

**U DP188**

**Papers of Anthony Thwaite  
relating to his Editorship of 'Larkin at Sixty'**

**1979-1981**

**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:**

Purchased from Rick Gekoski, Bookseller, London, May 1994

**Description:**

Contains correspondence with potential contributors and material relating to 'Larkin at Sixty'. There is also a small amount of correspondence relating to the a South Bank Show devoted to Larkin and Anthony Twaite's proposed book on Philip Larkin.

**Extent:** 1 file

**Related material:**

Other papers of Anthony Thwaite are at U DP151/4, U DP155 and U DP181  
Papers of Philip Larkin [U DPL]

**Access conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

- U DP188/1      File. Papers assembled by Anthony Thwaite as editor of Larkin at Sixty (London: Faber & Faber, 1981) including:      1979-1981
- a) General: invitations to prospective contributors
  - b) Correspondence with Faber & Faber regarding publication of the book. Includes copy of the publishing contract (1 February 1980)
  - c) Typescripts of the original contributions (mainly photocopies)
  - d) Page proofs (including illustrations)
  - e) Photograph of Richard Murphy, Douglas Dunn, Larkin and Ted Hughes (with compliments slip from Larkin)
  - f) Photograph of drawing of Larkin by Howard Morgan
  - g) Ts. of introduction, by Anthony Thwaite (4pp.)
  - h) Correspondence with Kingsley Amis (with typescript letters signed from Amis dated 23.1.80 and 23.1.81)
  - i) Correspondence with Alan Bennett (including handwritten letter signed 25.1.80; postcard 29.9.80; handwritten letter signed 31.10.81; handwritten letter signed 1.11.81), plus page proofs of final article
  - j) Correspondence with Sir John Betjeman (including typescript letter signed 29.10.80), plus ts. (photocopy) of original poem ('Archibald'), and page proof
  - k) Correspondence with Barry C. Bloomfield (including postcard typescript letter signed 22.1.80; typescript letter signed 1.2.80; typescript letter signed 9.7.80; 22.12.80; typescript letter signed 6.4.81; typescript letter signed 17.11.81, and page proof
  - l) Correspondence with Alan Brownjohn (typescript letters signed 19.12.80 and 9.11.81), and page proof
  - m) Correspondence with Harry Chambers (typescript letter signed 14.11.80; handwritten letter signed 29.12.80; typescript letter signed 12.4.81; typescript letter signed 12.11.81), and page proof
  - n) Correspondence with Robert Conquest (including typescript letter signed 1.2.80; postcard 27.10.80; typescript letter signed 8.1.81; postcard 12.2.81 (?); typescript letter signed 7.4.81; typescript letter signed

Hull History Centre: Papers of Anthony Thwaite re 'Larkin at Sixty'

U DP188/1  
cont...

16.6.81; postcard 17.8.81; typescript letter signed 24.9.81), plus page proof and original typescript  
o) Correspondence with Douglas Dunn (typescript letter signed 22.1.80; typescript letter signed 19.12.80; typescript letter signed 13.11.81), and page proof

1979-1981

p) Correspondence with Gavin Ewart (handwritten letters signed 28.2.80; n.d.), and page proof

q) Correspondence with John Gross (typescript letter signed 30.1.80; postcard n.d.), and page proof

r) Correspondence with George Hartley (typescript letters signed 3.81 and 21.5.81), and page proofs

s) Correspondence with Seamus Heaney (handwritten letters signed 1.5.80 and 19.2.81)

t) Correspondence with Noel Hughes (typescript letters signed 1.2.80; 19.1.81; 7.6.81; 3.11.81; handwritten letter signed 1.1.81; typescript letter signed NH to PAL 5.5.81; TL NH to PAL 18 .5.81), and page proof

u) Correspondence with Clive James (handwritten letter signed 13.5.82), with annotated draft typescripts (p/c)

v) Correspondence with Donald Mitchell (typescript letters signed 21.1.80; 27.10.80; 7.1.81; 4.11.81), and page proof

w) Correspondence with Charles Monteith (typescript letters signed 9.1.79; 19.12.79; 24.1.80; 19.2.80; 23.4.80; 8.5.80; 19.5.80; 29.1.81; 13.2.81; 24.2.81; 31.3.81; 19.6.81; 25.6.81; 15.7.81; 30.9.81; 22.2.82; 11.3.82), and page proof

x) Correspondence with Andrew Motion (handwritten letters signed 15.3.80; typescript letters signed 26.9.80 and 19.4.81; postcard 8.11.81), and page proof

y) Correspondence with Peter Porter (handwritten letters signed 28.2.81 and 31.3.81), and page proof, with typescript of 'Going to parties' (p/c)  
1 file

U DP188/2

Correspondence regarding the proposed South Bank Show television programme devoted to Philip Larkin including:  
a) Postcard from Melvyn Bragg, 20 April 1980

1980-1981

Hull History Centre: Papers of Anthony Thwaite re 'Larkin at Sixty'

b) Letters (2 typescript letters signed) from Andrew Snell,  
9 April 1981 and 25 November 1981  
1 bundle

U DP188/3

Correspondence regarding Anthony Thwaite's proposed  
book on Philip Larkin including:

1980

a) Letter (typescript letter signed) from Giles de la Mare  
(of Faber & Faber, London), 20 November 1980,  
enclosing b)

b) Publishing contract

c) Invitation from Christopher Bigsby to produce a similar  
book for Macmillan in their 'The Contemporary writer'  
series  
3 items