

# A. E. Housman Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Michael McElderry



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of  
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010215>

## Collection Summary

Title: A. E. Housman Papers

Span Dates: 1906-1940

ID No.: MSS26567

Creator: Housman, A. E. (Alfred Edward), 1859-1936

Extent: 30 items; 9 containers; 1.8 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Poet. Chiefly notebooks containing drafts, fair copies, and fragments of Housman's poetry, in addition to a few letters and miscellaneous items. Also includes an analysis of some of the poems by John W. Carter.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Carter, John, 1905-1975.

Housman, A. E. (Alfred Edward), 1859-1936.

### Subjects

Literature.

Poetry.

### Occupations

Poets.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of A. E. Housman, poet, were given to the Library of Congress by Gertrude Clarke Whittall in 1940. Purchases and gifts were added 1942-1969.

### Processing History

The papers of A. E. Housman were arranged and described in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### Transfers

Photographs and drawings have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the A. E. Housman Papers.

### Other Repositories

A collection of Housman correspondence and writings is also at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of A. E. Housman is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of A. E. Housman are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on two reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, A. E. Housman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1859, Mar. 26	Born, Worcestershire, England
1870-1877	Attended Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire, England
1877-1881	Attended St. John's College, Oxford, England
1882-1892	Higher division clerk, Patent Office, London, England
1892	Professor of Latin, University College, London, England
1896	Published <i>A Shropshire Lad</i> . London: K. Paul, Trench, Trubner
1911	Kennedy professor of Latin, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England
1922	Published <i>Last Poems</i> . London: G. Richards
1936	Published <i>More Poems</i> . London: J. Cape
1936, Apr. 30	Died, Cambridge, England

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alfred Edward Housman (1859-1936) span the years 1906-1940 and consist largely of drafts of poems, containing numerous corrections and alterations, most of which appeared in *A Shropshire Lad* (1896), *Last Poems* (1922), and *More Poems* (1936). The bulk of the collection is contained in seven volumes or notebooks and consists of rough drafts, later drafts, fair copies, and fragments of the poet's writings. An introductory volume contains a foreword and indexes to the other notebooks.

An addition to the collection contains photocopies of the published works noted above. The originals of the published volumes, part of a Housman collection at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, were annotated by John W. Carter in 1939 with readings from the original manuscripts as transcribed from the notebooks. A considerable number of these

readings are no longer visible in the manuscripts themselves, and as such, the photocopies represent an important supplement to the notebooks.

Also in the addition is a photocopy of an analysis of the poems in the notebooks, prepared by Carter and accompanied by a photocopy of an index to the original arrangement of the notebooks. Other material in the addition includes a small number of correspondence and miscellaneous items.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The notebooks are arranged in the sequence they were received, and the addition is organized according to type of material.

# Container List

\*Available on microfilm. Shelf nos. 13,092 and 13,224 (duplicate)

\*\*Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 10,036

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Notebooks, 1906-1939
REEL 1*	
BOX 1	Vol. 1, foreword and indexes
REEL 1*	
BOX 2	Vol. 2, notebook A
REEL 1*	
BOX 3	Vol. 3, notebook B
REEL 1*	
BOX 4	Vol. 4, notebook C
REEL 1*	
BOX 5	Vol. 5, notebook D
REEL 1*	
BOX 6	Vol. 6, notebook E
REEL 1*	
BOX 7	Vol. 7, notebook F
REEL 1*	
BOX 8	Vol. 8, unlettered notebook
REEL 1*	
BOX 9	Addition
REEL 1**	
BOX 9	Correspondence, 1909, 1922, 1929, undated
not filmed	
BOX 9	Fragments
REEL 1**	
BOX 9	Index
REEL 1**	
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1936-1940, undated
REEL 1**	
BOX 9	Poems, photocopies of published vols.
REEL 1**	
BOX 9	<i>A Shropshire Lad</i> (London: E. Grant Richards, 1906. 96pp.)
REEL 1**	
BOX 9	<i>Last Poems</i> (London: G. Richards, 1922. 78 pp.)
REEL 1**	
BOX 9	<i>More Poems</i> (London: J. Cape, 1936. 71 pp.)
REEL 1**	