

U DX335

**Correspondence between Joan Bakewell
and Phillip Larkin**

1984

Historical Background:

Following the death of John Betjeman on 19 May 1984 there was considerable speculation about who would succeed him as Poet Laureate. Phillip Larkin was offered the post in November by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher but he politely declined (see U DPL U DPL4/8/44) and the post was subsequently accepted by Ted Hughes.

Custodial history:

Copies donated by Joan Bakewell in September 2003

Description:

Copies of four letters between Joan Bakewell and Phillip Larkin primarily relating to a programme that Joan wanted to do about the post of Poet Laureate

Extent: 1 file

Related material:

Copies of this correspondence can also be found amongst the Philip Larkin archive [Ref U DPL] at U DPL2/2/11/84, whilst correspondence with Margaret Thatcher is at U DPL4/8/44

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX335/1	Correspondence between Joan Bakewell and Phillip Larkin Photocopies of four letters between Joan Bakewell from the BBC Newsnight programme and Philip Larkin concerning the Poet Laureatship. Larkin declines to be involved and suggests he is unsuitable for the post having "ceased writing poems about seven years ago" but expresses interest in watching a discussion about the Poet Laureatship. 4 items	22 May-21 Jun 1984
-----------	---	-----------------------