

**U DX213      Letters from Philip Larkin to Barry Bloomfield      1946-1985  
and related papers**

**Biographical Background:**

Barry Cambray Bloomfield was born in London on 1 June 1931, was a distinguished librarian and as the bibliographer of Auden and Philip Larkin. His first professional post, in 1956, was at the College of St Mark and St John in Chelsea and it was here he published his first work on English bibliography. In 1961 he was appointed Assistant Librarian at the London School of Economics before moving to the School of Oriental and African Studies where he first started working in Oriental Librarianship. In 1978 he became Director of the India Office Library and Records and successfully negotiated its incorporation into the British Library in 1982 without breaking-up the collections. He held numerous offices for a range of professional groups and associations including President of the Bibliographical Society in its centenary year (1992) and was instrumental in the creation of the Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records Managers in 1983 and undertook tours in India and Pakistan on behalf of the British Council.

He retired from his post as Director of Collection Development at the British Library in December 1990. He was Chair of Rare Books Group between 1991-1995 and was co-editor of the 2nd edition of *A Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the UK* (pub 1997). He will be remembered for his masterly bibliographies of the works of W. H. Auden and Philip Larkin, both widely regarded as models of meticulous scholarship with 'Philip Larkin, a Bibliography, 1933-1976' being published in 1979 but died just before the second edition was published in 2002. The friendship between the two librarians was evident in Barry's reminiscences of Larkin in 'Brought to Book' (published in 1995). He died on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002.

**Custodial history:**

Donated by Barry Bloomfield, Wye, March 1987

**Extent:** 128 items

**Access conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX213/1	Photocopies. Letter, postcards and Christmas cards from Philip Larkin to Barry Bloomfield (all from Hull). The letter of 17 July 1973 includes ts. of the previously unpublished poem, 'Continuing to live'. 49 items	7 Mar 1958- 6 Dec 1977
U DX213/2	Photocopies. Letter, postcards and Christmas cards from Philip Larkin to Barry Bloomfield (all from Hull). 27 items	25 Jan 1978- 15 Dec 1980

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U DX213/3	Photocopies. Letter, postcards and Christmas cards from Larkin to Bloomfield (all from Hull). 37 items	18 Dec 1980- 21 Nov 1985
U DX213/4	Photocopies. Miscellaneous items including: a) Press cutting from 'The Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News': advertisement seeking accommodation for Philip Larkin, 5 Jan 1946 b) TLS. Douglas G.F. Walker (Librarian, University of Leicester) to Barry C. Bloomfield, 3 July 1974 c) ALS J.R. Leach (Knole Park Press) to Barry C. Bloomfield, 13 July 1974 d) Job advertisement for the post of Assistant Librarian, South East Asian Studies, in the Brynmor Jones Library, with accompanying note by Philip Larkin, Nov 1974 e) Copy. TLS , Barry C. Bloomfield to Kenkyusha Co. Ltd, Tokyo, Japan, 7 Jun 1975 f) TLS. Reply to (e) from Yukiko Moriyasu, 27 Jun 1975 g) TLS. Christine Young (of 'The Listener') to Barry C. Bloomfield, 28 Aug 1975 h) Note by Larkin granting Barry C. Bloomfield access to the Brynmor Jones Library, 21 Nov 1975 i) TLS. Teresa Solomon (of 'The Listener') to Barry C. Bloomfield, 13 April 1976 j) TLS. J.W. Longhurst (Director, L.Looker Ltd) to Barry C. Bloomfield, 13 Nov 1975 k) TLS. M.R. Perkin (of University of Liverpool Library) to Barry C. Bloomfield, 23 Feb 1976 l) TLS. M.R. Perkin (of University of Liverpool Library) to Barry C. Bloomfield, enclosing list of Liverpool University Library holdings of Philip Larkin material, 5 Mar 1976 m) University of Hull, Publications Committee. Catalogue of Publications, 1977 n) Postcard. Margerite Aliger (of Moscow) to Larkin, May 1977 o) Library supplement '84, produced by Gown, in association with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (including 'The library I came to', by Philip Larkin (i.e. Queen's University Library, Belfast), 1984 15 items	5 Jan 1946- 1984