

## 'The Unknown Citizen' by W. H. Auden

British English 

Transcription taken from

**PhonetiBlog - Jack Windsor Lewis phonetic blog**

<http://www.yek.me.uk/archive3.html#blog020> (visited 23-May-12)

### Make a phonemic (broad) transcription of the poem "The Unknown Citizen" by W. H. Auden

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be  
One against whom there was no official complaint,  
And all the reports on his conduct agree  
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint  
For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.  
Except for the War till the day he retired  
He worked in a factory and never got fired,  
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.  
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,  
For his Union reports that he paid his dues,  
(Our report on his Union shows it was sound)  
And our Social Psychology workers found  
That he was Popular with his mates and liked to drink.  
The Press are convinced that he bought a Paper every day  
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.  
Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured  
And his Health-card shows he was once in a hospital but left it cured,  
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare  
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Installment Plan  
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,  
A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.  
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content  
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;  
When there was peace he was for peace when there was war he went.  
He was married and added five children to the population,  
Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his generation,  
And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.  
Was he free? Was he Happy? The question is absurd:  
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.



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**ði 'ʌn'nəʊn ,sɪtɪzn - 'ɒblɪʤu 'eɪtʃ ,ɔɪdn**

hi wɪz 'faʊnd baɪ ðə 'bɜːrəʊ əv stə'tɪstɪks tə 'bɪː  
wʌn əɡenst hu:m ðə wɪz `nəʊ əfɪfl km , pleɪnt |  
ən 'ɔɪl ðə rɪ'pɔɪts | ʊn ɪz 'kɒndʌkt ə , grɪː |  
ðæt ɪn ðə `mɒdn `sens əv ən `əʊlfæfn 'wɜːd | 'hɪː wəz ə , seɪnt, |  
fɔɪr ɪn `ɛvrɪθɪŋ ɪ 'dɪd | hi 'sɜːvd ðə 'ɡreɪtə kə , mjuːnəti.  
ɪk'sep fə ðə , wɔɪ | tɪl ðə 'deɪ hi rə'taɪəd |  
hi 'wɜːkt ɪn ə 'fæktri | ən 'nevə ɡɒt , faɪəd  
bət 'sæɪsfɑɪd ɪz ɪm , plɔɪəz, 'fʌdʒ 'məʊtəz , ɪŋk.  
jɛt ɪ `wɒzn ə ` , skæb | ɔɪr `ɒd ɪn ɪz ` , vjuːz, |  
fɔɪr ɪz `juːnjən rə , pɔɪts | ðæt ɪ `peɪd ɪz ` , djuːz |  
(aɪ rə `pɔɪt ʊn ɪz , juːnjən `fəʊz ɪt wəz , saʊnd | )  
ən aː `səʊfl sɪ `kɒlədʒɪ wɜːkəz 'faʊnd |  
ðæt ɪ wɪz `pɒpjələ wɪð ɪz 'meɪts | ən 'laɪkt ə , drɪŋk.  
ðə ` , pres | ə kn'vɪnst | ðæt ɪ 'bɔɪt ə 'peɪpə | 'ɛvrɪ , deɪ  
ən ðæt ɪz rɪ `ækʃnz | tu əd'vɜːtɪsmənts | wə 'nɔɪml ɪn 'ɛvrɪ , weɪ.  
'pɒləsɪz teɪkn aʊt ɪn ɪz , neɪm | 'pruːv | ðæt ɪ wəz 'fʊli ɪn , ʃɔɪd, |  
ən ɪz 'helθkaɪd | fəʊz ɪ wɪz `wʌns ɪn 'hɒspɪdl|bət 'left ɪt , kjɔɪd.  
bəʊθ prə'djuːsə , rɪːsɜːtʃ ən 'haɪɡreɪd `lɪvɪŋ dɪ , klɛə |  
ðæt ɪ wɪz 'fʊli 'sensəbl |tə ði əd `væntədʒɪz əv ði ɪn `stɔɪlmənt , plæn|  
n hæd `ɛvrɪθɪŋ `nesəsəri | tə ðə 'mɒdn , mæn  
ə , græməfəʊn, | ə , reɪdɪəʊ, | ə 'kɑɪr ən frɪdʒə , deə.  
aː `rɪːsɜːtʃəz ɪntə `pʌblɪk ə `pɪnjən ə kn , tent |  
ðæt ɪ 'held ðə 'prɒpər ə'pɪnjənz | fə ðə 'taɪm əv , jɜː;  
wɛn ðeə wɪz 'pɪːs | hi wɪz `fɔɪ pɪːs; wɛn ðeə wɪz 'wɔ | hi , went.  
hi wɪz , mæɪd | ən ædɪd 'faɪv 'tʃɪldrɪn tə ðə pɒpjə , leɪfn  
wɪtʃ aː ju `dʒenɪs , sez | wɪz ðə raɪt , nʌmbə | fər ə pɛərnt əv 'hɪz dʒenə , , reɪfn|  
ən aː 'tɪːtʃəz rə , pɔɪt |ðæt ɪ 'nevər ɪntə'fɪəd wɪð ðeər 'edʒə , keɪfn.  
wəz ɪ 'frɪː? wəz ɪ 'hæpi? ðə 'kwɛstʃənz əb , sɜːd:  
hæd `ɛnəθɪŋ bɪn ` , rɒŋ |wɪ ʃd ` , sɜːtnɪ əv `hɜːd.

