

U DX349

**Letters from Howard Sergeant
to Janice M. Green**

1978-1987

Accession number: 2010/29

Biographical Background:

Herbert Howard Sergeant was born in Hull in 1914 and qualified as an accountant. He served in the RAF and the Air Ministry during the Second World War and with the assistance of his friend Lionel Monteith, edited and published the first issue of his poetry magazine 'Outposts' in February 1944. Outposts is the longest running independent poetry magazine in Britain. Sergeant had been writing poetry since childhood and his first poem to be published was 'Thistledown magic', in 'Chambers Journal' in 1943. 'Outposts' was conceived in wartime and its early focus was on poets 'who, by reason of the particular outposts they occupy, are able to visualise the dangers which confront the individual and the whole of humanity, now and after the war' (editorial, 'Outposts', no. 1). Over the decades, the magazine specialised in publishing unrecognised poets alongside the well established. Sergeant deliberately avoided favouring any particular school of poetry, and edited 'Mavericks: an anthology', with Dannie Abse, in 1957, in support of this stance. Sergeant's own poetry was included in the first issue of 'Outposts' (but rarely thereafter) and his first published collection, 'The Leavening Air', appeared in 1946. He was involved in setting up the Dulwich Group (a branch of the British Poetry Association) in 1949, and again, when it re-formed in 1960. In 1956, Sergeant published the first of the Outposts Modern Poets Series of booklets and hardbacks devoted to individual poets. During his lifetime he served on the Executive Councils of the PEN, the English Association, the National Book League and the Poetry Society, as well as on the panel of judges for the EC Gregory Awards and many other poetry awards and competitions. His work as a poetry editor reached far beyond 'Outposts', and he specialised particularly in Commonwealth poetry and children's poetry, as well as lecturing on how to teach poetry to children. Alongside his literary work, he had a career first as a company accountant, and then from 1963, as a lecturer. He retired as head of the School of Management at Brooklands Technical College in Weybridge in 1978 and received an MBE in the same year. After a gap of many years, he began to write poetry again and several of his anthologies date from the 1980s, including his 'Selected poems'.

Family life

Howard Sergeant married his first wife, Dorothy, in 1940, and the couple had a daughter, Deirdre. According to U DX349/81 Sergeant and his wife separated in 1941, although they did not divorce until 1953. Sergeant had relationships with a number of other women including, most famously, Muriel Spark. He married his second wife, Jean, in 1954, and they had a son, Julian, and two daughters, Cherrill and Oriel. He died in February 1987.

Janice M. Green was born in 1946. At the time the letters in this collection were written she was separated from her husband, Malcolm, and lived in Lichfield with her two daughters, Dulcie and Melanie. She also wrote poetry, which was published in Outposts and elsewhere. She died in 2010.

Custodial history:

Deposited by Mr K. D. Hooker, brother and executor of Janice M. Green.

Description:

The letters in this collection were mainly written by Howard Sergeant to Janice M. (Jan) Green. The collection also contains two letters signed "David", and the final two letters were written by Jean, Sergeant's wife, during his final illness and after his death.

The correspondence appears to have begun when Green submitted one or more poems for inclusion in *Outposts*. Although these were rejected, Green wrote back to Sergeant with questions about his poetry and an ongoing exchange of letters began. The relationship quickly moved into friendship and the letters became more intimate, and it is clear from the correspondence that Sergeant and Green spoke on the telephone fairly regularly but met only occasionally. Green also undertook work for Sergeant, including typing up his poems and writing occasional reviews for *Outposts*.

Most of the letters in the early years contain Sergeant's feelings for Green and about their relationship, which appear to have been intense; in a letter of 17 August 1978 he writes, "[Y]ou are the biggest thing that ever happened to me (including Muriel)...". Many discuss his marriage to his second wife, Jean, from whom he tells Green he is concealing their relationship. A number of the letters expound Sergeant's theories about life and poetry (such as his "philosophy of love"), while others contain gossipy information about literary figures and mutual acquaintances. Several of the letters seek to explain to Green his earlier relationships, such as that with Muriel Spark.

Green and Sergeant had a number of mutual friends and acquaintances in the poetry world. The most frequently mentioned are Tilly Shore, the widow of Henry Shore, whom Sergeant was assisting in setting up a charity in Henry Shore's name; Jenny Brice, a Midlands poet; and "David", whose name and exploits appear in a large number of the letters. David was the leader of the Middle England Poets Society (also Middle England Poetry Services) (MEPS). Sergeant appears to have been a friend of David for a number of years and frequently reports phone calls and letters from him.

In 1979 there was a clash between MEPS and the Stafford Group poetry society, regarding whether the two groups should merge or whether there should be a branch of MEPS in Stafford. It is unclear exactly what the situation was, although it seems that a personality clash may have been at the root of the issue, but it appears from this correspondence that Sergeant was receiving letters from both sides, hoping for his support, and that Green was also involved. Many of the letters in this period are largely taken up with the situation, and contain much opinion and information about the main players.

The relationship between Green and Sergeant soured for a time in 1981 when Green met a new partner. However, early 1982 saw a return to friendly correspondence, although with less intimacy and frequency than previously. Green and Sergeant then seem to have remained on good terms until his death in 1987.

A brief description of the main subjects in each letter is given at item level. The earliest letters are exclusively handwritten, but from August 1978 the letters are frequently typewritten.

Extent: 1 file

Related material:

Papers of Howard Sergeant, including the Archives of 'Outposts' poetry magazine [U DSG]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Copyright: With author

Language: English

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| U DX349/1 | Three short letters from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Three notes stapled together, rejecting poems sent for inclusion in Outposts but encouraging Janice Green to send him more work, and advising on the availability of Outposts. Subscription form for Outposts attached. 4 items | [1970s] |
| U DX349/2 | Three letters from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Three letters stapled together. (1) n.d. Rejection note for "First Reading." (2) 14 Jan 1978. Imagery used in his poems "Three Sonnets on a Single Theme." (3) 20 Jan 1978. Sergeant's "philosophy of love." 3 items | Jan 1978 |
| U DX349/3 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Explains his "love philosophy"; his poem "The Towers in the Wind." 1 item | 27 Jan 1978 |
| U DX349/4 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Explains the metaphor used in his poem "The Ache of the Oyster, Time"; includes a poem, "Strategy." Postscript: he has collected his award [an MBE] from the Queen. 1 item | 25 Mar 1978 |
| U DX349/5 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green 1 item | 9 May 1978 |
| U DX349/6 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Visit to [Buckingham] Palace [to collect his MBE]; giving up his teaching job to have more time for poetry. 1 item | 19 May 1978 |
| U DX349/7 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Travel; Green's relationship with her husband. 1 item | 2 Jun 1978 |
| U DX349/8 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has been shortlisted for a Creative Writing Fellowship at the University of Hull; possible opportunities for he and Green to meet. 1 item | 13 Jun 1978 |
| U DX349/9 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Arranging a meeting with Green. 1 item | 14 Jun 1978 |

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| U DX349/10 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green MEPS; panel for his Creative Writing Fellowship interview included Charles Osborne of the Arts Council and Philip Larkin; he was offered the post but turned it down; interviewing for a similar post in Basingstoke. 1 item | 22 Jun 1978 |
| U DX349/11 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has accepted a Creative Writing Fellowship at Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke; early issues of Outposts; Green's poetry; awards party for the Society of Authors. 1 item | 30 Jun 1978 |
| U DX349/12 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Leaving his job as a lecturer; his children's activities. 1 item | 9 Jul 1978 |
| U DX349/13 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green His emotional reaction to their first meeting. 1 item | 20 Jul 1978 |
| U DX349/14 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has sent her his poem "The Invisible Lady" and his book "The Cumberland Wordsworth"; their meeting. 1 item | 22 Jul 1978 |
| U DX349/15 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green His feelings for and about her. 1 item | 26 Jul 1978 |
| U DX349/16 | Poem: "Soft Landings" by Howard Sergeant Handwritten. 1 item | [1970s] |
| U DX349/17 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Their relationship and his home life; recent poems; comments on her poetry. 1 item | 2 Aug 1978 |
| U DX349/18 | Note from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Covering note for a book for review. 1 item | [1970s] |
| U DX349/19 | Card from a bunch of flowers, with "Remembering the date" written on it 1 item | [1970s] |

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| U DX349/20 | Poem: "The Sergeant Shark" by Lucy, Totleigh Barton Poem written for and about Sergeant by a student at one of his writing schools. 1 item | Aug 1978 |
| U DX349/21 | Poem: "Lipstick" by Elaine Griffiths Poem written by a student at one of Sergeant's writing schools. 1 item | [1970s] |
| U DX349/22 | Poem: "Lines for a Young Lady's Autograph Album" by Howard Sergeant | [1970s] |
| U DX349/23 | Three notes from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Three notes which were enclosed with books and poems sent to Green by Sergeant. 3 items | [1970s] |
| U DX349/24 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green His home life; her poetry and relationship with David Jacob; he stood as a Liberal party candidate for Walton, Weybridge, in two local elections. 1 item | 5 Aug 1978 |
| U DX349/25 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green His childhood and education; parties in the 1940s; his relationship with Muriel [Spark] and its representation in "Inside the Forties" by Derek Stanford; advice on Green's poetry and publication; the British Poetry Association; how he met Jean. 1 item | 9 Aug 1978 |
| U DX349/26 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Gossip about mutual acquaintances; his family life and relationship with Jean; Muriel Spark and "Inside the Forties" by Derek Stanford; analysis of one of Green's poems. | 11 Aug 1978 |
| U DX349/27 | Poem: "A Reference for Mrs X" by Howard Sergeant 1 item | . [1978] |
| U DX349/28 | Poem: "The Silver Spoon" by Howard Sergeant 1 item | [1970s] |

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| U DX349/29 | Poem: "A Lesson in Language" by Howard Sergeant Two copies, typewritten and annotated. 2 items | . [1970s] |
| U DX349/30 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Opinions on "legends and gurus"; analysis of her poem "Legend"; gossip about their mutual friends, Tilly, David and Jenny; his marriage to Jean. 1 item | 14 Aug 1978 |
| U DX349/31 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green His family life; marriage to Jean; depression and suicidality; his feelings for Green. 1 item | 17 Aug 1978 |
| U DX349/32 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green MEPS; Jean's health; discrimination against him by Surrey County Council's education department; his career history and breaking in to the literary world. 1 item | 12 Sep 1978 |
| U DX349/33 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Travel; his "'How I made it' story"; advice on her career; the difficulties of meeting up again. 1 item | 19 Sep 1978 |
| U DX349/34 | Two poems by Muriel Spark: "Tracing the Landscape..." and "He Is Like Africa" Typewritten. Annotated: "2 poems out of a sequence to HS". 1 item | n.d. |
| U DX349/35 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Muriel [Spark], their relationship, and her relationship with Derek [Stanford]; advice on a career in writing; his work at Basingstoke college. 1 item | 25 Sep 1978 |
| U DX349/36 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Thanks her for their meeting. 1 item | 4 Nov 1978 |
| U DX349/37 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Party at PEN headquarters with other poets; reading by Fleur Adcock at Basingstoke college. 1 item | 9-10 Nov 1978 |

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| U DX349/38 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Work at the college; "Reassessment" pamphlet written with Muriel [Spark]; his feelings for Green and about her relationship with David; advice on her career. 1 item | 14 Nov 1978 |
| U DX349/39 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Her relationship with David; analysis of her poems; Christmas gifts. 1 item | 14 Dec 1978 |
| U DX349/40 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Her domestic situation; his poem "A Lesson in Language". 1 item | 4 Jan 1979 |
| U DX349/41 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Discussion of "genre" in poetry; David and women; will publish her "Centenary Play" in Outposts. 1 item | 29 Jan 1979 |
| U DX349/42 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Jenny Brice's poems and domestic situation; Stafford Poetry society, MEPS, and a battle between Tilly and David. 1 item | 3 Feb 1979 |
| U DX349/43 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Meeting Tilly to give her financial advice but has no interest in a relationship beyond friendship; is not interested in one night stands or short affairs; advice on reviewing; Jenny Brice's publication. 1 item | 9 Feb 1979 |
| U DX349/44 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David's attitude to women; their relationship; his work on Outposts, an anthology of medical poems, etc.; his home life. 1 item | 14 Feb 1979 |
| U DX349/45 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Is unwell with a possible kidney stone and worried he may have to go into hospital; asks her to withhold letters and phone calls. 1 item | 21 Feb 1979 |
| U DX349/46 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Still unwell; Stafford Group; Paul Ferris's book on Dylan Thomas. 1 item | 24 Feb 1979 |

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| U DX349/47 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Recovered from recent illness; Stafford Group; other poetry societies and magazines. 1 item | 2 Mar 1979 |
| U DX349/48 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Outposts mentioned in House of Lords; Stafford Group, Outposts and Shore Trust; poetry politics among Stafford Group and MEPS. 1 item | 7 Mar 1979 |
| U DX349/49 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Horoscope written for him by Malcolm [Green's former husband]; politics among Stafford Group and MEPS. 1 item | 17 Mar 1979 |
| U DX349/50 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Family life; David and MEPS. 1 item | 23 Mar 1979 |
| U DX349/51 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David's attitude to criticism; MEPS conference; Stafford Group; their respective children; his teaching. 1 item | 2 Apr 1979 |
| U DX349/52 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Visited a Dulwich Group meeting; is on the panel for the Gregory Awards; Stafford Group and MEPS. 1 item | 27 Apr 1979 |
| U DX349/53 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green His feelings for her; David and the MEPS conference; Stafford Group and the Henry Shore Trust; Gregory Awards Trust; opinions on finance, welfare and politics; travelling in May. 1 item | 10 May 1979 |
| U DX349/54 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David, Jo and MEPS. 1 item | 13 May 1979 |
| U DX349/55 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David and the finances of MEPS; wishes he could see her. 1 item | 21 May 1979 |

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| U DX349/56 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David and the finances and running of MEPS; Jean's illness; reassures Green of his feelings for her. 1 item | 29 May 1979 |
| U DX349/57 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Domestic news; payment for articles Green is writing; David, Jenny and the financial and administrative position of MEPS; teaching. 1 item | 28 Jun 1979 |
| U DX349/58 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green, with two poems David, Jenny and MEPS; poem "The Finnish Legend"; teaching on a short course in Yorkshire. The two poems with the letter are "The Finnish Legend" by Howard Sergeant and an untitled poem by Jenny Morgan, a student on the short course mentioned in the letter. 3 items | 25 Jul 1979 |
| U DX349/59 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Two letters stapled together. (1) 4 and 6 August 1979. His feelings for her; David and Pause [the MEPS publication]. (2) 24 September 1979. MEPS business; meeting her before the MEPS conference. 1 item | 4 Aug-24 Sep 1979 |
| U DX349/60 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Asks her not to tell anyone the nature of their relationship; David and the administration of MEPS; invited to a party celebrating Alan Sillitoe's book. 1 item | 3 Oct 1979 |
| U DX349/61 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Trip to Liverpool for a reading at the Liverpool Writers Circle; David and MEPS; party for Alan Sillitoe, who was first published by Outposts. 1 item | 12 Oct 1979 |
| U DX349/62 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Problems finding a publisher for his own poems; his children. 1 item | 29 Nov 1979 |

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| U DX349/63 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David's Award for Services to Poetry now has Dorothy Tutin's name attached to it; his children's characters; has a perforated eardrum. 1 item | 5 Dec 1979 |
| U DX349/64 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green National Poetry Competition; giving a poetry reading in London. 1 item | 10 Dec 1979 |
| U DX349/65 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Enclosing Christmas present. 1 item | 16 Dec 1979 |
| U DX349/66 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has been unable to ring her; domestic news. 1 item | 28 Dec 1979 |
| U DX349/67 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Nominated for the MEPS Dorothy Tutin Award; gossip about David and MEPS; visit to Jean Overton Fuller; advice on book reviewing. 1 item | 14 Feb 1980 |
| U DX349/68 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Saw a TV programme about Stevie Smith; his memories of Smith; divisions within MEPS. 1 item | 20 Feb 1980 |
| U DX349/69 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Tax and earnings advice; his poem "Trapeze Artist". 1 item | 28 Feb 1980 |
| U DX349/70 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Memories of Roy Campbell, [Stephen] Spender, [Louis] MacNiece and [Cecil] Day-Lewis; his poem "Trapeze Artist"; book launch for Derek Stanford. 1 item | 21 Mar 1980 |
| U DX349/71 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Thoughts about [Roy] Campbell and 1940s poets including John Bayliss; reviewing. 1 item | 25 Mar 1980 |
| U DX349/72 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green 1930s poets and politics - Franco's Spain, fascism, Communism; Philip Larkin's "Wedding Wind"; judging for Gregory Awards and VER poets. 1 item | 2 April 1980 |

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| U DX349/73 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Philip Larkin, particularly "Wedding Wind"; Green's thesis on Larkin's poetry; blasphemy cases in the courts; poetic criticism. 1 item | 8 April 1980 |
| U DX349/74 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Thanks for birthday gifts; poetry competitions; poetry and criticism. 1 item | 7 May 1980 |
| U DX349/75 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green TUC strike and Labour Party; gossip about Jenny, David and MEPS. 1 item | 15 May 1980 |
| U DX349/76 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Looking for books on circuses and fairgrounds as background for poems; prefers interests at home to holidays; piece written about him by journalist John Bradbury is very inaccurate. 1 item | 21 May 1980 |
| U DX349/77 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Oriol's pets; can Green get him an invitation to give a reading at Lichfield, to make it easier to see her; Gregory Awards; poem accepted for "New Poetry"; has proofs of his "Selected Poems"; opinions of Herbert Palmer; knew Ruth Pitter. 1 item | 11 June 1980 |
| U DX349/78 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Their relationship; his family; speculating that he has won the MEPS Dorothy Tutin Award, judged by [John] Betjeman; anecdote about Adrian Henri. 1 item | 29 July 1980 |
| U DX349/79 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Visited Cliffe Common, near Selby, to explore his grandfather's background; his poems "Travelling Without A Valid Ticket" and "Sandcastle Boys"; letters from mutual friends; worries their relationship has changed. 1 item | 9-10 Aug 1980 |
| U DX349/80 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Knows he has won the MEPS Dorothy Tutin Award; gossip about David and Tilly. 1 item | 15 Aug 1980 |

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| U DX349/81 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Visit to Birmingham for MEPS conference; interviewed by Birmingham Post; working with David to set up a fund for poetry. 1 item | 2 Oct 1980 |
| U DX349/82 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green His "Selected Poems"; people for whom his poems were written, including Muriel Spark and Margaret Crosland; his first wife and their daughter, Deirdre. 1 item | 5 Nov 1980 |
| U DX349/83 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Sunday People has not yet printed its story about David and the Contessa; his "Selected Poems" and how he writes poetry; poems choose their own style; comments on the book from Alan Smithies and Derek Bourne-Jones. 1 item | 12 Nov 1980 |
| U DX349/84 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Reading at the Poetry Society with the Gregory Award winners; David running a poetry competition. 1 item | 26 Nov 1980 |
| U DX349/85 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Encourages Green in her career. 1 item | 27 Jan 1981 |
| U DX349/86 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David is producing a book relating to poetry technique and the poetry scene which may be problematic; David is to appear in court charged with fraud; advice on her research; his views on Hardy. 1 item | 10 Feb 1981 |
| U DX349/87 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Congratulates Green on having a poem printed in the local newspaper; results of Arvon/Observer competition, and criticism of the winning poem by Andrew Motion; detailed commentary on his own poem "Magician"; "Travelling Without a Valid Ticket" sequence is to be published. 1 item | 17 Feb 1981 |

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| U DX349/88 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Speculation about why Philip Larkin did not appear on TV as a judge in the Arvon poetry competition; David, the MEPS conference and poetry competition; Oriel's guinea pig has disappeared. 1 item | 24 Feb 1981 |
| U DX349/89 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Visited Leicester University to give a reading; why he can't visit Birmingham without a reason relating to work. 1 item | 5 Mar 1981 |
| U DX349/90 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David and the MEPS "get-together" in Birmingham in September; [Ezra] Pound and [T S] Eliot and their politics. 1 item | 17 Mar 1981 |
| U DX349/91 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Opinions on [W B] Yeats and Dorothy Wellesley, Duchess of Wellington; attended a drinks reception for Norman Nicholson; his views on aspiring poets who ask him to read their work. 1 item | 16 Jun 1981 |
| U DX349/92 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Outposts competition has attracted a lot of entries; has not heard from David recently; Green is the only reason he attends Midlands "get-togethers". 1 item | 14 Nov 1981 |
| U DX349/93 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green David, his Foundation, and MEPS; judging the Dorothy Tutin Award; Outposts competition; engagements; his poems "A Letter in Time of Distress" and "Vandal on the Green" are to be published; thought she was not terribly interested at their last meeting; has been drinking more since then; has buried himself in work. 1 item | 24 Nov 1981 |
| U DX349/94 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Three letters stapled together. 1 Dec 1981: She has told him of her new relationship; how the news will affect their relationship; he is sorry to hear about the shoplifting charge. 4 Dec 1981: Eileen Warren, judge of the Outposts competition, is in hospital; the Winter edition of Outposts has gone astray from the printers; | 1-7 Dec 1981 |

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wishes her well with her new relationship but explains it makes a difference to theirs.
6-7 Dec 1981: expands on his feelings about her new relationship; feels concern and sympathy for her in her court case; is not going to change his attitude towards her.
1 item

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| U DX349/95 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Their different attitudes to sex; accuses her of being an "actress"; she will not drop her new relationship in favour of him; has resigned from David's Foundation for "personal reasons"; working on the Outposts competition and winter issue. 1 item | 7-9 Dec 1981 |
| U DX349/96 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Received her letter; feels their friendship existed only in his imagination; will not raise the matter again; wishes her luck with the court case, her studies, and her psychiatrist; Whitworth review. 1 item | 16 Dec 1981 |
| U DX349/97 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Glad that court turned out well; cannot maintain a friendship with her. 1 item | 17 Dec 1981 |
| U DX349/98 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Thanks her for her explanations; she should stop corresponding with David; wishes her well for 1982. 1 item | 31 Dec 1981 |
| U DX349/99 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Comments on what her psychologist has said - can't ignore one's basic self; advice on working in academia; process of self-analysis; she can and should make something of her life; his sequence "Travelling Without a Valid Ticket" has been published. 1 item | 27 Jan 1982 |
| U DX349/100 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Saw the South Bank Show about D M Thomas - one of his discoveries, in 1962; holiday plans; hoping to go to Canada to give readings there; has had a despondent letter from David who is struggling to raise funds. 1 item | 4 April 1982 |

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| U DX349/101 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has been busy with readings and poetry workshops; the British Council is supporting his trip to Canada in September and October; Outposts subscriptions have now reached 1800; his health; had a visit from Mike Shields; just published Ursula Wadey's collection. 1 item | 28 May 1982 |
| U DX349/102 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Having his operation in August; has been busy. 1 item | 4 Jun 1982 |
| U DX349/103 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Was adjudicator for the All Sussex Poetry Competition in Eastbourne; will be adjudicating a number of competitions next year; David is collecting money for booklets he has no intention of producing and is getting into a deeper mess; Roy Fuller's career; the Gregory Awards Anthology he edited with Anthony Thwaite has come out. 1 item | 17 Nov 1982 |
| U DX349/104 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Congratulates Green on her work for animals; people have to be single-minded about causes, and his cause is Poetry; was involved in the [general election] victory of Simon Hughes in Bermondsey; poets - in particular Sue Gerard - are out for themselves and don't support poetry magazines; planning a 40th anniversary issue of Outposts in October. 1 item | 4 Mar 1983 |
| U DX349/105 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has £3000 from Marks and Spencer for an Outposts poetry competition prize; plans for the Outposts anniversary year. 1 item | 27 Mar 1983 |
| U DX349/106 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Animal welfare; gave a reading at the Isle of Wight festival and stayed with David Gascoyne; collecting tributes from writers for the Outposts anniversary issue, and Jean has written a poem which will be included; family news. 1 item | 21 May 1983 |
| U DX349/107 | Newscutting: obituary of Tambimuttu (1915-1983), poetry editor and publisher 1 item | [1983] |

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| U DX349/108 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Advises her on finding a job; Outposts anniversary reception; Bruce Meyer arrived from Toronto, he is to write his PhD on Outposts. 1 item | 30 Sep 1983 |
| U DX349/109 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green There is no magic key to deal with problems; answers her question about being a personal assistant; Jean's mother has died. 1 item | 3 Feb 1984 |
| U DX349/110 | Letter from David to Janice Green Hopes she is now better; family news; hopes she can forgive "the letters" now she knows why they were written. 1 item | 2 Jun 1984 |
| U DX349/111 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Pressure of requests for his time had made him depressed, so has decided to turn down more requests; has had a break in the north; has to have an operation on his ear. 1 item | 6 Jun 1984 |
| U DX349/112 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Still misses her; family news; would be happy to provide a reference for her. 1 item | 5 Nov 1984 |
| U DX349/113 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Her operation; Jean and Oriol have had a car accident; he has coached several prizewinning poets. 1 item | 21 Nov 1984 |
| U DX349/114 | News cutting headed "Out for the Countess" David Steel's encounter with an "Italian contessa" at the Alliance Ball. 1 item | 11 Dec 1984 |
| U DX349/115 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Jean's health; glad Ted Hughes got the [Poet Laureate] job rather than Larkin; Hughes's family life; has written a six-poem sequence, "On Being Asked to Read in a Parish Church", which takes its themes from Bible stories. 1 item | 5 Jan 1985 |

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| U DX349/116 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Advice on parenting teenage girls; word processors; has given a workshop for young disabled people in Chichester; has had a letter from David. 1 item | 26 April 1985 |
| U DX349/117 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Thanks for her criticism of his poems; work commitments; has had three of his "fairground poems" published; family life. 1 item | 27 May 1985 |
| U DX349/118 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Jenny Brice has accused him of being a male chauvinist; is publishing a new book of poems called "Fairground Familiars"; has written to Philip Larkin; ran a workshop at Arthur Scargill Junior School; Oriel is about to qualify as a nurse. 1 item | 29 Jun 1985 |
| U DX349/119 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Considering a word processor; Christmas; feminists; launch of his book "Fairground Familiars"; poems on "A Question of Respect" to be published in the spring. 1 item | 31 Dec 1985 |
| U DX349/120 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has been ill; looking for a word processor; his marriage to Jean; has been writing poems for children. 1 item | 22 Jan 1986 |
| U DX349/121 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Has written a criticism of her friend's poem; has got a word processor; it is a busy month. 1 item | 7 Mar 1986 |
| U DX349/122 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Janice Green Congratulations on passing her secretarial exams; has judged a competition for the Birmingham and Midland Institute; wonders how David manages to fund his activities. 1 item | 28 Jul 1986 |
| U DX349/123 | Letter from David to Janice Green Howard is unwell and is unable to handle correspondence or phone calls. 1 item | [1986] |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant to Janice M. Green

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| U DX349/124 | Form letter from Jean Sergeant to Janice Green Form letter to update Howard's correspondents on his condition: Howard became very ill in September and his health has fluctuated since then; editorship of Outposts has passed to Roland John. 1 item | 13 Dec 1986 |
| U DX349/125 | Letter from Jean Sergeant to Janice Green Thanks for her letter and phone calls, and the nice words about Howard [following his death]. 1 item | [1987] |