

## **U DX404 Letters from Howard Sergeant and Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin 1980s**

**Accession number:** 2019/07

**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'. After his death in 1987, the editorship of 'Outposts' was taken over by Roland John.

Roger Elkin studied English at the University of Hull and subsequently worked as a teacher at Riley High School, Hull. He is the author of 11 poetry collections and was the recipient of the inaugural Howard Sergeant Memorial Award for Services to Poetry in 1987. He was also poetry tutor at residential weekend courses at Wedgwood College, Barlaston; literary advisor to the Leek Arts Festival, for whom he organised an International Poetry Competition (1982-1992); the co-editor of *Prospice* (1985-1988) and editor of *Envoi* (1991-2006), both literary magazines.

**Custodial history:** Deposited by Roger Elkin, March 2019.

**Description:** A small collection containing; 69 letters from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin, 1980-1986; Letters and photocopies of letters from Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin; Nomination form for the Howard Sergeant Memorial Award for Services to Poetry - Judy Seago nominating Roger Elkin; Flyers for "Outposts" and Sergeant's collection "Fairground Familiars".

**Arrangement** U DX404 - Letters from Howard Sergeant and Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin

U DX404/1 - Letters to Roger Elkin from Howard Sergeant

U DX404/2 - Letters to and from Jean Sergeant

U DX404/3 - Flyers relating to Howard Sergeant

**Extent:** 0.1 linear meters

**Related material:** U DSG - Papers of Howard Sergeant, including the Archive of 'Outposts' poetry magazine

U DX349 - Letters from Howard Sergeant to Janice M. Green

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

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**Language:** English

<b>U DX404/1</b>	<b>Letters to Roger Elkin from Howard Sergeant</b>	<b>1980-1986</b>
U DX404/1/1	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS thanks RE for compliments on a poem of his which appeared in New Poetry B. HS compliments RE on his 'individual' writing style, encourages RE and urges patience and confidence. 1 item	[Dec 1980]
U DX404/1/2	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS offers further encouragement and support to RE; HS thanks RE for his subscription to Leek College of F.E.; HS suggests more persistence to RE when offering poems to publications, offers insider advice from his Outposts magazine; HS favourably compares RE's poetry to Jon Silkin's. 1 item	27 Jan 1981
U DX404/1/3	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS writes about readings at Keele and Leicester Universities; HS takes offence at RE referring to Outposts Modern Poets Series as 'vanity publishing', gives publication's history and refers to his MBE; HS assures RE he did not suggest that RE pays for his poem to be included in OUTPOSTS; HS still interested in publishing RE in OUTPOSTS. 1 item	10 Feb 1981

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

U DX404/1/4	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS has not read at Keele yet; HS congratulates RE on his successes, offers encouragement; RE's poetry is always welcome at Outposts. 1 item	20 Jun 1981
U DX404/1/5	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS expresses interest in RE's invitation of him to adjudicate a poetry competition for the Leek Arts Festival; HS talks about his experience in poetry; HS offers opinions about adjudication process and adjudicator fee; HS offers competition free publicity in Outposts. 1 item	26 Oct 1982
U DX404/1/6	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS empathises with RS regarding the difficulty of breaks in writing; HS urges RS not to change styles to meet Harry Chamber's requirements, extols individualism; HS returns from poetry-reading tour across Canada; HS accepts RS's poem 'Classifier'. 1 item	26 Oct 1982
U DX404/1/7	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS asks RE for confirmation regarding his adjudication of the Leek Arts Festival; HS looks forward to seeing RE again; HS offers ideas for the competition which may bestow it grants; HS will publish winner in OUTPOSTS should it meet his standards; HS compliments RE's poem that he sent. 1 item	05 Nov 1982
U DX404/1/8	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS thanks RE for previous letter clearing up issues about his adjudication of the Leek Arts Festival; HS pushes for more readings to acquire funds from the Arts council via the backing of the National Poetry Society; HS asks for batches of 500 poems for him to judge, inquires about entrance fee; Post script HS adds names of people in the National Poetry Society. 1 item	12 Nov 1982

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

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| U DX404/1/9  | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS congratulates RE on winning the Lake Aske award, clarifies comments which may have been seen as criticism; HS's Leek Arts Festival poetry competition adjudication is confirmed; HS reaffirms the importance of his standard for Outposts regarding publishing the competition winner; HS offers his best wishes for Christmas and 1983.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 07 Dec 1982 |
| U DX404/1/10 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; competition leaflets have arrived; HS has concerns about small reading fee in relation to costs, expected organisers would see benefits of adjudicator's presence and reading; HS will assume the reading and visit is off unless he hears otherwise; Outposts celebrates its 40th birthday in 1983; in post script HS suggests that if the reading was advertised with festival, many Outposts readers would attend.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 11 Jan 1983 |
| U DX404/1/11 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS has received confirmation on the reading, looks forward to event; HS outlines his preferences for readings, but will defer to RE; HS offers information on procedures for acquiring the grant; HS offers advice, suggesting illicitly gaming the grant to receive and save as much as possible; HS is open to any questions RE may have and inquires on how many poems are coming in; postscript HS writes that he may have to dispose of the majority of the poems after adjudication.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 01 Feb 1983 |
| U DX404/1/12 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS tells RE that he has no qualms or preferences over whether he reads with new poets, or un/established poets; HS extols the importance of a local literary community; HS suggests that the fact Outposts is 40 years running should be mentioned; HS advises RE on the pattern of quantities of incoming poems, and advises setting up a special meeting for poets reading from the floor, rather than having it in the programme.</p> <p>1 item</p>   | 25 Feb 1983 |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

U DX404/1/13	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS asks RE for his telephone number; HS requires urgent information regarding the arrangements of his trips - he is doing readings at Withington Library in Manchester and the University of Liverpool; HS asks RE if he can pick him up from Crewe railway, after getting the train from Liverpool, and drive to stationless Leek. 1 item	17 Apr 1983
U DX404/1/14	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS requests the main batch of poems before the 31st of May referred to as the closing date; HS requests an address for the reading and the coaching inn. 1 item	17 Apr 1983
U DX404/1/15	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS expresses concerns - no Leek Festival Competition poems have arrived; HS requires information on convenient arrival times for his travelling purposes; HS assures RE that he is not a fussy eater. 1 item	02 Jun 1983
U DX404/1/16	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS responds to RE's letter regarding travel arrangements, expresses anticipation; enclosed invoice for HS's adjudication fee; adjudication is complete - number 507: 'White Candles' wins. 1 item	10 Jun 1983
U DX404/1/17	Invoice from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; invoice of £68 for adjudication fee for the Leek Arts Festival competition. 1 item	10 Jun 1983

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

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| U DX404/1/18 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; not many entries into the competition have been arriving; HS is already compiling a short list of runners up and asks for a fee for RE's request of an adjudicator's report for the local newspaper; HS explains his travelling situation and likely costs, will brief RE of details when fully organised; HS reminds RE to put something in for the 40th anniversary of his Outposts magazine.<br/>1 item</p> | 13 Jun 1983 |
| U DX404/1/19 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger and Eileen Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Eileen and Roger Elkin; HS sends thanks for their hospitality and compliments to RE over his organisation of the event; HS compliments EE; Post script, HS asks for the winning poem 'White Candles' for publication in Outposts.<br/>1 item</p>   | 22 Jun 1983 |
| U DX404/1/20 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS praises RE for the Leek Arts Festival and competition, very pleased by the winning work; HS hopes the festival will grow and become stronger; HS tells RE to treasure what truly matters rather than success, fame, money etc.<br/>1 item</p>   | 02 Jul 1983 |
| U DX404/1/21 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS compliments RE's shrewd, self-critical character, offers poetry tips; glad the committee will continue the festivals and competitions, says RE can rely on him for hosting and adjudication but will require notice; suggests promotion in Outposts to improve entries; HS writes he would be pleased to include RE's poem 'December [?]' in Outposts' Winter issue.<br/>1 item</p>                         | [1983]      |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

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| U DX404/1/22 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS confirms that he is happy to adjudicate the 1984 Leek Arts Festival poetry competition as previously stated; HS asks for more leaflets to include in his mailing; HS states he will include RE's review of The Achievement of Ted Hughes in Outpost's Spring issue; HS offers advice on the poetry reading's structure; Post script, HS tells RE to enter the current competition in Outposts.<br/>1 item</p>  | 05 Oct 1983 |
| U DX404/1/23 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS discusses publishing a poem by Felicity Napier in Outposts; HS expresses embarrassment over a negative book review in Outposts; RE's review of The Achievement of Ted Hughes is the lead review in Outposts' Poetry Quarterly Spring issue; HS mentioned the Leek Arts Festival in Outposts and is glad to have leaflets; HS requests batches of 100 poems; Tim Vernon-Smith, whom HS met at Leek, won £800 in the Outposts competition; HS ends with a long request for RE to kiss Eileen (his wife), gives good wishes.<br/>1 item</p> | 16 Dec 1983 |
| U DX404/1/24 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS requests more leaflets and attaches Outposts leaflets; next competition adjudication fixed for 22/06/1984; HS informs RE of poets such as Tim Vernon-Smith asking HS to visit Chester for a reading; HS offers insider knowledge regarding publication correspondents, denigrating Harry Chambers, being unsure of Neil Astley, suggesting Carcanet and Secker &amp; Warburg; wishes RE and Eileen a happy new year.<br/>1 item</p>  | 06 Jan 1984 |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

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| U DX404/1/25 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS offers RE advice on publishers for a collection, suggests Peterloo Poets, Anvil Press, Headlands Press, Carcanet Press, The Rivelin Press, Secker & Warburg, Fabers, Macmillan's, Sidgewick & Jackson, and Chatto & Windus; HS offers RE encouragement, advises persistence; HS speaks about daughter Cherrill working with Italian operetta, advises telling Sarah Elkin to focus on O levels; HS mournfully discusses the death of Frances Horovitz; HS suggests RE sends his poem 'Berrying Time' to Roger Garfitt, and will keep RE informed about Chester reading possibilities; HS is apologetic over his currently depression.<br>1 item | 20 Jan 1984 |
| U DX404/1/26 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS tells RE that he is no longer in the midst of his depression, and it was exacerbated towards the end by deaths of people close to him; the date of the next Leek festival was muddled, HS attempts to clarify it.<br>1 item   | 06 Mar 1984 |
| U DX404/1/27 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; brief letter to confirm receipt of the second batch for the Leek Arts festival, so far underwhelmed.<br>1 item   | 15 Mar 1984 |
| U DX404/1/28 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS is flying with his wife Jean, to visit his daughter, Cherrill, in Italy; HS confirms receipt of third poem batch for the Leek Arts Festival; HS offers advice for RE to leave some time for writing, but not spend so much time on writing.<br>1 item   | 14 Apr 1984 |



Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

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| U DX404/1/29 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS regales RE with an overview of his time in Italy; HS revives public school anthologies as 'Independent Voices', complains about being labelled an elitist for trying to boost public schools and find poets there; HS claims to be the first to publish Seamus Heaney outside the Irish local press; HS offers RE price estimates for back numbers for Outposts.<br/>1 item</p>   | 10 May 1984 |
| U DX404/1/30 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS notes that they are already over last year's total for entries to the Leek Arts Festival poetry competition; HS writes about Cherrill coming home from Italy; HS notes John Betjeman's death and speculates on the next Poet Laureate - Larkin, Ewart, Fuller, Hughes, Causley, Heath-Stubbs; HS requires more information on getting to Leek from London; HS speaks of being reputed for helping poets, and is increasingly asked to workshops and readings; HS notes that he must go to Barts for an ear operation, though this should not affect his visit to Leek.<br/>1 item</p> | 20 May 1984 |
| U DX404/1/31 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS writes a brief letter anticipating his trip to Leek, notes he has received the batch of entries numbering 701-800; notifies RE of his short trip to Yorkshire with his wife from the 27th to 31st of May.<br/>1 item</p>  | 23 May 1984 |
| U DX404/1/32 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; brief letter from HS in Yorkshire notifying RE that the latest batch of poems had arrived.<br/>1 item</p>  | 26 May 1984 |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

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| U DX404/1/33 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS lists the results of his adjudication for the 1984 Leek Arts Festival poetry competition - First: 'In Lathkill Dale' by R.N. Allan, Second: 'Figures in a Landscape' by Jane [?], Third: 'The Old Mansion House Hotel' by Margaret [Toms?]; HS asks for the name of the winning poet as he plans to publish the poem in the Autumn issue of Outposts Poetry Quarterly.<br/>1 item</p>   | 05 Jun 1984 |
| U DX404/1/34 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS follows up on his previous letter's request, asking for the same details for all prizewinners in anticipation for Outposts going to press for its quarterly publication.<br/>1 item</p>   | 07 Jun 1984 |
| U DX404/1/35 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger and Eileen Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Eileen and Roger Elkin; HS writes RE and EE to let them know he arrived safely home; notes he is never homesick at theirs; thanks them for their hospitality and congratulates RE on the evening and competition.<br/>1 item</p>   | 17 Jun 1984 |
| U DX404/1/36 | <p>Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br/>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS thanks RE for his letter from France; apologises that his previous letter was so brief, thanks them again; notes that he finds Leek's Festival something different and special, credits RE; HS received a call from Keith Sagar regarding RE's review, which he forwarded; HS notes that he actually has to have more than one operation, and some of the after-effects were devastating; writes about his current busyness, having just judged the Greenwich Festival Competition and the Crabbe Memorial Competition; notes he will still be running the poetry workshop at Malham Tarn.<br/>1 item</p> | 15 Jul 1984 |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

- U DX404/1/37 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 21 Jul 1984  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS is making progress in his recovery from his first operation; jokes about Neil Astley's opinion of him differing from what he presented when applying to Outposts or when HS interviewed him for the Gregory Award; discusses co-judging the Gregory Awards with TS Eliot and Henry Moore; discusses Keith Sagar having mixed feelings about RE's review of The Achievement of Ted Hughes; HS looks forward to seeing Roger and Eileen Elkin at Malham, where he will be doing a poetry workshop; HS pleased to hear RE is writing again; post script, relatively crude limerick about a friend of HS.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/38 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin [1984]  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS compliments RE's recent writings, and offers constructive criticism, suggests revision before sending poems to publications; HS deeply respects RE, and would like to use the poem in Outposts Poetry Quarterly.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/39 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 28 Jul 1984  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS teases RE over his holiday in Normandy France and wife; poems from last letter were early drafts, HS is glad and apologises for misinterpreting; HS gives RE advice he uses in his workshops, though tells him he is free to ignore it if it's useless; HS talks about his shyness, difference between his persona in letters and in person; HS discusses poems he discarded sent by Keith Sagar; muses on the next Poet Laureate - Larkin has best odds, Gavin is good at occasional poems, Charles Causley would be best; HS explains his poetry workshop procedures, and limericks being a remedy for his depression.  
1 item

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

- U DX404/1/40 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 12 Sep 1984  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS states entries into an Outposts poetry competition are flooding in, asks RE to submit a poem, and help organise it; HS sent poems into the New Statesman quoting Gavin Ewart as inspiration; HS's daughter Cherrill is back in Italy; HS has a poetry reading booked in Settle; HS reminds RE that he has not sent money for back catalogues of Outposts.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/41 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 29 Sep 1984  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS apologises for requesting money, RE is pressed for money; HS writes about being pleased with his recent poetry output; HS mentions Lawrence Sail as the adjudicator for the next Leek Arts Festival, asks for leaflets so he can advertise; HS apologises for the erroneous prizes he featured in Outposts Poetry Quarterly; HS enclosed Outposts leaflets as RE requested.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/42 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger and Eileen Elkin 29 Oct 1984  
From Howard Sergeant to Eileen and Roger Elkin; HS returns from break in the Lake District, mentions seeing Geoffrey and Trish Holloway there; the Winter issue of Outposts Poetry Quarterly contains a poem of RE, as well as corrected prize information for the Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition; EE taking a B Ed course; HS compliments on RE on improving career - poet, critic, essayist, national competition organiser and, now, editor of Prospice; HS encloses a poem 'Poets and Painters' (for Prospice), jokes about the 'feminine landscape'.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/43 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger and Eileen Elkin 14 Nov 1984  
From Howard Sergeant to Eileen and Roger Elkin; HS sympathises with EE struggling with teaching sector, reassures her, laments the state of the education system; HS thanks RE for his comments on 'Poets and Painters', asks if it will appear in Prospice.  
1 item

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

- U DX404/1/44 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 06 Mar 1985  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS asks again about 'Poets and Painters' appearing in Prospice, expresses frustration about the editorial process at Prospice - James CR Green having the final say; unfavourably compares waiting time for confirmation in Prospice to Outpost; HS requests more information as soon as possible; HS hopes the Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition is doing well.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/45 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 13 Mar 1985  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS is encouraged by RE's reassurance regarding 'Poets and Painters' in Prospice, apologises for his frustration; speaks about new Poet Laureate - pleased it is Ted Hughes rather than Philip Larkin, as he does much for poetry such as donating to the Arvon Foundation; HS writes about patterns of incoming poems in competitions; HS tells RE about his poem 'Vanity Fair' winning a national competition organised by the Surrey Poetry Centre, mentions another poem in the works 'Fairground and Circus'.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/46 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 09 Apr 1985  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS is using RE's poem 'Mayflies' in the Autumn Outposts Poetry Quarterly, HS jokingly expects protests due to 'sauciness' of poem - a product of his influence; HS agrees that the Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition is an important one; informs RE that he submitted a poem to the Leek competition; HS informs RE he wrote to complain about South West Arts Reviews magazine being dropped so soon; HS informs RE that he thinks his poem 'Town Teacher' was a runner up, clarified after some confusion.  
1 item

U DX404/1/47

Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS assures RE that his previous letter cause no offense, but did not need an urgent reply; HS busy with Outposts, Summer issue distributed, Autumn off to press, now working on Winter; HS thanks RE for information about the Leek Arts Festival's Poetry Competition's prizewinners though he already knew the first three prizewinners thanks to Lawrence Sail at a Secker & Warburg party; James CR Green, RE's co-editor at Prospice asked HS about writing a review with not enough time - frustrates HS as JCR Green kept HS waiting 8 months for the publication of 'Poets and Painters', no idea when it will appear; HS offers adjudication services for the next Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition, Elizabeth Bartlett happy to share the reading; HS has been visiting schools due to them ordering subscriptions to Outposts; Eileen Elkin has upcoming degree exams, Sarah attained Grade 8 violin and a ballet commendation; HS writes that Jean and himself will be doing the course at Malham Tarn, fully booked; The Headland Press, Liverpool, is publishing HS's next book 'Fairground Familiars', it is sponsored by Merseyside Arts; HS's children Cherrill, Oriel, and Julian are well, Jean has recovered from last December's motoring accident.

19 Jun 1985

1 item

U DX404/1/48

Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; RE's previous letter sent on 24/07/85 only just arrived; HS writes he is glad Eileen is doing well on the degree course, speaks about his own experience working in education and holding a strike - references Arthur Scargill; the inclusion of 'Poets and Painters' in Prospice is confirmed; HS confirms the arrangements for the Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition are fine, pleased to adjudicate; HS asks for details and leaflets for the Winter issue of Outposts Poetry Quarterly; HS jokes about RE not listening to him about not letting other activities interfere with writing, but listening to Ursula.

30 Jul 1985

1 item

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

- U DX404/1/49 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 09 Oct 1985  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS tells RE that Shrewsbury conned him, RE was led to believe HS would be there; HS writes about the Arvon competition, and accuses the adjudicator Craig Raine of corruption having pre-existing knowledge of the winner's, Oliver Reynolds', poems; HS also notes that Craig Raine tried to get Oliver Reynolds a Gregory Award, and wrote directly to the other judges after HS refused it; HS does not know who won the Tate Competition; HS did not feel able to include RE's enclosed work in OPQ, but that it is always welcome; HS sends congratulations to Sarah Elkin, and jokes about Eileen Elkin going to a Wolf Cubs Camp; HS has proofs for the Winter issue of Outposts Poetry Quarterly, and of his book 'Fairground Familiars'.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/50 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 24 Oct 1985  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS thanks RE for Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition leaflets and letter, will send Outposts leaflets soon; HS jokes about his enclosed photograph, inserted upon RE's request, putting people off the competition, as well as Eileen having a crush on a Cubmaster; HS returns from a reading in Retford; asks if his poem 'Poets and Painters' will ever appear in Prospice.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/51 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 20 Nov 1985  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS is constantly distributing announcements for Leek Arts Festival's Poetry Competition; hopes Eileen will find a good job; HS insults JCR Green, references his incompetence - having had 'Poets and Painters' for over a year with no publishing date in sight - and calls him a total disaster in the literary world; HS's book 'Fairground Familiars' is to be published on the 28th, has been writing a lot of children's poetry; HS tells RE his poem in Outposts Poetry Quarterly has favourable comments, jokes about RE being a 'sex-maniac'.  
1 item

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

- U DX404/1/52 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin [1985]  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS does not feel anger towards JCR Green, but contempt; HS is concerned over the influence Green is having and may have on RE, regarding his competence and the quality of his poetry; HS urges RE to cut ties with Green for his own sake, concern for a friend and colleague rather than animosity towards Green; Winter issues of Outposts Poetry Quarterly have gone out, with leaflets advertising the Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition, HS wants this year to beat all records; HS asks RE to keep sending him poems.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/53 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 03 Feb 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS notes time since last hearing from RE, asks if it's about what he said about Prospice and Green, says not to be embarrassed; hopes RE's family is well, HS has had chest infection; tells RE to consider his reputation regarding his association with Prospice.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/54 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 07 Feb 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS thanks RE for letter; HS back to normal health, Jean retired due to motor accident of '84, been writing children's poems together; pleased to hear that entries for next Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition are coming through - HS requests batches of 100.  
1 item



U DX404/1/55

Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS assures RE he has no need for concern about 'Poets and Painters' and Prospice, warns RE about his involvement yet again; discusses the Peterloo Competition and results of recent competitions, muses inadequate, biased adjudication by Harry Chambers - who knows authors ahead of time; HS confirms his reading fee for Leek, and will be bringing Jean after RE's invitation, therefore unsure how they are travelling to Leek; HS has four reading engagements and the adjudication report of the Kent & Sussex Poetry Society, received invite for vice-presidency; HS will be running a poetry workshop for 'disabled-bodied' people, members of the 'Winged Fellowship', at Chichester; HS muses on their difficulties and compares them to poets who he feels are very self-centred and complain a lot about not much; HS has been writing children's poetry, one was a runner-up in the Humberside Competition, others for anthologies; RE: keep writing.  
1 item

17 Feb 1986

U DX404/1/56

Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; met briefly at NPS; RE claimed HS fell asleep during David Jacobs' reading and did not congratulate him; HS says he never claimed the Peterloo Competition would be rigged, but pointed out that one of the judges, Harry Chambers, would know the authors ahead of time; HS apologises to RE about the NPS reading upsetting him, John Latham was not at his best; HS congratulates RE on him being mentioned in the Surrey Competition; HS jokes about RE charming Jean, will let him know travelling arrangements; HS liked enclosed poems, not enough to use them, RE's work always welcome.  
1 item

[1986]

Hull History Centre: Letters from Howard Sergeant

- U DX404/1/57 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 03 Apr 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; third batch for Leek Arts Festival's poetry competition arrived; issue of Prospice with HS's 'Poets and Painters' was published, HS found it surprisingly good, Elizabeth Bartlett thought it better than that; HS again rails at RE's Prospice co-editor John Green calling him incompetent, offers magazine advice; HS offered RE chance to review Barrie Wade's book; HS speaks about his workshop for the Winged Fellowship in Chichester, jokes about Leek; HS still writing children's poems, making pamphlet called 'A Question of Respect' in response to the Suffolk Poetry Society's request for a reading; HS and Jean will be travelling by car to the Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition; HS invited to adjudicate The Open University's poetry competition of past and present members, as well as the Birmingham and Midland Institute; RE missed Bill Turner at last event, HS extols his virtues, tells RE to get something by him for Prospice; Outposts leaflet enclosed; HS tells RE to get a collection out under the Aquila imprint, and get Green to send a review copy, and get his affairs in order.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/58 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 15 Apr 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS and Jean return from Isle of Wight; fourth batch of entries for Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition; HS encloses details of the Birmingham and Midland Institute competition.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/59 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin [Apr 1986]  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS asks if RE has tried his hand at reviewing, asks if RE could do 380 words on Barrie Wade, whose work he seemed to respect, before April's end.  
1 item

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| U DX404/1/60 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; batch<br>number five of entries for the Leek Arts Festival<br>Poetry Competition has arrived, HS tells RE to<br>take postal delays into consideration; HS agrees<br>with RE that it is a good idea to have the<br>prizewinning poems available for the reading, HS<br>will send copies of winners for duplication; RE's<br>review is twice the length that HS asked, but is fair<br>and well-balanced.<br>1 item   | 20 Apr 1986 |
| U DX404/1/61 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; batch<br>seven of entries for the Leek Arts Festival Poetry<br>Competition has arrived.<br>1 item  | 28 Apr 1986 |
| U DX404/1/62 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; entry<br>batches eight, nine, and ten for the Leek Arts<br>Festival Poetry Competition arrived; HS<br>congratulates RE on getting the [Cardiff Prize?];<br>asks for confirmation of final batch.<br>1 item   | 03 May 1986 |
| U DX404/1/63 | Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin<br>From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS send<br>copies of prizewinning poems - Grand Union by<br>Judith Kellgren, Migrants in Dagenham Park Alley<br>by J.P. Nash, and Snapshots from Tunisia by<br>Heather Hawkins - asks for confirmation on<br>author/poem matching; ten runners-up's poems<br>also enclosed, HS would like RE to try and get<br>them to come to Leek to read them; HS jokes<br>about a hypothetical affair between him and<br>Eileen Elkin; HS was taken to hospital by<br>ambulance, there from 28th April to 6th May, no<br>need to worry about adjudication and feeling<br>better now.<br>1 item | 12 May 1986 |

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- U DX404/1/64 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 18 May 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS tells RE he didn't want him to worry about his being in the hospital, since it didn't affect his adjudication; HS admitted due to cardiovascular troubles but is feeling better; three prizewinners of this year's Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competition will be published in Outposts Poetry Quarterly; HS and Jean will be travelling to Leek via car, requests directions; HS gave away £16,000 to four poets when he was on the Gregory Awards; HS congratulates RE on his recent successes with his poetry.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/65 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 23 Jun 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS compliments RE on his success with the Leek Arts Festival, calls it the best, most down to earth poetry event; HS recounts three 'inebriated feminists' being moved by his poem; HS writes admiringly about Elizabeth Bartlett's poem 'Eating Pavlova', expresses envy over her ability to turn any experience into a poem; HS talks about holiday in Buxton and the eerie weather; HS hadn't realised how much strength he had lost due to his illness, taking things easy, recovering.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/66 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 25 Jul 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS is dealing with sending parcels, copies of Fairground Familiars, one is enclosed; HS apologises for his 'restraint' at the Leek Arts Festival, doctor said to 'take it easy', less drinking, no smoking; back to normal in work terms, read at Liverpool last week, poetry workshop at Malham Tarn in the first week of August, anthology to put together over the next half year, and four poetry competitions to judge.  
1 item

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- U DX404/1/67 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 26 Jul 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS was amused by Elizabeth Bartlett's reaction to his relative temperance, wonders how she saw him and how he came across; RE is fortunate with the audiences at Leek - 'best in the country'; HS muses on other adjudicators for the next Leek Arts Festival Poetry Competitions Ursula should be good, does not know John Latham's judging capacity; in terms of female judges, HS tells RE to consider Sylvia Kantaris, Carol Rumens, Isobel Thrilling, Anna Adams, or Patricia Pogson; HS notes RE had two poems in the runners-up for the Birmingham and Midland Institute's poetry competition; upon request, for Prospice, HS enclosed 'Dry-Stone Wall', and 'A Question of Respect'; RE's first collection should appear in 1987, HS sends congratulations; HS says he will include RE's poem 'Transplanting' in Outposts; HS back to normal drinking; HS writes about poetry critiques and the Critical Service offered by the Poetry Society; HS is starting to take his work more easily.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/68 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 31 Jul 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; quick letter before HS does annual workshop at Malham Tarn; RE using HS's 'A Question of Respect' in Prospice; Mr [Hunt?] of Birmingham and Midland Institute is poor organiser but well-intentioned, discusses shortcomings, not received poems but names of their authors; Mr Hunt hopes for a reading with prize-winners and runners-up in September, invites RE; post script, HS congratulates RE on winning the Sylvia Plath award, tells RE to not let organising and editing interrupt his poetry.  
1 item
- U DX404/1/69 Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin 18 Sep 1986  
From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin;  
(standardised letter) HS's health has taken a turn again, will not be able to continue editing Outposts; Michael Ivens has offered help, is trying to form a small panel responsible for appointing editors to Outposts; HS asks if RE has any useful suggestions to give to Ivens, and is looking forward to Prospice.  
1 item

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U DX404/1/70	Letter from Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Howard Sergeant to Roger Elkin; HS's health is still poor; HS compliments RE on his work with Prospice, hopes Roland John does as well with Outposts; HS ideally would have liked RE to edit Outposts, but he already had enough to do; Jean is teaching part-time and HS is judging poetry competitions again; RE having back trouble, HS asks him to give best wishes to James Green after his long operation; HS hopes RE will include a review of 'Fairground Familiars' in Prospice. 1 item	08 Nov 1986
<b>U DX404/2</b>	<b>Letters to and from Jean Sergeant</b>	<b>1986-1988</b>
U DX404/2/1	Letter from Jean Sergeant to Roger and Eileen Elkin From Jean Sergeant to Roger and Eileen Elkin; Jean informs Roger & Eileen that thanks to Michael Ivens, Roland John of Hippopotamus Press has been appointed acting editor of Outposts; Jean asks them to keep in touch with Howard during his illness. 1 item	08 Oct 1986
U DX404/2/2	Letter from Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin; Jean describes the events of Howard's illness to Roger, its beginning in September and his moderate recovery and lifestyle changes, to its resurgence and his current hospitalisation; Howard's depression has worsened due to events but is improving, Jean asks for people to send cheer and support over commiseration. 1 item	13 Dec 1986
U DX404/2/3	Nomination for The Howard Sergeant Memorial Award for services to poetry 1987 by Judy Seago Judy Seago's nomination of Roger Elkin; Seago recounts RE's involvement in British poetry, from him turning Prospice into a successful, regular magazine, his position as literary adviser to the Leek Arts Festival and his organising the poetry competition and his role in its growth and success, to his poetry itself and his employment as a senior college lecturer; Seago ends by writing about Howard and Roger's friendship. 1 item	27 Mar 1988

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U DX404/2/4	Letter from Jean Sergeant to Judy Seago From Jean Sergeant to Judy Seago; Jean confirms that Judy's nomination of Roger Elkin has been confirmed by the Howard Sergeant Memorial Award's committee, impressed by his broad work in poetry and enthusiasm; Jean believes Howard would be delighted that Roger won the first award. 1 item	23 Jun 1988
U DX404/2/5	Letter from Judy Seago to Jane Sergeant From Judy Seago to Jane Sergeant; Seago honoured to be associated with Roger's success, feels he deserves it, will benefit from it, and will continue to prove himself worthy; Seago notes how much Howard's encouragement meant to Roger. 1 item	27 Jun 1988
U DX404/2/6	Letter from Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin; Jean writes to Roger informing him of his receipt of 1988's Howard Sergeant Memorial Award; factors were Roger's involvement in Prospice, his work with the Leek Arts Festival, and his own poetry; Roger will be awarded £1000, and is invited to a reception at the Poetry Society on the 14th of September, asks him to read a few poems. 1 item	23 Jun 1988
U DX404/2/7	Letter from Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin From Jean Sergeant to Roger Elkin; Jean & Howard's daughter Cherrill is now married; expresses delight regarding Roger's award; Jean writes about Roland John initiating a grant from Marks & Spencer to keep the award going, though not completing procedures as he may win the award in the future; the Howard Sergeant Memorial Award committee was Alan Brownjohn, Pamela Clunies Ross, Michael Ivans, and Jean Sergeant; Elizabeth Callendar is at the head office of M&S, and Jean asks Roger, if he writes, to stress the value of the award; Jean is working on reprints from the Outposts Publication series, Caroline Glyn's 'Poems from the Dark, and perhaps Robert Heanley's 'The Streak of Gold', Jean asks if Prospice reviewed them, and Roger's fee for reviewing them if needed. 1 item	04 Aug 1988
U DX404/3	<b>Flyers relating to Howard Sergeant</b>	<b>1980s</b>

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| U DX404/3/1 | <p>Outposts Poetry Quarterly Flyer<br/>Flyer for Outposts Poetry Quarterly; contains subscription slip and postage information; contains cover quotes by Vernon Scannell, Alan Sillitoe, John Wain, Sir John Betjeman, and John Cotton; details the various accolades of both Outposts and Howard Sergeant, as well as a biography of Howard Sergeant and list of his publications.<br/>1 item</p> | 1980s |
| U DX404/3/2 | <p>Fairground Familiars Flyer<br/>Flyer for Howard Sergeant's Fairground Familiars; contains a brief overview on themes of the collection; contains quotes from Gordon Symes, Seamus Heaney, Douglas Livingstone, Susan Morrison, U.A. Fanthorpe, Sylvia Kantaris, and James Michie; ends with price of collection and address of Outposts Publications.<br/>1 item</p>                            | 1980s |