Valley Road, Fockbury, and also near Housman Hill, which the Housman children called Mount Pisgah, where AEH as a teenager was inspired by the views to 'the blue-remembered hills' of Shropshire.

Inevitably, the BBC cut a couple of hours filming down to a just a few minutes broadcasting time, but Robin Shaw ably represented the Society in its moment in the lime-light.



Nick Owen, Robin Shaw, camera-man and Philip Serrell, at Housman's

English Song CD

Jennie McGregor-Smith, the founder and driving force behind the series Celebrating English Song, which took place at Tardebigge, near Bromsgrove, each summer for 13 years, played a vital role in the revival of interest in English Song. The last recital was given by Roderick Williams and Susie Allan, who were frequent performers in the series, and this CD duplicates exactly that last programme.

This wonderful Celebration of English Song in a collection to gladden the hearts of all lovers of English music. Two well-loved song cycles, Butterworth's Six Songs from *A Shropshire Lad* and Finzi's *Let us Garlands Bring* are at the heart of the collection and one could not wish for a better interpretation of either cycle. Roddy Williams crafts each Housman verse with the greatest of skill, varying vocal timbres and using a wide range of colours and Susie Allan's playing could not be bettered. The disc also includes some of the best-known English songs of the periods before and after World War II – Ireland's world-famous 'Sea Fever' and 'Great Things' and 'The Kiss' and 'Flying Crooked', from Ian Venables, now widely regarded as the finest living English composer of art songs.

Celebrating English Song – Somm CD 0177 - available from Jim Page, 2 College Walk, Bromsgrove B60 2ND @ £10 plus £2.00 post and packing. Cheques payable to 'Finzi Friends' please.

Anthony Gibson: *The Coloured Counties*

For the writer of a book which seeks to explore the relationship between some of England's greatest poets and novelists and the landscapes which inspired them, A.E. Housman presents a bit of a problem. It isn't that he is not associated with some truly beautiful places. It is that he has become associated with them without necessarily ever having visited them himself, beguiled as he was by their names and the images which he conjured up of them in his own imagination. However, if there is one place which was the fountainhead of his landscape inspiration, it is the hill at Worm's Ash, just above Fockbury House where he lived as a boy. There is nothing particularly dramatic about it, topped as it is now with an ugly communications mast and with no public access to the summit. But from two gateways off the lane which winds its way around the hillside, you can enjoy precisely the views which Housman so loved to contemplate when he was growing up - west to the blue Shropshire hills from one gateway, south across Bromsgrove to Bredon Hill from the other. Besides, there is really no difference between our experience, when we look at a landmark or stretch of countryside and project onto it our associations with writers and their words, and a poet like Housman doing the

same with his thoughts. In both instances, words and landscapes acquire new, deeper, meanings. It is of the essence of what a 'literary landscape' is all about.

"A Shropshire Lad" has given that county a new dimension. I challenge anyone to visit Wenlock Edge, without wondering if the wood's in trouble, or to look up at the Wrekin without expecting its forest fleece to heave. Who could ever walk on Bredon, without thinking of Housman's ill-fated lovers, and hoping against hope that the bells might ring out from St. Giles' magnificent steeple? It is as if Housman's words have somehow become imprinted on the landscape. The two are inseparable, and our experience is all the richer for it.

"The Coloured Counties" is my second literary landscapes book, following "With Magic in my Eyes", which covered the four south-western counties. Between them they celebrate some truly wonderful writer-landscape combinations, from Daphne du Maurier and Cornwall to Mary Webb and North Shropshire, taking in the likes of John Betjeman, Ted Hughes, Thomas Hardy, Wordsworth and Coleridge, Laurie Lee, the Dymock poets, John Masefield and, of course, William Shakespeare along the way. No stretch of country anywhere in the world can be quite so rich in literary associations, adding enormously to its inherent beauty.

You can find out more about both books on www.literarylanscapes.co.uk, and if you should be kind enough to buy one, then all I can say is that I hope you get as much enjoyment out of reading it, as I did from the researching and the writing.

"The Coloured Counties" is available to all Housman Society members at a 20% discount by contacting the publisher, Stephen Chalke, on 01225-335813 or email <stephen.chalke@hotmail.co.uk> Anthony Gibson

Sanders Park, Bromsgrove

The recently reported plan to naturalise the brook in Sanders Park is very welcome. I wonder if Severn Trent and Bromsgrove Council are aware just how appropriate is the idea of including some Black Poplars in the landscaping.

Bromsgrove's poet, A.E. Housman, author of "A Shropshire Lad", grew up at Perry Hall (now Housman Hall) in the 1860s. In those days behind the Hall in what is now Sanders Park was a large mill pool, known as the Cotton Pool. And Bromsgrove had many other mill pools on the Spadesborne and Battlefield Brooks.

When Housman left Bromsgrove for London he nostalgically wrote.

Far in a western brookland
That bred me long ago
The poplars stand and tremble
By pools I used to know.

There, in the windless night-time,
The wanderer, marvelling why,
Halts on the bridge to hearken
How soft the poplars sigh.

He hears: no more remembered
In fields where I was known,
Here I lie down in London
And turn to rest alone.

There, by the starlit fences,
The wanderer halts and hears
My soul that lingers sighing
About the glimmering weirs.

Although this poem appeared in his collection of Shropshire poems, I am sure he was thinking of Bromsgrove and he wrote later in a letter that he was specifically referring to Black Poplars. The Housman Society donated some Black Poplars to the park in the 1990s, but they have not survived. Hopefully these new ones will. A plaque with the poem would be perfect.

Robin Shaw



Sanders Park, Bromsgrove

First Nelson then Housman

Members of the Society may be interested in my experience of moving from a subject like Nelson to Housman and what have been for me some of the salient features of this journey :

There had been at least 200 biographies of Nelson but there was some logic in adding to that number. Nelson worked in the greatest organisational entity of 18th century Europe. I spent more than thirty years in arguably the greatest organisational entity of the industrial 20th century - Imperial Chemical Industries. Nelson was a charismatic leader. I had worked closely with more than one charismatic leader, for example John Harvey-Jones, who became our Chairman. I had first-hand knowledge of how big organisations worked, how men made their way in them and how such men as Nelson operated.

There would have been undeniable logic in choosing another naval character. Instead I chose a new challenge. I chose Housman and the huge problems entailed in writing about him. Here was a legendary scholar, reputed to have fallen in love with a man. Here was the renowned poet of "A Shropshire Lad" with a reputation of being prim, grim, reserved and unapproachable. To get inside him was a very big challenge.

The canvas was wide. His biographer would have to weave together, his daily life, his poetic life and his academic life. I would want my judgements to be evidence led, my approach would be questioning and forensic and whilst the book would have to meet the scrutiny of academics and members of this Society, I wanted it to be readable and enlightening for the general reader of biographies.

I soon became very aware that no properly joined up, wide-ranging and up to date biography of Housman, actually existed. There was plenty of ground still untilled, plenty to be looked at with a fresh eye.

I was intrigued by Housman's disastrous beginnings. The challenges, dealt him by nature, nurture and circumstances gripped me.

He had lost his mother when he was 11. After being awarded a First in his first public examination Mods, he had disastrously failed his finals and destroyed all hopes of an academic future. In the era of Oscar Wilde he had also formed a deep attachment for a man.

Housman responded to these challenges. Highly competitive and self-directed he had immense motivation to do what he wanted to do - to be a textual critic. This determination to surmount all

that life was throwing at him and to succeed in following his chosen star made him a hero in my eyes.

I found that Housman was at least Nelson's equal in self-confidence, self-motivation and self-direction, qualities which were foundations for the success of both men. But Housman's form of heroism began to prompt compassion which added another dimension to the admiration and respect I had already developed for him. My own self-directed nature and reticence enabled me to empathise, sympathise and to some degree identify with Housman.

To earn a living Housman had to take an unimportant post in the Patent Office. This enabled him to build his own reputation as a Latin scholar. He made his own luck. The brilliancy of 25 papers published in the learned journals over a period of four years enabled this academic failure to be elected professor of Latin at University College London.

Two major challenges for me were to make Housman's academic life of the mind interesting to the reader. Another was to identify key autobiographical elements in his poetry without straying into a general critique of his poetry. Like Nelson, Housman displayed massive professional and technical knowledge. As a textual critic he, like Nelson, had a pronounced flair which made him seem different. In addition to professional brilliance he had a ruthless competitive streak that made him want to win. He was probably even more single-minded and ruthless than Nelson. And he had the literary and histrionic skills to dominate, to persuade others that he was right. So Housman's life as an academic could be treated much like the professional life of any great man.

Between his election to the Chair at University College London and subsequently Cambridge he published a slim volume of poems "A Shropshire Lad". These poems have become emblems of nostalgia, parables of the restless impermanence of love and life, exemplars of life's hard lottery; some of the most remembered and most often quoted poetry in the language. But my interest in them was primarily in their genesis and in identifying their undoubted autobiographical elements.

By tracing carefully the chronology of first drafts I establish connections with the emotional turbulence produced by his unreciprocated but deep attachment to Moses Jackson and his reactions to the trial and conviction of Oscar

Wilde; some of the poems, published and unpublished at the time are undoubtedly biographical documents.

But in a very real sense all Housman's poetry was about Housman, some identifiably about himself, some more distant and more symbolic of himself and his emotions. For me the key fact is that there was no appeal for him in new material or different material arising for example from his exotic travel and flying experiences on which he writes at length in colourful prose. The fact that his poetry was all about himself intensified his reticence and unwillingness ever to discuss its meaning or link it in any way with himself.

The deep attachment he formed for a fellow undergraduate, Moses Jackson is the enigma of his life, an enigma that reveals how the label "love" is incapable of describing the many variations in emotional and physical connections between men and women, men and men, and women and women. The difficulty for a Housman biographer is that Housman never uttered on the subject, although his library of books on sexual and erotic subjects demonstrated knowledge and interest. This apparent biographical dead end prompted me to attempt to position Housman on an emotional and sexual continuum with a number of contemporaries who were also sexually and emotionally different, Oscar Wilde, Siegfried Sassoon, T.E. Lawrence of Arabia, Maynard Keynes, Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville West, his brother Laurence and later Ludwig Wittgenstein. Could light can be shone on Housman by a process of biographical comparison. My analysis suggests that Housman was at the opposite end of the spectrum from Oscar Wilde and closest to T.E. Lawrence and Ludwig Wittgenstein. My conclusion that each individual is demonstrably different from the others and so the same label should not be hung round all their necks.

Those who might choose to deplore such explorations ignore the undoubted fact that the sex drive governs the life of most human beings, conditions much of their behaviour directly or indirectly, and cannot be ignored in biography. Housman is usually described as a homosexual but the fact is that there is actual evidence only of a liking for pornography, a liking for dirty stories and a kind of voyeurism.

The most important new fact about Housman's deep emotional but unreciprocated attachment to Moses Jackson is that it lasted for the whole of their lives and morphed into Housman's enduring

connection with Rosa Jackson and the whole Jackson family. Housman was in regular contact with his godson Gerald from the time of Moses' death till his own death in 1936. This unbroken thread is demonstrated for the first time in my book.

The aim of biography is to allow the character to emerge, preferably through their own words. In Housman's case words are frequently laced with rather cynical irony and his omnipresent humour; his words cannot be taken at face value; he is super private and secretive. Close reading and detective work is needed.

I have been fortunate that the Burnett edition increased by a third the number of published letters available to previous biographers.

Additionally I have had sight of the sixteen unpublished letters he wrote to Herbert Foxwell the economist and the more than fifty unpublished Jackson letters acquired by Trinity College Cambridge. These materials have allowed me to produce a portrait of Housman broader and more nuanced than ever before. He emerges as a many-sided man, a master of English prose, a witty and compelling after-dinner speaker, an occasional writer of nonsense verse, a frequenter of the music hall, a lover of foreign travel, a connoisseur of good food and wine and companionable in small groups. In his dealings with others he was frequently generous to a fault, and always on the lookout for humour and fun. He also reveals himself as a man of paradox, irony and wit, inclined to be secretive and sometimes tricky. As a detached and unsentimental observer of human destiny he was a man who commanded attention; he did not waste words. Though his sexual difference was a significant fact of his life the essential nature of his deep attachment to Moses Jackson is essentially unknowable and as much as anything suggested a search for love.

I was struck by the pathos of Housman's life. I admired him for his persona. I respected him for his achievement. I came to like him as a man. Writing about him brought supreme challenges, to expose his psychology, to try and identify what made him tick. One might say Nelson was easy by comparison. I have ended up by seeing both as heroes with Nelson's life being as open to the world as he could make it and Housman's as hidden as he could make it, hence my title *A.E. Housman Hero of The Hidden Life*.

Edgar Vincent



Edgar Vincent read English at Oxford where his tutor was F.C. Horwood (*A.E. Housman Poetry & Prose: A Selection*). After working with ICI for 30 years he wrote his biography of Nelson (*Nelson Love & Fame* published by Yale University Press 2003), shortlisted for the BBC 4 Samuel Johnson Prize for non-fiction, was a New York Times Notable Book, and was named one of Atlantic Monthly's Books of the Year.

Housman Society Members can buy *A.E. Housman: Hero of the Hidden Life* for £18.75/\$26.21 by ordering online at www.boydellandbrewer.com and quoting offer code BB548 when prompted at the checkout. This discount is valid until June 30th 2018. Any queries email marketing@boydell.co.uk

Elizabeth Oakley 1942-2017

We are sad to record the death of Elizabeth Oakley last September. Jim Page shares his memories.

I first met Liz some 30 years ago when she volunteered to be secretary of an ailing Housman Society - a task she naturally carried out with self-effacing efficiency. However after some years she bowed out when she found the demands of her job at Alice Ottley became increasingly time consuming. In 2006 though, we welcomed her back with open arms and during the next 10 years she was responsible for the Society coming to appreciate that the varied talents of Laurence and Clemence Housman were just as worthy of study as those of their more famous brother A.E. Housman.



Liz Oakley with *Housman Society Journal* Editor Alan Holden at the Housman Birthday Commemoration, 26 March 1988

Liz gave talks at Society events, led a memorable weekend in Street, the home of Laurence and Clemence for 30 years, and in producing a beautiful and thoroughly researched book about them - *Inseparable Siblings* - Liz told the story of their radical political activism for the first time.

Her deep knowledge of the women's suffrage movement enabled her to put the lives of Laurence and Clemence Housman into a wider perspective and Society meetings will be the poorer without her thoughtful contributions.

Jim Page

Remaining copies of Liz Oakley's book *Inseparable Siblings* are available to members at just £7.50 including inland postage.

The Housman Society Book Exchange

Let me recount a little tale. A few years ago I attended the funeral of a Society member who had been a regular purchaser through these pages and, during the refreshments that followed, I mentioned to his son that he might consider recycling his father's Housman library through the Book Exchange. I pointed out that there were no up-front charges and the Society asked only for a modest 10% commission on successful sales. But, I heard no more.

About a year later I was searching the antiquarian book websites for Housman material when I came across a listing for a rather scarce volume - one of just 100 copies of the first edition of *For Lucastra, With Rue*, edited by Anthony Rowe, Arrow Books, 1967, - at an asking price of just £3, post free.

It arrived in the post a few days later and my suspicions were confirmed as the book contained the book-plate of our deceased member who had purchased this book through the Book Exchange for a very reasonable £30.

Had this book been recycled through these pages the estate would have received £27 but it is very clear that with the bookseller selling at a fraction above postal costs my old pal's Housman library was just given away.

Moving on to the current listing I am pleased to say that the Book Exchange has been favoured with offering a member's valuable Housman library through these pages, and, such is the quality of this collection, I am listing it in its entirety in the first part of the Sales List. In the second part of the listings you will find other fine and rare Housman volumes, and in the final section some great bargains on more commonplace material.

As always the items offered for sale 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 e-mail at sisley.ladywood@talk21.com

SALES LIST – FEBRUARY 2018

Postage and Packing are additional to the prices quoted.

PART ONE: A HOUSMAN COLLECTION

ALFRED EDWARD HOUSMAN, FELLOW, KENNEDY PROFESSOR OF LATIN. This leaflet headed 'Trinity College' carries the Order of Service for Housman's funeral on the first page, the second and fourth are blank; on the third are printed for the first time the three stanzas beginning *O thou that from thy mansion* which became *More Poems XLVII* under the title *For My Funeral*. One of 300 copies, dated 4th May 1936. Contains the misprint 'Ecclesiasticus', "it was appropriately ironical that misprints should have pursued Housman to the grave" [Carter and Sparrow]. Very rare. Very good indeed. £120

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

BEERSAY (Terence). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. No Publishers imprint, 1936. First edition. 12mo. 8 pages. Red paper covers. Parodies of Housman including 'Loveliest of cheese the Cheddar now'. According to the preface Terence Beersay is a "literary figure of some note who insists on preserving his humble anonymity" and he succeeded in this attempt for over sixty years until unmasked by P.G. Naiditch in the 1999 HSJ. One of 99 copies, Signed by the author. Lovely condition. Very good indeed. £200

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 publication. In fine condition. £145

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. A beautiful set of desirable books. Fine in near fine dust jackets. £200

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 in a slightly dusty cover. £45

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, & Co. Ltd., London, 1896. 12mo. 96 pages. The first edition. Original parchment backed boards, very clean with very minor bumping to top corners. The spine has been professionally rebacked and supplied with a replacement spine label. Internally very clean indeed with no foxing, markings or bookplates – one of the cleanest copies I have ever seen. One of about 350 copies issued in the English first edition. Overall very good indeed. £1950

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Grant Richards, London, 1900. 32mo. 96pp. Green leather. The first pocket edition, the basic format of which was to continue under various Richards' imprints for almost seventy years. The title and author printed in gilt on both the front and rear covers. One of 700 copies of the English edition and easily the rarest of the early Grant Richards editions. Bumping to top and bottom of spine and some wear to edges but still almost very good. Rare, especially in this condition. £150

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Thomas B Mosher, Portland, Maine, 1906. 12mo. 91 pages. Paper covers with yapped edges. This first limited edition *A Shropshire Lad* was printed in the United States on japan vellum in an edition of 50 numbered copies, this being number 10. Spine sunned but still very good. It is extremely rare that a copy is offered to the market; only one copy currently on the internet which is being offered at £575. £200

HOUSMAN (A.E.). LAST POEMS. Grant Richards Limited, London, 1922. First edition. 12mo. 79 pages. Blue cloth in the cream dust jacket. The true first edition with the missing punctuation on page 52 which so annoyed Housman and led to his accusation that bibliophiles were "an idiotic class". Very good in the very good and scarce dust jacket showing minimal wear. £50

HOUSMAN (A.E.). LAST POEMS. The Richards Press Ltd., London, 1928. 12mo. 62 pages. Brown cloth in the cream dust jacket. A presentation copy signed 'from A.E. Housman' on the half-title page. Books signed by Housman are scarce, dedications even more so, but I have never seen a presentation copy such as this. Very good indeed in a torn dust jacket. £750

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. Number 116 of 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. Very good indeed. £180

HOUSMAN (A.E.). THE NAME AND NATURE OF POETRY. Cambridge University Press. 1933. First edition. 51 pages. Brown cloth. The text of the Leslie Stephen lecture which was delivered at Cambridge on the 9th May, 1933. Fine, and still in its tissue dust jacket. £30

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Housman Society will be held at 11.00 am on Saturday 28th April 2018 at The Charlton Arms, Ludlow.

Nominations for election to the Management Committee are invited and any such, with the consent of the nominee, should be received by the General Secretary no later than 7th April 2017. Any resolution for submission to the AGM must be in the hands of the Secretary, with details of proposer and seconder, no later than April 21st.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on April 28th 2017
3. Matters arising
4. General Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report and accounts (copies accompany the Newsletter).
6. Election of officers and committee
7. Any other business.

Max Hunt
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