

U DLN

Papers of the Larkin Family

c.1890-1983

Biographical Background:

Sydney Larkin was born on 25 April 1884 in Lichfield to William Edmund and Catherine Larkin. He was the youngest of six brothers (Edward, Alfred, Cecil, George, Henry). Initially educated at Lichfield Grammar School he moved up to King Edward VI High School in Birmingham. When he left school in 1902 he was taken on as a junior clerk by TH Clare, the City Treasurer of Birmingham. He read accountancy at Birmingham University, studying for the exams in the evenings. When his three year course ended in 1907 he returned to City Hall and was quickly promoted, reaching the position of Chief Audit Accountant in 1911, the same year as his wedding to Eva Day. Then, in 1913 he was appointed Assistant Borough Accountant in Doncaster (West Riding). He was not to stay there long. In 1919 he applied for and secured the post of Deputy Treasurer in Coventry. It proved a shrewd move. In 1922 the Treasurer retired and Sydney Larkin took over his post. On 9 August 1922 Philip Larkin was born.

The high point of Sydney Larkin's career came in 1936 when he was elected President of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (U DLN/1/34). Then in January 1941 he was awarded the OBE for services to the state (U DLN/1/17 and U DLN/1/33). Sydney Larkin remained Treasurer until he retired in 1944 (U DLN/1/25-26). He died on 26 March 1948 (U DLN/1/39 and U DLN/2/4).

Eva Larkin was born on 10 January 1886 the elder child of William James Day and Emilie Archer. Her only brother Arthur was born in 1888. Eva Larkin spent her early childhood in Epping, Essex where her father was a First Class Excise Officer. The family later moved to Leigh in Lancashire. When war broke out William Day took up a job administering dependent allowances, pensions etc. After Eva Larkin left Leigh Grammar School she briefly considered becoming a librarian and then like her brother took up teaching for a short while. She first met Sydney Larkin whilst on holiday in Rhyl during the summer of 1906. Sydney Larkin was at the beginning of his career and they decided not to marry until he had a better wage. They eventually married on 5 October 1911. After Sydney Larkin's death Eva Larkin sold Coten End and moved to 12 Dixon Drive, Leicester. Philip Larkin lived with her until he left for Queen's University Library, Belfast in 1950. After that she lived near Catherine Larkin at 21 York Road, Loughborough (U DLN/3/8b and 3/17). The decision to move Eva into a nursing home was made in 1972 because she had fallen and broken a bone in her hip. Eva Larkin died on 17 November 1977 aged 91.

Born in August 1912, Catherine Larkin went to Barrs Hill School in Coventry. She attended art schools in Birmingham, Coventry and Leicester and subsequently taught art and needlework in Coventry, Nuneaton and Loughborough until 1946. She married Walter Hewett, a management consultant working for Urwick Orr & Partners, on 12 August 1944 in Warwick. Catherine Larkin was interested in foreign travel and learning languages until her death. She did not keep holiday diaries the way her father had done, but would often make a small note of something particularly interesting, or perhaps a small drawing. She was always keen on dress making, a skill she may have inherited from the Lichfield Larkins, but did not do much painting after Rosemary was born.

Born 28 April 1947 Rosemary Hewett studied English at the University of Warwick, graduating in 1968. Once gaining her BA Hons, Rosemary Hewett worked at Leicester University for one year (1968-69) as a graduate trainee before library school. After she

qualified she worked at Loughborough University of Technology for nine years (1970-1979). She married David Parry on 2 April 1977 and had a son in December 1979 and a daughter in April 1982.

Custodial history:

Deposited by Rosemary Parry, May 1994

Description:

These papers provide invaluable background information about Philip Larkin's relationships with his wider family (mother, father, sister and niece) from the early years at home right up to his death in 1985.

There are two substantial series within this collection, the first being the diaries of Sydney Larkin, Philip's father. As well as covering family holidays these manuscript books provide a detailed record of the war years using a variety of newspaper reports. This sequence has as much value as a personal history of the Second World War as it does as a record of the young poet's early years.

The second substantial series is the correspondence between Philip Larkin and his parents. There are letters from Philip Larkin to his father and/or mother until his father's death in 1948 and from then onwards, letters to his mother until her death in 1977. Letters from Eva Larkin to Philip date from 1956 to 1966. This material is currently being catalogued. [U DLN/6 and U DLN/7]

Sydney Larkin

The travel diaries in this collection record in meticulous detail holidays taken by Sydney Larkin with and without his wife Eva and/or daughter Kitty and/or son Philip between the years 1927 and 1943. The family spent most of their British holidays in the fashionable seaside resorts of Devon and Cornwall. They made one trip north to Cayton Bay (near Scarborough) in 1933 and in other years visited the Isle of Wight and Jersey. During the worst war years (1942 and 1943) they went to Church Stretton, Shropshire, not far from Birmingham.

In Coventry, as in most of the country, the last week in July was 'holiday week' for the majority of workers who could then add on the August Bank Holiday (first Monday in August). A sign of Sydney Larkin's social status was that he never took his family on holiday in Britain during this period, instead he consistently took time off at the end of August. Additionally, he frequently went away for more than twelve days. Paid holidays were not an automatic right at this time, and many people could not afford to budget for more than a week. In 1936 the TUC recommended to a government committee debating holiday pay that the length of paid holiday should be twelve days. In 1932 and 1933 the Larkin family had 21 days' holiday. Getting away to the sea with its bracing air and open skies was a fashionable and enviable thing to do. Sending postcards as the Larkins frequently did had real meaning for those left behind in the dreary industrial cities (U DLN/1/31, 2/2 and 3/2).

In holidaying at Lyme Regis, Bigbury on Sea and Sidmouth, Sydney Larkin was a very typical County Treasurer as is shown by the fact that he met up with several colleagues on vacation. He also took his family to a NALGO (National and Local Government Officers Association) camp centre at Cayton Bay in August 1933. NALGO was one of two large trade unions of white collar public employees which pioneered trade union holiday camps (The history of the holiday camp can be found in Colin Ward and Dennis Hardy's book *Goodnight Campers!* [1986]). Cayton Bay (near Scarborough) was opened in July 1933. Thus the Larkins were

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among the first families to use these new, modern facilities. They stayed three weeks at £2 5s a week each (1/2 price for children under 12), a substantial financial outlay at a time when the average weekly wage was £3. It is therefore apt that these diaries show a prudent man constantly keeping accounts of the money spent by his family, and very alert to his place on the social scale in relation to his fellow holiday makers. Throughout his travels he kept a running commentary on the failings of his companions, even doodling satiric sketches of them or defacing photographs (U DLN/1/1 and 1/6).

A repetitive 'holiday pattern' emerges from Sydney Larkin's diaries. The family journeyed to their chosen destination by train, and then spent their days swimming, reading, shopping, walking, and making occasional trips to the cinema or theatre. Philip Larkin is part of these ritual activities in all the family's British vacations and so it is perhaps no surprise that train journeys, the sea and tennis-playing women are formally recognised and respected in his poetry.

For Sydney Larkin holidays were the opportunity to wear the slightly outlandish and daring. 'A red shirt' he wrote 'should do some good in rousing the inmates of the Hotel out of their fearful conventionality' (U DLN/1/8). They were also the site of romance. Sydney Larkin first met Eva Larkin whilst on holiday in Rhyl. Once married, he encouraged his son to romanticise women. One early morning Sydney and Philip 'both feast our eyes on the beautiful girls' (milkmaids) (U DLN/1/1). On another occasion Sydney gazed at 'a vision in turquoise blue' (U DLN/1/1). At the same time older women were satirised mercilessly. A Mrs Strickland for 'having a repulsive face' (U DLN/1/1) and several Dutch women on a tour of Germany for nagging their husbands.

Sydney Larkin was getting thoroughly depressed by family holidays as early as 1932. They were impossible to enjoy, 'with four people all afraid to do what they would really like to for fear of upsetting the others' (U DLN/1/1). Although never directly critical of his wife and children, the repetitiveness of the phrase 'Philip was ill' reveals Sydney Larkin's sense of tedium at childish ailments. That he was very conscious of being part of a family unit is also underlined by the fact that he referred to his wife as Mamma until 1943. Only after the children had left did he use her name, Eva.

In stark contrast the diaries covering Sydney Larkin's German holidays were written with far more enjoyment. The same activities, bathing, walking, dancing and cinema going are recorded after the holiday had taken place. Sydney and Eva Larkin travelled the Rhine, Mosel and Lerne rivers, holidayed in South Germany near Freiburg, Wernigerode near Hannover and the Swiss resort of Schonau. Several of the trips are recorded by small black and white photographs. In 1936 and 1937 Sydney Larkin took Philip Larkin to the haunts which he and Eva had enjoyed so much. The visit is a disappointment and Philip's illnesses an evident irritant. There are no photographs recording this visit.

Later in 1939 father and son returned from a holiday in Jersey to embark on a cycling tour (U DLN/1/8). Samples of the poetry which Philip Larkin wrote on this tour can be seen in the Larkin estate collection [U DPL(2)].

The war put a stop to Sydney Larkin's long holidays, and between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945 he maintained his own commentary on the war. During the war Sydney was an important member of the National Savings Committee set up to encourage people to think about their financial status after the war. When he received the OBE in 1941 many of the letters of congratulation from fellow treasurers implied that it was partly this work which got him the award (U DLN/1/33). The twenty war diaries are closed to researchers.

The high point of Sydney Larkin's career came when he was elected President of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants in 1936. It is likely that it was this position which brought with it a more public role and hence the need for a notebook of anecdotes and jokes (U DLN/1/30). His high status also allowed him to attend the International Congress of Accounting in Berlin 1938/1939 with Eva Larkin (DLN/2/1). By the time Sydney Larkin died in 1948 he was well respected for his straight dealing and well liked for his sense of humour (DLN/2/4).

Eva Larkin

In contrast with her husband who was a prolific writer, we have no evidence of Eva Larkin's prose except a few brief postcards (U DLN/2/2). We learn about her moods and illnesses from Sydney, Philip and Catherine Larkin. A number of photographs provide a record of the places where she grew up (U DLN/5/1 and 5/8a) and her growth from young woman to senior citizen (U DLN/4/1-3).

The extensive correspondence between Philip and Eva Larkin provides rich source material for a study of their relationship and its influence on Larkin's life and writing.

Catherine (Kitty) Larkin

In his biography of Philip Larkin Andrew Motion points out that Catherine was ten years older than her brother Philip and suggests that this was too great a gap for them to become close. However, the letters and postcards from Philip Larkin to Catherine Larkin (U DLN/3/2) display intimacy and they shared a lot of private jokes. Philip also respected her opinion, sending her copies of the poems he had published at Oxford and soliciting her opinions on them. It was also Catherine Larkin whom he telegraphed to inform the family that 'Apparently I have got a First' (U DLN/3/3). Whilst at Oxford Philip Larkin wrote frequently, telling her about Oxford including his theories about psychology and education. The correspondence between Catherine Larkin and Philip Larkin picked up again substantially when Eva Larkin became ill and moved into the Berrystead Nursing Home in Syston, Leicester (U DLN/3/8). Again there was a sense of mutual understanding, this time about their mother's needs and expectations. On the day Rosemary Hewett got married for example, Philip Larkin made sure that he paid a long visit to Eva Larkin after attending the wedding with Monica Jones.

Rosemary Hewett

Finally, we have the letters and cards from 'Uncle Philip' to Rosemary Parry nee Hewett. As Rosemary's godfather Philip Larkin often felt it his duty to write a serious letter. He even took it upon himself to explain why people turned to God and religion, on the occasion of her confirmation (U DLN/3/5). To Rosemary, Philip Larkin was just 'Uncle Philip' like her other uncle, her father's brother Ivor. Philip Larkin observed all their birthdays with variable regularity, apologising profusely when he was late sending a card (U DLN/3/1).

This collection enables us to take the study and analysis of Philip Larkin's early years further by bringing his relationships with his father, mother and sister into sharper focus. It is clear that his father was a very strong character who ran a very tight family unit. Sydney Larkin has the same eye for hypocrisy and ideological dogmatism that his son was to display in his poetry. We may even wish to go further and suggest that Sydney Larkin's interest in methodical record was an important model for a poet who paid such close attention to form and the grammatical niceties of language as well as for a son who was to become a University Librarian.

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This introduction is based on information kindly provided by Rosemary Parry in letters dated 3 February and 25 March 1996. It is supplemented by Andrew Motion's biography, Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life (London, 1993).

Arrangement:

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| U DLN/1 | Sydney Larkin, 1911 - 1948 |
| U DLN/2 | Eva Larkin, 1911 - 1966 |
| U DLN/3 | Philip Larkin, 1939 - 1983 |
| U DLN/4 | Photographs, circa 1890 - 1980 |
| U DLN/5 | Miscellaneous, circa 1890 - 1970 |
| U DLN/6 | Letters from Philip Larkin to Eva and Sydney Larkin , 1939-1977 |
| U DLN/7 | Letters from Eva Larkin to Philip Larkin. 1956-1966 |

Extent: 2 linear metres

Related material:

Philip Larkin's personal library
Philip Larkin book collection [P/L] Published works by or about Larkin
Philip Larkin's personal record collection (LPs and 78s)
Philip Larkin's photograph collection [U DLV]
Correspondence with numerous friends, fellow poets, colleagues etc, including: Barry Bloomfield [U DX213], Colin Gunner [U DP179], Brenda Moon, [U DX257], Andrew Motion [U DP207], James Sutton [U DP174 and U DP182], Ted Tarling [U DP177], Anthony Thwaite [U DP181]
Papers of Anthony Thwaite relating to his editorship of "Larkin at Sixty" [U DP188] and as literary executor to Philip Larkin [U DAT, uncatalogued]
Papers of Monica Jones [U DMA uncatalogued]
Photocopies of letters from Larkin to Monica Jones (collated by Anthony Thwaite as part of his research) [U DX341]
Papers of Maeve Brennan [U DMB uncatalogued and closed to 2033]

Other repositories:

Larkin Workbook No 1, British Library [Ad. Ms 52619]
Correspondence between Philip Larkin and Monica Jones, Bodleian Library: Department of Western Manuscripts

Access conditions:

Access to the correspondence between Philip and Eva Larkin, at U DLN/6 and U DLN/7 is currently not available for consultation until it has been catalogued. If you are interested in this element of the collection please contact archives@hull.ac.uk clearly outlining your interest and timescales.

Copyright:

Rosemary Parry for material written by Sydney or Eva Larkin
Estate of Philip Larkin for material written by Philip Larkin.

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| U DLN/1 | Sydney Larkin | 1911-1948 |
| | U DLN/1-9 | Travel Diaries |
| | U DLN/10-29 | War Diaries [Closed] |
| | U DLN/30 | Notebook |
| | U DLN/30-33 | Correspondence |
| | U DLN/34-41 | Miscellaneous |

There are a number of cross references between the travel diaries and the very earliest correspondence between Philip Larkin and Jim Sutton [ref. U DP/174/2]. The wartime diaries contain various newspaper cuttings from 'The Daily Mail', 'The Times', 'The Sunday Times', 'The Observer', 'The Birmingham Post', 'The Mercury', and 'Truth' (the source is not always clear). Many of these cuttings are of speeches made by leading politicians in the war years, including Chamberlain, Churchill, Hitler and Goebbels. Sydney Larkin also kept cuttings of letters by prominent thinkers and writers. Several of these are noted as they occur.
41 items

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| U DLN/1/1 | <p>Sydney Larkin's diary (16cm x 10cm). Black hard covers. circa 320pp. Begins with Lyme Regis in 1927 and ends with the NALGO Holiday Camp at Cayton Bay 1933. All holidays include Philip Larkin. 70 reverse side pages are used to record holidays in 1932 and 1933. Includes newspaper cuttings pasted onto hard covers and several inside pages. Amongst these are extracts from Sir Philip Sydney 'An apology for poetry' and John Henry Newman 'Definition of a gentleman'. At the page dated 1 September 1928 is a sketched caricature of a fellow holidaymaker 1 volume</p> | 20 Aug 1927- 2 Sep 1933 |
| U DLN/1/2 | <p>Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (10.5cm x 6.5cm). Red paper covers. circa 160pp. Contains jottings from a business trip to Berlin 1 volume</p> | 1933 |
| U DLN/1/3 | <p>Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (16cm x 10cm). Red paper covers. circa 200pp. Contains detailed travel itinerary of holiday in Germany. Long trip to Oberammergau (passion play venue) coincides with death and funeral of President Von Hindenburg. Includes ticket for bathing access at page 79 [in German], newspaper cutting inside front cover and 27 small black and white holiday prints taken in the Rhine region mostly of Eva and Sydney Larkin with fellow tour guests 1 volume</p> | 18 Jul- 12 Aug 1934 |

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| U DLN/1/4 | Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (16cm x10cm). Red paper covers. circa 200pp. Includes 41 small black and white holiday prints of the Swiss holiday resort Schonau and visits made in the surrounding area. Philip Larkin mentioned at page dated 2 September 1935 1 volume | 24 Aug- 7 Sep 1935 |
| U DLN/1/5 | Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (16cm x 9.5cm). Red paper covers. circa 100pp. Eva, Sydney and Philip Larkin travel to the German resort of Koenigswinter with Thomas Cook holidays. Records Philip Larkin's illnesses and their consequences. Comments on dance bands. Page 49 lists the drummer's faults 1 volume | 15-29 Aug 1936 |
| U DLN/1/6 | Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (16cm x 9.5cm). Red paper covers. circa 100pp. Sydney and Philip Larkin stay in the Honingen region of Germany. Contains verbal sketches of 'the characters of the party'. 1 volume | 21 Aug- 4 Sep 1937 |
| U DLN/1/7 | Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (16cm x 9.5cm). Red paper covers. circa 100pp. Eva, Sydney and Philip Larkin on holiday in Sidmouth. Reading from the end of the book are 48 pages each headed by a letter of the alphabet. There are several German words recorded under these headings 1 volume | 13-27 Aug 1938 |
| U DLN/1/8 | Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (16cm x 9.5cm). Red paper covers. circa 100pp. Holiday in Jersey including Philip Larkin. Includes dates, names and places on the last page of the book. Starting from page dated 14 August is a record of Sydney and Philip Larkin cycling 162 miles around Somerset. Includes black and white postcard of 'plane arriving at Jersey airport', [1939] 1 volume | 31 Jul- 21 Aug 1939 |
| U DLN/1/9 | Sydney Larkin's memo book used as diary (10.5cm x 6.5cm). Red paper covers. circa 154 pp. Holiday at Church Stretton including Philip Larkin 1 volume | 26 Aug 1942- 22 Aug 1943 |
| U DLN/1/10 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 162 pp. Contains quotations from Philip Larkin on the war 1 volume | 3 Sep-4 Nov 1939 |

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| U DLN/1/11 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 162pp. Includes 2 letters by Sydney Larkin. One is published in [?] `The Sunday Times', the other in [?] `The Birmingham Post'. Feature on Sydney Larkin as Honorary Secretary of the Coventry City Savings Committee in [?] `The Birmingham Post' 1 volume | 5 Nov 1939- 25 Jan 1940 |
| U DLN/1/12 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Includes cuttings of letters from pacifists in [?] `The Birmingham Post' and of letter from J M Keynes which appeared in [?] `The Times' 1 volume | 25 Jan-8 Apr 1940 |
| U DLN/1/13 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 162pp. Includes cuttings of letter from Edmund Blunden in [?] `The Times', letter from Sydney Larkin in [?] `The Birmingham Post' (two paragraphs censored) and Jonathan Cape order form used as bookmark at page dated 4 June 1 volume | 8 Apr-15 Jul 1940 |
| U DLN/1/14 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Includes cutting of photograph of Sydney Larkin with members of his Savings Campaign Committee in [?] `The Birmingham Post' 1 volume | 16 Jun- 17 Aug 1940 |
| U DLN/1/15 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. 1 volume | 17 Aug- 10 Oct 1940 |
| U DLN/1/16 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Sydney Larkin describes the first bombing of Coventry 14 November 1940. Includes record of parliamentary debate over HG Wells' lecture tour of America in [?] `The Times' and cutting of Philip Larkin's poem 'Ultimatum' in `The Listener' 1 volume | 11 Oct- 31 Dec 1940 |

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| U DLN/1/17 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112 pages. Includes cuttings regarding the award of the OBE (CIVIL) to Sydney Larkin in [?] `The Birmingham Post' and proposed plans for the rebuilding of Coventry city centre 1 volume | 1 Jan-9 Mar 1941 |
| U DLN/1/18 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Account of further bombing of Coventry. Includes cuttings of letters regarding Virginia Woolf's suicide in [?] `The Sunday Times' and letter by Bernard Shaw in [?] `The Times' 1 volume | 20 Mar- 15 Jul 1941 |
| U DLN/1/19 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Account of the 'V' campaign. Includes cuttings of Sydney Larkin on local authority finance in [?] `The Birmingham Post' and `The Financial Times', and letter by HG Wells in [?] `The Times' 1 volume | 15 Jul-2 Oct 1941 |
| U DLN/1/20 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Quotes letter from Philip Larkin on Oxford attitudes to war. Includes cutting of newspaper photograph of the centre of Coventry, 1941 1 volume | 2 Oct-30 Nov 1941 |
| U DLN/1/21 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Ongoing observation on the conscription of women. Includes cutting of letter by John Masefield (poet laureate) in [?] `The Times' 1 volume | 1 Dec 1941- 28 Feb 1942 |
| U DLN/1/22 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (26cm x 20.5cm). Black hardback covers. circa 112pp. Includes cutting of photograph of Luebeck after bombing. Daily diary ends, thereafter only important events recorded 1 volume | 1 Mar-3 Jul 1942 |

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| U DLN/1/23 | <p>Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (22.5cm x 17cm). Black hardback covers. circa 249pp. Includes cuttings of Sydney Larkin on old razor blades in [?] `The Birmingham Post', and letters by Bomber Harris, Theodore Dreiser, and AA Milne in [?] `The Times' 1 volume</p> | <p>7 Jul 1942- 2 Jul 1943</p> |
| U DLN/1/24 | <p>Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (22.5cm x 17cm). Black hardback covers. circa 240pp. Includes cuttings regarding Philip Larkin's receipt of First Class Honours in [?] `The Times' and letter by John Masefield in [?] `The Times' 1 volume</p> | <p>2 Jul 1943- 29 Jan 1944</p> |
| U DLN/1/25 | <p>Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (22.5cm x 17cm). Black hardback covers. circa 240pp. Includes cuttings of 2 tributes to Sydney Larkin after 25 years as Coventry City Treasurer, details of Catherine Larkin's wedding in [?] `The Birmingham Post' and Sydney Larkin's letter to [?] `The Times'. Back cover of manuscript book displays 7 tributes on Sydney Larkin's retirement and letters by Stanley Unwin and Bernard Shaw in [?] `The Times' 1 volume</p> | <p>29 Jan- 16 Aug 1944</p> |
| U DLN/1/26 | <p>Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (22.5cm x 17cm). Black hardback covers. circa 240pp. Concerns period leading up to Sydney Larkin's retirement. Includes cutting of Coventry City Council's tribute to Sydney Larkin 1 volume</p> | <p>17 Aug- 17 Nov 1944</p> |
| U DLN/1/27 | <p>Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (22.5cm x 17cm). Black hardback covers. circa 240pp. Contains substantial cuttings from the magazine `Truth' 1 volume</p> | <p>17 Nov 1944- 17 Feb 1945</p> |
| U DLN/1/28 | <p>Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (22.5cm x 17cm). Black hardback covers. circa 240pp. Includes cuttings of 3 letters by Sydney Larkin on simnel cake in [?] `The Mercury', George Orwell in `The Observer' and obituary for Adolf Hitler in `The Times' 1 volume</p> | <p>20 Feb- 8 May 1945</p> |

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| U DLN/1/29 | Sydney Larkin's manuscript book used as diary and scrapbook (20cm x 16cm). Red hardback covers. circa 126pp. Includes cutting of letter by Sydney Larkin on the use of the word 'pretty' in 'The Sunday Times'. Torn newspaper scrap acting as bookmark on page dated 17 March 1 volume | 1 Jan-2 Jul 1946 |
| U DLN/1/30 | Sydney Larkin's leather notebook with metallic hinges (18cm x 10.5cm). Miscellaneous jottings (quotations, jokes for every occasion, thoughts etc.), possibly intended for after dinner speeches and public functions. circa 200pp. Contains 10 newspaper cuttings of quotes and cartoons, and a quotation from Philip Larkin 1 volume | c.1936 |
| U DLN/1/31 | Postcards from Sydney Larkin to Catherine Larkin and Philip Larkin All from Germany 7 items | c.1930 |
| U DLN/1/32 | Telegram from Sydney Larkin to Philip Larkin 'Am quite safe' 1 item | 17 Nov 1940 |
| U DLN/1/33 | Letters and telegrams to Sydney Larkin on the award of his OBE Includes messages from friends, local council officials and nationwide council treasurers, NALGO, the Coventry Unionist Association (Conservative Party), solicitors, and members of the National Savings Committee 104 items | 1941 |
| U DLN/1/34 | Supplement to 'Local Government Finance: the official journal of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants' (vol. X, no.5) Containing autobiographical piece on the new president of the Institute, Sydney Larkin. Including: a) A3 size black and white photograph of Sydney Larkin, July 1936 (2) 3 items | 1936 |
| U DLN/1/35 | 'Municipal Journal' (vol. 46, no.2316) Containing report of Sydney Larkin's inaugural presidential address, photograph, notes and comments by Sydney Larkin on government finance 1 item | 18 Jun 1937 |

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| U DLN/1/36 | Church guide to `The Mynster of the Ile' (Ilminster, Somerset) 1 item | 1939 |
| U DLN/1/37 | Supplement to `The London Gazette' (no. 35029) Containing OBE listings including Sydney Larkin 1 item | 1 Jan 1941 |
| U DLN/1/38 | Sydney Larkin's article 'These I have loved' in `The journal of the Association of Local Government Financial Officers' (vol. X, no.5) 2 items | 1948 |
| U DLN/1/39 | `Local Government Finance' Including tribute to Sydney Larkin on the occasion of his death 1 item | 1948 |
| U DLN/1/40 | Newspaper cuttings recording Sydney Larkin's wedding, death, and tributes for work whilst serving Coventry City Council 8 items | 1911-1948 |
| U DLN/1/41 | List of names 1 item | c.1930 |
| U DLN/2 | Eva Larkin 4 items | 1911-1966 |
| U DLN/2/1 | Wedding token, passport, travel identity card for travel to Northern Ireland, mementoes of 80th birthday, national registration card and card giving access to International Congress on Accounting in Berlin 7 items | 1911-1966 |
| U DLN/2/2 | Postcards from Eva Larkin to William Day (father), Catherine Larkin and Philip Larkin All from Germany 5 items | c.1930 |
| U DLN/2/3 | Letter to Eva Larkin from Nellie Day (sister-in-law) and William Day (father) 1 item | 8 Feb 1942 |
| U DLN/2/4 | Letters to Eva Larkin on the death of Sydney Larkin from family, friends, colleagues Including one from Ruth Bowman 43 items | 1948 |

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| U DLN/3 | Philip Larkin U DLN/1-8 U DLN/9-13 U DLN/14-18 18 items | Correspondence Poems Miscellaneous | 1939-1983 |
| U DLN/3/1 | Christmas and birthday cards from Philip Larkin to Catherine Larkin and Rosemary Hewett, including comments. Philip Larkin falsely ascribes a piece of nursery rhyme verse to Ted Hughes Including: a) Letter from Philip Larkin to Rosemary Hewett (the letter and card have become separated), 25 April 1968 22 items | | 1939-1983 |
| U DLN/3/2 | Letters and postcards from Philip Larkin to Catherine Larkin Containing detailed accounts of life as an undergraduate at Oxford and frequent references to Jim Sutton. His desire to be a writer is clear, as is his interest in psychology (Jung) and hatred of the war. Including: a) Leaflet issued by the University Labour Federation, May 1941 11 items | | 1939-1943 |
| U DLN/3/3 | Telegram from Philip Larkin to Catherine Larkin 'Apparently I have got a first' 1 item | | 1943 |
| U DLN/3/4 | Letters to Philip Larkin on the death of Sydney Larkin Including one from Helen Bowman 6 items | | 1948 |
| U DLN/3/5 | Letters and postcard from Philip Larkin to a young Rosemary Hewett Written in the tone of a moral guardian 3 items | | 12 Dec 1960- 18 Nov 1962 |
| U DLN/3/6 | Letters from Philip Larkin to Rosemary Hewett whilst an undergraduate in English and European Literature at Warwick University. Philip Larkin visited his niece and the University Librarian PE Tucker. Including: a) Letter from Neil Powell requesting an interview with Philip Larkin for The University of Warwick Magazine, 21 October 1966 b) Photocopies of letters to PE Tucker including details of planned visit to Warwick University Library, October 1966 (2) 5 items | | 16 Feb- 30 Oct 1966 |

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| U DLN/3/7 | Letters and postcards from Philip Larkin to Rosemary Hewett. Larkin sends his thanks for birthday presents and birthday letters, pays tribute to Walter Hewett and tells her what he is currently working on. 16 items | 7 Jan-27 Mar 1983 |
| U DLN/3/8 | Letters and postcards from Philip Larkin to Catherine Larkin Containing details of Eva Larkin's final years in a nursing home in Syston (Leicester) and the sale of her (and Sydney Larkin's) property after her death. Including: a) Photocopied exchange of letters between Philip Larkin and Berrystead nursing home, 8-10 May 1972 (2) b) Exchange of letters between Philip Larkin, his solicitors and estate agent regarding the sale of 21 York Road, Loughborough, July 1978 (6) c) Photograph of 2 Poultney Road, Coventry, 17 June 1982 12 items | 1972-1982 |
| U DLN/3/9 | 'The Listener' vol. XXIV, no.620. Includes the poem 'Ultimatum' 1 item | 28 Nov 1940 |
| U DLN/3/10 | 'The Cherwell' vol. LXI, no.4. Includes the poem 'Story' 1 item | 13 Feb 1941 |
| U DLN/3/11 | 'The Cherwell' vol. LXII, no.2. Includes the poem 'A Writer' 1 item | 8 May 1941 |
| U DLN/3/12 | Holograph copy of sonnet. First line reads "This was your place of birth, this daytime palace". First published in 'The Cherwell', 28 February 1942 1 item | c.1941 |
| U DLN/3/13 | 'Arabesque'. Includes two poems. 'Mythological Introduction' and 'Poem' 1 item | 1943 |
| U DLN/3/14 | Bookmark with pencilled note from Philip Larkin to Catherine Larkin 1 item | c.1930 |

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| U DLN/3/15 | Folded photocopied page of 3 differently dated pieces and a sketch of an unidentified creature With loose cuttings of the photocopied items. Including: a) Newspaper cutting. Letter from Philip Larkin to [?] 'The Times' on the evils of bull fighting, no date b) Written note by Philip Larkin of the cost of several phone calls, 9 August 1963 1 bundle | c.1950 |
| U DLN/3/16 | Cutting from 'Leicester University Gazette' Of tribute to Philip Larkin on being made an honorary graduate of Leicester University 1 item | 1970 |
| U DLN/3/17 | Estate agent's description of 21 York Road, Loughborough With newspaper cutting of sale details 2 items | 1978 |
| U DLN/3/18 | Photocopy sent by Philip Larkin to Catherine Larkin of an article by C Day Lewis 'When working in radio was a great adventure' published in 'The Listener' 1 item | 1982 |
| U DLN/4 | Photographs 5 items | 1890s-1970s |
| U DLN/4/1 | Photographs of the Larkin and Day families (excluding Philip Larkin) Groups show William Day and his wife Emilie, and William Larkin with his wife Catherine. Selection includes early record of Eva Larkin and Sydney Larkin's married life, and Eva Larkin's old age 20 items | 1890s-1960s |
| U DLN/4/2 | Photographs of Philip Larkin and the Larkin family (various sizes) Includes William and Emilie Day (grandparents), William and Catherine Larkin (grandparents), Catherine and Walter Hewett, Rosemary Hewett, and Monica Jones at Philip Larkin's house in Newland Park, Hull. The photographs have been taken on holiday, inside 105 Newland Park, in the garden, and at weddings. One wedding photograph may have been taken by Philip Larkin 36 items | 1920s-1970s |
| U DLN/4/3 | Studio photograph of Eva Larkin 1 item | c.1940 |

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| U DLN/4/4 | Studio photograph of Philip Larkin at Oxford 1 item | c.1941 |
| U DLN/4/5 | Postcard of Philip Larkin sent to Catherine Larkin from Wellington 1 item | 20 Aug 1946 |
| U DLN/5 | Miscellaneous 8 items | c.1890-1970 |
| U DLN/5/1 | Postcard of Durrington Farm, Harlow, Essex where William Day was brought up 1 item | c.1890 |
| U DLN/5/2 | Copy of 'The Mercury' (Lichfield newspaper). Includes piece on William Edmund Larkin's retirement from post of Financial Secretary to Dr Johnson's Lodge. 1 item | 8 Mar 1912 |
| U DLN/5/3 | Press cuttings, including obituaries and funeral details For Emilie Archer (Eva Larkin's mother), William J Day (her father), and James Day (her grandfather) 1 bundle | c.1934 |
| U DLN/5/4 | Cartoon entitled 'The country wants you' 1 item | c.1940 |
| U DLN/5/5 | Press cutting advertising Philip Larkin's novel 'Jill' 1 item | c.1946 |
| U DLN/5/6 | Bundle of correspondence relating to the estate of George Ernest Larkin (brother of Sydney Larkin) who died intestate 1 bundle | 1948 |
| U DLN/5/7 | Letter from Professor Paul 'Espinasse to Catherine Larkin On Philip Larkin being suddenly taken ill in a library committee meeting 1 item | 7 Mar 1961 |
| U DLN/5/8 | Letter from Monica Jones to Catherine Larkin Including: a) Photographs (3), including one of Chestnut Villa, Epping, Essex where Eva Larkin lived aged 4-11, no date b) Postcard of Coventry Cathedral (view 2) before bombing during the Second World War, pre 1940 1 bundle | c.1970 |