

**U DP179**

**Correspondence between  
Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin**

**1939-1990**

**Biographical Background:**

Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin met at junior school and were good friends, along with James Ballard Sutton. After leaving school the two lost touch, and last met in the early 1940s. However, their correspondence was renewed in the early 1970s, when Gunner sought Larkin's advice on the publication of his wartime memoirs (later published as *Adventures with the Irish Brigade*). Their letters initially discussed their writing, but discussion turned to politics later on. The many rightwing outbursts should perhaps be read in the context of Larkin humouring his old friend. Gunner lived in a caravan in a field near Banbury for many of his later years.

**Description:**

Includes correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin (from 1939-1985), carbon copies of some of the Gunner letters, as well as Christmas cards, Larkin-related newscuttings and articles. There is also some correspondence between Colin Gunner and Noel Hughes.

**Extent:** 145 items

**Custodial History:**

Purchased from Christie's (auctioneers), 28 November 1990, with the aid of the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Friends of the National Libraries

**Related material:**

Papers of Philip Arthur Larkin [U DPL]

**Access conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

**U DP179/1**

**Letters (34) and Christmas card from Philip Larkin to Colin Gunner**  
**8 handwritten signed letters and 26 typescript letters signed (all sent from Hull, except one from the Isle of Mull). References to school days, political events (the Miners' Strike), political and other leaders (Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Roy Hattersley, Arthur Scargill), mutual friends (James Sutton, Noel Hughes), gardening, television, Hull University life, the Poet Laureateship (and the poets John Betjeman, Ted Hughes), 'Larkin at Sixty', 'Required Writing', and Colin Gunner's 'Adventures with the Irish Brigade'. The letter of 19 November 1973 includes the quatrain 'Prison for strikers'; that of 30 July includes the concealed quatrain 'I want to see them starving'**  
**35 items**

**6 Sep 1971-  
18 Oct 1985**

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/1/1	Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, Isle of Mull, to Colin Gunner. Discusses friends and family news, and Colin Gunner's book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade. 1 item	6 Sep 1971
U DP179/1/2	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Discusses friends and acquaintances from Coventry, including B.N. Hughes, and his work as librarian and poet. Promises to send a copy of Jill. 1 item	13 Oct 1971
U DP179/1/3	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Written over two days (26 and 30 Oct). Comments on typescript of Gunner's book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade, making suggestions for improvement and giving advice on how to approach the publication process. Ends with brief comment on Britain and the Common Market. 1 item	26 Oct 1971
U DP179/1/4	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Coventry. Relates his unsuccessful attempts to persuade a publisher to accept Gunner's typescript, Adventures with the Irish Brigade, and mentions his mother's move into a nursing home near Leicester. 1 item	18 May 1972
U DP179/1/5	Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Thanks Gunner for sending the review of his recent work (his edition of the Oxford Book of Twentieth Century Poetry) and refers briefly to other reviews it has received. 1 item	9 Apr 1973
U DP179/1/6	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Expresses pleasure at the forthcoming publication of Gunner's book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade, and agrees to write a foreword for it. Also makes reference to receiving an honorary doctorate (from the University of Warwick). 1 item	26 Jul 1973

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

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| U DP179/1/7  | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Refers to his enclosure of his foreword to Gunner's book and makes some stipulations regarding copyright fees and publication issues. Also mentions being asked for a contribution to an Old Coventrians magazine.</p> <p>1 item</p>   | 20 Aug 1973 |
| U DP179/1/8  | <p>Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Brief references to Kingsley Amis and to David Timms (author of the first full-length critical study on Larkin). Agrees with Gunner that life is better under a Conservative government. Letter includes the quatrain, 'Prison for strikers'</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 19 Nov 1973 |
| U DP179/1/9  | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Briefly discusses members of staff from schooldays, the critical reception of his book (The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse?) and his gloom regarding the state of the country which, he believes, is heading towards overdependence on foreign tourists.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 19 Jun 1974 |
| U DP179/1/10 | <p>Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, 105 Newland Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses reading Gunner's Adventures with the Irish Brigade, which has now appeared in print. Mentions B.C.Bloomfield, an academic who is compiling a bibliography on Larkin. Ends with very brief reference to a holiday in Scotland and to the start of the university term.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 25 Sep 1975 |
| U DP179/1/11 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Discusses to which libraries he will send copies of Gunner's book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade. Ends with brief reference to his gardening activities.</p> <p>1 item</p>   | 7 Oct 1975  |

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

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| U DP179/1/12 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Informs Gunner that he will seek advice from his own publisher at Faber &amp; Faber regarding the feasibility of commercial publishing for Gunner's book, <i>Adventures with the Irish Brigade</i>. Also warns Gunner about the potential danger of libel and need for copyright clearance in use of photographs.</p> <p>1 item</p>                              | 29 Oct 1975 |
| U DP179/1/13 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Discusses a record he has recently made and passes on advice from Faber &amp; Faber that Gunner might investigate publication in Ireland of his book, <i>Adventures with the Irish Brigade</i>. Makes brief reference to Barry Bloomfield, his bibliographer, and to Christmas shopping.</p> <p>1 item</p>   | 10 Dec 1975 |
| U DP179/1/14 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Refers to Arthur Bryant's good opinion of Gunner's book, <i>Adventures with the Irish Brigade</i>, and to the response he has received from the Blackstaff Press in Ireland expressing interest in its possible publication (letter is attached). Mentions his award of the German Shakespeare Prize (which he refers to as the 'Iron Cross').</p> <p>1 item</p> | 20 Feb 1976 |
| U DP179/1/15 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Explains what the German Shakespeare Prize, which he is to receive, is awarded for and discusses the ceremony to be held in Hamburg. Ends with brief reference to a recent news feature in <i>The Sunday Times</i>.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 26 Feb 1976 |

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

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| U DP179/1/16 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Discusses the rejection of Gunner's book, <i>Adventures with the Irish Brigade</i>, by the Blackstaff Press (rejection letter attached). Also briefly discusses political matters, expressing a view that continued government under the Labour Party will lead to Britain becoming a satellite Soviet state.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 16 Aug 1976 |
| U DP179/1/17 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Contains very brief references to mutual acquaintances.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 15 Feb 1978 |
| U DP179/1/18 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses a recent University protest, 'Racist Fees Out', an acquaintance from schooldays, Ken Eborall, gardening, losing touch with James Sutton, Coventry football players and watching his recently purchased television.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 9 Feb 1980  |
| U DP179/1/19 | <p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses a memoir to be published to mark the occasion of his sixtieth birthday and his feelings about reaching this age. Also discusses a reception he has attended at 10 Downing Street and his admiration for Margaret Thatcher. Expresses the opinion that unemployment could be eradicated by the abolition of national assistance. Letter contains the concealed quatrain: 'I want to see them starving, The so-called working class, Their wages yearly halving, Their women stewing grass, etc'.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 30 Jul 1980 |

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/1/20	<p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses an acquaintance of Gunner's, Father Quinlan. Re-iterates view (expressed in previous letter) that the abolition of unemployment benefits will engender the abolition of unemployment, with sardonic gibe directed at Arthur Scargill. Also mentions gardening, being asked to review the new James Bond film for the Times Literary Supplement and university cutbacks affecting his work as Librarian.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1 Apr 1981
U DP179/1/21	<p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry.</p> <p>Mainly concerns a letter he has received from a bookseller friend, Anthony Rota (letter attached) who wishes to acquire a copy of Gunner's Adventures with the Irish Brigade in order to sell it on to an unnamed copyright library. Also brief reference to a possible protest at the University.</p> <p>1 item</p>	10 Feb 1982
U DP179/1/22	<p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses the acquisition of Gunner's book by the Bodleian Library, the 'rustication' from Hull University of four members of the Socialist Workers Student Organisation, the forthcoming publication of 'the birthday book' (ie Larkin at Sixty), Arthur Scargill, the miners and retirement.</p> <p>1 item</p>	18 Mar 1982
U DP179/1/23	<p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, 105 Newland Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses the publication of Larkin at Sixty, the publicity surrounding its launch and his feelings on being sixty.</p> <p>1 item</p>	30 May 1982
U DP179/1/24	<p>Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses a recent television programme involving Roy Hattersley, 'It's My Pleasure', his enclosure of a print of an old school photograph and the conclusion of the military offensive in the Falkland Islands.</p> <p>1 item</p>	15 Jun 1982

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/1/25	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Discusses attending the ceremony at Coleraine (New University of Ulster) to receive an honorary Doctor of Letters. Also mentions having recently got back in touch with James Sutton and a book to be published in the autumn, Required Writing. 1 item	2 Aug 1983
U DP179/1/26	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, 'The Grindstone', Hull, to Colin Gunner. Letter contains reference to his award of an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford and to the sales success of his new book (Required Writing). 1 item	3 Jan 1984
U DP179/1/27	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Discusses various work matters: university debt, the staffing situation and the retirement of his deputy, Betty Mackereth. Also discusses the death of John Betjeman and candidates to succeed him as Poet Laureate. 1 item	22 May 1984
U DP179/1/28	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Discusses Gunner's move from Coventry and a photograph received from Gunner of Sidney Larkin. Also comments on his review work, cricket and the miners' strike. 1 item	15 Sep 1984
U DP179/1/29	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Mentions a photograph from schooldays that Gunner has sent. Also discusses what he refers to as his 'hermit-like existence', gardening, the onset of winter and reading Gunner's supplementary chapter to his Adventures with the Irish Brigade. 1 item	13 Nov 1984
U DP179/1/30	Typescript letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner. Discusses Monica Jones, who is convalescing at his home, Ted Hughes becoming the new Poet Laureate and his own refusal of the title on account of the publicity carried with it. 1 item	1984

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/1/31	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses the apparent end of the miners' strike, his medical treatment and the need to cut down his drinking. Also discusses meeting the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull and his opinion that the University will be forced to amalgamate with the nearby College of Higher Education if it is to survive.</p> <p>1 item</p>	9 Apr 1985
U DP179/1/32	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses his ill health, weight loss, spells of depression and alludes to his referral to a specialist. Also mentions a Coventrian anthology he has received from the King Henry VIII school.</p> <p>1 item</p>	6 May 1985
U DP179/1/33	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, 105 Newland Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Discusses the operation undergone to remove a tumour from his oesophagus, the spread of cancer in his throat leading to further hospital treatment and his present convalescence at home.</p> <p>1 item</p>	6 Aug 1985
U DP179/1/34	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Philip Larkin, 105 Newland Park, Hull, to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>Mentions his throat is causing him pain and that he is generally feeling ill; discusses his gloom at the 'state of the nation' and his feeling that Enoch Powell's predictions regarding immigration were correct. Also briefly discusses his award of the Companion of Honour.</p> <p>1 item</p>	18 Oct 1985
U DP179/1/35	<p>Christmas Greetings card from Philip Larkin to Colin Gunner.</p> <p>1 item</p>	late 20th cent.
<b>U DP179/2</b>	<p><b>Letters (31) from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin Sent from Paignton, Coventry, Shabani (Southern Rhodesia), and Great Bourton. Also 7 postcards, 2 notes, 1 telephone message, and 1 telemessage</b></p> <p><b>42 items</b></p>	<b>Aug 1939- Oct 1985</b>



Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/2/1	<p>Two letters in the same envelope</p> <p>a) Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner, Hotel Locarno, Paignton, to Philip Larkin, Hotel Metropole, St Helier. Relates his train journey to Paignton and includes a ballad evincing strong anti-semitic sentiments (4 pp)</p> <p>b) Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner, Hotel Locarno, Paignton, to Philip Larkin, Hotel Metropole, St Helier. Draws caricatures of fellow hotel guests and writes a mock dramatic scene. Includes brief anti-Jewish remarks (2 pp)</p> <p>2 items</p>	7 Aug 1939
U DP179/2/2	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin.</p> <p>Mentions air raid practice and 'Spain week'. Letter contains mock dramatic sketch, "Address to the People" (dated 1950?) giving Gunner's version of world events surrounding the Second World War (10 pp)</p> <p>1 item</p>	mid 20th cent.
U DP179/2/3	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, Penvorn, Manor Road, Coventry.</p> <p>Anecdotal letter; makes reference to news reports regarding Germany's military offensive and the present apparent stalemate between the European nations (3 pp)</p> <p>1 item</p>	22 Feb 1940
U DP179/2/4	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner, Shabani, Southern Rhodesia, to Philip Larkin, 12 Liscon Drive, Leicester.</p> <p>Congratulates Larkin following rumours heard of Larkin's engagement; makes v brief reference to Larkin's 'A Girl in Winter' and enquires after his writing. Discusses his own work mining in Southern Rhodesia.</p> <p>1 item</p>	11 Jul 1949
U DP179/2/5	<p>Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry, to Philip Larkin.</p> <p>Praises a piece of criticism of Larkin's and refers to the completion of his own book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade.</p> <p>1 item</p>	21 Aug 1971

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/2/6	Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry, to Philip Larkin, Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull. Discusses various friends from schooldays and mentions his conversion to Roman Catholicism. Thanks Larkin for his offer to read the typescript of Adventures with the Irish Brigade. 1 item	9 Sep 1971
U DP179/2/7	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, 32 Pearson Park, Hull. Replies to Larkin's comments on the typescript of his book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade. 1 item	2 Nov 1971
U DP179/2/8	Handwritten letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Very brief letter. Refers to newspaper cutting he has sent regarding a local political matter and expresses view that life will be better under a Conservative Government. 1 item	16 Nov 1973
U DP179/2/9	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Mentions mutual acquaintances (Peter Snape and P.A.J. Sharp) and offers advice re household matters. 1 item	27 Mar [1974]
U DP179/2/10	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, 105 Newland Avenue, Hull. Not much of significance; some brief remarks in passing in which are evinced Gunner's political sympathies (2 pp) 1 item	3 Jun 1975
U DP179/2/11	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses his reading of H. Rider Haggard and Evelyn Waugh; also some remarks relating to domestic and international political affairs (2 pp) 1 item	23 Jun 1978

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/2/12	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses the advent of the Conservative Party into Government. Also discusses having sold his business and his present circumstances (2 pp) 1 item	20 Jul 1979
U DP179/2/13	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Little of significance; some brief and arbitrary musings on domestic and foreign political matters. (2 pp) 1 item	1 Feb 1980
U DP179/2/14	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, The Library, University of Hull. Discusses newspaper interview with Larkin, 'A Voice for Our Time', printed in the Observer. Discusses various schoolfriends (including Josh [Noel] Hughes, Bill Ryder, Peter Antrobus, Gilbert Richards). Also some brief remarks relating to American-Soviet relations (2 pp) 1 item	27 Apr 1980
U DP179/2/15	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, The Library, University of Hull. Discusses his recent reunion with schoolfriend Josh (Noel) Hughes and makes brief remarks re. various other former schoolfriends. Congratulates Larkin on attending a reception with the Prime Minister (2 pp) 1 item	26 Jul 1980
U DP179/2/16	Note and newspaper cutting of letter by Gunner, printed in local paper, relating to Coventry City's library service 2 items	13 Jan 1981
U DP179/2/17	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, The Library, University of Hull. Includes press cutting and humorous dramatic sketch by Gunner. Contains little of significance; mention of the increasingly declining state of Coventry 1 item	26 Mar 1981

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/2/18	<p>Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.</p> <p>Replies to Larkin's request for a copy of his book, <i>Adventures with the Irish Brigade</i>. Brief reference to Noel ('Josh') Hughes' contribution to the forthcoming volume of memoirs, <i>Larkin at Sixty</i>. Also makes some disparaging remarks re: Roy Jenkins and Shirley Williams.</p> <p>1 item</p>	16 Feb 1982
U DP179/2/19	<p>Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.</p> <p>Very brief letter; mentions that his book, <i>Adventures with the Irish Brigade</i>, has been acquired by the Bodleian Library and by the Imperial War Museum.</p> <p>1 item</p>	16 Mar 1982
U DP179/2/20	<p>Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 'The New Jarrow', to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Congratulates Larkin on his sixtieth birthday. Discusses reviews of <i>Larkin at Sixty</i> and mentions in passing Kingsley Amis' contribution to the book. Attached are a newspaper photograph of Larkin and a verse by Gunner.</p> <p>1 item</p>	28 May 1982
U DP179/2/21	<p>Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 'Jerusalem the Golden', to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.</p> <p>Discusses a poetry programme in which Larkin has participated ('It's My Pleasure').</p> <p>1 item</p>	Jun 1982
U DP179/2/22	<p>Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.</p> <p>Discusses the South Bank programme on Larkin. Includes press cutting from Coventry local newspaper. Dated 'Whit Monday'.</p> <p>1 item</p>	Jun 1982
U DP179/2/23	<p>Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner (headed 'H.Q. 1st S.S.Panzer Div., Buenos Aires') to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.</p> <p>Discusses school photograph sent by Larkin and makes some remarks regarding the Falkland Islands.</p> <p>1 item</p>	18 Jun 1982

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/2/24	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, Coventry, to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Brief letter; includes discussion of the volume of memoir, Larkin at Sixty 1 item	13 Jul 1982
U DP179/2/25	Postcard from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. 1 item	11 Aug 1982
U DP179/2/26	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 'Crumbling Towers', 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses meeting with old schoolfriend, Peter Antrobus 1 item	29 Jul 1983
U DP179/2/27	Note from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin. Consists of quatrain including mention of Larkin 1 item	7 Nov 1983
U DP179/2/28	Postcard from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. 1 item	28 Nov 1983
U DP179/2/29	Telemessage from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull Congratulating Larkin on his award of an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford 1 item	28 Dec 1983
U DP179/2/30	Postcard from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. 1 item	20 Feb 1984
U DP179/2/31	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Mentions selling his his house in order to live in a caravan and reading Larkin's volume, Required Writing. Various brief remarks on political subjects, including reference to Russia, Thatcher, Scargill and Gadafy 1 item	15 May 1984
U DP179/2/32	Postcard from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Brief comments on a film recently seen at the cinema 1 item	16 Jul 1984

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/2/33	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, c/o Bourton Heights Farm, Great Bourton, Banbury, to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses his new caravan-dwelling life and old acquaintances. Also some remarks on domestic politics including references to Arthur Scargill, David Owen and Margaret Thatcher 1 item	3 Sep 1984
U DP179/2/34	Card (typed and signed) from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Expresses approval of Larkin's refusal of the Poet Laureateship 1 item	4 Jan 1985
U DP179/2/35	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, Bourton Heights, Great Bourton, to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses caravan life and several old schoolfriends; also brief comments on Scargill and Thatcher 1 item	13 Apr 1985
U DP179/2/36	Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 'The Heights', to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses local newspaper article (cutting attached) on the history of the King Henry VIII School in Coventry attended by Larkin and himself. Brief mention of various schoolfriends 1 item	3 May 1985
U DP179/2/37	Note from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Headed 'Nov.13th. 1743'. Humorous dramatic reconstruction of his rustic existence 1 item	10 Jun 1985
U DP179/2/38	Card from Colin Gunner, 'The Heights', to Philip Larkin. Conveys a 'get well' message to Larkin and enquires about Larkin's award of the Companion of Honour (C.H.). 1 item	25 Jun 1985
U DP179/2/39	Note from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Very brief; refers to some press cuttings from local newspaper (not attached). 1 item	26 Jun 1985

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/2/40	Note in pencil from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin.  1 item	[7 Oct 1975]
U DP179/2/41	Postcard from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. 1 item	[Nov 1975]
U DP179/2/42	Note from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin. Accepts Larkin's offer to write a foreword to his book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade. 1 item	[Jul 1973]
<b>U DP179/3</b>	<b>Carbon copies of letters from Gunner to Larkin. Includes copies of 3 letters for which there are no originals in U DP179/2 (for [December 1975], 27 July 1976 and 25 October 1984) 19 items</b>	<b>Dec 1975- Apr 1985</b>
U DP179/3/1	Typescript letter unsigned from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin. Discusses Larkin's L.P. recording of High Windows 1 item	[Dec 1975]
U DP179/3/2	Typescript letter unsigned from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin. Enquires about a spare copy of his (Gunner's) book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade, to supply to the Regimental Library. Also brief remarks on political subjects; opines that James Callaghan's Government is hatching plots with the Russians. 1 item	27 Jul 1976
U DP179/3/3	Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses his reading of H. Rider Haggard and Evelyn Waugh; also some remarks relating to domestic and international political affairs (2 pp). Copy of 2/11. 1 item	23 Jun 1978

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

- U DP179/3/4      Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses the advent of the Conservative Party into Government. Also discusses having sold his business and his present circumstances (2 pp). Copy: as 2/12.  
1 item      20 Jul 1979
- U DP179/3/5      Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, The Library, University of Hull. Discusses newspaper interview with Larkin, 'A Voice for Our Time', printed in the Observer. Discusses various schoolfriends (including Josh [Noel] Hughes, Bill Ryder, Peter Antrobus, Gilbert Richards). Also some brief remarks relating to American-Soviet relations (2 pp). Copy: as 2/14.  
1 item      27 Apr 1980
- U DP179/3/6      Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, The Library, University of Hull. Discusses his recent reunion with schoolfriend Josh (Noel) Hughes and makes brief remarks re. various other former schoolfriends. Congratulates Larkin on attending a reception with the Prime Minister (2 pp). Copy: as 2/15.  
1 item      26 Jul 1980
- U DP179/3/7      Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Includes press cutting and humorous dramatic sketch by Gunner. Contains little of significance; mention of the increasingly declining state of Coventry. Copy: as 2/17 (excluding press cutting and short sketch by Gunner).  
1 item      26 Mar 1981
- U DP179/3/8      Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Replies to Larkin's request for a copy of his book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade. Brief reference to Noel ('Josh') Hughes's contribution to the forthcoming volume of memoirs, Larkin at Sixty. Also makes some disparaging remarks re. Roy Jenkins and Shirley Williams. Copy: as 2/18.  
1 item      16 Feb 1982



Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

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| U DP179/3/9  | Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.<br>Very brief letter; mentions that his book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade, has been acquired by the Bodleian Library and by the Imperial War Museum. Copy: as 2/19.<br>1 item  | 16 Mar 1982 |
| U DP179/3/10 | Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, "The New Jarrow", to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.<br>Congratulates Larkin on his sixtieth birthday. Discusses reviews of Larkin at Sixty and mentions in passing Kingsley Amis' contribution to the book. Attached are a newspaper photograph of Larkin and a verse by Gunner. Copy: as 2/20.<br>1 item | 28 May 1982 |
| U DP179/3/11 | Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, "Jerusalem the Golden", to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.<br>Discusses a poetry programme in which Larkin has participated ('It's My Pleasure'). Copy: as 2/21.<br>1 item   | Jun 1982    |
| U DP179/3/12 | Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.<br>Discusses the South Bank programme on Larkin. Includes press cutting from Coventry local newspaper. Copy: as 2/22.<br>1 item  | Jun 1982    |
| U DP179/3/13 | Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner (headed "H.Q. 1st S.S.Panzer Div., Buenos Aires") to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.<br>Discusses school photograph sent by Larkin and makes some remarks regarding the Falkland Islands. Copy: as 2/23.<br>1 item  | 18 Jun 1982 |
| U DP179/3/14 | Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, Coventry, to Philip Larkin, University of Hull.<br>Brief letter; includes discussion of the volume of memoir, Larkin at Sixty. Copy: as 2/24.<br>1 item   | 13 Jul 1982 |

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/3/15	Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, "Crumbling Towers", 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses meeting with old schoolfriend, Peter Antrobus. Copy: as 2/26 (with attached note signed by Gunner) 2 items	29 Jul 1983
U DP179/3/16	Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Mentions selling his house in order to live in a caravan and reading Larkin's volume, Required Writing. Various brief remarks on political subjects, including reference to Russia, Thatcher, Scargill and Gadafy. Copy: as 2/31. 1 item	15 May 1984
U DP179/3/17	Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, c/o Bourton Heights Farm, Great Bourton, Banbury, to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses his new caravan-dwelling life and old acquaintances. Also some remarks on domestic politics including references to Arthur Scargill, David Owen and Margaret Thatcher. Copy: as 2/33. 1 item	3 Sep 1984
U DP179/3/18	Typescript letter unsigned from Colin Gunner, 'In the Bush', to Philip Larkin. Very brief; refers to sending a photograph of Larkin from schooldays and a copy of the epilogue to his book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade. 1 item	25 Oct 1984
U DP179/3/19	Copy: Typescript letter signed from Colin Gunner, Bourton Heights, Great Bourton, to Philip Larkin, University of Hull. Discusses caravan life and several old schoolfriends; also brief comments on Scargill and Thatcher. Copy: as 2/35. 1 item	13 Apr 1985
U DP179/4	Christmas cards and Greetings cards from Gunner to Larkin 17 items	1970s
U DP179/5	Spoof 'Mechanical Wheeled Vehicle Inspection Report' (by Colin Gunner, sent to Philip Larkin?) 1 item	c.1940

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/6	Miscellaneous press cuttings about Philip Larkin, collected by Colin Gunner. 19 items	1970s
<b>U DP179/7</b>	<b>Letters. Noel Hughes to Colin Gunner</b> <b>4 items</b>	<b>16 Feb 1980- 9 Sep 1982</b>
U DP179/7/1	Typescript letter signed from Noel Hughes, 16 Mount Ararat Road, Richmond, Surrey, to Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Coventry. Primarily discusses being asked for a contribution to the forthcoming volume of memoir, Larkin at Sixty. 1 item	16 Feb 1980
U DP179/7/2	Typescript letter signed from Noel Hughes, 16 Mount Ararat Road, Richmond, Surrey, to Colin Gunner. Discusses schooldays; mentions Larkin's shyness at school, deriving from his stammer, and also Larkin's former romantic interest in Hughes's sister-in-law. 1 item	21 Jul 1980
U DP179/7/3	Typescript letter signed from Noel Hughes, 16 Mount Ararat Road, Richmond, Surrey, to Colin Gunner. Briefly discusses the publication and launch of Larkin at Sixty and refers to Larkin's comparison of Gunner with Kingsley Amis. 1 item	9 Sep 1982
U DP179/7/4	Typescript letter signed from Noel Hughes, 16 Mount Ararat Road, Richmond, Surrey, to Colin Gunner. Little of significance. Discusses Gunner's book, Adventures with the Irish Brigade; some mention of Larkin's habit of meeting Gunner at the Coventry Central Library after school. 1 item	30 Nov [1981]
<b>U DP179/8</b>	<b>Letters. Carbon copies. Colin Gunner to Noel Hughes.</b> <b>3 items</b>	<b>20 Feb 1980- 8 Jul 1982</b>
U DP179/8/1	Typescript letter unsigned from Colin Gunner to Noel Hughes. Discusses various school acquaintances, including brief remarks relating Larkin. 1 item	20 Feb 1980

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Colin Gunner and Philip Larkin

U DP179/8/2	Typescript letter unsigned from Colin Gunner to Noel Hughes. Discusses Larkin: his present life, meeting him for the first time in Prep School and some instances of school detention. 1 item	11 Aug 1980
U DP179/8/3	Typescript letter unsigned from Colin Gunner, 31 Stamford Avenue, Styvechale, Coventry, to Noel Hughes. Discusses Larkin at Sixty and a television poetry programme in which Larkin appeared ('It's My Pleasure'). 1 item	8 Jul 1982
U DP179/9	Letter. Carbon copy. Colin Gunner to Father Sean (Quinlan) With 2 enclosures 3 items	2 Feb 1981
U DP179/10	Letter. Father Sean (Quinlan) to Colin Gunner 1 item	24 Mar 1981
U DP179/11	Christie's auction catalogue for the sale of the Larkin - Gunner letters 1 item	28 Nov 1990