

U DP155

Papers of Anthony Simon Thwaite

1960s-1990s

Biographical Background:

Anthony Simon Thwaite was born in Chester in 1930 and spent the years of the second world war with an aunt in Washington DC where he went to school. On his return he was boarded at Kingswood School, Bath, before studying at Christ Church Oxford. While there he edited *Isis* and co-edited *Trio* and *Oxford Poetry* 1954. From 1955 to 1957 he was Visiting Lecturer in English Literature at Tokyo University. On his return to England he became a producer of features for the BBC Third Programme and then, from 1962 to 1965 was literary editor of the *Listener*. From 1965 to 1967 he was Assistant Professor of English at the University of Libya, Benghazi. Later he became editor of *The New Statesman*, co-editor of *Encounter* and Director of *Andre Deutsch Ltd*. He had a sabbatical year as writer in residence at the University of East Anglia in 1972.

Thwaite published his first book of poems with the Fantasy Press in 1953 and his second *Home Truths* with the Marvell Press two years after Philip Larkin's *The Less Deceived* in 1957. He is literary executor of the estate of Philip Larkin, for whom he produced *Larkin at Sixty* (1982), later editing *The Collected Poems* (1988) and *Selected Letters* (1992).

Anthony Thwaite died on 22 April 2021 at the age of 90.

Custodial history:

U DP155/1-5 purchased in 1970; U DP155/6-16 purchased in November 1979; U DP155/17 donated in June 1990; and U DP155/18 donated in May 1994, all directly from Anthony Thwaite.

Description:

The material comprises manuscript drafts, typescripts and ten notebooks (including journals of a visit to Libya), chiefly relating to Thwaite's poetry collections *The Owl in the Tree* (1963), *The Stones of Emptiness* (1967), *A Portion for Foxes* (1977) and *The Deserts of Hesperides* (1969) a travel book on Libya. There are twenty four letters of correspondence between Anthony Thwaite and Jon Stallworthy (Oxford University Press) (1965-1968) about the publication of *The Stones of Emptiness*. In addition to manuscript and typescript poems there is the script of a play entitled 'Hagoromo' by Anthony Thwaite in one of his notebooks (1973) and notes on visits to North Africa, Yugoslavia and Italy. The notebooks also act as diaries of Thwaite's time as a lecturer for the British Council at the University of Benhazi in Libya, his sabbatical at the University of East Anglia and ideas for radio programmes. They also detail archaeological sites of special interest and excavations in North Africa. Accompanying these literary manuscripts is a bundle of transcripts and photocopies of letters by Philip Larkin, assembled by Thwaite for his edition of the *Selected letters* (1992)

Extent: c.725 items

Related material:

Other papers of Anthony Thwaite are at U DP151/4, U DP181 and U DP188
Archives of the poetry magazines Wave [U DP158] and Phoenix [U DP162]
Papers of Philip Larkin [U DPL]

Other repositories:

University of Reading; National Sound Archive; BBC written archives; Northamptonshire
Record Office; Brotherton Library (Leeds); John Rylands Library (Manchester); East Sussex
Record Office

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DP155/1	File. Ms. drafts and corrected typescripts of poems and proof of 'The Owl in the Attic' (Oxford University Press, 1963) 1 file	pre 1963
U DP155/2	Notebook. 'Libya II' 1 item	[1965-1966]
U DP155/3	Notebook. 'Libya III, The Deserts of Hesperides' 1 item	[1966 - 1967]
U DP155/4	File. Ms. drafts and typescripts of poems (almost all as printed in 'The Stones of Emptiness') With scripts for 'Poetry Now', broadcast 12 April 1966 1 file	1966
U DP155/5	File. Ms. drafts and typescripts of poems and proof of 'The Stones of Emptiness' (Oxford University Press, 1967) With relative letters from Jon Stallworthy, Oxford University Press (24) and others (6), and replies from Thwaite (2)	Oct 1965- Feb 1968

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1 file

U DP155/6	Notebook 'Libya 4' Containing: a) Journal of visit to Libya. Fragmentary b) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (15) c) Poems from 'Inscriptions' (10) d) Poem from 'Portion for Foxes' (1) e) Lists of poems (2; 1 being loose) f) Jottings 1 item	c. 1973
U DP155/7	Notebook Containing: a) Poems from 'Inscriptions' (6) b) Jottings c) Play. 'Hagorome' d) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (6) e) Poem from 'Portion for Foxes' 1 item	c. 1973
U DP155/8	Notebook Containing: a) Drafts for 'New Confessions' b) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (12) c) Notes on Libya d) Jottings e) Journal of visit to Yugoslavia f) Poems from 'Portion for Foxes' (5) g) Timetable and notes. Visit to Italy h) Drafts and reviews (2) 1 item	[1973]
U DP155/9	Notebook Containing: a) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (16) b) Poems from 'Portion for Foxes' (3) c) Draft reviews (2) 1 item	1973
U DP155/10	Notebook Containing: a) Journal (visit to North Africa?): Fragmentary b) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (7) c) Jottings d) Poems from 'Portion for Foxes' (4) 1 item	1974

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U DP155/11	Notebook Containing: a) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (18) b) Jottings c) Poems from 'Portion for Foxes' (2) d) Draft reviews (3) 1 item	c. 1977
U DP155/12	Notebook Containing: a) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (16) b) Jottings c) Draft reviews (4) 1 item	c. 1977
U DP155/13	Notebook Containing: a) Drafts of (unpublished?) poems (20) b) Jottings c) Lecture notes 1 item	[1978]
U DP155/14	Folder. Ms. and ts. poems published in 'Inscriptions' (28 poems out of 39 published) 1 file	[1973]
U DP155/15	Folder. Ms. and ts. poems published in 'Portion for Foxes' (39 poems out of 42 published) 1 file	1977
U DP155/16	Notes 7 items	20th cent.
U DP155/17	'Anthony's advance: a poem for the sixtieth birthday of Anthony Thwaite by his friend Peter Porter' No. 28 of a signed edition of 30 copies, 23 June 1990, with accompanying postcard, 29 June 1990 2 items	23-29 Jun 1990
U DP155/18	Transcripts, edited transcripts and photocopies of letters assembled by Anthony Thwaite for his edition of Philip Larkin's 'Selected Letters' (London: Faber, 1992) Arranged in chronological order, covering 1939 - 1985 c. 700 items	pre 1992