

1896

**WHEN I WAS ONE-AND-TWENTY (From A
Shropshire Lad)**

Alfred Edward Housman

Housman, A. (Alfred) E. (Edward) (1859-1936) - English poet and scholar whose reputation arose from a single volume, "A Shropshire Lad." Housman later became a professor of classics at Cambridge and refused, until shortly before his death, to even speak about his verse. When I Was One-and-Twenty (1896) - Opening lines: When I was one-and- twenty / I heard a wise man say, ...

WHEN I WAS ONE-AND-TWENTY

When I was one-and-twenty
I heard a wise man say,
'Give crowns and pounds and guineas
But not your heart away;
Give pearls away and rubies
But keep you fancy free.'
But I was one-and-twenty,
No use to talk to me.
When I was one-and-twenty
I heard him say again,
'The heart out of the bosom
Was never given in vain;
'Tis paid with sighs a plenty
And sold for endless rue.'
And I am two-and-twenty,
And oh, 'tis true, 'tis true.

THE END