

# Housman Society Newsletter

## No. 52

### September 2020

## New Housman letters come to light

By Linda Hart

At the end of July, our secretary Max Hunt, who deals with some fairly mundane email inquiries via the Society's website, was amazed when a startling email arrived. A Mr Robert Semple, from Harborne, Birmingham, said that he had been going through the papers of his recently deceased father and had come across a parcel of letters written by A.E. Housman. He was thinking of donating them to the Society, and wanted to know if they would be of any interest to us.

Max told me that receiving this email produced "one of those rare 'hairs on the back of the neck' moments." He replied immediately, via a late-evening phone call to Rob, that elicited more information. There was a cache of some 30 letters written by AEH between 1925 and 1936. They were addressed to Robert's paternal grandfather, W.H. Semple. Many of them dealt with aspects of Semple's research and arrangements for him to have supervision sessions with Housman at Trinity College. The correspondence had continued after Dr Semple gained his first teaching post at Reading University.



Robert Semple hands over the Housman-Semple letters to Max Hunt, Bewdley, 9 August 2020

## From the Secretary's Desk

Max told Rob that the donation would be welcomed but that the safest place for the letters, where they could be read by Housman scholars and enthusiasts, would be Trinity College Library. "I left Rob in no doubt as to the Society's interest. I explained that if he was willing to donate them to us, we would seek to unite them with other Housman letters at Trinity College Library."

Max then did some research. He discovered, from the Housman biography by Richard Perceval Graves, that "only once, in 1926, did Housman supervise a research student, W.H. Semple, who later became Professor of Latin at Manchester University." He also found a short account of Housman's relationship with Semple in our own Journal (1999, no. 25), written by Society member Professor Ian Rogerson. Here he learned that W.H. Semple was in fact Hulme Professor of Classics at Manchester University from 1937 to 1967.

On Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> Robert, with his wife Wendy, brought the letters to Bewdley. I took a photograph of the handover, after which we adjourned to a pub situated appropriately beside the Severn. Robert and Wendy are now Society members!

On Sunday afternoon I helped Max sort the letters into date order; we numbered them, and created a 'handlist' with a short summary of the contents. For both of us there was a real thrill in handling the envelopes, and reading what AEH wrote to a young postgraduate student. The content in many cases was routine but some gems stand out. In a 1932 letter AEH approves Semple's "rejection of Harvard" and his "application for Aberystwyth." But our breaths were taken away with the brief letter, in faint pencil, on letter-head stationery, from The Evelyn Nursing Home, written five weeks before AEH's death.

Max believes this to be an important acquisition and tells me that further articles about the letters will appear in our 2020 Journal.

Six months ago when writing my column for the last Newsletter I had high hopes for our 2020 programme, with the traditional Commemorations plus events in Evesham and Lyme Regis. Within days of publication came the Coronavirus "lockdown" and, sadly, none of it has happened. So, no photograph of the Bailiff of Bromsgrove addressing us in front of the Housman statue and no report of Peter Parker's planned lecture, "Bredon and Other Hills". Peter has kindly agreed to give his talk at next year's Evesham Festival (see Forthcoming Events), if life has by then returned to some semblance of normality.

I'm pleased to report that cancellation of planned gatherings has not meant complete lack of activity. With this issue members will receive their complimentary copy of the revised Shropshire Trail. It had been our intention for some time to produce an updated edition of this tourist guide first issued in 1992. Several weekends in the early spring were devoted to checking the highways and byways of Wenlock Edge and the Clun valley prior to developing new maps and artwork with Ludlow based designer Mark Ansell. We hope that you will like the result in its booklet form. The plan now is to distribute copies around the hotels and tourist attractions of South Shropshire and perhaps raise the profile of Housman and the Society.

In my March column I mentioned early discussions within the Committee about marking the centenary of *Last Poems* in two years' time. I can now announce that central to our plans will be the publication of a special commemorative edition of Housman's second volume of poetry. Under the overall editorial control of Society member Dr John Cartwright, the new centenary edition will have a Foreword by Sir Andrew Motion FRSL (Poet Laureate 1999-2009), an Introduction by Edgar Vincent (author of the 2018 Housman biography), the forty-one verses that comprise *Last Poems*, plus literary commentary on individual poems by Dr Cartwright. With a small number of specially commissioned pen-and-ink drawings we hope the book will have wide appeal not just within the Society but among poetry lovers and bibliophiles more generally. The current plan is for a launch event in Ludlow to

coincide with the usual Commemoration and AGM in April 2022.

Mention of an AGM brings me to the difficulty of cancelling this year's meeting in Ludlow. While I cannot imagine that the Charity Commission is going to be overly worried about the affairs of a small literary society in these unusual times (unprecedented seems to be the prevalent adjective), I would like to have something on the record to legitimise our activities for 2020/21. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 were circulated with the March issue and the list of Committee members for re-election was as follows:

Chairman	Peter Waine
Vice-Chairman	Jane Allsopp
Secretary	Max Hunt
Treasurer	Richard Aust
Newsletter Editor	Julian Hunt
Committee	Pat Tansell
	Jo Slade

Given that the quorum for Society General Meetings is just ten I am going to ask all of you with email access to write to me ([maxhunt468@gmail.com](mailto:maxhunt468@gmail.com)) indicating:-

Approval of the Accounts.  
Endorsement of the composite list of Committee members for 2020/21.

I hope this will be sufficient to keep your Secretary out of gaol until we regularise matters at next year's AGM and it will avoid recourse to the complexities of Zoom! So **PLEASE GET TO YOUR KEYBOARDS** while the thought is in mind.

Max Hunt



The Society visit to Rose Hill, Lyme Regis, has been re-scheduled for 14 July 2021

## Forthcoming Events

(Details and dates provisional depending on Coronavirus restrictions).

Friday --26<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 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 courtesy of Bromsgrove School.  
Guest of the Day will be Jo Slade, the Bailiff of Bromsgrove 2020.

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th April 2021  
St Laurence's, Ludlow  
**LUDLOW ENGLISH SONG WEEKEND**  
Booking through the Assembly Rooms 01584 878141

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 11.00am  
Venue in Ludlow to be determined  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
with a presentation by Julian and Max Hunt on "The Brothers Housman".  
To be followed by lunch at 1.00 pm..

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 3.00pm  
St Laurence's Ludlow  
**LUDLOW COMMEMORATION**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 3.00 pm  
**EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS**  
The Annual Housman Lecture by Peter Parker (author of *Housman Country*)  
"Bredon and Other Hills".  
All Saints Church, Evesham.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
**SUMMER VISIT TO LYME REGIS**  
With staged poetry reading and visits to Rose Hill and local museum  
(see March 2020 Newsletter --- members to arrange own accommodation).



## A.E.H: An Aeronautical Pioneer?

by Max Hunt

Was the reclusive Cambridge Professor of Latin an intrepid aeronautical pioneer? My recent researches into the background to the publication of *Last Poems* (see From the Secretary's Desk) brought the evidence back to mind. In fact this Newsletter coincides with the one hundredth anniversary of Housman's first flight to Paris in September 1920.

The more I read of Housman's correspondence from the 1920s, the more it became clear that he was really enthusiastic about cross-Channel flying at a time when such flights for civilians were new, exciting and potentially dangerous. I've discovered some interesting things while going down a road – or perhaps I should say a runway – that no biographer has explored in any detail.

How did Housman find out about the services that were on offer? What companies did he fly with? Where were the airports, how did he get to them and where did he stay the night before flying? What were conditions like on board the plane (was he served meals?), and how did the on-board experience change during the 15 years that he flew? How long did his flights take, and how did

the pilots navigate in an age before radar? How did crossing the Channel by air change, with the introduction in 1931 of a much larger bi-plane that had four engines?

What was Housman's reaction to a crash on the London-Paris route, shortly before he was due to take his first flight? He told Grant Richards that his "... inclination to go by the Air Express is confirmed by the crash they had yesterday, which will make them careful in the immediate future." It was nice to come across this typical Housman humour. But there was one year when he decided not to fly – and that will be revealed in the article I am writing.

It's been a fascinating journey for me, transferring my interest in the early days of the motor car to the early days of international flight. From Housman's letters I learned about conditions – inside and outside the planes – that AEH sometimes enjoyed and sometimes endured. While exploring *The Times* archives for the 1920s and 1930s, I found some wonderful photos.

I will tell the full story in the *Housman Society Journal* (published later this year), with many images of the sorts of planes Housman flew in.



An Aircraft Transport and Travel flight about to leave Croydon Airport, 1920

What first inspired him to take a flight was probably an advertisement which appeared regularly in *The Times* during the summer of 1920. This advertisement also inspired Linda Hart, who helped with *The Times* archives research, to write a Housmanesque poem. I think it is rather good!

When I was one-and-sixty  
I heard a wise many say,  
"Get on a flight to Paris  
It is the modern way.  
Drop all your work at Cambridge  
A free man you will be."  
As I was one-and-sixty  
This sounded good to me.

When I was one-and-sixty  
The adverts were so clear.  
"Come fly with us to Paris.  
It's safe -- you need not fear.  
The earth spread out before you,  
The sky above so blue."  
Now that I'm two-and-sixty,  
I know 'tis true, 'tis true.

(based on ASL XIII)

**Flights  
over  
London  
from  
£1.1.0**

**London  
to  
Paris  
Service  
2½ hrs.**

**London  
to  
Holland  
Service  
2½ hrs.**

**THE Air Express Service** of the A.T.T., Ltd., is now being carried out with all the reliability and comfort associated with travel by train and boat. Hundreds of passengers are being carried and the time saved is of incalculable benefit. The famous Airco Aeroplanes are used.

**LONDON AND PARIS**  
Service—TWICE DAILY.

**15 Gns. per passenger**

LONDON (dep.) 9.30 a.m.	PARIS (arr.) 11.45 a.m.
" " 4.30 p.m.	" " 6.45 p.m.

Air Express Time 2½ hrs.  
Train and Boat Service, 9 hrs.  
Goods Rates on Application.

**LONDON & HOLLAND**  
Every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY.

**15 Gns. per passenger**

London (dep.) 10 a.m.	Amsterdam (arr.) 12.45 p.m.
" " " "	The Hague " 3.21 "
" " " "	Rotterdam " 3.54 "

Air Express Time, 2 hrs. 45 min.  
Train and Boat Service, 2½ hrs.  
Goods Rates on Application.

**Pleasure Trips and Flights  
over LONDON**

ALL FLIGHTS  
START FROM  
**CROYDON  
AERODROME**

DAILY Flights are made over London (Minimum Tariff, £1 1s. 0d.) and trips to Brighton, Bournemouth, Blackpool, Cornwall, and all pleasure and health resorts arranged at short notice. 'Phone Regent 930 or write A.T.T., Ltd.

**BY AIR TO ANYWHERE**  
**1/6 per mile 1/6**  
per passenger.

WRITE AT ONCE for ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET  
Post Free on Application.

AIRCRAFT TRANSPORT & TRAVEL LTD

27 PALE MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.  
PARIS: 25, RUE ROYALE. Telephone: Elysées 26-71.

## Talk on Perry Hall

The 10<sup>th</sup> Bromsgrove Summer School, due to be held at Bromsgrove School on 7-9 July, should, as usual, have included a course with a Housman theme. This year Julian Hunt intended to trace the history of Perry Hall, perhaps the most prestigious house in Bromsgrove and the home of the Housman family from 1859-1894. As the national crisis unfolded, it became clear that the Summer School could not go ahead in its traditional format, so the Bromsgrove Society instead offered three Summer Talks, delivered on Zoom on successive Wednesday afternoons in July. Julian's course on Perry Hall was edited down to a 45 minute Zoom talk, and was delivered on 1 July to over 60 Bromsgrove Society members and friends in their own homes. The other talks were *FamilyHistory in Buckinghamshire*, given on 8 July by Mike Sharpe, Chairman of the Bromsgrove branch of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, and the *Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Arts*, by Quintin

Watt, on 15 July. Quintin's talk attracted an audience of 90.

Julian began his talk with the Lowe family of Halesowen and Bromsgrove who lived at Perry Hall for much of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Roger Lowe of Perry Hall had the church bells rung in support of Charles I in 1642 and contributed horses and £400 of his own money to the cause. His estate worth £1,000 was sequestrated by the victorious Parliamentarians but his widow Francis was still contesting the fine in 1651. The next owner, Humphrey Lowe, went to live in Coventry, leasing Perry Hall to Leonard Simpson, who was assessed for 7 fire-places in the hearth tax of 1666. Lowe and Simpson were executors of John Barnsley of Barnsley Hall in Bromsgrove, who, by the time of his death, was so indebted to them that Barnsley Hall became part of the Lowe estate in Bromsgrove. In his will, proved in 1684,

Humphrey Lowe left his daughter Margaret £2,000 on condition that she did not marry Simpson's son William. Humphrey's son Thomas Lowe leased Chadwich Manor, situated on the northern boundary of Bromsgrove, and built a new house there in 1706, further extending the Lowe empire.

In 1756, another Humphry Lowe sold Perry Hall and Barnsley Hall to Edward Knight of Wolverley, ironmaster, the proprietor of many furnaces and forges on the River Stour. Knight also bought Bromsgrove's manorial corn mill, which stood at the junction of Battlefield Brook and Spadesbourne Brook, just a few hundred yards south of Perry Hall. Knight let Perry Hall to Benjamin Humphrys of Bromsgrove, linen manufacturer. He later let the mill to John Watson of Preston, cotton manufacturer, whose introduction of Arkwright's 'water frames' had caused riots in Lancashire. The former corn mill became known as the 'Cotton Mill' and from 1790, it was operated by John Adams, who used the water frames to spin worsted yarn for the hosiers of Leicester. When Humphrys's daughter in law Susannah Humphrys died in 1817, John Adams was able to move into Perry Hall. Adams bought the freehold of the house in 1819 and lived there until his death in 1858. John Adams is well known to Housman biographers as the brother in law of the Rev. Robert Housman, and benefactor to Housman's three sons, John, William and Thomas Housman. The Housman boys must have been regular visitors to Perry Hall and at least one of them attended Bromsgrove School. The youngest nephew, Thomas, became the first incumbent of the new church at Catshill in Bromsgrove, built in 1838.

There is great debate as to the origin of the picturesque brick and stone 'ruins' in the garden of Perry Hall. The 1819 deed stated that the old Perry Hall had been 'taken down' and makes it clear that it was the former 'Homestall Farm' which was conveyed. The plan on the deed shows a building on the exact footprint of the present Perry Hall but shows no other structure which might have remained from the old hall. Adams later erected a 'long building' near Perry Hal in



The picturesque ruins at Perry Hall after the recent removal of ivy and repairs to the brickwork.

which he manufactured extract of indigo. This may have been on the site of the old hall and have been made less obtrusive by a facade resembling an old mansion.

The 'ruin' may, however, have more to do with the vinery built by Edward Housman, son of the Rev. Thomas Housman, who moved into Perry Hall in 1859, along with his wife Sarah Jane and their infant son, Alfred Edward. The 90ft heated vinery is described in the 1875 sale particulars of Perry Hall and it is shown as having a glazed roof on the 120 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of 1883. The vinery remained a feature in the garden of Perry Hall well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is visible on an old colour postcard showing a group playing tennis in the garden. This dates from the time when Perry Hall was owned by the family of Dr Julius Beilby.

After the death of Beilby's widow Catherine, Perry Hall became a country club and hotel. In 2006 the house and the hotel annex were reopened as living accommodation for sixth-form students, and the building was renamed 'Housman Hall.' Several Housman Society events were held at Housman Hall and the first Bromsgrove Summer School was held there in 2011. The ivy which had been a feature of Perry Hall and the 'ruin' for over 100 years has recently been removed from the house, revealing the original 18<sup>th</sup> century brickwork.

A more detailed account of Perry Hall will appear in the 2020 *Housman Society Journal*.



## Housman Society Book Exchange

In my free time allowed by the lockdown I have been visited by the Muse.

‘COMETH THE HOUR’

Housman edited Ovid  
And translated Horace,  
But the problems of Covid  
Have fallen on Boris.

Back in early February when I last sat down at my desk to prepare the pages for the *Housman Society Book Exchange* the words ‘covid’ and ‘coronavirus’ were only something that we had vaguely heard on the news or read about in the papers— something with flu-like symptoms, we were told - which certainly did not adequately prepare us for what was to come. By the time that the Newsletters were dropping through letterboxes in Britain, North America and various scattered outposts of the English-speaking world everyone was fully versed in the workings of a global pandemic.

Now if you must be in a state of lockdown there are certainly worse places to be than in my little rural haven of Housman’s South Shropshire, surrounded by a few equines, dogs, chickens and ducks. And I must admit that, in the main, our activities in the lockdown were little different from our usual retired lifestyle. True, there was the initially surreal experience of buying a bottle of milk and a newspaper from the local Post Office and being served by a gloved, masked and visored Postmaster. The monthly supermarket shop also presented new experiences: some, like the one-way system and the two-metre floor-markings were sensible and useful, and some, like the rationing of wine – 3 bottles per person – hurtful and worrying, but, fear not, pro-active attention to this little problem saved the day.

But it was with the Housman Society Book Exchange where I experienced the greatest changes and, shall we say, where social distancing was most strictly observed. Invariably after a Newsletter posting there is a flurry of activity for the first couple of weeks, with collectors vying with each other to snap up a long-searched-for

volume or other rarity. But the phone did not ring, the postman did not call, the email inbox remained empty – even the spammers took a holiday. It was like *The Day of the Triffids* with everyone holed-up and just concentrating on survival. Ultimately four books were sold in the half-year, but there was virtually no interaction with the membership, no enquiries about taking over collections, no exhortations to keep an eye open for this or that, no emails commencing “did I realise?....”, and with the Auction Houses being closed, and then only virtually-open, there have been no opportunities for the Book Exchange to obtain new stock. Thus what you see below you have seen before; but I have concentrated on preparing a full and interesting listing of attractive and collectable volumes and it may be that, after the most remarkable six months that most of us will have seen, you will agree with me that the best place to stay safe is in one’s own library.

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

## Sales List – September 2020

Postage and Packing are additional to the prices quoted.

ALLSOPP (Jane). THE LAND OF LOST CONTENT. Shropshire Books, Shrewsbury, 1995. 8vo. 104 pages. A description of the Shropshire landscape and villages interspersed with Housman’s poetry. Beautifully written and delightfully illustrated. Photographic covers. Very good. £10

ASQUITH (Cyril). VERSIONS FROM ‘A SHROPSHIRE LAD’. Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1929. First edition. 12mo. 31 pages. Translations into Latin of twelve lyrics from A Shropshire Lad with the English original on the opposite page. Paper covers but with the front cover missing. Very clean. Extremely rare. £50

BAYLEY (John). HOUSMAN'S POEMS. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1992. First edition. 8vo. 202 pages. Blue cloth. A critical appraisal of Housman's Poetry. Fine in a similar dust jacket. £25

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 56 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

BROWNE (Piers). AN ELEGY IN ARCADIA. Ashford, Southampton, 1990. Second edition. 8vo. 164 pages. Black cloth in the dust jacket. Written four years after his sumptuous limited edition of A Shropshire Lad this book examines Housman's poetry from the perspective of the artist. Very good. £10

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. £20

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. Very good. £30

CARTER (John) [editor]. A.E. HOUSMAN. SELECTED PROSE. Cambridge at the University Press, 1961. First edition. 12mo. 204 pages. Black cloth. Fine with a very good dust jacket. £25

CARTER (John) [editor]. THE CONFINES OF CRITICISM. Cambridge University Press, 1969. First edition. 12mo. 54pp. Yellow cloth. The text of Housman's 1911 Cambridge Inaugural lecture with notes by John Carter. Fine in a fine dust jacket. £25

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. £15

CLUCAS (Humphrey). THROUGH TIME AND PLACE TO ROAM. University of Salzburg, 1995. First edition. 8vo. 67 pages. Softcover. Nine essays on Housman. Very good indeed. £10

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 and desirable set of books. £160

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. Very good in similar jacket. Signed by the author. £10

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 in the green dust jacket. The first attempt at unravelling the notebook fragments. Very good in similar dust jacket. £25

HABER (Tom Burns). THE MAKING OF A SHROPSHIRE LAD. A MANUSCRIPT VARORIOM. Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1966. First edition. 8vo. 204pp. Black cloth in cream dust jacket. Haber returns to the manuscript fragments. Fine in a fine dust jacket. £25

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. £45



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. £25

HOUSMAN (A.E.) [contributes]. THE QUARTO. A  
VOLUME ARTISTIC, LITERARY AND MUSICAL,  
VOLUME III. J.S. Virtue & Co., 1897. First edition.  
4to. 97 pages. Pale blue-green paper boards. On page  
95 is the first printing of Diffugere Nives ('The snows  
are fled away, leaves on the shaws'). [This is  
Housman's only translation from the Latin – Horace,  
*Odes*, IV, 7.]. The covers bear some bumps and minor  
wounds from the last 120 years but the book internally  
is very good. Rare. £45

HOUSMAN (A.E.). D. IVNII IVVENALIS  
SATVRAE. E. Grant Richards, London, 1905. First  
edition. 8vo. 36 pages of preface are followed by 146  
pages of text. Original boards showing some wear and  
missing the paper spine label. Spine fragile. Internally  
very clean. An extremely rare volume. Good. £80

HOUSMAN (A.E.). M. MANILII ASTRONOMICON  
LIBER SECVNDVS. Grant Richards Ltd., London,  
1912. First edition. 8vo. 31 pages of introduction  
followed by 123 pages of text. Original blue boards  
with paper spine label. Extremely rare. Very good.  
£100

HOUSMAN (A.E.). LAST POEMS. Grant Richards  
Limited, London, 1922. First edition. 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.). D. IVNII IVVENALIS  
SATVRAE. Cambridge University Press, 1931.  
Second edition. 146 pages. Red cloth. Contains the  
preface to the 1905 edition together with the preface of  
the corrected edition. Previous owner's bookplate.  
Very good, missing the dust jacket. £45

HOUSMAN (A.E.). M. MANILII ASTRONOMICA.  
EDITIO MINOR. Cambridge University Press, 1932.  
8vo. First edition. 8vo. xiv. 181pp. Blue cloth missing  
the dust jacket. A sharp and clean copy. Very good.  
£50

HOUSMAN (A.E.). MORE POEMS. Jonathan Cape,  
London, 1936. The limited edition. Number 37 of 379  
copies. 8vo. 71 pages. Quarter leather, marbled  
endpapers, top edge gilt. Contains a manuscript  
facsimile of *Tarry, delight, so seldom met*, not  
included in the trade edition. An excellent copy of this  
rare edition in a very good undamaged dust jacket.  
£150

HOUSMAN (A.E.). INTRODUCTORY LECTURE  
1892. Cambridge at the University Press, 1937. First  
trade edition. 42 pages. Blue cloth. With an  
introductory note by A.S.F. Gow this is the text of  
Housman's lecture at University College on 3<sup>rd</sup>  
October, 1892. Fine but for bookplates in a very good  
dust jacket. £20

HOUSMAN (A.E.). MANILII ASTRONOMICON.  
LIBER I. Cambridge University Press, 1937. Reprint.  
125 pages plus 75 pages of introduction. Brown cloth  
in the dust jacket. Very good indeed. £35

HOUSMAN (A.E.). MANILII ASTRONOMICON.  
LIBER III. Cambridge University Press, 1937. Reprint.  
78 pages plus 28 pages of introduction. Brown cloth  
missing the dust jacket. Very good indeed. £15

HOUSMAN (A.E.). MANILII ASTRONOMICON.  
LIBER IV. Cambridge University Press, 1937.  
Reprint. 142 pages plus 18 pages of introduction.  
Brown cloth missing the dust jacket. Very good. £15

HOUSMAN (A.E.). D. IVNII IVVENALIS  
SATVRAE. Cambridge University Press, 1938. Third  
edition. 8vo. 146 pages. Red cloth missing the dust  
jacket. Contains the preface to the 1905 edition  
together with the preface of the corrected edition.  
Some foxing to preliminaries, hence good. £30

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. £40

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A MORNING WITH THE  
ROYAL FAMILY. Privately printed at Christmas  
1955. 12mo. 16 pages. Cream Paper covers. Very  
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Chantry Press, Leominster, 1991. 8vo. Unpaginated.  
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50 copies. Fine, with the book-plate of noted Housman  
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HOUSMAN (A.E.). BIRCH (R) [editor]. UNKIND TO UNICORNS. Silent Books, Cambridge, 1995. First edition. 8vo. 47 pages. Brown cloth. Illustrated by David Harris and with an introduction by Norman Page. The hardback limited edition of 150 copies. Fine £30

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Merlin Unwin, Ludlow, 2009. With photographs by Gareth B. Thomas and an introduction by Christopher Ricks. First edition thus. 4to. 116 pages. Cloth in the dust jacket. Signed by Gareth B. Thomas. In mint condition. A beautiful volume. £10

HOUSMAN (Laurence) [contributes]. ENCOUNTER MAGAZINE. VOLUME XXIX No.4. Continental Publishers, London, 1967. 8vo. 96pp. Paper covers. On pages 33-41 is printed for the first time A.E. Housman's 'De Amicitia', annotated by John Carter. Very good indeed. £25

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. £80

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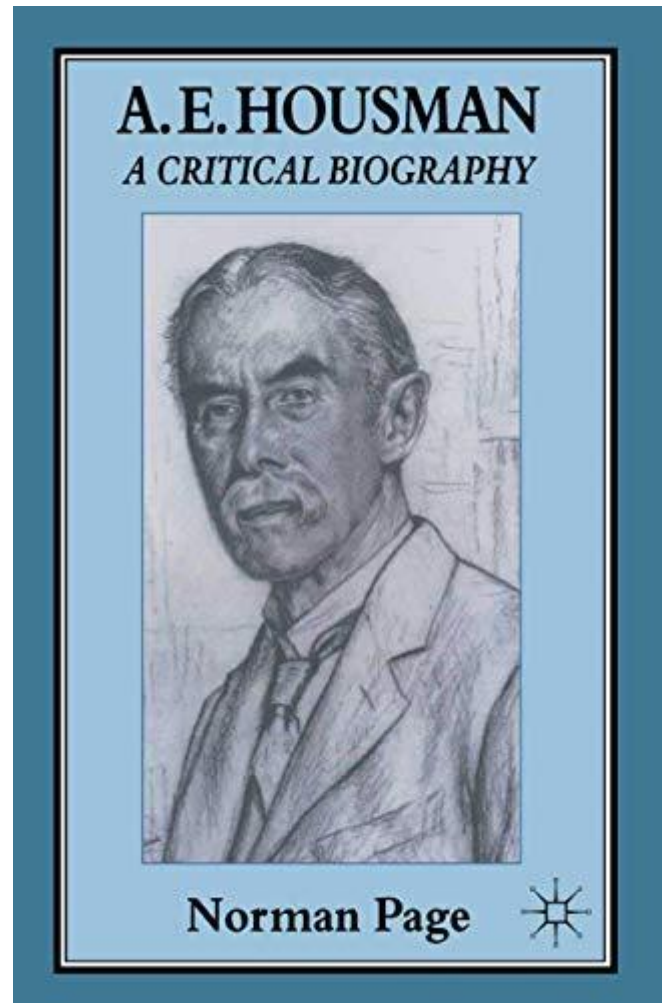
JEBB (Keith). A.E. HOUSMAN. Seren Books, Bridgend, 1992. First edition. 8vo. 147 pages. Green cloth in dust jacket. The most recent biography of Housman. Fine in a similar dust jacket. £10

LEGGETT (B.J.). HOUSMAN'S LAND OF LOST CONTENT. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 1970. First edition. 8vo. 160 pages. Green cloth. A critical study of A Shropshire Lad. Fine in similar dust jacket. £30

LEGGETT (B.J.). THE POETIC ART OF A.E. HOUSMAN. University of Nebraska Press, 1978. First edition. 8vo. 161pp. Dark Green cloth. A study of the theory of Housman's poetry. Fine in a very good dust jacket. £25

NAIDITCH (P.G.). A.E. HOUSMAN AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. THE ELECTION OF 1892. E.J. Brill, Leiden, 1988. First edition. 261 pages. Soft covers. A monumental work. Essential reading and now scarce. A fine copy. £50

PAGE (Norman). A.E. HOUSMAN – A CRITICAL BIOGRAPHY. Macmillan Press Limited, London, 1983. First edition. 8vo. 236 pages. Cloth. Beautifully written biography. Very good in similar dust jacket. £10



PARKER (Peter). HOUSMAN COUNTRY: INTO THE HEART OF ENGLAND. Little, Brown; London, 2016. First edition. 8vo. 446 pages plus a printing of *A Shropshire Lad*. Black cloth in the dust jacket. An investigation into the life of Housman and his famous book. Mint condition. £15

PLATT (Arthur). NINE ESSAYS. Cambridge at the University Press, 1927. First edition. 220 pages. Red cloth. Housman not only supplied the seven-page preface but also managed the progress of the book through the press. Very good indeed, missing the dust jacket as usual. £20

PUGH (John). BROMSGROVE AND THE HOUSMANS. The Housman Society, Bromsgrove, 1974. 178 pages plus 84 pages of appendix. First edition Number 47 of 100 copies signed by the author. Mint in mint dust jacket. £50

ROBERTS (S.C.). THE FAMILY: THE HISTORY OF A DINING CLUB. Printed for the Club, Cambridge, 1963. First edition. 8vo. 34pages. Brown cloth. An unread copy. Housman was a member of the Family from 1919 until his death. Fine. £10

ROME (G.E.) [collected by]. TRAVAILS WITH A SKELETON. Outpost Publications, Walton on Thames, 1975. First edition, 8vo. 16 pages. Paper covers. A book of parodies. From the introduction; 'But now let the reader open for himself this repository of precious remains and decipher, if he can, the message of its contents.' Fine. £15

SKUTSCH (Otto). ALFRED EDWARD HOUSMAN 1859 – 1936. The University of London, The Athlone Press, 1960. First edition. 14pp. Blue paper wrappers. The text of an address delivered at University College to celebrate the anniversary of Housman's birth. Very good. £10

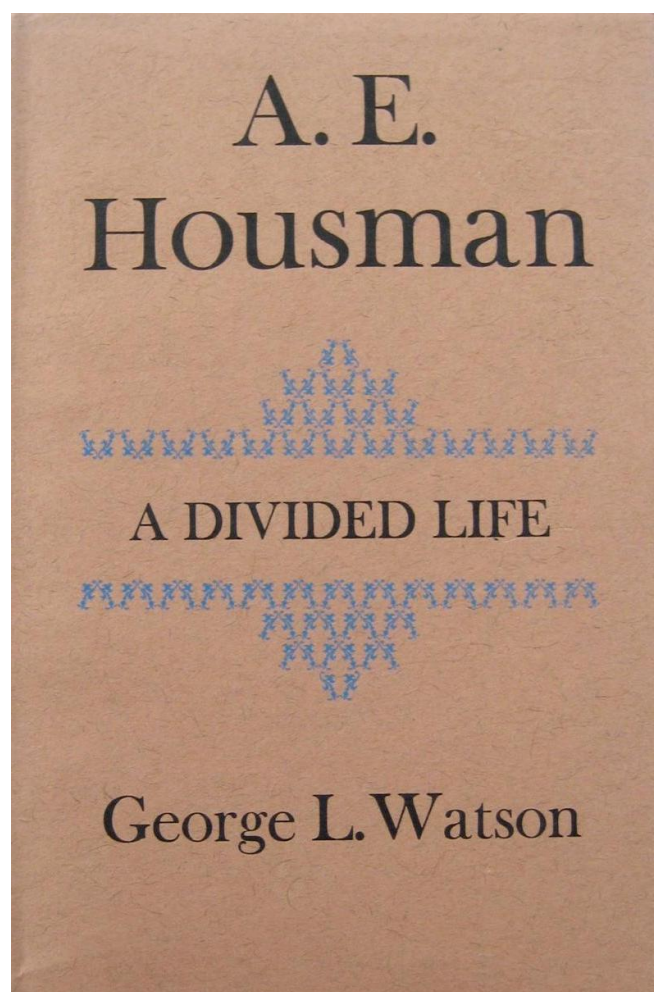
SYMONS (Katharine E.), POLLARD (A.W.), HOUSMAN (Laurence), CHAMBERS (R.W.), KER (Alan), GOW (A.S.F.), SPARROW (John) and SYMONS (N.V.H.). ALFRED EDWARD HOUSMAN. Bromsgrove School, 1936. First edition. 4to. 65 pages. The true first edition. Number 211 of 250 copies. Card covers with deckled edges. The Housman Memorial supplement of the 'Bromsgrovian'. Externally very good indeed and internally fine; almost certainly never read. An excellent example of a notoriously fragile publication. £60

SYMONS (Katharine E.), POLLARD (A.W.), HOUSMAN (Laurence), CHAMBERS (R.W.), KER (Alan), GOW (A.S.F.), SPARROW (John) and SYMONS (N.V.H.). ALFRED EDWARD HOUSMAN. Bromsgrove School, 1936. First trade edition. 4to. 60 pages. Green cloth. Limited to 500 copies. Fine. £20

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. Fine in a similar dust jacket. £15.

WITHERS (Percy). A BURIED LIFE. Jonathan Cape, London, 1940. First edition. 8vo. 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. A notoriously difficult book to acquire. A presentation copy signed by the author. £40

ZEITLIN & VER BRUGGE. A.E. HOUSMAN. WINTER CATALOGUE 1983. Zeitlin & Ver Brugge, Los Angeles, 1983. 4to. Unpaginated. Card covers. This catalogue of 203 items is packed with interest for Housman enthusiasts. Fine. £20



## Stop Press

I have always known that the thrill of collecting is enhanced by the knowledge that one never knows what is just around the corner, and when, or even if, that corner will be reached. And thus, just as the Newsletter was being transmitted to the printer, I received an email message confirming the transfer of some most



interesting material to the Society Book Exchange and I felt that, given the despondency apparent in my opening remarks, it would be beneficial to get this material into the September offering. Such are our time-constraints I have made the decision to use the consigner's description of the condition of these items in this notification, but if on examination I disagree with those ratings I will amend the prices accordingly. Given the rarity and desirability of many items on this short list I would recommend that all parties should act with haste in securing items of interest.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. £100

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 100 copies that the University rushed out correcting the misprint in the first printing and consequently is even rarer than the previous item. Scattered foxing but virtually unobtainable. £75

SYMONS (Mrs E.W.) [contributes]. The EDWARDIAN. VOLUME 17. Number 6. 8vo. 36pp. Kind Edward's School, Bath, 1936. An article by Housman's sister, Kate Symons, 'Memories of A.E.H' is printed on pages 163-170. Apart from the title it is identical to the more easily-found offprint 'Memories of A.E. Housman.' £25

GOW (A.S.F.). A.E. HOUSMAN. First edition. 8vo. 8pp. Paper covers. Reprinted from *The Cambridge Review*, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1936. A.S.F. Gow's obituary notice of Housman is here reprinted as an offprint, signed with the initials A.S.F.G. and headed, in print, 'from the writer'. Gow writes delightfully upon his subject: "It is probable that none of those who knew him best in Cambridge would claim to have known him intimately or to have wholly understood him." £30

GOW (A.S.F.). A.E. HOUSMAN AT OXFORD. First edition. 12mo. 8pp. Paper covers. Reprinted from *The Oxford Magazine*, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1937. This offprint

from the magazine is headed, in print, 'from the writer' and signed A.S.F.G., and concerns Housman's failure in Greats including details of a controversy between Herbert Millington and a correspondent of the *Journal of Education* who, according to Gow, had the best of the argument. £30

SYMONS (Mrs E.W.). MEMORIES OF A.E. HOUSMAN. From the magazine of King Edward's School, Bath, *The Edwardian*, Volume 17, Number 3, September 1936. 8vo. 8pp. Stapled paper wrappers. Printed by J. Grant Melliish, Bath. An offprint from the magazine containing seven of Housman's light verses. £20

SYMONS (Mrs E.W.). MORE MEMORIES of A.E.H. Reprinted from *The Edwardian Magazine*, Bath, December 1936. 8vo. 4pp. Stapled paper wrappers. An offprint from the magazine. Contains two more examples of Housman's comic verse, *Heliogabalus* and *The Force of Habit*. £20

GOW (A.S.F.). A.E. HOUSMAN. A LIST OF ADVERSARIA, ETC. First edition. 8vo. 12pp. Grey paper wrappers. Cambridge University Press, 1926. One of 100 copies. Printed by Gow for a few friends - Ernest Harrison, D.S. Robertson and A.F. Scholfield - this listing was expanded in his 1936 'Sketch' of Housman. Extremely rare. £100

HOUSMAN (A.E.). THREE POEMS: THE PARALLELOGRAM, THE AMPHISBAENA, THE CROCODILE. First edition. 8vo. 12pp. Blue card covers. London, University College, 1935. Privately printed at the Department of English at the University. One of fifty copies. £100

## Wants List

The Book Exchange is always very interested in acquiring Housman books, letters, manuscripts and ephemera.

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](mailto:sisley.ladywood@talk21.com).

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 2021 and contributions should be sent to the Editor at [julianmhunt@btinternet.com](mailto:julianmhunt@btinternet.com) by the middle of January.