

Housman Society Newsletter

No. 60

September 2024

From the Secretary's Desk

Sitting here six months ago writing my column for the Spring Newsletter, I was sharing my anxiety that 2024 would be a rather dull year for the Society after the excitement of our fiftieth anniversary. I need not have worried! After notable Commemoration events we have managed to secure Housman presentations in two prestigious festivals and amazingly the year will end with a London stage revival of Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* – a veritable *Annus Mirabilis*!

For our annual Birthday Commemoration in March we were delighted to welcome as our guest Oxford undergraduate Gregory Sidaway. Greg had contributed an interesting article to last year's Journal with reactions of an eighteen-year-old student first encountering A.E. Housman. His after-lunch address in Bromsgrove, blending wit with perceptive reflection, left me, at least, thinking that our efforts may yet have some traction with a younger generation. A fuller account of Gregory's oration will be found on page 3.

Sadly, alarm took over just four weeks later when the organisers of this year's Bromsgrove Festival announced their launch party programme. This was to be a "fun" event centred around the Housman statue which would be adorned with a "branded waistcoat" specially for the occasion. An actor, we were told, would dress as AEH and mingle with the crowd, while others would present a street-based poetry "mash-up"! The Society had not been consulted. Our intervention did manage to prevent the assault on the statue and Joyce Chamberlain and I were able to persuade the organisers that there was not a great deal of "fun" to be found in *A Shropshire Lad*. The result on June 22nd was slightly less cringeworthy than it might have been, but I shall long remember the expression on Jim Page's face as he encountered this unfortunate piece of street theatre.

Housman's memory was rather better served when members of the Ludlow Civic Society joined our AGM gathering on April 27th for Linda Hart's presentation on "A Shropshire Lad's Journey from Gloucester to Cambridge". Members may recall Linda's article in the 2021 Journal describing her research into a copy of *ASL* inscribed by a young Ivor Gurney to Rudyard Kipling dated 1909. Copious illustrations in a PowerPoint presentation brought the story to life and provided an entertaining conclusion to the morning's formal business.

Writing in February I suggested that the outstanding date in our events calendar would be July 1st in Ledbury. The Poetry Festival did not disappoint. Linda Hart and I made the case for A.E. Housman's abiding appeal to a sell-out audience in Ledbury's ancient Burgage Hall. I think many will have gone away with a new-found realisation of the scale of Housman's influence on later writers – and we sold some books! Andrew Maund's review of the event appears on page 3.

Our second Festival presentation for this year will be the Cradley event on September 28th. Falling on the second Saturday of the "Autumn in Malvern Festival", my illustrated talk in the parish church of this pretty Herefordshire village seems to be attracting much local interest. Members for whom I have email addresses have received reminder notices and will know that the talk builds on Peter Parker's article in the 2022 Journal. Taking as its starting point *ASL XLIV* it tells how the lives of a flamboyant playwright, a young officer cadet and a pessimistic professor of Latin became tragically intertwined in the summer of 1895. The Festival flyer for the afternoon event is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. I hope members within striking distance of Malvern will wish to join the local audience. We are promised a nice tea afterwards!

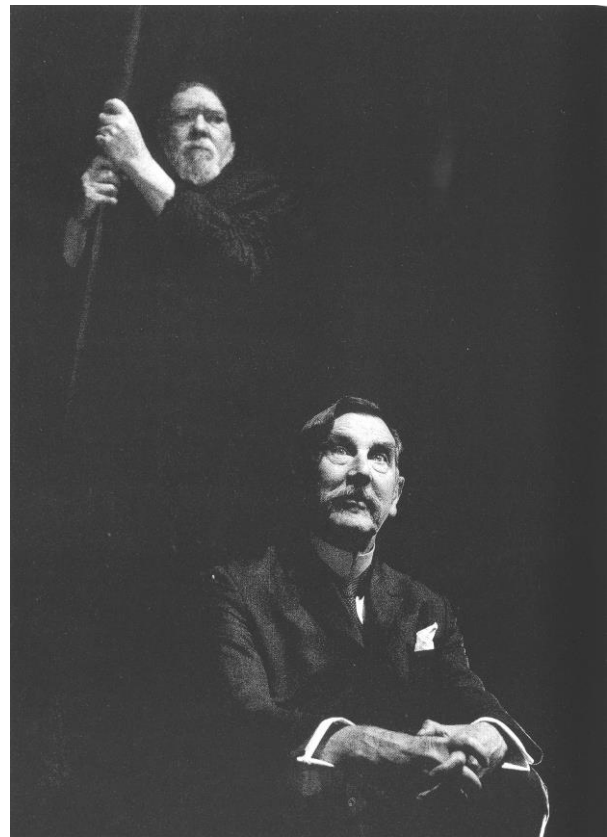


Cradley Church, Herefordshire
 Photo Linda Hart

And so to *The Invention of Love*. Members will know that Tom Stoppard's play explores the complex character of the man who was two men: both poet and classical scholar. Our first encounter with Housman in the play is when he is met by Charon the ferryman on the River Styx waiting to row him across to Hades. The poet is there, but Charon is waiting for a scholar so that both can be rowed across the river together. The play was first produced at the National Theatre in 1997 and won the Evening Standard Award for Best New Play before transferring to Broadway in 2001. At its heart is Housman's repressed love for Moses Jackson and the poems inspired by this hopeless attraction echo through Stoppard's writing. The action moves between places and times, between fact and fiction and draws in contemporary Oxford dons, Victorian intolerance and reference to the Oscar Wilde trials.

The new production, with Simon Russell Beale in the lead role, opens at the Hampstead Theatre on December 4th and will run on until January 25th. It provides a rare opportunity to experience a remarkable play by our greatest living playwright (and Society Vice-President). Already in mid-August enquiries of the theatre box office reveal only limited remaining availability for several of

the performances. So, if you want tickets don't delay; Linda Hart and I have secured seats for a matinee performance in early January. With the latest news on the settlement with ASLEF we may stand a better chance of actually getting there!



Michael Bryant as Charon, the ferryman of the dead, with John Wood as AEH in the 1997 production of The Invention of Love by Tom Stoppard, directed by Richard Eyre.

Contemplating the year end brings home to me the realisation that, first as Treasurer and latterly as Secretary, I have served the Society now for eighteen years. With my eightieth birthday looming in 2026 I have asked Committee colleagues to think about my replacement in two years' time. The role of Secretary has been immensely rewarding and has helped fend off brain death, but I think it would now be better taken on by someone more in tune with the world of social media. For my own part I find increasing appeal in JOMO or the Joy of Missing Out! Perhaps there is out there a member, recently retired and with some administrative experience, who would enjoy the challenge of helping move the Society on. If you are such a person and would like to chat about the role do please get in touch.

Max Hunt

A.E. Housman and a Herefordshire Lad
An illustrated talk by Max Hunt, Secretary of the Housman Society
Saturday 28 September, 2.30 pm at Cradley (near Malvern)

Three lives became tragically intertwined in 1895.

- a flamboyant playwright whose masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, had recently opened in London's West End;
- an officer cadet from Cradley in Herefordshire, now at Woolwich's Royal Military Academy with a scholarship from Marlborough College;
- a pessimistic professor of Latin at University College London who was about to become a well-known poet.

They had in common a deep sense of anxiety and injustice at the intolerant attitudes of Victorian society. The results: the notorious trial of **Oscar Wilde** was luridly reported in many newspapers; **Harry Maclean** committed suicide in London's Charing Cross Hotel; **A.E. Housman** wrote some bitter and sarcastic poems that were published in *A Shropshire Lad*.

Venue: St James the Great, Cradley (on Rectory Lane, WR13 5LH).

A large church car park is available.

There will be an illustrated talk by Max Hunt and a visit to Harry Maclean's grave in the churchyard. Coffee/tea and cake will be served afterwards. Tickets are £10 (cash only) on the door, which include refreshments. There is no advance booking. Cradley is about three miles west of Malvern.

This event is promoted by the **Autumn in Malvern Festival** and sponsored by the **Housman Society**.

Housman Birthday Celebration

By Robin Shaw

Gregory Sidaway, who spoke at the Bromsgrove Birthday Commemoration, is reading English Language and Literature at Exeter College, Oxford. He recited 'Loveliest of trees' and 'From far, from eve and morning' at the statue, and was guest speaker at the buffet lunch. It was very refreshing for older members of the Society to hear the perspective of a student representing a new generation.

In his studies he had been thoroughly immersed in nineteenth and twentieth century literature but until approached by the Society, interestingly, had not dipped into Housman.

As he put right this, to us, terrible omission he began to see AEH's work in the context of a shift at the 'Fin de siecle' from literature focussing on nature and rural life to more urbanised settings. He, Greg, noticed that although AEH was writing in London among city-goers 'too unhappy to be kind' he nevertheless cultivated the traditional comfort of the past, creating a countryside, which though changing, was to be cherished.

Greg as a Worcestershire man appreciated AEH's view and he saw *A Shropshire Lad* as taking one last glance over its shoulder at a past fading into memory, and he felt that was important and powerful – a reason for resurgence of interest in Housman in the future. He wished AEH the very best 165th birthday and many happy returns of his enduring and relevant work.

A E Housman: A Worcestershire Lad **The Ledbury Poetry Festival, 1st July 2024**

By Andrew Maund

In a first for the Society, this year we were invited to present a lecture at the prestigious and highly regarded Ledbury Poetry Festival, and the home team of Linda Hart and Max Hunt certainly did not disappoint. A full auditorium sat in rapt and appreciative silence, broken only by occasional murmurs of approval or mutual amusement, as Linda and Max wove together an account of Housman's fascinating life, an appreciation of his sublime poetry, and a powerful sense of his enduring appeal and literary influence into a delightful tapestry which was at the same time highly educational and entertaining.

After an introduction by our chairman, Peter Waine, Linda led the audience on their tripartite journey with consummate professionalism, with the voice of Housman, in his letters and poetry, most ably provided by Max. Linda began with a reference to her own father's appreciation of *A Shropshire Lad*, perhaps an unexpected text to find in the New York City of her youth; in fact her father owned two copies, a hard-back 1932 edition and the highly popular pocket edition published at the same time. For much of his early life, the notoriously private AEH was very little known in England, once commenting with his familiar, sardonic humility, "My book is more interesting than its man." But for the audience at Ledbury, some of whom had been discussing references to Housman's poetry in the works of Colin Dexter and cycles of English song as they waited for the lecture to begin, interest in the life and works of AEH was certainly fired as the presentation unfolded.



Several poems, performed with great sensitivity and understanding by Max, were woven seamlessly into an account of the life and works – these included ASL XL, *Into my heart an air that kills*, ASL XLIV, *Shot? So quick, so clean an ending*, and ASL II, *Loveliest of trees*. The presentation also touched very delicately on the pervading influence of Moses Jackson, "my greatest friend", and the fundamental effect of the death in Housman's youth of his mother. Linda explained to the attentive audience how the many personal pressures in his own life in the 1890s, including Moses Jackson's marriage, the death of Jackson's brother Adalbert, and the illness of Housman's father, combined with public events such as the trial of Oscar Wilde, were reflected in the publication of *A Shropshire Lad*. The "gift of melodious expression" in the poems was

recognised in the review that appeared in *The Times*. With its tone of overriding melancholy and its message that life is brutal and short-lived, *A Shropshire Lad* had never been out of print since its first publication.

Reinforcing the enduring appeal of Housman's poetry, Linda explored his influence on figures of English literature as diverse as W.H. Auden, E.M. Forster, Philip Larkin, George Orwell, Tom Stoppard, Dorothy L Sayers, Francis Brett Young, Dennis Potter, Colin Dexter and Wendy Cope. Influences were seen as well in the work of three poets laureate (Sir John Betjeman, Ted Hughes and Andrew Motion), and even in Professor Richard Dawkins' quoting the well-known lines in LP XL about "nature, heartless, witless nature" as an appropriate description of the indifferent callousness of Darwinian evolution.

Overall, the lecture posed the question, why are the poems so memorable and so meaningful? The *Shropshire* which formed the western horizon of AEH's youth is, of course, symbolic: symbolic of human loss, loneliness and despair; this is softened by the comfort and familiarity of the verse form and much of the imagery. Such a dichotomy, like the two persons in one who step aboard Charon's ferry across the Styx at the beginning of Stoppard's *The Invention of Love*, captures the fascination and engagement which we all feel as we learn more of the life and works of AEH. There can be no doubt that Linda and Max's presentation inspired such enthusiasm in a wider audience, who certainly left knowing more and feeling more for Housman: "A poet and a scholar – I'm afraid that must be me," as Housman tells Charon.

Obituary: Gerald Symons

By Jim Page

Gerald Symons, who died on 20th July 2024, aged 97 years, was the grandson of A.E.H.'s sister Katharine. He was the custodian of many Housman family papers and a regular contributor to the *Housman Society Journal*. He farmed at Shillingford St George from 1949 to 1994 and then retired to Shaldon. I met him there once as my wife had relations who owned a cottage in the village and I remember going for a walk along the sands with him. He had a cheerful personality and reminisced about his connection to A.E.H. and Laurence Housman.

A Worcestershire Funeral

By Galen Bartholomew

Housman Society members might be interested to know that 'Bredon Hill' was read aloud in Pershore Abbey on Friday 9 August at the recent funeral of John Alexander. This seemed fitting in so many ways, not least because John kept a framed copy of Housman's poem on his wall at home. I have known the Alexander family for over 60 years and we went to the same schools. John, who spent most of his childhood at Greenhill in north Evesham, moved to Pensham near Pershore when he was 18. He spent the rest of his life (58 years) in the same house, close to Bredon Hill. He was managing partner of Alexander & Co, solicitors in Worcester, for 36 years, which he ran with his younger brother, Will.

Pershore Abbey was packed with family and friends and professional colleagues, who had come to say farewell to this all-round, self-effacing and thoroughly decent man, who gave so much to his beloved Worcestershire. The occasion seemed so fitting, and John would have been proud of the addresses given by both of his sons. The range and number of John's interests, which he combined with his family and friends, was remarkable. Chairman of Pershore Civic Society for many years, regular bell ringer at Pershore Abbey for over 50 years, bee keeper, organic vegetable grower, and keeper of an orchard containing over 100 species of apples which are no longer commercially produced -- to name just some.

'Bredon Hill' was read beautifully by David Cash, one of John's oldest friends – they started at The Wells House Prep School in Malvern on the same day some 70 years ago. This Housman poem still has deep relevance today, especially, perhaps, to the people of Worcestershire.

A fleeting visit to Cheriton Bishop

By Julian Hunt

Whist travelling to see friends in Cornwall in August, my wife and I happened to stray from the A30 into the Devonshire village of Cheriton Bishop. I remembered that there was a Housman connection with the village, and, on visiting the parish church found the name Joseph Housman on the list of rectors.

Joseph Brettell Housman, the youngest son of the Rev. Thomas Housman, Curate of Catshill, near Bromsgrove, and Ann his wife, was born on 26 April 1842. He was baptised by his father at Catshill on 26 May 1842. As there was at that time no house provided for the incumbent of the recently built church at Catshill, the Rev. Thomas Housman was then living with his father-in-law, Joseph Brettell, a retired solicitor, at the Clock House, near Bromsgrove.

Joseph Brettell Housman was educated at Bromsgrove School and gained a Thomas Cookes Foundation scholarship to Worcester College, Oxford, in 1861. It may have been on the recommendation of his father, who had retired to Lyme Regis, that in 1868 he was appointed Curate of the Dorset parish of Symondsburry. In 1871 he made a very advantageous marriage to Sarah Felicia, eldest daughter of the Rev. Henry Rawlinson, Rector of Symondsburry. This marriage may have secured the finances of not only the Rev. Joseph, but also of the Housman family in general. By 1875, the Rev. Joseph's elder brother, Edward Housman, was in dire financial straits, unable to pay the interest on the mortgage of Perry Hall, the Housman family home in Bromsgrove, and on Rose Hill, his father's elegant house at Lyme Regis. After four years of litigation, the crisis was averted with the Rev. Joseph paying off the mortgages on Perry Hall and Rose Hill. Edward Housman was able to continue at Perry Hall as Joseph's tenant, and their widowed mother, Ann Housman, to remain at Lyme Regis. The Rev. Joseph owned Perry Hall until 1895 and Rose Hill until 1920.



The Rectory, Cheriton Bishop

In 1875, the Rev. Joseph Brettell Housman was appointed Curate of Cheriton Bishop in Devon. Following the death of the then Rector, the Rev. William Mallock, in December 1886, the Rev. Joseph Brettell Housman was preferred to the rectory in March 1887. The whitewashed and thatched rectory at Cheriton Bishop extended to 12 rooms and was the home of the Rev. Joseph and his wife until he moved to the rectory of Farringdon in 1911. He retired in 1917 and died at 1 Claremont Grove, Exeter, on 26 March 1926, leaving an estate of £14,185 in trust for his wife, with remainder to his niece, Katharine Symons. There is a stone tablet at the church in Cheriton Bishop in memory of the Rev. Joseph and his wife. The inscription reads, "In loving memory of Joseph Brettell Housman, 1842-1926, Curate and Rector 1875-1911, and of Sarah Felicia, his wife, 1842-1928, and their work in this parish."

Recently spotted in the *Ludlow Advertiser*

Society Vice-Chairman John Cartwright, a Ludlow resident, recently spotted this letter from another Ludlovian and a fellow admirer of Housman in the *Ludlow Advertiser* of 30th May.

Dear Sir,

How many readers will have spotted the ironic dissonance between two news items in last week's "Advertiser"? On page 3 Ludlow's river-swimming ladies rightly celebrated as "Teme gets bathing water designation". This is followed 13 pages later with the announcement that "Go-ahead for controversial chicken farm" in north Shropshire has been granted by Shropshire Council. Given that intensive chicken farming is largely responsible for the desecration of the Wye and the Lugg, this decision is eye-wateringly irresponsible. Perhaps once again we should turn to Housman for rueful recognition:

'Loveliest of streams, the Onny now
With dung is strewn from man not cow,
And alders flank its frothing tide,
Wearing black for Onnicide.

Now of its bounty, Severn Trent
Has syphoned off some twelve percent,
And drained some seventy springs and bores
Twixt Teme and Corve and Onny shores.

Since neither trout nor grayling rise
To take my cunning, slow-cast flies,
Along the banks and weirs I'll roam
To see the Onny flecked with foam.'

Ian Barge, Ludlow

The Housman Society Book Exchange

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

SALES LIST – SEPTEMBER 2024

Postage and Packing are additional to the prices quoted.

BAYLEY (John). HOUSMAN'S POEMS. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1992. First edition. 202 pages. A critical appraisal of Housman's Poetry. Very good in a similar dust jacket although a newspaper clipping is attached to an endpaper. £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.

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). 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. An extremely rare item. Fine. £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. Fine condition. £10.

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. Very good in a repaired dust jacket. £45
- 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 indeed. £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. Good plus. £30
- 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 at reasonable cost. Mint condition. £25
- HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Grant Richards, London, 1900. Green leather with the title and author's name printed on both the front and rear covers. One of 700 copies of the English edition, this is easily the rarest of the early 'Lads'. It's condition however lets it down; the leather is bumped and rubbed and the spine is badly sunned. The book is starting to separate at 32/33. But the book sits well and is very good internally. And it is extremely rare. In very good condition this book would sell at circa £200. To clear at only £40.
- HOUSMAN (A.E.). A SHROPSHIRE LAD. Grant Richards, London, 1903. vii. 96 pages. Red paper fold-over covers. Housman's insistence on reducing the selling price (now one shilling) of his first book of poems resulted in this extremely fragile edition. This copy is in excellent shape with just a little wear at the base of the spine and minor foxing to extremities only. A remarkable survivor. Extremely rare. £75.
- HOUSMAN (A.E.). D. IVNII IVVENALIS SATVRAE. E. Grant Richards, London, 1905. First edition. 36-page preface followed by 146 pages of text. Original boards showing some wear and with some loss to the paper spine label. Internally very clean. An extremely rare volume. Good plus. £75.
- HOUSMAN (A.E.). M. ANNAEI LVCANI BELLI CIVILIS LIBRI DECIM. Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1926. The first edition. 8vo. xxxv. 342 pages. Blue cloth with minor bumps. Spine faded. Internally very good. £60.
- 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. £40.
- 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 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. One of 450 numbered copies. Fine. £40.
- 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. £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. £50.
- HOUSMAN SOCIETY JOURNALS. A FULL SET. 1974 – 2023. The Society is pleased to offer a full set of Journals to the membership at a fraction of the cost that would be charged on the open market. Forty-Nine issues. The condition varies from Very Good to Mint. Our last set! £195.
- 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. £25.

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 with a couple of nibbles. £25.

LUDLOW PARISH CHURCH. A SHROPSHIRE LAD CONCERT. 12pp. 16mo. Programme booklet contained within 8vo. bifolium. Card covers with a reproduction of the Francis Dodd portrait laid down and further unattributed drawings. The concert was held at St. Laurence's Ludlow on 13th August, 1951. Incredibly rare; only the third example I have seen. Very good. £50.

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 very scarce. Fine. £45.

NAIDITCH (P.G.). PROBLEMS IN THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Krown & Spellman, Beverly Hills, 1995. First edition. 8vo. 244 pages. Blue cloth. No dust jacket – as issued. Seventy notes, articles and reviews on Housman. In mint condition. £35.

NAIDITCH (P.G.). AN INDEX TO ARCHIE BURNETT'S COMMENTARY ON 'THE POEMS OF A.E. HOUSMAN'. Bromsgrove, The Housman Society, 1998. 8vo. 26pp, Card covers. Mint condition. £5.

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. £10.

PUGH (John). BROMSGROVE AND THE HOUSMANS. The Housman Society, Bromsgrove, 1974. 178 pages plus 84 pages of appendix. First edition. Number 47 of 100 numbered copies signed by the author. Mint in mint dust jacket. £40.

PUGH (John). INDEX TO BROMSGROVE AND THE HOUSMANS. The Housman Society, Bromsgrove, 1984. 13 pages. First edition. Soft covers. Mint condition. £10

ROBERTS (S.C.). THE FAMILY: THE HISTORY OF A DINING CLUB. Printed for the Club, Cambridge, 1963. First edition. 8vo. 34 pages. Brown

cloth. AEH joined the dining club in 1919 and continued as a member until his death. On pages 22/23 is printed the menu for a dinner which Housman hosted in 1929 which included seven course and eight wines or liqueurs. The author notes that these dinners 'displayed something of their pre-war magnificence'. An unread copy. £15.

SYMONS (Katharine) [contributes]. THE EDWARDIAN MAGAZINE, KING EDWARDS SCHOOL, BATH, Volume 17, number 3, September 1936. 8vo. 36pp. Contains the article 'Memories of A.E.H', which is more often found as the offprint, as below. Rare. Very Good. £25.

SYMONS (Katharine). MEMORIES OF A.E. HOUSMAN. Offprint of article printed in the Edwardian as above. Grant Mellhuish, Bath, 1936. 8 pages. Paper covers. Pamphlet written by Housman's sister extracted from the magazine of King Edward's School. Bath. Contains the first appearance of seven of Housman's comic verses. An excellent copy. Rare. Fine. £20.

SYMONS (Katharine). MORE MEMORIES OF A.E.H. Offprint of an article printed in the Edwardian, KES Bath, December 1936. 4pp. Contains a couple of AEH's humorous verses, *The Force of Habit* and *Heliogabus*. A more difficult item to locate than the previous entry. Fine. £25.

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 dust jacket. £10.

Bargain Basement

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

Wants List

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

The Housman Society Newsletter

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The next Newsletter will be circulated in March 2025. Contributions should be sent to the Editor at julianmhunt@btinternet.com by the end of January 2025.

