

U DP174

**Letters from Philip Arthur Larkin
to James Ballard Sutton**

c.1938-1952

Biographical Background:

James Ballard Sutton and Philip Larkin met at junior school, and along with Colin Gunner the three were good friends. Sutton's and Larkin's shared interest in Jazz brought them closer together and much of their correspondence discusses jazz records and performances. Sutton had ambitions to be a painter, and went on to study at the Slade School of Fine Art after leaving school. Sutton fought in World War II, but the two kept up a steady correspondence while he was away. Their friendship seemed to thrive on separation, which meant that Larkin did not witness in person the erosion of his friend's artistic ambition – in the end Sutton worked as a pharmacist for most of his working life. After an unsuccessful visit to see Larkin in Belfast, where he was working in 1951, their correspondence dwindled to a trickle before ending completely.

Description:

The collection comprises letters from Philip Arthur Larkin to James Ballard Sutton, written from Sidmouth, Coventry, Warwick, Lichfield, Oxford, Wellington. Many contain illustrations, including 2 watercolours. There are also 40 poems and parts of poems. The auctioneer's basic chronological sequence has been retained.

Extent: 228 items

Custodial History: Purchased at Christie's (auctioneers), London, 22 June 1988, with the aid of the V&A Purchase Grant Fund

Related material:

Letters from James Ballard Sutton to Philip Larkin [U DP182]

Photographs of (and taken by) James Ballard Sutton [U DLV/2/1/10, 15-16, 28]

Correspondence between James Sutton and Philip Larkin [U DPL2/2/25/40]

Negatives of James Sutton [U DLV/3/26]

Postcard. Philip Larkin to James Sutton [U DPL4/5/1]

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader. Photocopies of the correspondence are issued to researchers rather than the originals.

U DP174/1	Christie's sale catalogue 1 item	Jun 1988
U DP174/2	Letters All illustrations (ill.) are in one colour ink unless specifically noted. 'CP' refers to the Collected poems (ed. Anthony Thwaite, 1988) and 'Selected Letters' refers to the Selected letters (ed. Anthony Thwaite, 1992) 227 items	c.1938-1952

U DP174/2/1	Handwritten letter unsigned. Philip Larkin writing to James Sutton from Sidmouth Mainly discussing the film 'The Hurricane'. Also refers to bathing, jazz, Aldous Huxley doing a film script for Greta Garbo, and playing bridge. (4pp.) Dated 'August the something or other', but see Sidney Larkin's holiday diary (U DLN/1/7) 1 item	Aug [1938]
U DP174/2/2	Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin writing to James Sutton from Coventry Discusses jazz records and musicians in some depth; ends letter with an anti - Semitic joke. (3pp.) 1 item	10 Mar 1939
U DP174/2/3	Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin writing to James Sutton from Coventry Discusses in some depth four records, namely 'Sent For You Yesterday And Here You Come Today', 'Swinging The Blues', 'Every Tub', and 'Out of the Window'. Also refers to his view of "good jazz", reviews by Edgar J in 'Gramophone', a brief note about big bands, and how he is waiting for a copy of 'Down Beat'. (3pp.) 1 item	1939
U DP174/2/4	Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin writing to James Sutton from Penvorn Discusses the journal 'Down Beat' in some depth, especially a survey of players and bands; a programme arranged by Robert Tredinnick; some mutual friends; and an argument of Sutton's (in a previous letter?), making reference to Franco and Chamberlain. (4pp.) 1 item	1939
U DP174/2/5	Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin writing to James Sutton from Coventry. Mainly discussing the record 'Dallas Blues', and the film 'Owd Bob'. (2pp.) 1 item	[4 Aug 1939]
U DP174/2/6	Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin writing to James Sutton from Coventry. Writing to thank Sutton for a birthday card and the record 'Dallas Blues'; lists his other presents, and discusses in some detail Baron Less' record 'Growl'. Larkin makes the distinction in this letter between jazz based on the Blues and Hot Music. (3pp.) 1 item	[9 Aug 1939]

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| U DP174/2/7 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Jersey.</p> <p>The letter, thanking Sutton for birthday greetings, mainly describes Larkin's amusements whilst on holiday. It also contains a passage on the working classes, and a brief discussion of Aldous Huxley and Richard Aldington, and jazz. (4pp) Letter contains two ill(s): the head of a bald man; and Larkin playing table - tennis.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 12 Aug 1939 |
| U DP174/2/8 | <p>Letter written on blue paper (handwritten letter unsigned and typed letter unsigned). Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Coventry.</p> <p>A rather self-indulgent letter where Larkin moans about his life, at one point almost raging. Brief discussion of jazz and the magazine 'Rhythm'. (10pp.) Contains illustration by Larkin entitled 'Portrait of the Author and Family, 1939' (showing Larkin listening to his parents and sister talking), as reproduced in the Selected Letters</p> <p>1 item</p> | 6 Sep 1939 |
| U DP174/2/9 | <p>Typescript letter signed on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Coventry.</p> <p>Mainly relating 2 episodes at home (one of which is a discussion on Germany between Larkin and his sister Kitty), and also what he did whilst on holiday in Jersey. A few extracts from the novel Larkin is writing, called 'Present Laughter' (the novel was never finished), are typed out for Sutton. Also refers to mutual friends. (10pp.)</p> <p>1 item</p> | 1940 |
| U DP174/2/10 | <p>Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Coventry.</p> <p>The letter is written over two days, and discusses an evening out talking with other people. Includes a related poem written by Larkin entitled 'Evensong' (beginning "I think I read, or have been told..."), and comments on the difference between poets and novelists. Reference is made to Charles Dickens and 'The Pickwick Papers'; Katherine Mansfield and 'The Doves' Nest'; and D. H. Lawrence (whose name is typed in red throughout), Stephen Spender (quoting the poem 'I think continually...'), and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Larkin ends by answering Sutton's previous letter point by point. (8pp.) The final page is an illustration of Aldous Huxley arguing with a cab driver, which Larkin refers to on page 6 of the letter.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 1940 |

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| U DP174/2/11 | <p>Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Coventry.
Written over two days, it is mainly about Larkin's disillusionment. Discussed or referred to within the letter are T. S. Eliot, making reference to books by Dilys Powell and Edith Sitwell; Christopher Isherwood's 'All The Conspirators' and 'Lions and Shadows'; Richard Aldington's 'Soft Answers'; and Somerset Maugham's 'Of Human Bondage'. (7pp.)
1 item</p> | [1940] |
| U DP174/2/12 | <p>Sonnet and note (Typescript letter unsigned and handwritten letter signed). Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Coventry.
Sonnet is 'Nothing Significant Was Really Said' (CP, p.235). (1p).
1 item</p> | 1940 |
| U DP174/2/13 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Staffordshire.
Briefly describes the town of Lichfield where he is staying for Christmas, and his own feelings at being there. Refers to the 'Listener' (containing his poem 'Ultimatum', CP. p. 243). (8pp.) Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 3 - 4.
Letter contains a rough illustration of the situation of the house where he is staying in relation to the town; and of himself sending a bird(?) away as a "messenger of light".
1 item</p> | 9 Dec 1940 |
| U DP174/2/14 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Staffordshire.
Expresses his dissatisfaction with his present circumstances, and his inability to write anything. (16pp.)
1 item</p> | 16 Dec 1940 |
| U DP174/2/15 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Staffordshire.
Discusses poetry and the poetic vision, with reference to Ben Jonson, Auden, Blake, Lawrence and Ovid; letters to Larkin from other friends; and a story he is planning to write. Complete draft of 'Out In The Lane I Pause' (CP, pp. 253 - 254) forms part of the letter. (28pp.) Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 5 - 10, where item with reference number 2/16 is treated as part of the same letter, hence the date given is the same for both 2/15 and 2/16.
1 item</p> | 20 Dec 1940 |

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| U DP174/2/16 | <p>Philip Larkin to James Sutton (Handwritten letter unsigned) possibly from Staffordshire.
It is a poem called 'Ghosts' (poem begins "They said this corner of the park was haunted...") on which he asks for Sutton's opinion. (1p.) This item is printed as part of the letter with reference number 2/15 in the Selected Letters, pp. 5 - 10, hence the date given is the same for both 2/15 and 2/16.
1 item</p> | 20 Dec 1940 |
| U DP174/2/17 | <p>Handmade card from Philip Larkin to James Sutton containing two ts. poems.
1 item</p> | 1940 |
| U DP174/2/18 | <p>Handwritten letter signed, half written on orange paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford. Discussed are a previous letter from Sutton; Larkin's 'war work' in Bagley Wood; D. H. Lawrence's 'Sons And Lovers' and 'Women In Love'; and Auden's 'Look Stranger'. (8pp.)
1 item</p> | 26 Mar 1941 |
| U DP174/2/19 | <p>Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford (?)
It is a thick card with illustrations on of Larkin going out to drink beer, smoke a pipe and listen to records, and then returning at midnight
1 item</p> | [1941] |
| U DP174/2/20 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Letter, partly on orange paper, discusses a letter from another friend ([Frank?] Smith); Sutton's previous letter; jazz; and what he has been reading, discussing in particular James Hanley's 'Boy' (1931), and Auden, quoting from the poem 'Happy New Year'. (16pp). Contains a small illustration to make a point (depicts going to Hell), and one of Larkin trying to catch mice in his room.
1 item</p> | 1 Apr 1941 |
| U DP174/2/21 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Coventry
Discusses what the house he is living in is like, and destruction by bombs; the selection for a book of his poems, which he is calling 'Chosen Poems' (DPL2/1/5), including 'There Is No Language Of Destruction' quoted in full (CP, p.249), and referring to the 'New Year Poem' (CP, p.255); and his frustration at not being able to listen to a radio programme featuring Sidney Bechet. (20pp)
Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp 11 - 13.
Contains a rough illustration of the stairs in the house where he was staying.
1 item</p> | 16 Apr 1941 |

- U DP174/2/22 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford. 7 May 1941
Written over two days discussing Isherwood and Shakespeare; Kingsley Amis; Edward Thomas, quoting some of his poetry; and a sonnet Larkin has written, the end of which is missing. The letter includes a conversation with himself (his Mind and his Bowels) about writing letters. (16pp). Includes an illustration of Larkin writing the sonnet in his room. The top section of the final page is missing.
1 item
- U DP174/2/23 Handwritten letter signed written on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford. 21 May 1941
Discusses some of his own poems, with reference to Auden; music; and how the war affects life, making Sutton's painting, Larkin's writing, and relationships not as important as in peace time, quoting from Auden and Isherwood. Quotes in full a poem by J. A. Shaw called 'Poem', and a poem of his own beginning "At school, the acquaintance...". (18pp). Letter includes an illustration of how a book Sutton sent to Larkin arrived all parcelled up.
1 item
- U DP174/2/24 Handwritten letter signed written partly on yellow paper and partly on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford. 18 Jun 1941
Written over two days and partly whilst sat with friends. Discussed in some depth are Auden's poetry, quoting him extensively and referring to Stephen Spender; and John Layard's hypothesis on women and the unconscious. Also discussed are jazz; himself as split between mind and body; taking an examination in Anglo - Saxon literature; and a play he is trying to write. Letter is interspersed with descriptions of sunny days and the surroundings. (27pp.) Contains an illustration of what he thinks is Layard's main point about the difference between the male and female, and small illustrations of symbols to illustrate his discussion.
1 item
- U DP174/2/25 Handwritten letter signed written on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford. 23 Jun 1941
This is a rather disjointed letter, written over 3 days and discussing a number of topics, notably Larkin's struggle in writing a play; jazz music; Katherine Mansfield; the nature of poetry; and Sutton's painting and drawing style. The letter is interspersed with descriptions of sun - lit days. (19pp.) Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 14 - 18. Letter contains various illustrations, mainly about Larkin's sneezing due to hayfever plus one of him felling a tree.
1 item

- U DP174/2/26 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 16 Sep 1941
The main part consists of an in-depth discussion of jazz records and music, with emphasis on the difference between New Orleans and Chicago, quoting extensively from songs; and, in response to Sutton's remarks (in previous letter), D. H. Lawrence's writing, making reference to James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, and R. M. Rilke. (16pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 20 - 22. Letter contains illustrations by Larkin of him being heckled for wearing red trousers; two of nude women; and one entitled 'Welders at work'.
1 item
- U DP174/2/27 Handwritten letter unsigned/Typescript letter signed. [Jun 1941]
Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. Brief description of the new house at Coten End. Discusses or refers to 'war work' in Bagley Wood; Katherine Mansfield; D. H. Lawrence; Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina'; and fascism. (12pp). Contains rough illustration of the floor plan of the new house.
1 item
- U DP174/2/28 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 24 Sep 1941
Written over two days, discusses jazz; 'Dear Theo' (the autobiography of Vincent Van Gogh); the films 'Love On The Dole' and 'Prison Without Bars'; his own writing of stories; and W. N. P. Barbellion's 'Journal of a Disappointed Man'. (12pp.) Letter includes an illustration by Larkin of Sutton painting, Larkin writing, and then both of them asleep.
1 item
- U DP174/2/29 Handwritten letter unsigned. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 5 Oct 1941
Written over two days, describes a show featuring Arthur Askey and the RAOC Blue Rockets Dance Band, and later describes the music by a band called the Squadronairs. Discusses films, mainly 'Scarface'; Earl and Achsah Brewster's 'D.H. Lawrence: Reminiscences and Correspondence' and H. G. Wells' 'Joan and Peter'; and refers to C zanne and sculpture. (10pp). Ends letter with an illustration of a figure (himself?) being attacked by a painter with a palette knife and a sculptor with a chisel.
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| U DP174/2/30 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Written over three days, consists mainly of a 'salesman' joke. Refers to a letter from Sutton containing illustrations; and D. H. Lawrence. (9pp). Contains a rough illustration of Larkin depicted as a dwarf and chasing people
1 item</p> | 13 Oct 1941 |
| U DP174/2/31 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Mainly describing the previous 'riotous' weekend, and getting into trouble with the professors at college. Also refers to getting beaten at table tennis by Hilary Allen. (8pp). Ends with an illustration depicting an episode from the weekend
1 item</p> | 20 Oct 1941 |
| U DP174/2/32 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Discusses what he has been doing (mainly listening to music and shopping); and expresses his fear of the army and inability to write anything. (10pp). Contains a rough illustration of Kingsley Amis' sofa being stood up on its end and dressed as a figure for a prank; and one of himself.
1 item</p> | 1 Nov 1941 |
| U DP174/2/33 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Discusses jazz records; the book 'Eight Oxford Poets' with reference to Alan Shaw; and a book of poems just published by Alan Ross ('Summer Thunder'). Briefly discusses films; and the war and the army. (15pp). Contains illustrations of Larkin; and of letters going between Larkin and Sutton. Larkin's numbering has missed page 13 out. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 25 - 27.
1 item</p> | 10 Nov 1941 |
| U DP174/2/34 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Describes a long jamming session at HMV studios, discussing the music of Carl Barriteau. Quotes from and discusses Auden, and writes some of his own poetry; and relates story of Dylan Thomas coming to visit the English Club, referring to Rupert Brooke and Stephen Spender. Larkin's anxieties about the possibility of joining the army are evident in this letter. (14pp). Contains a rough illustration of the plan of HMV studios; and illustrations of Larkin falling asleep and playing squash. End of letter is missing. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 27 - 28.
1 item</p> | 20 Nov
1941 |

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| U DP174/2/35 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
 Letter shows Larkin's anxieties about the possibility of joining the army, believing this term to be his last at Oxford. Refers to jazz and a jamming session by George Shearing with a trumpet player called Dutch; and a story (unnamed) he is planning to write. (12pp).
 1 item</p> | 4 Dec 1941 |
| U DP174/2/36 | <p>Handwritten letter signed written on orange paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
 Discusses the story he is trying to write, with reference to the style of Julian Hall. (4pp).
 1 item</p> | 23 Dec 1941 |
| U DP174/2/37 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
 Discusses records, in particular 'Indiana' and two of the players on it, Higgle and Allen. Comments on the nature of 'mateyness' as oppose to friendship, in response to a letter he received from Norman (Iles). Is abandoning his story. (12pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin stood drinking at a bar. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 29 - 30.
 1 item</p> | 31 Dec 1941 |
| U DP174/2/38 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
 Describes his new lodgings in Walton Street and being thankful he is not being forced to join the army. Discusses jazz and refers to having nothing to offer 'The Cherwell' (undergraduate magazine). (10pp). Letter is interspersed with comic illustrations depicting his lunch and how he felt after it.
 1 item</p> | 22 Jan 1942 |
| U DP174/2/39 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
 Refers to a forthcoming meeting with Roger Sharrock; acceptance of five of his poems by Hamblett (Charles Hamblett); and the possibility of one of his poems appearing in an anthology by Lehmann (John Lehmann) called 'Z', with comments on the poem 'Story' (CP, p.257). Refers to his changed style of writing with reference to Dylan Thomas; Kingsley Amis; and 'The Orators' by Auden. (8pp). Letter contains a rough illustration of a character of Kingsley Amis'; and an illustration of Larkin as an 'Oxford Poet 1941' and a 'Nation - wide Poet 1942', looking exactly the same in both.
 1 item</p> | [Mar 1942] |

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| U DP174/2/40 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Discusses or refers to jazz records; Disney's 'Fantasia'; thinking of writing a novel, which he is calling 'The Child Wakes'; 'Ulysses' (James Joyce); and 'The Cherwell' (undergraduate magazine). (6pp).
1 item</p> | 5 Mar 1942 |
| U DP174/2/41 | <p>Handwritten letter signed written on yellow paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Brief letter describing how cold it is, and how Dylan Thomas and Louis MacNiece failed to turn up to the English Club. (4pp).
1 item</p> | 7 Mar 1942 |
| U DP174/2/42 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Short letter considering the benefits of living alone; relating his meeting with a drunken Scottish man; and discussing in brief D. H. Lawrence's 'Sons and Lovers'. (6pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 31 - 33
1 item</p> | 20 Mar 1942 |
| U DP174/2/43 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Discusses trying to locate a copy of 'Women In Love' for Sutton to read; his inability to write, referring to Isherwood, Auden and Dylan Thomas' early achievements; jazz music; and the 'rightness' of Sutton objecting to the war. (11pp). Letter ends with an illustration of Larkin reading an Auden book whilst listening to records.
1 item</p> | 1 Apr 1942 |
| U DP174/2/44 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Discusses his inability to write, and the relationship between pleasure and pain (the two main sources of the latter being the war and home); and 'The Birth of the Blues' (film on jazz). (6pp). Letter ends with an illustration of Larkin reading till late by candlelight.
1 item</p> | [Apr 1942] |
| U DP174/2/45 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Mainly discusses his writing poems daily, influenced by Auden's language and Dylan Thomas' construction. (6pp). Contains illustrations of Larkin singing snatches of songs and bits of poems; and drinking beer.
1 item</p> | 11 Apr 1942 |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Philip Arthur Larkin To James Ballard Sutton

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| U DP174/2/46 | Philip Larkin to James Sutton, from Warwick(?).
Typescript of five sonnets by W. H. Auden, 1933.
1 item | [Apr 1942] |
| U DP174/2/47 | Handwritten letter signed written on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Letter shows his eagerness to return to Oxford. Discusses the possibility of Sutton joining the merchant navy as dangerous; and refers to reading Katherine Mansfield's 'Bliss'. (4pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin sitting and listening to records.
1 item | 22 Apr 1942 |
| U DP174/2/48 | Handwritten letter signed written on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Describes how, though feeling at peace with himself right now, he also feels out of touch with life and incapable of becoming an artist, contemplating on how people are all essentially alone. (10pp).
1 item | 29 Jun 1942 |
| U DP174/2/49 | Handwritten letter unsigned written on blue paper . Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Discusses the importance of D. H. Lawrence, quoting from Hesketh Pearson's 'Life Of Shakespeare', and referring to [John Payne] Collier. Refers to Katherine Mansfield and a snake dream he had, in connection with reading D. H. Lawrence's 'The Plumed Serpent', from which he quotes. Offers support and admiration for Sutton's fight to be a conscientious objector. (14pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 34 - 36
1 item | 6 Jul 1942 |
| U DP174/2/50 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Discusses his recent holiday in Wales; how he has started writing again; and his temporary job as a clerk. (4pp). Contains illustrations of a bird hatching from an egg; a face; and four musicians.
1 item | 5 Aug 1942 |

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| U DP174/2/51 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.</p> <p>Written over two days, it is a long description of the first day, sat in the Park, interspersed with news and discussion about his temporary job; his writing, making reference to Dylan Thomas; Auden; jazz; wishing Sutton a happy 21st birthday; what he has been reading, with particular reference to 'The Rainbow' (D. H. Lawrence); where other friends are stationed; and a poem he wrote, which he has typed out in the letter, beginning 'I hear you are at sea...'. (12pp). Contains an illustration of a girl's face.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 17 Aug
1942 |
| U DP174/2/52 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.</p> <p>Written over three days, it contains a long discussion about poetry centred around form and content, and morality, and quotes examples which Larkin then comments on in some depth as part of the discussion. Also discusses jazz; his temporary job; and, briefly, an autobiography by A. L. Rowse. (17pp). Ends with an illustration of Larkin reading 'Kangaroo' (D. H. Lawrence). 'Letter 3' written at the top of p1.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 19 Aug 1942 |
| U DP174/2/53 | <p>Handwritten letter signed written on pink paper and finished on 15th December due to illness. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.</p> <p>A dispirited letter about his life and his failure to write, containing a brief outline of what other friends are doing. (8pp). Contains two illustrations of Larkin and Sutton, one with them together, and one depicting a 'lifeline' between them, with Larkin in England and Sutton in the Middle East. 'No. 8' written at the top of p1.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 7 Dec 1942 |
| U DP174/2/54 | <p>Handwritten letter signed written on yellow paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.</p> <p>The letter is a dispirited one lamenting the lack of Christmas cheer. It mainly discusses a book (unnamed) on D. H. Lawrence by Murry (John Middleton Murry), leading Larkin to consider literature in relation to life and what he should do after leaving Oxford; and Jung in relation to jazz and Carl Lehmann.. (12pp.) Contains an illustration of Larkin showing Sutton some drawings he (Sutton) sent to Larkin. '9' written on the top of p1. The back of the final page has a note written on it: "Merry Christmas (if possible) and happy new year. Colin" [Gunner?]</p> <p>1 item</p> | 21 Dec 1942 |

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| U DP174/2/55 | <p>Handwritten letter signed written on pink paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.</p> <p>Written over two days, the main topic is the unconscious, specifically the poetic unconscious. Discussed in relation to this are Larkin keeping a dream diary (DPL1/2/51?) after hearing John Layard speak; religion versus science, leading from the subject of psychology to poetry; and the war and the psychological state of the country, making reference to Eric Gill. (12pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 52 - 54. `11' written on the top of p1.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 2 Jan 1943 |
| U DP174/2/56 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.</p> <p>Describes how he has been sorting Sutton's letters; has been reading D. H. Lawrence but does not like modern writers at the moment; and has given up recording his dreams. (3pp).</p> <p>1 item</p> | 7 Jan 1943 |
| U DP174/2/57 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.</p> <p>Brief letter about his return to Oxford. (3pp). Contains illustration of the Star of David next to his signature.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 22 Jan 1943 |
| U DP174/2/58 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.</p> <p>Briefly outlines the main point of an essay he wrote likening jazz to the unconscious. Refers to two of his poems being printed by an Oxford magazine called 'Murk'. (3pp). Contains illustration of the Star of David inside a circle next to his signature.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 28 Feb 1943 |
| U DP174/2/59 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.</p> <p>Briefly telling Sutton about Vernon Watkins (model for the character of Percival in Christopher Isherwood's 'Lions and Shadows'), and trying to get published in the anthology 'Oxford Poetry, 1942 - 43', (ed. Ian Davie). (3pp). Contains an illustration of a personal bookplate he has had printed (the Star of David inside a circle with a quote from William Blake); a rough illustration of matchstick men playing football; and the Star of David inside a circle next to his signature. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 55 - 56.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 16 Mar 1943 |

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| U DP174/2/60 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Briefly describes how quiet Oxford is at the moment as term has finished. (3pp). Contains illustrations of Larkin lighting a cigarette; and Sutton(?) reading.
1 item</p> | 25 Mar 1943 |
| U DP174/2/61 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Brief letter on how his poetry is changing, making reference to Percival (Vernon Watkins - see 2/59 letter). Discussion of D. H. Lawrence's beliefs. (3pp). Contains an illustration of the head and shoulders of a woman. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 56 - 57, where the letter is dated 4 April 1943. Top left hand corner of page 1 is missing.
1 item</p> | 5 Apr 1943 |
| U DP174/2/62 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Written over three days, mainly discusses D. H. Lawrence's ideals, and 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'; a drawing of builders by Sutton in one of the six previous letters Larkin received within a space of eight days; and how hard he is working for his finals. (16pp). Contains two illustrations of builders.
1 item</p> | 12 Apr 1943 |
| U DP174/2/63 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed, dated 15 April but parts were written on 20 and 21 April 1943. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Mainly discusses Murry (John Middleton Murry) on D. H. Lawrence. (3pp).
1 item</p> | 15 Apr 1943 |
| U DP174/2/64 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Mentions the Tunisian victory; his poems in 'Oxford Poetry: 1942 - 3'; Teddy Wilson's song 'Blues in C Sharp Minor'; and his forthcoming finals. (3pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin where he describes himself as wearing red trousers, shirt, and white pullover.
1 item</p> | 14 May 1943 |
| U DP174/2/65 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Discusses D. H. Lawrence with regards success and failure, and his own moving away from what he calls the Lawrence 'wavelength'. (3pp). Contains an illustration depicting Larkin taking steps towards the Civil Service.
1 item</p> | 23 May 1943 |

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| U DP174/2/66 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Relates an episode from one of Stephen(?) Leacock's 'Nonsense Novels'. (3pp).
1 item | 25 May 1943 |
| U DP174/2/67 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Oxford.
Discusses the recent change in him with regards jazz, D. H. Lawrence, and Auden; Oxford; trying to get a job with the Civil Service and trying to write; and his poems in 'Oxford Poetry: 1942 - 3'. The final part of the letter is written mid final examinations. (8pp). Contains illustrations of Larkin going in and coming out of an examination, going into a pub, and lying inebriated afterwards.
1 item | 15 Jun 1943 |
| U DP174/2/68 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Discusses finishing at Oxford and his changed view of literature; and meeting Diana Gollancz (the daughter of publisher Victor Gollancz). (3pp). Contains illustration of the Star of David inside a circle next to his signature. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 58 - 59.
1 item | 6 Jul 1943 |
| U DP174/2/69 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Written over two days, letter discusses trying hurriedly to write a story so he can move onto 'The Trumpet' (a book he is thinking of writing?); and in-depth explanation of what he means by saying that D. H. Lawrence was a failure, making reference to Browning, Shelley (mentioning 'Prometheus Unbound'), and Blake. Briefly discusses jazz. (14pp). Contains illustrations of Larkin running to the pub; and Larkin and Sutton sitting under two trees, one the Tree of Knowledge and the other the Tree of Life.
1 item | 9 Jul 1943 |
| U DP174/2/70 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Refers to working whilst waiting for his examination results; writes three verses of blues; discusses art. (3pp). Contains an illustration of the heads and shoulders of Larkin and Sutton.
1 item | 12 Jul 1943 |

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| U DP174/2/71 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Informing Sutton that he got a first in his final examinations; refers to Aldous Huxley, and writing 'The Trumpet' (short story). (3pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin with his first degree. Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 59 - 60.
1 item</p> | 18 Jul 1943 |
| U DP174/2/72 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Discusses or refers to Jung; abandoning the writing of 'The Trumpet' (short story); Christopher Isherwood's novel 'Mr Norris' ('Mr. Norris Changes Trains?'); Sutton's dealings with Victor Gollancz; going for the Civil Service examination; and women, particularly those Larkin met in Oxford. (12pp). The letter is interspersed with illustrations of Larkin failing to get a copy of Isherwood's 'Mr. Norris'; one of Victor Gollancz; one entitled 'A Room of One's Own' depicting Larkin looking at what appears to be a Rent notice; and one entitled 'Men Playing Jazz'.
1 item</p> | 28 Jul 1943 |
| U DP174/2/73 | <p>Handwritten letter unsigned, finished on 12 August. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Mainly discusses his inability to write, and then outlines the beginnings of what was to become 'Jill' (see Selected Letters, p 62). Refers to Katherine Mansfield. (6pp).
Contains a rough illustration of Larkin and Sutton listening to records. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 61 - 62.
1 item</p> | 10 Aug 1943 |
| U DP174/2/74 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Briefly discusses writing a short story in a day; Katherine Mansfield; and the plot of what was to become 'Jill'. (3pp).
Illustration: letter ends with a water - colour painting of two musicians, named as the second picture in the series 'Men Playing Jazz'.
1 item</p> | 16 Aug 1943 |

- U DP174/2/75 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 17 Aug 1943
In - depth argument paralleling man's experience to the blooming of a flower, which he calls 'The Moment of Ecstasy'. The crux of the argument lies in the time and importance of preparation to achieve just such a moment of ecstasy, or fulfillment, the preparation lying in ritual. Concentrates in his discussion on religion, love, loss of ritual, literature, modern life and sex. (7pp). Contains a rough illustration of Larkin and Sutton; and one of a woman, in colour.
1 item
- U DP174/2/76 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. Sending Sutton birthday wishes. 23 Aug 1943
Refers to reading 'All The Conspirators' (Christopher Isherwood) which he thought irritating and hoped his own first novel would be better. (3pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin and Sutton marching with flags.
1 item
- U DP174/2/77 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 4 Sep 1943
Briefly discusses finding a job; 'Jill'; jazz; and Katherine Mansfield. (3pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin sitting and drinking, entitled 'Portrait of a Young Writah when not writing'.
1 item
- U DP174/2/78 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 14 Sep 1943
Refers to 'Oxford Poetry: 1942 - 3'; his 'The Moment of Ecstasy' argument (see 2/75); and 'Lilli Marlene'(?). (3pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin and Sutton drinking in the pub.
1 item
- U DP174/2/79 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 30 Sep 1943
Discusses writing a novel which he is calling 'Figures Under Glass' (became 'Jill'); a novel he read called 'Daughter of Time' (author unknown) about Katherine Mansfield, Murry (John Middleton Murry?), and D. H. Lawrence. Speculates on when the war will end; and briefly discusses an early short story by Lawrence called 'Goose Fair'. (11pp). Contains rough illustrations depicting Larkin rushing and jumping on a wireless; and a water - colour painting of musicians entitled 'A riot of colour'.
1 item

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| U DP174/2/80 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Refers to Sutton being moved to Italy; writing his novel ('Jill'); Diana Gollancz; and applying for a librarian's job in Shropshire (which he later got). (3pp). Contains illustration of a woman's head.
1 item</p> | 25 Oct 1943 |
| U DP174/2/81 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Refers to applying for the librarian's job in Wellington, Shropshire; the novel he is writing ('Jill'), with reference to 'Kangaroo' (D. H. Lawrence) and to 'South Riding' (Winifred Holtby); and Virginia Woolf's 'The Waves' and 'Orlando' (6pp) Contains illustrations of holly; the artists Giotto and Matisse boxing each other; and Larkin and Sutton.
1 item</p> | 29 Oct 1943 |
| U DP174/2/82 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses his new job at Wellington Library in Shropshire. Refers to 'Self Portrait' by Thea Hunt which he saw at a Slade art exhibition; Riley (colleague of Sutton's at the Slade); and Turner (no first name is given) going back to Ireland. (3pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 85.
1 item</p> | 13 Dec 1943 |
| U DP174/2/83 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Written over three days, speculation as to what their reunion will be like. Also discusses or refers to writing 'Jill'; a train journey with somebody discussing D. H. Lawrence and Aldous Huxley; George Moore's 'Esther Waters', with reference to Thomas Hardy, D. H. Lawrence, and 'Jill'; and being in Wellington (Shropshire). (8pp). Interspersed with illustrations of the arrival of Sutton's previous letter; Sutton and a pint; Larkin playing the piano whilst Sutton leans on it; Sutton and Larkin walking together; and the heads of a girl and a man.
1 item</p> | 29 Dec 1943 |
| U DP174/2/84 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Briefly discusses his 'The Moment of Ecstasy' argument (see 2/75) with reference to Katherine Mansfield; jazz; and George Moore. Refers to writing his novel ('Jill'). (3pp). Contains illustration of Larkin trying to breathe life into the characters of his novel.
1 item</p> | [Jan 1944] |

Hull History Centre: Letters from Philip Arthur Larkin To James Ballard Sutton

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| U DP174/2/85 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers to a photograph Sutton sent Larkin; jazz and blues; and finishing the third draft of 'Jill'. (3pp). Contains illustration of musicians.
1 item | 28 Jan 1944 |
| U DP174/2/86 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses George Moore's 'Esther Waters'. Has finished a complete version of 'Jill'. (3pp). Contains rough illustration of Sutton being followed by penguins.
1 item | 3 Feb 1944 |
| U DP174/2/87 | Handwritten airmail letter signed, the main part of which was written on 26 February 1944. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses finishing 'Jill' and beginning to type it up, with a view to getting it published. (3pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 86 - 87.
1 item | 8 Feb 1944 |
| U DP174/2/88 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses the typing up of 'Jill'; and his job at Wellington library. (3pp).
1 item | 13 Mar 1944 |
| U DP174/2/89 | Handwritten letter signed, completed on 2 April 1944. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses the typing up of 'Jill'; art in relation to the problem of expression; an art master he shares digs with in Wellington; an idea for his next novel; and his job at Wellington library. (12pp).
1 item | 22 Mar 1944 |
| U DP174/2/90 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Mainly an imaginary conversation between Larkin and D. H. Lawrence illustrating how much 'out of reach' Larkin thinks Lawrence's writing style is. (3pp). Contains illustration of Lawrence floating out of reach above Larkin.
1 item | 17 Apr 1944 |
| U DP174/2/91 | Typescript airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Typescript of three poems, 'I See A Girl Dragged By The Wrists' (CP, pp. 278 - 9), 'All Catches Alight' (CP, pp. 272 - 3), and 'Girl Saying Goodbye'. (3pp).
1 item | 21 Apr 1944 |

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| U DP174/2/92 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses the poems he sent to Sutton (see 2/84); 'Jill'; and thinking he is not a good writer. (3pp).
1 item</p> | 27 Apr 1944 |
| U DP174/2/93 | <p>Handwritten letter signed, completed on 5 June 1944. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses the poems he sent to Sutton in a previous letter (see 2/84); finishing 'Jill'; jazz; and starting his next novel, about Wellington. (8pp). Contains illustration of Larkin (head only) smoking a cigarette.
1 item</p> | 24 May 1944 |
| U DP174/2/94 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses the nature of art, likening it to a religion; writing his second novel, which he is calling 'Losing Touch'; jazz; and the forthcoming marriage of Kitty, his sister. (6pp).
Contains illustration of a bomb chasing Larkin.
1 item</p> | 5 Jul 1944 |
| U DP174/2/95 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers to writing his new novel. Speculates on when Sutton comes home. Mentions visiting Philip Brown in Oxford, where the hospital he works at is full of Normandy casualties. (3pp). Contains illustration of a snake coming out of a box in front of Larkin (speculation on what the present is that Sutton has said he is going to send Larkin).
1 item</p> | 21 Jul 1944 |
| U DP174/2/96 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Is looking forward to when Sutton comes back, and to going home for two weeks holiday; refers to sending some poems to the Fortune Press for an anthology ('Poetry From Oxford in Wartime', ed. by William Bell). (3pp).
1 item</p> | 22 Jul 1944 |
| U DP174/2/97 | <p>Handwritten letter signed, made up of two airmail letters. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Discusses sending poems to the Fortune Press for an anthology ('Poetry From Oxford in Wartime', ed. by William Bell); his sister Kitty's wedding, referring to jazz; and how he is fed up with life, and has not done any other writing since finishing 'Jill'. (6pp). Contains illustration of Larkin and Sutton drinking and listening to music. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 89 - 90.
1 item</p> | 15 Aug 1944 |

U DP174/2/98	Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Refers to a present from Sutton; the nearing of the end of the war; and 'The Last Enemy' (author unnamed). (3pp). 1 item	20 Aug 1944
U DP174/2/99	Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Discusses or refers to news that a friend of theirs, Tom (no surname is given), is in a prison camp; Larkin having started a second novel (became 'A Girl in Winter'); and how a work of art becomes meaningful when one discovers the structure, and is often great if the structure is great. Ends the letter with Horatio's words to the dying Hamlet - "Good night sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest" (V, II, 370). (8pp). Contains a rough illustration of Sutton jumping off a troopship; and one titled 'Man, Woman and Guitar'. 1 item	8 Sep 1944
U DP174/2/100	Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Refers to not having enough time to write; what he has been reading; writing like Virginia Woolf; and the possibility of travelling with Sutton after the war. (3pp) 1 item	14 Sep 1944
U DP174/2/101	Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Briefly discusses demobilisation and the relaxing of black-out restrictions; and his hoping to merge, in his own writing, what he sees as the two kinds of writing which are currently prevalent (the realists and the fantasists), making reference to James Joyce's 'Ulysses'. Refers also to 'Jill'. (3pp). 1 item	22 Sep 1944
U DP174/2/102	Handwritten airmail letter signed, finished on 6 October 1944. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. The letter shows a stark contrast between Larkin's melancholy state for the first part, and more cheerful attitude in the second part. Quotes from Anton Chekhov's 'Uncle Vanya', and refers to applying for a job in London. (3pp). 1 item	4 Oct 1944

- U DP174/2/103 Typescript airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 8 Oct 1944
Types out and comments on three poems, 'The Three Ships' (considerably altered to become "Legend" as part of 'The North Ship'. See CP, p.302), 'If Grief Could Burn Out' (CP, p.298, slightly altered version), and 'One Man Walking a Deserted Platform' (CP, p.293, slightly altered version). Also refers to the novel he is writing, which became 'The Girl in Winter'. (3pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 90 - 93.
1 item
- U DP174/2/104 Typescript airmail letter. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 17 Oct 1944
Discusses changes to the first poem in 'The North Ship' sequence called "Legend" (see 2/96); jazz; and the war. (3pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 93 - 95.
1 item
- U DP174/2/105 Typescript airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 20 Oct 1944
Descriptions of Autumn and how he has been spending his days, referring to his new annoying lodger Evans, and his present inability to write anything decent. (3pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/106 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 19 Nov 1944
Has sent a manuscript to the Fortune Press for possible publication ('The North Ship' was published in 1945); has started on his novel again ('A Girl in Winter'); and is looking forward to the end of the war and Sutton's return. (3pp)
1 item
- U DP174/2/107 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 26 Nov 1944
Begun on a Sunday and finished on the Tuesday.
Description of how cold it is and why he has set his novel ('A Girl in Winter') in a hard frost. News that the Fortune Press will publish his manuscript ('The North Ship') early the following year. Discussion of the artistic process. (3pp). Contains rough illustrations of 'Poet asleep' and 'Poet at piano'.
1 item

- U DP174/2/108 Airmail letter finished on 18 December 1944 (typescript letter unsigned and handwritten letter signed). Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Discusses how cold it is and the novel he is writing ('A Girl in Winter'); how he feels he is consolidating his own style; and his book which is being published by the Fortune Press ('The North Ship'). (3pp). Contains rough illustration of 'Man (head and hand only) and bottle'.
1 item 10 Dec 1944
- U DP174/2/109 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Comments on 'Poetry From Oxford in Wartime' and the forthcoming publication of 'The North Ship'. (3pp). Contains rough illustration of Larkin's head coming through a solid, in reference to a remark by Sutton in previous letter.
1 item 30 Dec 1944
- U DP174/2/110 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Writes how much he wishes Sutton were home, discussing jazz; refers to the forthcoming publication of 'The North Ship'. (3pp). Contains illustration of Larkin and others drinking, smoking and listening to music, entitled 'Poet's Youth'. Dated 8 January 1944 but was written in 1945.
1 item 8 Jan 1945
- U DP174/2/111 Airmail letter finished on 25 January 1945 (typescript letter unsigned and handwritten letter signed). Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Thanks Sutton for sending some photographs. He has started to write again, and discusses vision, making reference to Blake and to Wordsworth. (3pp). Contains illustration of an icicle freezing on Larkin's nose.
1 item 15 Jan 1945
- U DP174/2/112 Letter, made up of two airmail letters (handwritten letter signed). Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Written over a number of days, mainly about how cold both he and the weather are, and trying to get on with writing the novel which he is calling 'Katherine' (became 'A Girl in Winter'). Refers to Joyce Cary's novel 'The Horse's Mouth', what is to be done with Germany after the war, and 'The North Ship'. (6pp). Contains rough illustration of Larkin typing. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 97 - 98.
1 item 9 Feb 1945

Hull History Centre: Letters from Philip Arthur Larkin To James Ballard Sutton

- U DP174/2/113 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 23 Feb 1945
Discusses mainly the writing of his novel 'Katherine' (became 'A Girl in Winter'), and how he is already thinking of the next one. (3pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 98
1 item
- U DP174/2/114 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 9 Mar 1945
Refers to a dispirited letter from Sutton; visiting Oxford; and 'The North Ship' still awaiting publication. Moans about the people who borrow books from Wellington library. (3pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/115 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 20 Mar 1945
Letter outlining what he has been doing and reading, referring to the writing of his novel which he is now calling 'The Kingdom of Winter' (became 'A Girl in Winter'). (3pp). Contains illustration of a girl's head.
1 item
- U DP174/2/116 Handwritten airmail letter signed, finished on 4 April 1945. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 28 Mar 1945
Mainly discusses the forthcoming publication of 'The North Ship' and comments on his choice of the poem 'Conscript' (CP, p. 262) to dedicate to Sutton; the writing of 'A Girl in Winter' (which he refers to in the letter both as 'Winter' and 'Katherine'); and sending 'Jill' to the Fortune Press for possible publication. (6pp). Rough illustration of Larkin sitting on an over - crowded train.
1 item
- U DP174/2/117 Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 11 Apr 1945
Mainly discusses Joyce Cary's novel 'The Horse's Mouth'; and the Fortune Press agreeing to publish 'Jill', which Larkin wants to dedicate to Sutton. Refers to the writing of his novel ('A Girl in Winter'). (3pp). Contains illustration entitled 'Studio Scene', of Larkin with his feet through two of Sutton's canvasses, and Sutton ripping up one of Larkin's ms(s). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 99.
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| U DP174/2/118 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers to Antonio and Piero Pollaiuolo; the novel he is writing ('A Girl in Winter'); and still waiting for 'The North Ship' from the Fortune Press. (3pp).
1 item | 18 Apr 1945 |
| U DP174/2/119 | Handwritten airmail letter unsigned. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses the film 'Christmas Holiday' and jazz; and the deflated feeling of the country even though the war is practically over. Refers to writing his novel ('A Girl in Winter'), and wonders when Sutton will be demobilised. (3pp).
1 item | 27 Apr 1945 |
| U DP174/2/120 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Briefly discusses finishing the first draft of his novel ('A Girl in Winter') which he is calling 'The Kingdom of Winter'; Germany's surrender; and how 'The North Ship' has still not been published by the Fortune Press. (3pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 100.
1 item | 3 May 1945 |
| U DP174/2/121 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Rather dispirited letter about 'V Day' and the end of the war, referring to Churchill and the King. Mentions that his novel ('A Girl in Winter') is now in its second draft. (3pp).
1 item | 8 May 1945 |
| U DP174/2/122 | Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses being halfway through the second draft of his 'Kingdom of Winter' novel (became 'A Girl in Winter'); the distinction between the mystic and the artist; and jazz. (3pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin lying surrounded by bottles, entitled 'Portrait of the artist never losing consciousness'.
1 item | 1 Jun 1945 |

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| U DP174/2/123 | <p>Handwritten airmail letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses the effect of D. H. Lawrence and the change in his tone around 1916, making reference to Max Plowman (see 'The Significance of Lawrence' in his book 'Right to Live'), Karl Marx and William Blake. Also refers to the writing of his novel 'The Kingdom of Winter' (became 'A Girl in Winter'). (3pp). Contains illustration of musicians, entitled 'Jazz Going One Way'. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 100 - 101.
1 item</p> | 7 Jun 1945 |
| U DP174/2/124 | <p>Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Briefly discusses the progress of his novel ('A Girl in Winter'); dedicating 'Jill' to Sutton; and political elections. (3pp).
1 item</p> | 11 Jul 1945 |
| U DP174/2/125 | <p>Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Depressed letter moaning about the heat and the difficulty he is having writing his novel ('A Girl in Winter'). (3pp).
1 item</p> | 14 Jul 1945 |
| U DP174/2/126 | <p>Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Refers to it being his birthday and a sonnet by Milton on his own 23rd birthday; and to finishing his novel ('A Girl in Winter'). Speculates on the role of the artist in the current society. (3pp). Contains illustration of Larkin and Sutton (heads only) drinking, entitled 'Inaccurate drawing of two artists during creative period'. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 104.
1 item</p> | 9 Aug 1945 |
| U DP174/2/127 | <p>Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick.
Rather deflated letter referring to the end of the war; his job; and reading Katherine Mansfield's journal.
Speculates on the artistic relationship he anticipates between them both when Sutton returns. (3pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 105 - 106.
1 item</p> | 16 Aug 1945 |
| U DP174/2/128 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Brief note hoping to meet Sutton one weekend in September. (1p).
1 item</p> | 27 Aug 1945 |

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| U DP174/2/129 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers to a visit by Sutton and a record(?) they listened to called 'Careless Love'. (1p).
1 item | 18 Sep 1945 |
| U DP174/2/130 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses 'Jill', 'A Girl in Winter', and an idea for a third novel; and the link between artist and structure being one of technique. (4pp). Rough illustration of Sutton painting and Larkin shooing journalists away. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 109 - 110.
1 item | 20 Sep 1945 |
| U DP174/2/131 | Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Has finished 'The Kingdom of Winter' (became 'A Girl in Winter') and sent it to the publishers, comparing it with 'Jill', which leads to a discussion of 'perfect art'. (3pp).
1 item | 17 Oct 1945 |
| U DP174/2/132 | Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers to Ruth Bowman ("this girl"); and receiving a letter from Norman (Iles?). (3pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 110 - 111.
1 item | 31 Oct 1945 |
| U DP174/2/133 | Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers to taking a professional library examination; not having anything to write at present; and waiting for the proofs of 'Jill', in which he will insert the dedication to Sutton. (3pp).
1 item | 28 Nov 1945 |
| U DP174/2/134 | Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses some problems with the printing of 'Jill' due to swear words, referring also to the Fortune Press. Briefly discusses a Picasso/Matisse show in London; and John Heath - Stubbs reading some of Larkin's poems in London the following week. Refers to Ruth Bowman. (3pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 113 - 114.
1 item | 15 Jan 1946 |

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| U DP174/2/135 | <p>Handwritten forces letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Poetic description of the day, which has been clear and bright, leading Larkin to make an observation about art and the state of living. Refers to 'Jill'. (3pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 114 - 115.
1 item</p> | 10 Mar 1946 |
| U DP174/2/136 | <p>Letter, made up of two handwritten signed forces letters. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. Mainly a discussion of the antipathy between 'art' and 'life' which Larkin feels, highlighting his fears about marriage. Refers to Warwick Deeping books in Sutton's camp library, and the library correspondence course Larkin is taking. (6pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 115 - 117.
1 item</p> | 7 Apr 1946 |
| U DP174/2/137 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Discusses 'The Kingdom of Winter' (became 'A Girl in Winter') and a letter about it from his agent, Peter Watt. Refers to what he said in his last letter about marriage (see 2/136); the novels of Henry Green; and still waiting for the publication of 'Jill'. (6pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 117 - 118.
1 item</p> | 15 May 1946 |
| U DP174/2/138 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Brief letter trying to make plans to meet up with Sutton. Contains rough sketch of Larkin and Sutton banging heads on meeting. (2pp).
1 item</p> | 30 May 1946 |
| U DP174/2/139 | <p>Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers mainly to being appointed Assistant Librarian by University College of Leicester (however, see 2/141, dated 26 June 1946, where Larkin tells Sutton he is going to Leicester to try and get a job in the library); and Faber making an offer to publish 'A Girl in Winter'. (2pp).
1 item</p> | 10 Jun 1946 |
| U DP174/2/140 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire.
Refers to visiting Oxford, mentioning Kingsley (Amis); visiting Sutton in Coventry; and 'The Kingdom' ('A Girl in Winter'). (2pp).
1 item</p> | 18 Jun 1946 |

- U DP174/2/141 Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 26 Jun 1946
Refers to going to University College Leicester to try and get a job (see 2/139 however, dated 10 June 1946, where Larkin tells Sutton he has a job in the library at Leicester); and the Fortune Press being slow at publishing 'Jill'. (2pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/142 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 17 Jul 1946
There is nothing he wants to write about at present. Refers to 'The Moving Toyshop' (Bruce Montgomery, writing as Edmund Crispin) being dedicated to him. (4pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/143 Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Shropshire. 28 Jul 1946
Refers to signing a contract with Faber (for 'A Girl in Winter'); and wanting to write a long book. (2pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 120.
1 item
- U DP174/2/144 Typescript letter unsigned. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 10 Aug 1946
Refers to spending the Bank Holiday serving on a soft drinks stall; looking through some old diaries; revising bits of 'The Kingdom' ('A Girl in Winter'); and thinking about his next novel. (1p).
1 item
- U DP174/2/145 Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 16 Aug 1946
Discusses leaving Wellington to take up the post as library assistant at University College Leicester; reading D. H. Lawrence's letters; and still waiting for the publication of 'Jill' by the Fortune Press. Refers to the death of H. G. Wells. (2pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 122.
1 item
- U DP174/2/146 Handwritten letter signed written on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 15 Sep 1946
Is settling into work at Leicester and has found somewhere to lodge; Charles Madge of the Pilot Press asked Larkin for poems for a new magazine, to which Larkin offered anything from 'The North Ship'; and he is still waiting to hear from The Fortune Press about 'Jill'. (4pp).
1 item

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| U DP174/2/147 | <p>Handwritten letter signed on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.</p> <p>Has written some poems and begins to theorise about life, concluding that works of art are the only worthwhile theories. Also briefly discusses Gertrude Stein's 'The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas'; being in Leicester; and Blake reproductions in books in the College library.</p> <p>Refers to 'Jill'. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 125.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 29 Sep 1946 |
| U DP174/2/148 | <p>Handwritten letter signed on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.</p> <p>Discusses Gertrude Stein's 'The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas', with particular reference to Picasso. Refers to still waiting for the publication of 'Jill'. (2pp).</p> <p>1 item</p> | 8 Oct 1946 |
| U DP174/2/149 | <p>Handwritten letter signed on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.</p> <p>Mainly a discussion on the nature of knowledge as a dichotomy between life (what we know) and death (the unknown) discussing this in terms of joy and sorrow, with regard to a poem he has just finished (according to the Selected Letters this poem is 'Many Famous Feet Have Trod', CP, pp. 15 - 18). Also briefly discusses the notion of "art for arts' sake"; and the new Auden book (according to the Selected Letters this is 'For The Time Being'), making reference to 'Poems 1930'. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 127 - 128.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 16 Oct 1946 |
| U DP174/2/150 | <p>Handwritten note. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. Thanking Sutton for a letter. (1p).</p> <p>1 item</p> | 26 Oct 1946 |
| U DP174/2/151 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.</p> <p>Brief note changing his travelling plans for a visit to Sutton in London. (2pp).</p> <p>1 item</p> | [Nov 1946] |
| U DP174/2/152 | <p>Handwritten letter unsigned on green paper . Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.</p> <p>Has not written much recently, but 'A Girl in Winter' is ready for publication. Refers to an exhibition of Spanish paintings. (2pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 130.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 29 Nov 1946 |

- U DP174/2/153 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 6 Dec 1946
Discusses D. H. Lawrence making reference to Lawrence's letters, Llewelyn Powys, and Murry (John Middleton Murry). Refers to 'Jill' having no reviews, and some people preferring it to 'A Girl in Winter'; and Henry Green's novel 'Back'. (4pp). Contains illustration of a figure reaching for a bottle with a large hand. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 131 - 132.
1 item
- U DP174/2/154 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 2 Jan 1947
Refers to them being unable to meet because of Sutton's mother's illness; and buying some Italian art postcards with Ruth (Bowman) from the Northcott Gallery. (2pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/155 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 6 Jan 1947
Refers to the snow; pictures by Breughel and C zanne; and not doing much over the Christmas holiday. Refers to re - reading 'Caught' (Henry Green). (4pp). Contains an illustration of two musicians.
1 item
- U DP174/2/156 Handwritten letter signed on green paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 19 Jan 1947
Letter of condolence about the death of Sutton's mother. (2pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/157 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 27 Jan 1947
Discusses reading the letters of D. H. Lawrence, and their effect on him. (3pp). The final page is an illustration entitled 'Angel Emerging from Corridor'.
1 item
- U DP174/2/158 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 19 Feb 1947
Will send Sutton a copy of 'A Girl in Winter', due in the next two days; and makes arrangements to go and see the Slade (School of Art) exhibition. (2pp).
1 item

- U DP174/2/159 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 24 Feb 1947
writing from Leicester.
Comments on 'A Girl in Winter', which he sends to Sutton.
Refers to coming to see the exhibition at the Slade
(School of Art); and a visit he had from Colin Gunner.
(2pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 134 -
135.
1 item
- U DP174/2/160 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 10 Mar 1947
writing from Leicester.
Briefly discusses reviews of 'A Girl in Winter'; and some
sketches sent with the letter. Refers to his library
correspondence course, and receiving letters from Ernie
Roe. (8pp). The final four pages are four illustrations
representing 'Birth', 'Death', 'Sorrow' and 'Joy'.
1 item
- U DP174/2/161 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 28 Apr 1947
writing from Leicester.
Discusses or refers to Henry Green's novels 'Caught' and
'Back'; his forthcoming June examination (library
correspondence course); Braque paintings; Beecham (Sir
Thomas Beecham?); 'A Girl in Winter'; and how to repair
worn records. (4pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/162 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 23 May 1947
writing from Leicester.
After reading Eric Newton's 'Stanley Spencer' and John
Rothenstein's 'Edward Burra', discussion of Newton's
opinions with reference to C zanne's 'Fumeur', and
Burra's paintings and style. Also refers to a short story he
wrote for Lilliput magazine, and his forthcoming Library
Association examination. (5pp). Part is printed in the
Selected Letters, pp. 137 - 139.
1 item
- U DP174/2/163 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 14 Jun 1947
writing from Leicester.
Discusses his forthcoming Library Association
examination; trying to get his ideas in order; the nature of
'evil' in connection with a work's dance; an exhibition of
modern French painters he went to; and the novel 'Back'
(Henry Green). (6pp).
1 item

Hull History Centre: Letters from Philip Arthur Larkin To James Ballard Sutton

- U DP174/2/164 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 10 Jul 1947
Discusses taking the Library Association examination; the conversion of his B.A. from Oxford into an M.A.; and 'Shadows of Ecstasy' by Charles Williams. (6pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/165 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 21 Jul 1947
Letter planning to meet the following weekend. Briefly discusses liking Stanley Spencer over Picasso. (4pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/166 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 14 Sep 1947
Outlines the depressive state of his lodgings; and discusses the difficulties with his new novel (third, unfinished one). Briefly discusses passing his Library Association examination; reading C zanne's letters; and visiting his sister and new baby. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 139 - 140.
1 item
- U DP174/2/167 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 11 Oct 1947
Discusses D. H. Lawrence in connection to philosophies and divisions, and making reference to Murry (John Middleton Murry). Goes on to discuss painting and creativity in general, again with reference to Lawrence; and the difficulties with writing his book (third, unfinished novel). (6pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 140 - 142.
1 item
- U DP174/2/168 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 28 Oct 1947
Mainly discusses painters and painting, mentioning C zanne, Renoir and Picasso; D. H. Lawrence, with reference to T. S. Eliot; and writing his book (third, unfinished novel), with reference to 'A Girl in Winter'. (6pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/169 Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 3 Jan 1948
Mainly about his father going into hospital for an operation. (2pp).
1 item

- U DP174/2/170 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 28 Jan 1948
Discusses his father's operation; the poems he sent to Sutton, which he is calling 'In The Grip of Light' (DPL2/1/8); and the Van Gogh exhibition coming to Birmingham. Refers to re - reading D. H. Lawrence's 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 143 - 144.
1 item
- U DP174/2/171 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 24 Feb 1948
Sombre letter mainly discussing the impending death of his father. Also discusses going to see the Van Gogh exhibition (in Birmingham?). (6pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 144 - 145.
1 item
- U DP174/2/172 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 9 Mar 1948
Briefly discusses Van Gogh's painting 'On The Threshold of Eternity'; and Murry (John Middleton Murry) on D. H. Lawrence, with reference to 'Kangaroo' and 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 146.
1 item
- U DP174/2/173 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Warwick. 1 Apr 1948
Brief letter referring to his father's funeral, and to a self - portrait by Sutton. (2pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, p. 147.
1 item
- U DP174/2/174 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 11 May 1948
Discusses death as a change of state; and bidding for a Florence(?) copy of 'Lady Chatterley's Lover', leading to a discussion of a film called 'This Was A Woman', and artistic conception in films. (4pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/175 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 18 May 1948
Discusses mainly his engagement to Ruth (Bowman) and the nature of his feelings. Briefly discusses sculptures in Battersea Park; and the film 'Brief Encounter'. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 147.
1 item

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| U DP174/2/176 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Brief note asking if Sutton would like to attend a party in London being held for Larkin and Ruth (Bowman). (2pp).
1 item | 24 May 1948 |
| U DP174/2/177 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Discusses his relationship with Ruth (Bowman); and house hunting for his mother. Wonders if Sutton got his diploma. Has restarted his (third) novel (never finished). (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 148.
1 item | 18 Jun 1948 |
| U DP174/2/178 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Discusses selling Coten End and buying Dixon Drive; thinking of breaking off his engagement with Ruth Bowman; reading 'The Apocalypse' (D. H. Lawrence); and having a sense of being out of control of his own destiny and direction, quoting Aldous Huxley. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 148 - 149.
1 item | 11 Aug 1948 |
| U DP174/2/179 | Handwritten letter signed on pale blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Refers to a weekend library conference in Birmingham; restarting his (third) novel (never finished); and agreeing to write a book on D. H. Lawrence after a letter from an Argentine man (unnamed), but then not being allowed to by his agent. (4pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 149 - 150.
1 item | 9 Sep 1948 |
| U DP174/2/180 | Handwritten letter signed on pale blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Mainly discusses women and marriage, with reference to D. H. Lawrence, and in particular 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'. Refers to Tolstoy's 'Resurrection'; a library conference in Birmingham; going on holiday with Ruth (Bowman); and the writing of his book (the third novel he started but never completed) being at a standstill. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 151.
1 item | 15 Sep 1948 |
| U DP174/2/181 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Making plans for a visit by Sutton. (2pp).
1 item | 27 Sep 1948 |

- U DP174/2/182 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 6 Oct 1948
Letter mainly concerned with time wasted whilst also not having enough time to do things. Refers to how much he has written to Ruth (Bowman) in the last three years; LI (Llewelyn) Powys and D. H. Lawrence; and contemplating his (third) novel (never completed). (4pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/183 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 29 Nov 1948
Discusses writing his (third) novel (never completed); his forthcoming library examination; him and his mother visiting a man who his father used to work with, and who told amusing anecdotes; and Van Gogh and Chagall as part of the Penguin Painters series. (6pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/184 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 24 Mar 1949
A mainly despondent letter about not having any desires in life, and not knowing what he wants. Refers to giving up his novel (his third unfinished one); and Ruth Bowman breaking up with him. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 152.
1 item
- U DP174/2/185 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester(?). 19 Apr 1949
Complains about being at home and feeling stifled. Refers to Llewelyn Powys. (2pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/186 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 13 Jul 1949
Mainly a discussion of his disillusionment with literature and life, feeling that nothing one does can alter one's 'life - force', and that great men have great energy. Refers to Dickens and particularly D. H. Lawrence as part of this discussion, with mention of 'Sea and Sardinia'. Briefly discusses two books on Renoir and Toulouse - Lautrec. Also refers to Ruth Bowman; his library examination; and being frustrated with the family. (6pp). Contains two illustrations of Larkin's head, entitled 'Larkin by Renoir' and 'Larkin by Lautrec'. Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 153 - 155
1 item

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| U DP174/2/187 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Letter suggesting when they should meet. Refers to Colin Gunner. (2pp). Contains illustration of a figure (Sutton?; Colin Gunner?) showing the sun shining outside a window behind.
1 item</p> | 15 Aug 1949 |
| U DP174/2/188 | <p>Handwritten letter signed on blue paper. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Discusses an F. R. Leavis talk on D. H. Lawrence, reprinted in 'The Listener', with particular reference to 'Women in Love'. Refers to his novel (his third unfinished one) only being up to Chapter 2. (3pp). Contains illustration of Larkin writing and Sutton painting, both thinking about drinking.
1 item</p> | 3 Oct 1949 |
| U DP174/2/189 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Mainly discusses life as unsatisfying, saying that very few people ever actually think about life, and advising that one should find out what one wants and then go and get it. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 155 - 156.
1 item</p> | 30 Oct 1949 |
| U DP174/2/190 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Letter which highlights his frustration with living at home; struggling with his novel (his third unfinished one); and life in general, and the necessities it places upon one, disagreeing with the view that selfishness is infantile. Refers to having tickets for 'The Seagull' (Chekhov) in London. (4pp).
1 item</p> | 20 Nov 1949 |
| U DP174/2/191 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
Discusses a production of 'The Seagull' (Chekhov), and his boredom with being at home. Refers to a forthcoming French Landscapes exhibition at the Burlington in London; and his writing. (4pp). Contains illustration of a two headed Larkin walking between two rows of pictures at an exhibition, looking to both sides at once.
1 item</p> | 20 Dec 1949 |

- U DP174/2/192 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 8 Jan 1950
Discusses a book of Russian stories which Sutton lent him; and a biography of Corvo (possibly referring to 'The Quest For Corvo: An Experiment In Biography' by A. J. A. Symons). (2pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/193 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 26 Jan 1950
Mainly discusses relationships with women, and marriage, making reference to D. H. Lawrence. (4pp).
Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 157 - 158
1 item
- U DP174/2/194 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 13 Feb 1950
Briefly discusses feeling like his life is at a standstill; an article on Chekhov in 'New Writing' (article unnamed); and going for an interview at the British Museum. (3pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/195 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 17 Mar 1950
Discusses being unhappy with his life at present; love as the secret of life; his mother being ill; and ordering a dress suit, making reference to D. H. Lawrence, Christ, Llewelyn Powys and Thomas Hardy. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, p. 159.
1 item
- U DP174/2/196 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 2 Apr 1950
Unhappy letter, referring to the deteriorating situation with Ruth (Bowman); and the publication of 'The Woman Who Rode Away and Other Stories' (D. H. Lawrence). (3pp).
Printed in the Selected Letters, p. 160.
1 item
- U DP174/2/197 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. [1950]
Comments on a book (unnamed) which he is sending back to Sutton, and Richard Aldington's book on D. H. Lawrence (probably referring to 'Portrait of a Genius...'). (2pp).
1 item

- U DP174/2/198 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 4 May 1950
Mainly discusses a meeting he had with Charles Madge where they discussed 'The North Ship'. Indicates how trapped he is feeling at home. (3pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 161 - 162
1 item
- U DP174/2/199 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 20 May 1950
Discusses his relationship with Ruth Bowman; and a Detection Club dinner he attended with Bruce Montgomery, commenting on the writing of Llewelyn Powys. Possibility of getting an interview at Queen's University, Belfast, referring to Sam Butler and how wishing for something does not make it happen, with particular reference to his own writing. Ts of the poem 'Spring' [published in 'XX Poems' with very slight changes (CP, p. 39)]. (6pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 163 - 164.
1 item
- U DP174/2/200 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 18 Jun 1950
Informs Sutton that he has got the job of sub-librarian at Queen's University, Belfast, but mainly discusses proposing to Ruth Bowman and now regretting it (4pp)
Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 164 - 165.
1 item
- U DP174/2/201 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 20 Jun 1950
Briefly discusses getting a job as sub - librarian at Queen's University, Belfast, leading him to propose to Ruth Bowman, which he now regrets; re - reading Sutton's old letters; and families. (2pp).
1 item
- U DP174/2/202 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester. 3 Jul 1950
Discusses going back on his proposal of marriage to Ruth Bowman and her reaction, making reference to 'Deep Analysis' by Charles Berg, leading to a later discussion of illusion and reality. Has been re - reading Sutton's letters, which he comments on. (6pp).
1 item

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| U DP174/2/203 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
 Letter written whilst drinking alone, referring to re - locating his mother before he takes up his position at Queen's University, Belfast, and not getting engaged to Ruth Bowman. (2pp).
 1 item</p> | 26 Jul 1950 |
| U DP174/2/204 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
 Mainly rails against marriage, making reference to D. H. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy. Refers to an article he began writing on Lawrence's idea of 'freedom'. Has been re-reading Sutton's letters, following his journey through the army to becoming a tramp. (6pp). Contains an illustration of Larkin trying to escape from a soldier and the atom bomb. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 165 - 166.
 1 item</p> | 30 Jul 1950 |
| U DP174/2/205 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
 Refers to his forthcoming departure to take up his post at Queen's University, Belfast, and re - locating his mother in Loughborough. (3pp).
 1 item</p> | 13 Aug 1950 |
| U DP174/2/206 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Leicester.
 Brief note informing Sutton of when he will be working and when he leaves to take up his position at Queen's University, Belfast. Refers to receiving D. H. Lawrence's letters to Russell. (1p).
 1 item</p> | 1950 |
| U DP174/2/207 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.
 Letter discussing settling into his new job and lodgings at Queen's University, Belfast. (4pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 167 - 168
 1 item</p> | 5 Nov 1950 |
| U DP174/2/208 | <p>Handwritten letter signed, finished on 5 January 1951 due to illness. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.
 The over - riding concern of this letter is keeping one's own life in solitude against giving one's life in marriage, which he discusses in relation to breaking off his engagement with Ruth Bowman. (6pp).
 1 item</p> | 2 Jan 1951 |

- U DP174/2/209 Handwritten letter unsigned. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast. 5 Feb 1951
Describes visiting somebody (unnamed) near to Dublin whose circumstances he thought were "pure Dostoevsky". (2pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, p. 169.
1 item
- U DP174/2/210 Handwritten letter signed, finished on 20 February 1951. 10 Feb 1951
Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast. Discusses Sutton becoming a landlord; the illness of Pee Wee Russell reported in 'Time' magazine; whether to get in contact with Ruth Bowman; and sending a ts of 20 poems to a printer (became 'XX Poems'). At one point there is a great contrast in the tone of the letter, with Larkin feeling like his life is standing still, and then going out for a drink and writing more of the letter on his return. (6pp). Contains illustrations of Sutton painting whilst talking to an old woman who is leaning in his window; and of Larkin leaping over a sign saying 'Danger'.
1 item
- U DP174/2/211 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 13 Mar 1951
writing from Belfast. Discusses the difference in their lives, with Sutton refusing to work and Larkin being unable to take risks. Has not heard from the printers to which he sent a ts of 20 poems (became 'XX Poems'). Is hoping to see Sutton during a visit to England. (4pp). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 170 - 171
1 item
- U DP174/2/212 Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 24 Apr 1951
writing from Belfast. Written over two days, discusses a visit he made to Sutton; and feeling tied to his mother after reading Berg (probably 'Deep Analysis' by Charles Berg). Refers to sending the proofs back of what became 'XX Poems'. Wants to drastically alter his life. (4pp). Contains rough illustration of Larkin shouting 'I'm free' whilst some kind of spider or octopus is grabbing at his leg.
1 item
- U DP174/2/213 Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, 8 May 1951
writing from Belfast. Discusses 'XX Poems' which he sent to Sutton. Refers to a Powys book he lent to Sutton; and the possibility of them going to Paris together, only immediately to say he should get his mother settled this summer. (1p). Printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 171 - 172
1 item

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| U DP174/2/214 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.</p> <p>Discusses his feelings for Winifred Arnott and in general the trouble he has in talking to girls; 'XX Poems' and his view of a poem as a cross - roads of his thoughts (diagram used for illustration); and Life as meaning different things depending on a person's outlook, and what he sees as his inability to take part in it. Refers to the possibility of them spending a couple of days together in Bournemouth. (6pp). Contains illustration of Sutton cooking whilst living alone. Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 172 - 174, where Thwaite dates it as 10 July 1951.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 1951 |
| U DP174/2/215 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Loughborough.</p> <p>Brief note informing Sutton of when he will be arriving at Bournemouth. (1p).</p> <p>1 item</p> | 25 Jul 1951 |
| U DP174/2/216 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.</p> <p>Letter thanking Sutton for the time Larkin has just spent with him; and expressing dissatisfaction with his current way of life. (2pp).</p> <p>1 item</p> | 9 Aug 1951 |
| U DP174/2/217 | <p>Part of a handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton writing from Belfast(?)</p> <p>Mainly discusses the quality of moonlight, and romance as being equal to risk (1pp). This is only p.2 of a letter</p> <p>1 item</p> | 1951 |
| U DP174/2/218 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.</p> <p>Refers to moving into his new flat; and receiving a card from Sutton with reference to Danish women and a recent tour of Larkin's (no more details are given). (2pp).</p> <p>1 item</p> | 14 Oct 1951 |
| U DP174/2/219 | <p>Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.</p> <p>Mainly discusses jazz, and settling into his new flat. Refers to not being inspired to write; being busy all the time; and hoping Sutton will come and visit him before Christmas. (4pp). Contains illustration of Larkin sitting and listening to records.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 30 Oct 1951 |

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| U DP174/2/220 | <p>Handwritten letter unsigned. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.
Discusses the possibility of Sutton coming to Belfast to stay with him for a few days; and how busy he is at present, both with work and socially. Refers to 'The Rock Pool' (Cyril Connolly?); and (Noel) Hughes. (4pp).
1 item</p> | 19 Nov 1951 |
| U DP174/2/221 | <p>Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.
Brief letter about the travel arrangements for Sutton's visit to Belfast. (1p).
1 item</p> | 4 Dec 1951 |
| U DP174/2/222 | <p>Handwritten letter signed plus envelope. Philip Larkin to James Sutton, writing from Belfast.
Discusses or refers to Sutton's visit to Belfast; Sutton moving back to London and Larkin not liking the place; Henry de Montherlant's 'Les Jeunes Filles' (translates as 'The Girls') with particular emphasis on the characters of Costals and Mme and M. Dandillot; and jazz, with particular reference to the record 'Yellowdog'. (4pp). Part is printed in the Selected Letters, pp. 179 - 180.
1 item</p> | 21 Jan 1952 |
| U DP174/2/223 | <p>Ts. poem by Philip Larkin, sent to James Sutton.
Ts of 'The House On The Edge Of The Serious Wood' (CP. pp. 258 - 259). Poem begins "The house on the edge of the serious wood...". Note on the back reads "Sorry the NY poem isn't here. I'm too lazy to find it. I'll send it soon." Dated in Collected Poems as "before April 1941".
1 item</p> | c.1941 |
| U DP174/2/224 | <p>Ts. poem, 'XIX The Dead City: A Vision', by Philip Larkin, sent to James Sutton
Poem begins "The firing slowly ceased from the ragged walls:...".
1 item</p> | mid-20th cent. |
| U DP174/2/225 | <p>Ts. poem, 'Fable', by Philip Larkin, sent to James Sutton
Poem begins "After the casual growing-up...". Note on the bottom reads "My latest- legible, I hope. Philip."
1 item</p> | mid-20th cent. |

- U DP174/2/226 Ts. poems by Philip Larkin, sent to James Sutton. 6 Feb 1924-
Including: 22 May 1926
- a) 'The Statue' begins "Alone in a garden of cucumbers,
sits the Duke...", with a note 'C. B. Isherwood:
"Cambridge Mercury", Feb. 6th 1924' written under it.
- b) 'At Parting' begins "Though Time now tears apart...",
with a note 'W. H. Auden: "The Cherwell", May 22nd
1926' written under it. In pencil in the top left hand corner
is written "Two undergraduate poems."
1 item
- U DP174/2/227 Typescript poem, 'New Year Poem' (Collected Poems. 31 Dec 1940
pp. 255 - 256), by Philip Larkin, sent to James Sutton.
Poem begins "The short afternoon ends, and the year is
over;...". With handwritten alterations. Date taken from
Collected Poems.
1 item