



# Housman Society Newsletter

## No. 56

## September 2022

### From the Secretary's Desk

The Society's first Newsletter was posted out to members in 1974 just months after the inaugural event at Bromsgrove School in April 1973. As we now approach the fiftieth anniversary, issue number 56 reports on another busy and successful year. Most of our activity has been centred around the publication and launch of the centenary edition of *Last Poems* which, I am pleased to say, has enjoyed several positive reviews and is selling well. On the face of it then, a good year for the Society. Yet, as we prepare to mark our half-century, I can find little cause for optimism. With the further depletion of the Committee on the impending retirement of our Treasurer, Richard Aust, we face the prospect of ceasing to be viable as a Society in our present form. With no Membership Secretary to post out the Newsletter, no-one looking after book and card sales and now, potentially, no Treasurer, the Committee will have to confront some difficult realities in 2023. If there are members out there interested in helping to keep the Society going, I would be very pleased to hear from them either by email [maxhunt468@gmail.com](mailto:maxhunt468@gmail.com) or by phone 07971 221591.

### More Housman Letters

Following hot on the heels of the recently-discovered letters of A.E. Housman to William Semple, another batch of Housman letters has come to light. Christine Walters, who lives in Crouch End, London, has offered the Society a collection of photographs and papers once owned by Laurence Housman. Included are several letters from A.E. Housman to members of his family not recorded in Archie Burnett's *Letters of A.E. Housman*, published in 2007. Christine brought the collection to Highgate Institute in April, when Housman Society member, Robert Cunning, was exhibiting his paintings in an exhibition entitled "Shropshire in Highgate." That day, the Highgate Institute's Librarian produced an unsigned letter, thought to be from A.E. Housman, declining an

invitation to attend a lecture in 1929. When the letter was compared with those in Christine's folder, it was clearly written by the same hand. After leaving the exhibition, your Editor accompanied Christine to nearby Byron Cottage where A.E. Housman wrote *A Shropshire Lad*. Transcripts of the new Housman letters will appear in the *Housman Society Journal* later this year.



Christine Walters handing the Housman papers to Society Archivist, Julian Hunt

**Housman Society 2022 AGM in Ludlow**  
The Housman Society AGM was held at the Cliffe Hotel, Ludlow on 23 April. The meeting was chaired by our Chairman, Peter Waine. Max Hunt, reading the report of Richard Aust, who is resigning as Treasurer after five years in the role, reported that the Society's finances were sound. John Cartwright, a Ludlow member and the author

of the commentaries for the centenary edition of *Last Poems*, agreed to join the committee. After the AGM, Linda Hart and Max Hunt gave a 25-minute presentation of Housman's correspondence with his publisher in the 18 months leading up to the publication of *Last Poems* in October 1922. This was followed by the official launch of the centenary edition of *Last Poems*.

After lunch at the Cliffe Hotel, members made their way up the hill to the centre of the town where the customary commemoration of the death of A.E. Housman was held at St Laurence's Church. Later in the day there was another book-launch, this time for the public, hosted by Stanton Stephens, proprietor of the Castle Bookshop, Ludlow. Whilst we enjoyed glasses of wine in the garden behind the bookshop, John Cartwright explained how he had compiled the commentaries in the centenary edition of *Last Poems*.

### **Evesham Festival of Words**

The annual Housman Lecture was held at Evesham on 2 July 2022 as part of the Evesham Festival of Words. In the morning, at the Friends Meeting House, Linda Hart and Max Hunt gave a very enjoyable presentation entitled "Poems of the Sea." This was a revised version of their two-hander, first aired at the cliff-top Alexandra Hotel in Lyme Regis, during the Housman Society visit to the town in 2021. After lunch, several Housman Society members joined a walk to the Evesham Abbey site where the latest archaeological discoveries were revealed. In the afternoon, Gregory Leadbetter, Professor of Poetry at Birmingham City University, delivered the 2022 Housman Lecture, again at the Friends Meeting House. His talk was entitled "Hail and Farewell: Leaving, Greeting, and Lasting in Housman's Last Poems," and was very warmly applauded. Gregory has the happy knack of imparting information to an audience as if confiding in an old friend. The full text of his paper will appear in the *Housman Society Journal* in December.

### **Letter to the Editor**

*The Guardian* of 15 April 2022 included a letter (reprinted below) from the Secretary of the Housman Society under the headline: "T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* has been getting a lot of media coverage, but there is another poem whose work is still relevant."

While the world marks the centenary of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* (Editorial, 13 April) we forget that more attention was given at the time to a collection by a very different poet. As Nick Rennison says in his book titled *1922: Scenes from a Turbulent Year*, for poetry lovers "the great event" of October that year was the publication of A.E. Housman's *Last Poems*.

Twenty-six years after the appearance of *A Shropshire Lad*, the new collection attracted widespread critical acclaim. For J.C. Squire, writing in *The Observer*, the 41 poems contained "scarcely a line which is not perfectly musical, scarcely a word which is not accurate and necessary".

Sir Andrew Motion, in his foreword to the Housman Society's commemorative edition, identifies themes shared with the Modernists, but which are also revealed in the "self-conscious beauty" of both phrase and cadence. Housman's *Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries* speaks as clearly in 2022 as it did a hundred years ago.

Max Hunt,  
Secretary, The Housman Society

### **The Times Literary Supplement**

A review of the Society's centenary edition of *Last Poems*, written by N.S. Thompson, was published in the *Times Literary Supplement* on 2 July 2022 under the headline "Houseroom for Housman". As a result of this newspaper publicity, the two book-launches in Ludlow and exposure at the Evesham Festival of Words, over 100 copies of the book (as of mid-August) have been sold, and 40 copies are in bookshops on a sale or return basis.

Members who have not yet purchased a copy of the centenary edition of *Last Poems* are reminded that they can still order the book via the Housman Society website (or by writing to Max Hunt, Abberley Cottage, 7 Dowles Road, Bewdley DY12 2EJ) at the reduced price of £10.00 plus £2.00 postage in the U.K.

## Book-launch in Bromsgrove

An event to publicise the centenary edition of *Last Poems* is to be held at Bromsgrove Library on Friday 9 September. This is a joint enterprise of the Housman Society and the Bromsgrove Society, with free drinks and nibbles served from 6.00pm. Julian Hunt will commence proceedings with a brief biography of A.E. Housman. Linda Hart and Max Hunt will then repeat their Ludlow presentation of Housman's letters to his publisher, Grant Richards, in the months leading up to the publication of *Last Poems*, almost exactly a century ago. Then local poet Anna Dear will read a selection from *Last Poems*. This is a good opportunity for members who could not get to Ludlow or to Evesham or who will not be able to go to Cambridge in October, to enjoy the presentation and meet local Housman enthusiasts. It is hoped that Professor David Sider, one of the U.S.'s leading classicists, who is in England conducting research, will be visiting sites around Bromsgrove linked to the Housman family and will be attending the event.

## Housman Symposium at Cambridge

Housman Society members are also invited to a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Last Poems* to be held at Trinity College, Cambridge, on 22 October 2022. The original manuscript of *Last Poems* will be on display at The Fitzwilliam Museum (a short walk from Trinity College) from 11.00 a.m. After lunch at Cambridge restaurants of each member's choice, Nicolas Bell, Trinity librarian, will introduce the items that he will put on display in the Wren Library, including the letters from A.E. Housman to William Semple. At 2.00 the symposium, chaired by the Housman Society Chairman, Peter Waine, will begin in a lecture hall in Trinity College.

Linda Hart and Max Hunt will give their third presentation of Housman's letters to his publisher in the months leading up to the publication of *Last Poems*. Dr Kieron Winn will explore the relationship between Housman's themes in *Last Poems* and the new literary world of the Modernists in the 1920s, with particular reference to T.S. Eliot and *The Waste Land*. His colleague Dr Amanda Holden will read from the poems he discusses in his talk. Dr Chris Stray will describe Trinity College in the 1920s, and what life was like for Housman at that time. Professor Gregory Leadbetter will discuss the place of *Last Poems* in

twentieth-century poetry. Dr John Cartwright, who wrote the commentaries in the centenary edition of *Last Poems*, will discuss three or four of the poems.

There will be an opportunity for questions after each presentation, a break for tea, and a discussion period at the end of the day (from 4.30 to 5.00). Members who wish to attend the symposium should let the secretary know by emailing maxhunt468@gmail.com or writing to Max Hunt, Abberley Cottage, 7 Dowles Road, Bewdley DY12 2EJ

## Book Review

by Linda Hart

*The Feathers Hotel – Ludlow* by John Richard Hodges, 94pp, B&W photos throughout plus a 24-page section of colour photos, paperback, £14.95.

The Feathers Hotel is almost synonymous with Ludlow. I've mentioned Ludlow to friends or strangers over the years, and they instantly recall "that magnificent half-timbered hotel with the balcony"; or "the beautiful lounge at the Feathers, with ancient wood carving on the walls and ceiling."

Perhaps some readers will remember the Society's rather grand Ludlow Commemorations at the end of April. They included a procession of members and dignitaries heading to St Laurence's Church for a wreath-laying, readings of some Housman poems by the north wall, and then a choral service. In the 1990s the event was always preceded by a lunch at the Feathers Hotel. Jim Page reported on the event when he introduced each year's *Journal*. In 1993, for example, he said that at the Ludlow Commemoration there was a "good gathering for lunch and the Feathers Hotel makes a splendid venue for it." In 1994 the Feathers "provided an excellent buffet lunch" followed by Evensong at 3.00 p.m. at St Laurence's. In 1995 he noted that by "taking the upstairs room at the Feathers, the lunch became an even more congenial occasion." However, in 2000 Jim reported that "the thirteenth-century Feathers Hotel has been a most congenial venue for these gatherings since the demise of the Angel Hotel in 1991, but it is sad to report that, since the Hotel ceased to be privately

owned and became part of a large group several years ago, standards have declined alarmingly and the committee has decided to move next year to the Assembly Rooms in Mill Street.” We learn from Jim in the following year that the Assembly Rooms worked well but “the building does not have the ambience of the Feathers Hotel.” In 2013, on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society, Jim reminded members that the Ludlow Commemoration “began in 1977 and from the beginning had the support of the Town Council, whose retinue carried their incredibly valuable silver maces at the head of the procession through the town.”

The close association between the Feathers Hotel and Ludlow is confirmed in a new book titled *The Feathers Hotel – Ludlow* by John Hodges. The first half of the book is actually about the history of Ludlow and its royal connections, while the second half is about the Feathers. The book is a useful and accessible introduction to Ludlow, which began as a Norman frontier town, and its role in Anglo-Welsh history. It became increasingly important with the formation and functioning of ‘The Council in the Marches of Wales’. The Council was an outpost of royal administration from the mid-15<sup>th</sup> to mid-17<sup>th</sup> centuries – a sort of regional government that kept control and meted out justice in Wales and five border counties. It was established in 1472 with headquarters at Ludlow Castle which, as John Hodges rightly says, is “one of the finest Norman castles that William [the Conqueror] ordered to be built to defend his new kingdom.” The castle had been strategically built on a promontory overlooking the River Teme, and the town grew up around it. (I’m often told about the apocryphal American visitor who said “how convenient that Ludlow castle was built so near to the shops and cafes.”)

It is not until chapter 4 that the reader arrives at two chapters on The Feathers Hotel (pp 53-92). It was probably built in 1603 (Pevsner), and then modified in 1619 as a home for Rees Jones, an attorney from Pembrokeshire who moved to Ludlow to work for the Council of the Marches. In 1670 it became an inn, and took its name from the fact that ostrich feathers are carved on the gables of the building and these feathers are traditionally the badge of the Prince of Wales (who was head of the Council of the Marches).

There are times when a cliché is perfectly appropriate – for example, the author remarking that the hotel’s “ornate plasterwork and stunning woodwork has to be seen to be believed.” The next best thing to visiting the Feathers – “that prodigy of timber-framed houses” (Pevsner) – is to feast on the book’s illustrations and admire the builders, architects, carvers, and craftsmen who produced so many beautiful things both inside and out. See, for example, several interesting pages about the King James I lounge, with numerous illustrations that include a close-up of the ornate and intricate plasterwork ceiling and the complex design on the carved wooden overmantel above the fireplace.



The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow

Does Housman feature in the book? Yes and no. Yes, because right at the start, immediately after the book’s dedication, the six stanzas of ASL VII, ‘When smoke stood up from Ludlow’, are reproduced across two pages, with an image of a “trampling team” that the speaker in the poem is striding beside. No, because I did not see any other mentions of Housman or quotations from Housman in the book. The fact that his ashes are

## The Housman Society Book Exchange

buried under the north wall of St Laurence's Church might have interested readers who will recognise lines from some of the poems but not know biographical details of their author. The book has been self-published by John Hodges. When writers forego the professional help provided by publishers, the result – confirmed here – can be insufficient and inadequate copy-editing. For example: some unnecessary repetition should have been spotted and removed (we're told several times that the Feathers' name derives from the feathers motif of the Prince of Wales who was head of the Council of the Marches; information about, and the title page of, John Milton's 1637 play *Comus* appears on pages 12-13 and 40-41; the Van Dyke portrait of King Charles I appears on a full page in colour and appears elsewhere in black-and-white over half a page; the balcony on the first floor of the hotel is illustrated on pages 72, 73 and 74, with two of the three captions explaining that it was added for electioneering purposes).

At times the text doesn't flow smoothly, and the narrative jumps around rather awkwardly. Occasionally a disproportionate amount of text is devoted to a minor aspect of the story (e.g., why five pages on cock-fighting and bear-baiting?). But all can be forgiven because the book is copiously illustrated with historical and contemporary photographs. There are black-and-white illustrations on almost every page and there is also a 24-page section of well-produced colour photographs. It makes a delightful souvenir for the hotel's guests and visitors (who I gather it was originally intended for).

The book's last page politely skates over the difficult times (and temporary closure) that the 40-bedroom hotel experienced as a result of an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in 2017 followed by Covid-related lockdowns and restrictions. The business went into administration, but a new owner (Crest Hotels Ltd) came forward and £2.7 million has recently been invested in a major makeover. Perhaps the Housman Society should consider making a return visit to the Feathers.

This issue marks the 40<sup>th</sup> outing of the Book Exchange pages in the Society Newsletter; twenty years of offerings of material from the Housman spectrum from the rare to the routine - and twenty years of green recycling between Housman enthusiasts of different generations. In that time the Book Exchange has earned almost £10,000 for the Society coffers by being an honest and trusted broker between buyer and seller on the 10% commission scheme or its sibling option where material is purchased outright from the membership at 50% of an agreed value and then offered to the membership at that value. Or, on very rare occasions, by offering to the membership material that has been most kindly donated to the Society.

It is therefore particularly pleasing that on the Book Exchange's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday I can tell you that we have received a most generous donation of a number of old and rare editions of *A Shropshire Lad* to be sold through these pages for the benefit of Society funds. I have mentioned in the past that books sold through these pages are considerably less expensive than those available on the second-hand market and to illustrate that point I list the prices asked today, (18<sup>th</sup> August) on the world's largest antiquarian website, Abebooks.com and ask you to compare them with those suggested by the Society.

1897 *A Shropshire Lad*. 2 copies. £5,131 and £4,275.

1898 *A Shropshire Lad*. 4 copies. £470, £384, £360 and £275.

I can also tell you that Abebooks lists no copies whatsoever of *A Shropshire Lad* for the years 1900, 1904 or 1909 but, if they did, I have no doubt that they would be considerably more expensive than our copies listed below. This is a golden opportunity to acquire these rarities at an affordable price which, I am sure, we will never be in a position to do again. Members will note that these books are offered in a separate section at the commencement of the listings.

Copies of *The Feathers Hotel – Ludlow* can be purchased for £14.95 plus p&p from Castle Book Shop, Ludlow, by phoning 01584 872562 or online by visiting [www.historichouses.eu/order](http://www.historichouses.eu/order)

## SALES LIST – SEPTEMBER 2022.

All 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, Ladywood Cottage, Baveney Wood, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire DY14 8HZ on telephone number 01299 841361 or e-mail at sisley.ladywood@talk21.com Postage and Packing are additional to the prices quoted.

### ANTIQUÉ COPIES OF A SHROPSHIRE LAD

1897. New York, John Lane, the Bodley Head. First American edition, one of about 150 copies (Grant Richards says 162) taken from the first edition Edinburgh printing with the cancel title page printed in black and red. Carter and Sparrow 'A' Label is mottled but complete. Original paper backed boards show light soiling. Internally very good indeed and free from any foxing. A very good solid copy. £1500

1898. London, Grant Richards. The second edition was published in a print run of 500 copies and in the Carter and Sparrow Hand-list of 1952 was noted as 'now a scarce book'. The 8vo green cloth covers are firm and square and in very good order. Internally very good and free from any foxing. As good a copy as I have ever seen for sale. £200

1900. London, Grant Richards. I remember this 1900 edition being described as the 'black pear of Shropshire Lads' and is significantly rarer than the first or second editions. This is the first of Richards's pocket editions although much love and care was spent in its production. It is in beautiful soft green leather with the title and author's name printed on both the front and back covers. There is minimal scuffing to the leather and is internally very good indeed. This is one of only five copies that I have seen in my lifetime I recommend this volume most highly. £180

1903. London, Grant Richards. This little 16mo volume of 1903 was published by Richards in three forms – this example shows the attempt to replicate the first edition cover with paper covered boards and quarter parchment and this copy has suffered some wear and rubbing externally. The attractive red and black paper spine label is present but has suffered some loss. Internally very good. An extremely rare book. £40

1904. London, Grant Richards. This is an example of the 'Smaller Classics' series which so infuriated Housman: "I think it unbecoming that the work of a living writer should appear under such a title", but AEH did allow that "...the leather binding makes a very pretty book". The title appears in gilt on the

leather cover above a blind stamped 'GR' for the publisher. A little rubbing to head and tail of spine and some minor bumping to covers. Internally sound. Another rare copy in decent shape. £40

1906. New York, John Lane Company, The Bodley Head. The publishing history of *A Shropshire Lad* in the United States is not well documented and while the Housman Bibliography awards the first printing in America to Henry Altemus, this claim has been disproved by Paul Naiditch who has awarded that prize to John Lane in 1906, probably the printing in red cloth with 'Bodley Head' on the spine. This example is in green cloth with 'John Lane Company' on the spine. In lovely order and contains, as a bonus to collectors, pencil annotation on the first free endpaper by legendary bibliophile, Alan Clodd. £30

1906. Portland, Maine: Thomas B Mosher. According to Paul Naiditch it is probable that this book was published in America about a month after the John Lane edition mentioned above, thus becoming the second printing of *A Shropshire Lad* in the United States. Mosher was known as 'The Pirate Prince of Publishers' because of his cavalier attitude to copyright laws, although as this book was not copyrighted in America AEH had no grounds for complaint.

This is a delightful piece of printing produced on imitation parchment boards, printed in brown, with breviary fore-edges in an edition of 925 copies on Van Gelder paper. The spine is printed '1906' at the base. In fine condition, and for the collector, a bonus of the flyleaf containing pencil annotations by Alan Clodd and the Housman bookplate of Peter Morris. £50

1907. London, E. Grant Richards. Following his bankruptcy in 1905, Grant Richards operated the tried-and-tested ploy of continuing to run his business (but under his wife's name), with him, notionally, being a paid employee in the small back room. [It is interesting to note that back in 1905 Housman's *Juvenal* was the first book to be published under this arrangement with AEH writing to Mrs Richards saying "I am proud to be your first author." \*\* Note that a copy of this first edition *Juvenal* is available in the next section.]. This pocket edition takes on the form that will continue undisturbed until the Second World War. 32mo red cloth. Very clean. Very good. £30

1909. Philadelphia, Henry Altemus Company. Paul Naiditch cleverly disproved the Housman Bibliography 1902 dating of this book by methodically trawling through all the trade press 'new books' catalogues from 1902 onwards and not discovering an entry for *A Shropshire Lad* by Altemus until 1909. Reference to the listing of Carl Weber's donation of

his extensive collection of 'Shropshire Lads' to Colby College Library in Waterville, Maine, in 1945 allows me to positively confirm that this book accords with all the first-issue requirements associated with 1909. Green cloth with gilt floral decorations, 24mo, 125pp. In lovely condition. Rare. £40

### COLLECTORS COPIES

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

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) [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. £20

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

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

EFRATI (Carol). THE ROAD OF DANGER, GUILT, AND SHAME. THE LONELY WAY OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Farleigh Dickinson University Press, Madison, 2002. First edition. 8vo. 370 pages. A study of the man through his poetry. Very detailed, as can be detected by the fact that the bibliography runs to twelve pages of very small print. This book was never printed in England which accounts for some of its famed scarcity. This copy is from an American College library although the 'return by' sheet is totally blank. Apart from the library remnants the book is in very fine condition, certainly never read. £50

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

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.). 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. In good condition only. Price much reduced to clear. £50

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 171 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 but missing the elusive dust jacket. £50

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. £15

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. £30

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A MORNING WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY. Privately printed at Christmas 1955. 12mo. 16 pages. Cream Paper covers. Very good. £10

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. £60

HOUSMAN SOCIETY JOURNALS. 1974 – 2018. The Society is pleased to offer this impressive run of Journals to the membership at a fraction of the cost that would be charged on the open market. Forty-four issues. The condition varies from Very Good to Mint. £180

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

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

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. £10

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

### **BARGAIN BASEMENT**

The Society holds an extensive stock of modestly priced Housman books. If you are looking for a particular title it is probable that we will hold a copy. Please give me a call.

### **WANTS LIST**

The Book Exchange is always very interested in acquiring Housman books, letters, manuscripts and ephemera. Single items or collections are sought by outright purchase or commission sale.

If you have anything of interest then 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 March 2023 and contributions should be sent to the Editor at [julianmhunt@btinternet.com](mailto:julianmhunt@btinternet.com) by the end of January.