

# Housman Society Newsletter

## No. 58

## September 2023

### From the Secretary's Desk

Sitting at my desk the morning after the Ludlow launch of Merlin Unwin's new illustrated edition of *A Shropshire Lad*, it's pleasing to be able to look back over a number of successful occasions which have marked the Society's fiftieth year.

In spite of the disappointment of Nick Owen's indisposition during the spring and summer, our two Bromsgrove events were well supported and we are most grateful to Bromsgrove School and its new Headmaster, Michael Punt, for hosting the March Birthday Commemoration and the Fiftieth Anniversary Concert on 10 July. To have our Vice-President and long-time past Chairman Jim Page as our special guest for the Statue celebration and afterwards at the birthday lunch seemed entirely fitting, and Jim entertained us with reminiscences from the Society's early days. See a full account on page 2.

Ludlow has loomed suitably large in the anniversary programme. We didn't quite manage to escape the disruption of the annual May Fair by holding the Commemoration on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. However, the noise of fairground rides being erected in the Castle Square didn't noticeably interfere with the Society AGM, nor with our guided tour of St Laurence's after lunch at the Church Inn – all organised by new Vice-Chairman, John Cartwright. Ludlow does have a parish church of cathedral-like proportions, and we learned a great deal about its magnificent stained glass. It was good to see the commemorative tapestry (or is it embroidery) donated by the Society in 1996 to mark the centenary of *A Shropshire Lad*. It is still prominently displayed and its colours seem not to have faded in the intervening 27 years.

On 8 July, a select group of Society members were at Court Farm, Broadway, Worcestershire, at the invitation of Michael de Navarro KC. He is the grandson of the famous American actress Mary Anderson who settled in Broadway in 1895, and

persuaded A.E.H. and Laurence Housman to visit her there in 1934. A fuller account of this event can be found on page 5.

On 10 July, the Routh Hall provided a splendid venue for the Fiftieth Anniversary Concert, which was again sponsored jointly with the Bromsgrove Society. We were most grateful to BBC regional presenter and local resident Joanne Malin for stepping in as compere for the evening. Tenor soloist Alessandro Fisher gave memorable performances of Housman settings by Vaughan Williams and Ian Venables, with well-judged accompaniment from the Dante Quartet. A full report on the concert appears on page 6.

On the last day of August, we were back in Ludlow erecting a Society stall in the Castle Square as part of what had been billed as the Mayor's Charity Fair. One of those things that seemed a good idea at the time – but at the time we couldn't have foreseen that August 31<sup>st</sup> would be the coldest, windiest and wettest day of our memorable 2023 summer! My thanks to Linda Hart for helping with the stall and sharing the disappointment at taking just £37 from card and book sales during a long, cold day. It remains to be seen whether we attract any new members with



*The Housman Society stall at the Mayor's Charity Fair, Ludlow, 31 August*

the Society leaflets handed out to curious passers-by as they sheltered from the weather.

And so to yesterday's book launch when the afternoon temperature of 27 degrees in Ludlow was in stark contrast with barely 14 just four days previously. Invitees were able to enjoy a balmy evening as they sipped drinks and nibbled their canapés before admiring the new Merlin Unwin edition with its Introduction by Peter Parker and stunning images by young photographer John Hayward. A full account of the evening's proceedings appears on page 7.

The remaining event of our anniversary year will be the Song Concert as part of the Autumn in Malvern Festival which was announced to members by email circulation in August. The date is October 7<sup>th</sup> and the venue Christchurch, in Malvern's Avenue Road close to the station. Details appear on the Events page of the Society website. As part of our sponsorship arrangement (jointly with the Ivor Gurney Society) complimentary tickets for the evening are available for members if booked through my email address -- [maxhunt468@gmail.com](mailto:maxhunt468@gmail.com). I already have a dozen or so names for what promises to be an excellent concert.

**Jennie McGregor-Smith (1938-2023).** Just as this newsletter was going to press we learned that Jennie McGregor-Smith had died in a car accident on 15 September. She was a member of the Housman Society committee for many years, and masterminded (along with chairman Jim Page) our celebrations throughout 1996 of the centenary of *A Shropshire Lad*. In 2018 she was named in the Queen's New Year's Honours list, and received a British Empire Medal later that year. Her legacy will be immense. A full obituary will appear in our 2023 *Journal*.

Max Hunt

## The Housman Society – The First 50 Years

*Following the Society's Birthday Celebration, 24 March 2023, former Chairman Jim Page shared his reminiscences of 50 years of the Housman Society.*

In talking about the first 50 years of the Housman Society, I think I can take it for granted that everyone here knows the basic facts about Housman's life, so we start the story with Joe Hunt, a Birmingham businessman and John Pugh, a well-known local solicitor, founding the Society because they shared an admiration for Housman's poetry.

A key figure throughout the early years was Betty Barley who was Bromsgrove Librarian until her unexpected death in 1984. Kath Braithwaite and our eldest son Christopher spent time as the Membership Secretary. Richard Perceval Graves was Editor of the *Housman Society Journal* and it was the year after that that I joined the Committee as a representative of Bromsgrove School. At that time the activities of the Society were very low key with an annual Wine and Cheese party – a rather unexciting highlight. But the publication of Richard Perceval Graves' book, *A.E. Housman – The Scholar-Poet* in 1979 was a real landmark as it told the reader about both A.E.H.'s life and poetry.

In 1983, Bromsgrove District Council completed the pedestrianisation of Bromsgrove High Street, in which a statue of A.E. Housman was to be a focal point. Kenneth Potts was the chosen sculptor as his statue of Elgar in Worcester was so impressive. James Mason, a big name in the film world of the day and an admirer of Housman, was chosen to unveil it, but sadly he died shortly before the ceremony. Enoch Powell, a pupil of A.E.H., was the next obvious choice, but the District Council put a veto on him because of his recent controversial "Rivers of Blood" speech. In the end the Duke of Westminster, in spite of having no connection with Housman, was invited and unveiled the new statue on 22 March 1985.

An important committee member in these early days was Raymond Grove. When he died he left a substantial sum in his will which enabled the Society to buy a silver cup to present to the winner

of the Poetry Competition. His daughter, Hilary, flew over from America to present it to the inaugural winner



*Unveiling the statue of A.E. Housman, 1985*

The committee was strengthened by the addition of Roy Birch, Alan Holden, Jeremy Bourne, Robin Shaw, Jennie McGregor-Smith, Andrew Maund and Valerie Richardson, whose various talents helped us debate how we could raise the profile of the Society.

One idea was to take the title of Housman's lecture *The Name and Nature of Poetry* and invite a distinguished guest to give their views on the subject. Peter Florence, the Director of the Hay Festival, was keen on the idea so, as part of a high-profile festival, we would get a good audience. A succession of distinguished scholars including Christopher Ricks, Archie Burnett, Colin Dexter, Ruth Padel, Michael Berkeley and Germaine Greer accepted our invitation. Audiences were excellent with Colin Dexter drawing over 400. Alas there was a problem with Germaine Greer. On the day of the lecture she discovered that the Festival was sponsored by a

firm that used animals for research purposes. She refused to go on stage. She did, however, honour her commitment and gave the lecture in London some time later.

1996 would be the centenary of the publication of *A Shropshire Lad* in 1896, so this was a real opportunity to make an impact. Robin Shaw wrote the lively and entertaining book titled *Housman's Places* and Jeremy Bourne compiled a popular biography entitled *The Westerly Wanderer*. Both were critical and financial successes.

A valuable addition to our team was Dieter Baer who joined us from an organisation called REACH which offered volunteers who were retired Chief Executive Officers and his success in marketing items to sell at Society events was very profitable. It was only after his death a few years ago that we discovered he came to Britain as part of the Kindertransport scheme.

Blue Plaques was another project and these were placed on five Bromsgrove houses with a Housman association. Weekends in which distinguished guests joined members in varied programmes were held in Ludlow, the Longmynd Hotel and Perry Hall (AEH's birthplace which was then a hotel) and for these we were joined by AEH's great nephew, Gerald Symons and his wife Day.

One of our members, Jack Bates, had been working for some years on getting Housman memorialised in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey. He obtained letters of support from no fewer than 38 people, all famous in their own world. The event in Westminster Abbey was a real highlight in the Society's history as the Dean was a friend of both Alan Bennet and Ian Bostridge, a tenor of international repute. Alan Bennett gave a brilliant talk in his inimitable style and Ian Bostridge sang John Ireland's magical setting of 'Into my heart an air that kills...'

Something totally unexpected occurred in 1996 when one day the phone rang and a voice said, "This is Tom Stoppard here, I wonder if you could let me have a copy of the first edition of the *Housman Society Journal*." As I reflected on his call, I speculated the he might be writing a play about Housman. Sure enough, the next year The National Theatre announced the production of *The*

*Invention of Love*, with John Wood playing Housman. The Society took a coach load of members to see it and at a reception afterwards had an opportunity to meet the very retiring Sir Tom! Salisbury Repertory Theatre also produced the play with Christopher Ravenscroft as AEH, in which his physical likeness was uncanny. Both Oxford and Cambridge University also produced lively amateur productions.

One Society outing was to St John's College Oxford, which was made memorable when the Don who was showing us round, one Nicholas Purcell, found himself in a feisty argument with Colin Dexter, who had joined our party unannounced, over the academic standards of today's undergraduates!

Poetry Competitions organised by Kate Shaw were held over seven years and were judged variously by Gillian Clarke, Wendy Cope, Tobias Hill, Gareth Owen, U.A. Fanthorpe, Anthony Thwaite, Peter Porter and Gwyneth Lewis. Later it developed into the Housman Poetry Reading Competition in which participants were asked to read two poems – one of their own and another by an established author.

In 1998 the Newsletter was revived; edited by Stephen de Winton, it has been an invaluable source of information to members. One person not mentioned yet is Peter Sisley whose "Book Exchange" has been a regular feature in the Newsletter for many years. His knowledge and collection of Housman books is second to none. Another is Max Hunt, son of our founder Joe Hunt, who has been Treasurer and then Secretary since 2005.

Now before I ask you to raise your glasses to The Society's first 50 years may I say that any poet that can write lines such as these has a very good chance of thriving for another 50 years:

Into my heart an air that kills  
From yon far country blows  
What are those blue remembered hills  
What spires, what farms are those?  
That is the land of lost content  
I see it shining plain  
The happy highways where I went  
And cannot come again.

## The Bromsgrove Lecture, 2023

As this was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Housman Society, the Bromsgrove Society had invited Julian Hunt to give a talk entitled 'The Housman Family Story' as the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Bromsgrove Lecture. The event was held at Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, on 19 April, and attracted an audience of over 100, with more taking the live-stream on the internet. The talk was recorded and is still available on U-tube!



*Julian Hunt giving the Bromsgrove Lecture at Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, 19 April 2023*

We were surprised to learn how little the Housman family knew about their migration from Lancashire to Bromsgrove. A.E. Housman took some interest in his origins, but it was his sister, Katherine Symons, who became the self-appointed family historian. She wrote some notes entitled 'How the Housman family came to Bromsgrove' (now amongst the Housman Society collection at Worcestershire Archives) and correctly identified her great-great uncle, Captain John Adams, as the first member of the family to



*Katherine Symons(1862-1945)*

settle there. She was aware that he had purchased Perry Hall, one of the largest houses in Bromsgrove, and that he had operated an extract of indigo works on the site. She did not know, however, of the dramatic events which had brought the young man to Bromsgrove in 1790. Violent opposition to the introduction of Arkwright's water frames in Leicester had led one hosiery firm to lease a former cotton mill in Bromsgrove, where there was no history of industrial unrest. John Adams was sent by John Coltman & Co, to extend the mill and adapt the water frames to spin worsted yarn. He soon became the biggest employer in Bromsgrove and a leading light in the economic and social life of the town. As the organiser of the local militia, the Bromsgrove Volunteers, he styled himself 'Captain' John Adams.

Katherine Symons was also unaware that her industrialist great-great grandfather, John Adams, had two wives. On 1792 he married Dorothy Fisher of Castle Donnington, near Leicester, but she died in childbirth in 1796. Their four-day old son also died. John Adams remained a widower until 1835 when he married Keziah, widow of the

Rev. Richard Ramsden, at Halifax. After the death of his first wife, John Adams regarded his three nephews, sons of his sister Jane by the Rev. Robert Housman of Lancaster, as his likely heirs. The eldest, John Housman was a wool stapler in Bromsgrove; William Housman was a solicitor in London and married Mary Vernon, daughter of John Shrawley Vernon (the heir to Hanbury Hall, near Bromsgrove); and Thomas Housman became a Church of England minister and married Anne, daughter of Thomas Brettell of Bromsgrove, attorney. These were the real circumstances in which the Housmans came to Bromsgrove.



*Amateur dramatics at Woodchester House, 1874*  
*Left to right: Basil Housman, Minnie Wise, A.E.H.,*  
*Edith Wise, and Sophie Becker (the Wise's governess)*

A recurrent theme in Julian's talk was the village of Woodchester in Gloucestershire. John Adams's nephew, William Housman, bought Woodchester House in 1827. The Rev. Thomas Housman must have been a regular visitor to Woodchester House for his son, Edward Housman, met his wife there – Sarah Jane, daughter of the Rev. John Williams, Rector of Woodchester. Elizabeth Wise, a later resident of Woodchester House, was godmother of their eldest son, Alfred Edward Housman. Julian wondered how much of the English landscape evoked in *A Shropshire Lad* was really inspired by the hills and valleys of Gloucestershire.  
 Pat Tansell

## Housman Society Visit to Broadway

Readers of the 2022 *Journal* will recall that Linda Hart had resurrected an article from the 1990 volume presenting an extract from the 1936 autobiography of the American actress, Mary Anderson. In 1895, with her husband Antonio Fernando de Navarro, she had rented and later purchased the ancient Court Farm in Broadway. There she received many guests from the worlds of politics, music and literature including, in the summer of 1934, Alfred Housman and his brother Laurence.

We followed in the brothers' footsteps touring the extensive gardens laid out by the de Navarros in the early years of last century. Retreating from the rain, we gathered in the large music room that Mary Anderson had created linking Court Farm with the adjoining Old Bell Farm. Here we reflected on whether the grand piano might have been played by Edward Elgar when he and Lady Elgar were visiting, and we imagined lunchtime conversation with the Housmans on that summer's day in 1934.



*The 1935 Railton Saloon at Court Farm, Broadway*

I hope some authenticity was lent to the visit by my bringing out a period motor car; Linda and I arrived in my 1935 Railton saloon. Michael was thanked by our Chairman Peter Waine and was presented with a copy of Jeremy Bourne's *Westerly Wanderer* which the author duly signed in appreciation of our visit.

Max Hunt

## Housman Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary A Celebration of Housman's Poetry with Music, 10 July 2023

In October 2022, when the Dante Quartet performed for Bromsgrove Concerts, key members of the organisation got together with Richard Jenkinson and Worcester composer Ian Venables to find a date within the Bromsgrove Festival for a concert to celebrate 50 years of the Housman Society's existence. *Midlands Today* presenter Nick Owen was to have introduced the programme, but due to his recent illness, his colleague, Jo Malins, who lives in Bromsgrove, agreed to step in. The artists were The Dante Quartet, Alessandro Fischer (tenor) and Benjamin Frith (piano) so all was set for a splendid evening and to be sure we were not disappointed. Vaughan Williams's 1909 song cycle *On Wenlock Edge* is a classic, setting six poems from *A Shropshire Lad* and with principal themes of the military, war, and dying at a young age. Soloist Alessandro Fisher proved himself to be a characterful and sympathetic soloist who was particularly successful in catching the ghostly quality of the writing.

The second half included Ian Venables' evocative *Songs of Eternity and Sorrow* written in 2002 and these were performed with great distinction by the artists. Alessandro's rendition of *Additional Poems XVIII* – "... for the colour of his hair" – within Ian's *Songs of Eternity and Sorrow* cycle, was particularly powerful and seemed to leave the composer himself noticeably moved.



*Max Hunt and Linda Hart reading a selection of poems from A Shropshire Lad*

Max Hunt and Linda Hart added to the variety of the evening by reading twenty poems from *A Shropshire Lad*. They took turns, providing a short introduction to each poem before reading it. Frank Bridge's *Three Idylls for String Quartet* were also included and the many different textures in these pieces were very modern for their time and anticipated what Gershwin and others would do later.

Jim Page

### **New Edition of A Shropshire Lad**

A new lavishly-illustrated edition of A.E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* has been issued by Ludlow publishers Merlin Unwin Books. The book features magnificent colour photographs of Shropshire by John Hayward, with each poem carefully matched to an appropriate image. The book is introduced by Peter Parker, whose 2016 work *Housman Country* is a comprehensive and insightful biography.



*The launch of the new illustrated edition of A Shropshire Lad. Left to right: Karen McCall, John Hayward, Peter Parker, Max Hunt, John Cartwright*

The book was launched at St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow, on 4<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm., with both Peter Parker and John Hayward present. Book sales were capably handled by Ludlow bookseller Stanton Stephens, whose Castle Bookshop opened in 1949 and has been run by Stanton since 1997. The Housman Society also had a book stall, ably managed by our own Linda Hart. The organisation of the event was in the hands of Karen McCall of Merlin Unwin Books. Housman Society Vice Chairman, John Cartwright, explained that the launch of the new edition of *A Shropshire Lad* coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Housman Society. It was appropriate therefore

that Housman Society Secretary, Max Hunt, should give an introductory talk. Max discussed what personal crises prompted the 37-year old classicist, A.E. Housman, to burst into print in 1896 with *A Shropshire Lad*, one of the best-loved and highly-successful collections of poetry in the English language. As Max amusingly remarked, Housman at 37 was not a lad and came not from Shropshire, but from Bromsgrove in Worcestershire. He traced the poet's emotional turmoil back to his time at Oxford where he met Moses Jackson, a charismatic scientist and athlete, to whom he formed a life-long attachment. Although the two subsequently shared rooms in London, where they both worked at the Patent Office, Jackson left England in 1888 to become the principal of a technical college in Karachi.

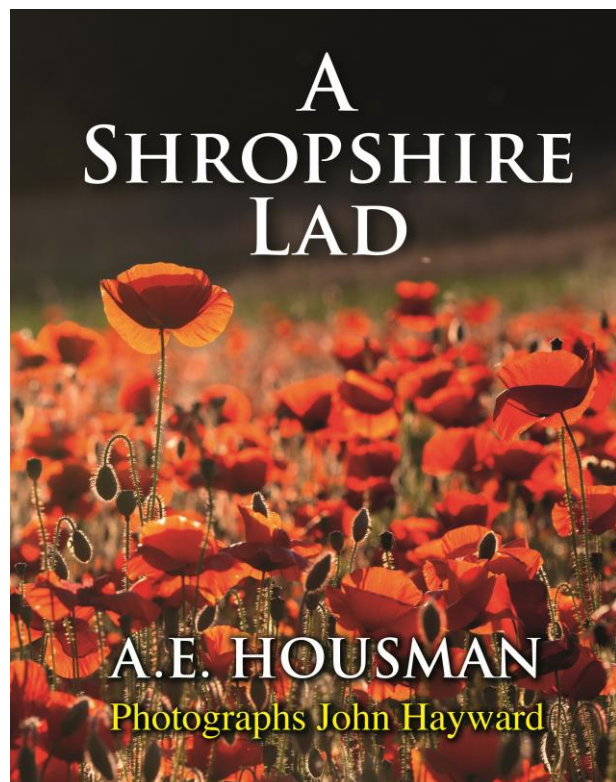
Max then recounted that Housman moved to Byron Cottage, Highgate, and spent his evenings at the British Museum, pursuing his classical studies. In 1892 he was appointed Professor of Latin at University College, London, but he continued to regret his parting from Jackson and worried about the decline of his father, Edward Housman, who died at Bromsgrove in 1894. He was also shocked by two events which made the news in 1895; the trial and imprisonment of Oscar Wilde and the suicide of Henry Clarkson Maclean, an officer cadet at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich. The latter event inspired the poem 'Shot? So quick, so clear an ending' (*ASL XLIV*) whilst the former was the origin of 'Oh who is that young sinner' (*Additional Poems XVIII*).



*Cherry blossom at St. Peter's Church, Chelmarsh, near Bridgnorth, photographed by John Hayward*

Max quoted the remarkably favourable reviews of *A Shropshire Lad* on its publication in March 1896. William Archer, in the *Fortnightly Review*, said “you can read it in half an hour, but there are things you will not forget in a lifetime.” No praise was as fulsome, however, as that of the poet’s younger brother, Laurence Housman, who wrote that “its quality came on me like thunder out of a clear sky.” Max concluded by complimenting Merlin Unwin Books on their new edition of *A Shropshire Lad*, a title that had never been out of print in 127 years.

Robert Cunning



*The cover of the new Merlin Unwin Books edition of A Shropshire Lad*

### **Obituary: Denis Moriarty**

We are sad to report the death of Denis Moriarty, who was one of our most distinguished members. He is probably best known for producing BBC’s wonderful programmes on six English towns (including Ludlow) which were presented by Alec Clifton Taylor. He also worked for the travel company ACR and hosted several groups on Housman tours, for which Perry Hall Hotel provided accommodation. His wife Bridget, who predeceased him, was one of the first Head Teachers to be awarded an honour and his son, Tristan, is an actor.

## **The Housman Society Book Exchange**

The Book Exchange has been fortunate to have been gifted a quantity of copies of the catalogue for ‘The Housman Family’ exhibition which was held at the John Rylands University Library of Manchester in 2001. These most interesting relics are here offered to the membership at £5 each, but please note that a complimentary copy will be dispatched to anyone ordering from this newsletter listing.

We have received another consignment of Housman books which is being listed in the first section below, and in the second section is a listing of the Society’s collectable stock. As always, I need to point out that the Society holds a large selection of Housman books not advertised here and if there is anything for which you are searching it is likely that we will hold a copy, so do, please, enquire.

For anyone who is unsure as to the workings of the Book Exchange, I offer a brief summary of how we conduct business.

On the consignment option we will advertise your books and take a 10% commission on a successful sale. There are no other costs, and unsold books can be listed again, or returned to you. Alternatively, the Society is prepared to buy books outright at 50% of advertised cost. And, I must tell you, that many members have taken advantage of using both options - in that order.

Finally, I draw your attention to the first American edition of *A Shropshire Lad* offered in the ‘Collectable’ section below. This rarity was donated to the Society in order to be sold for Society funds, and it is embarrassing (to the donor and the Society) that after two years it has not found a buyer. So, I try again. I have applied a £250 discount on the book which was already attractively priced, but if a buyer is not found within the Society this time then I will be compelled to dispose of it externally, something that I have never had to do previously in the twenty-plus-years of running the Book Exchange. It is a really nice copy at a very tempting price and deserves a good home.

All items offered for sale are on a first-come, first-served basis irrespective of the means of contact. 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](mailto:sisley.ladywood@talk21.com)

## SALES LIST - SEPTEMBER 2023

Postage and Packing are additional to the prices  
quoted.

### CONSIGNMENT

BAYLEY (John). HOUSMAN'S POEMS. Clarendon  
Press, Oxford, 1992. First edition. 202 pages. A critical  
appraisal of Housman's Poetry. Fine in a very good  
dust jacket. £30

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. Very good in a  
similar dust jacket. £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. Good plus. £25

CARTER (John). A.E. HOUSMAN. SELECTED  
PROSE. Cambridge at the University Press, 1961. First  
edition. 12mo. 204 pages. Paperback. Spine is sunned,  
but the book looks unread. Very good. £10

CARTER (John). THE JOHN CARTER  
COLLECTION OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Lilly Library,  
Indiana University, 1965. First edition. 8 pages. 500  
copies printed for the bookmen of Indiana and 100  
copies printed for John Carter. A rare item. In fine  
condition. £25

BROWNE (Piers). AN ELEGY IN ARCADIA. An  
Artist's view of Housman's Poetry. Ashford Press,  
Southampton. 1990. Second Edition. 164 pages.  
Following Browne's sumptuous limited edition of *A  
Shropshire Lad* published by The Shorthorn Press in  
1986 this book explores the influences on Housman's  
work from the perspective of the artist. Very good in  
like jacket. £10

COLLAMORE (H.B.). A COLLECTION OF  
MANUSCRIPTS, LETTERS, PROOFS, FIRST  
EDITIONS, ETC. FORMED BY H.B. COLLAMORE  
OF WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
PRESENTED TO THE LILLY LIBRARY INDIANA  
UNIVERSITY. No publishers imprint, no date, but

Lilly Library, 1961. First edition. 8vo. 37 pages. A  
Catalogue of the donation of Collamore's Housman  
Collection to the Library. Paper covers. Includes a  
footnote by John Carter and a 13-page article by Fraser  
Bragg Drew "The Poet as House-Guest". Very good.  
An extremely rare catalogue. £50

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 – the  
bibliography runs to twelve pages of small print. A  
very scarce book. Fine in a very good, but repaired  
dust jacket. £40

GOW (A.S.F.) A.E. HOUSMAN – A SKETCH.  
Cambridge University Press. 1936. First Edition.  
8vo. 137 pages. Green cloth missing the dust jacket. A  
delightful sketch of Housman by a fellow professor,  
together with a detailed list of his writings and indexes  
to his classical papers. Very good. £10

GOW (A.S.F.). A.E. HOUSMAN. The Cambridge  
Review, 1936. First edition. 8vo. 8 pages. An offprint  
from the magazine. Very good. £20

GOW (A.S.F.) A.E. HOUSMAN AT OXFORD. The  
Oxford magazine, 1937. First edition. 12mo. 8vo. 8  
pages. An offprint from the magazine. Very good. £20

HAMILTON (Robert). HOUSMAN THE POET.  
Sydney Lee, Exeter, 1953. First edition. 8vo. 74 pages.  
Paper covers. One of the earliest books to concentrate  
on an evaluation of Housman's poetry. Scarce. Good  
plus. £30

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Grant  
Richards, London, 1904. 117 pages. Orange cloth  
pocket edition, top edge gilt. From the Smaller  
Classics Series, the title of which upset Housman so  
much. Front cover starting to separate but the book is  
square and strong. Scarce. Very Good. £40

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Mitchell  
Kennerley, New York, 1914. 32mo. Red cloth, top  
edge gilt. Printed in England and furnished with a  
cancel title page. A clean fresh copy. Very scarce.  
Very good indeed. £40

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. Very good, missing the  
elusive dust jacket. £50

HOUSMAN (A.E.). THE COLLECTED POEMS OF A.E. HOUSMAN. First edition. 8vo. 256pp. Blue cloth, stamped in gilt within red frame. Grey dust jacket. New York, Henry Holt, 1940. Fine in a very good dust jacket. The true American first edition with both the book and the dust jacket marked 'first printing'. £30

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Mount Vernon, Peter Paper Press, no date (but 1948). 12mo. 73pp. Green and blue patterned boards in slipcase. Very good.

together with

HOUSMAN (A.E.). FRAGMENT OF A GREEK TRAGEDY. No publishers imprint but Peter Pauper Press, Mount Vernon. 12mo. 8 pages. Paper covers. A supplement to the publisher's edition of *A Shropshire Lad*. Very good. £25 the pair

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A MORNING WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY. Privately printed at Christmas 1955. 12mo. 16 pages. Cream Paper covers. Very good. £20

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Woodstock Books, Oxford, 1994. 12mo. 96 pages. A facsimile of the Kegan Paul 1896 edition. Contains a splendid introduction by R.K.R. Thornton. Fine. £20

HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. The Hayloft Press, Birmingham, 1995. Landscape 8vo. 78 pages. With an introduction by Kelsey Thornton and illustrations by Claud Lovat Fraser. These 1920 decorations by Fraser for a proposed edition of *A Shropshire Lad* were rejected by Housman and here appear for the first and only time with the poems for which they were intended. Number 38 of 450 copies. Fine. £30

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. £20

HOUSMAN SOCIETY JOURNAL. VOLUME ONE. 8vo. 56 pages. Blue card covers. London, Turner and Devereux, 1974. Volume One of the Society Journal includes articles by F.W. Bateson, B.F. Fisher IV, A.S.F. Gow, Joe Hunt, Norman Marlow, Enoch Powell, John Sparrow, Graham Speake and L.P. Wilkinson. Mint. £15

HOUSMAN SOCIETY JOURNAL. VOLUME TWO. 8vo. 63 pages. Blue card covers. London, Turner and Devereux, 1975. Volume Two of the Society Journal

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VINCENT (Edgar). A.E. HOUSMAN: HERO OF THE HIDDEN LIFE. The Boydell Press, 2018. 8vo. 499 pages, cloth in dust jacket. The most recent of the Housman biographies. Very good in similar jacket. £10.

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