

**U DP207**

**Correspondence between Philip Larkin  
and Andrew Motion**

**1978-1985**

**Biographical Background:**

Andrew Motion was born in 1952, the son of Andrew Richard Motion and Catherine Gillian Motion. He graduated from University College, Oxford in 1974. Between 1977 and 1981 he worked as a lecturer in English at Hull University. His first collection of poems *The Pleasure Steamers* was published by Carcanet in 1978. He returned to Oxford as editor of *Poetry Review* 1981 to 1983, and worked as editorial director at Chatto & Windus from 1983 to 1989. He has published many collections of poems, novels and criticism and is currently Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia.

He has also published *Independence* (1981); *Secret Narratives* (1983); *Dangerous Plays: Poems 1974 - 1984* (1984); *Natural Causes* (1987) and *Love in a Life* (1991). He is the author of two critical books *The Poetry of Edward Thomas* (1980) and *Philip Larkin* (1982); novels, including *The Pale Companion* (1989) and biographies of *The Lamberts: George Constant and Kit* (1986) and *Philip Larkin: a writer's life* (1993).

Andrew Motion married Joanna Jane Powell in 1973 and Janet Elizabeth Dalley in 1985. He has two sons

**Custodial history:**

Purchased from Professor Andrew Motion, 2 December 2002

**Description:**

Comprises mostly continuous correspondence discussing both of their poetry, work and personal affairs.

**Arrangement:**

U DP207/1 - 36 Larkin to Motion  
U DP207/37 - 78 Motion to Larkin

**Extent:** 105 items

**Related material:**

U DP165 Papers of Andrew Motion  
U DPL Papers of Philip Larkin

Related material in other repositories:

John Rylands Library (Manchester); National Sound Archives; Bodleian Library (Oxford); King's College (Cambridge); Eton School Library

**Access conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Philip Larkin and Andrew Motion

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| U DP207/1 | Memorandum. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Encloses checklist on Library's holdings on Edward Thomas (not present). 1p.<br>1 item   | 17 Jan 1978 |
| U DP207/2 | Memorandum. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Invites Andrew Motion to lunch with Peter Orr, of the British Council Recorded Sound Division.<br>1 item   | 26 Jan 1978 |
| U DP207/3 | Typescript letter unsigned (photocopy, with attached compliments slip from PL). Philip Larkin to Pru Clark (of the Hull Daily Mail).<br>Report of the judges (including Andrew Motion) for the 'Bard of Humberside' poetry competition organised by the Hull Daily Mail. 2pp.<br>1 item | 21 Jun 1978 |
| U DP207/4 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Thanks for, and comments on, The pleasure steamers; 'Bard of Humberside' competition; poetry and the library. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 22 Jun 1978 |
| U DP207/5 | Memorandum. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Use of the Poetry Room (in the University of Hull Brynmor Jones Library); purchase of poetry books for the Library. 1p.<br>1 item  | 24 Oct 1978 |
| U DP207/6 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Andrew Motion's donation of his poetry notebook to the Library, which Philip Larkin offers to purchase. 1p.<br>1 item  | 13 Mar 1979 |
| U DP207/7 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Comments on Andrew Motion's typescript book on Edward Thomas. 1p.<br>1 item  | 16 May 1979 |
| U DP207/8 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Commiserations on failure to secure new job in London; change in arrangements for dinner invitation with Judy Egerton. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 6 Jun 1979  |

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| U DP207/9  | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Change in arrangements for dinner with Judy Egerton. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 8 Jun 1979  |
| U DP207/10 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Congratulations on his Arvon Foundation Poetry Prize Competition (Philip Larkin was a judge); commiserations on being turned down by Faber & Faber; Charles Brook succeeded by David Baker as Sub-Librarian. 2pp.<br>1 item   | 31 Jan 1981 |
| U DP207/11 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion<br>Andrew Motion's suggestion of his producing a literary study of Philip Larkin, and response from Charles Monteith (of Faber & Faber) and Philip Larkin: Lesley Dunn's funeral; other biographical projects (Anthony Thwaite, Melvyn Bragg); professional worries; had resumed his drinking. 4pp.<br>With envelope.<br>1 item | 24 Mar 1981 |
| U DP207/12 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Comments on Andrew Motion's draft book on Philip Larkin; professional worries; new diet. 2pp.<br><br>Enclosures:<br>a) Typed list of comments (with page references)<br>b) Photocopy of 'Single-handed and untrained', by Philip Larkin. from the Library Association record, 79(10) October 1977<br>2 items                | 16 Sep 1981 |
| U DP207/13 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Sylvia Plath; Poetry review. 2pp.<br>1 item   | 15 Nov 1981 |
| U DP207/14 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Use of lines from The North Ship; having the cleaners and central heating engineers in (following a fire at home); Larkin at Sixty and Andrew Motion's biography of Philip Larkin. 2pp.<br>1 item  | 1 Feb 1982  |

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| U DP207/15 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Acknowledges receipt of latest issue of Poetry Review; South Bank show programme. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 25 Apr 1982 |
| U DP207/16 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Expresses thanks for Andrew Motion's contributions to recent Larkin-related events – Larkin at sixty, the South Bank Show, etc.; Sylvia Plath; visit to All Souls.<br>2pp.<br>Enclosed: photocopy of cutting from television schedule (for The South Bank Show). With envelope<br>1 item | 1 Jun 1982  |
| U DP207/17 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>arrangements for meeting in Oxford; comments on Roy Hattersley's 'It's my pleasure' programme on Philip Larkin; house redecoration. 2pp.<br>1 item   | 9 Jun 1982  |
| U DP207/18 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Thanks for present; visit to London (cricket); concerns about Monica Jones' health; his sixtieth birthday.<br>2pp.<br>1 item   | 10 Aug 1982 |
| U DP207/19 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Concerns about Monica Jones; comments on age and the perception of young writers. 2pp.<br>1 item   | 14 Oct 1982 |
| U DP207/20 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>An apology; dinner with Margaret Thatcher. 2pp.<br>1 item  | 4 Nov 1982  |
| U DP207/21 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Philip Larkin's new car; Chatto & Windus; asks Andrew Motion to be his literary executor; Required writing. 2pp.<br>1 item  | 10 Feb 1983 |

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Philip Larkin and Andrew Motion

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| U DP207/22 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Apologies over confusion regarding comments to Blake Morrison regarding break up of Andrew Motion's marriage; Philip Larkin reviewing again. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 28 Mar 1983 |
| U DP207/23 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Expresses thanks for receipt of Secret narratives; worries over Monica Jones' health. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 12 Apr 1983 |
| U DP207/24 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Expresses thanks for copy of latest Poetry review, and sadness that Andrew Motion is ceasing to be editor; Monica Jones' health; George Hartley continuing to obstruct a collected edition of his poems in the United States. With envelope.<br>1 item | 2 May 1983  |
| U DP207/25 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Declines request for Philip Larkin to edit an anthology; review by John Bayley of Andrew Motion's study of Philip Larkin; Monica Jones' health; hopes Mrs Thatcher will win the general election. 4pp. With envelope.<br>1 item                        | 9 May 1983  |
| U DP207/26 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Unable to meet him for lunch prior to Poetry Book Society meeting; Monica Jones' health; reviews of Andrew Motion's book on the Lamberts. 2pp.<br>1 item   | 22 May 1983 |
| U DP207/27 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Comments on the Poetry Book Society meeting, which he had chaired in Charles Osborne's absence; had had lunch with Joanna Motion. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 4 Jun 1983  |

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Philip Larkin and Andrew Motion

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| U DP207/28 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Comments on Andrew Motion's autobiographical piece in Poetry review and his potential as a novelist; publication of Required writing; dreads having to address new students; weight problems; thinking of going to a local church. With envelope.<br>1 item              | 25 Sep 1983 |
| U DP207/29 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Suggests lunch in Walkington; had made a speech at luncheon for Sir Brynmor Jones; feeling generally run down and unwell; had had advance copy of Required Writing, which he finds is full of misprints. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item                                   | 28 Oct 1983 |
| U DP207/30 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Willing to write an introduction to The Condemned Playground. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 30 Apr 1984 |
| U DP207/31 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Thanks him for copy of Gladys Mitchell's The Saltmarsh murders; work worries, including departure of his deputy (Tom Graham) and retirement of his secretary (Betty Mackereth); typing the index to the new edition of All What Jazz. 2pp.<br>1 item                     | 12 May 1984 |
| U DP207/32 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Encloses introduction to The condemned playground (not present); Monica Jones' health; portrait painted by Humphrey Ocean; his 62nd birthday; Blake Morrison's problems with the Arts Council of Great Britain and the Poetry Book Society. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item | 13 Aug 1984 |
| U DP207/33 | Typescript letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>His will; his refusal to become Poet Laureate; Mrs Thatcher's kind reaction. 1p.<br>1 item  | 14 Jan 1985 |

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| U DP207/34 | Handwritten letter signed. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>Andrew Motion and Jan Dalley; Philip Larkin's health; drinking; Philip Larkin's will; had met the new Vice-Chancellor; Monica Jones' health. 4pp. With envelope.<br>1 item | 3 Apr 1985  |
| U DP207/35 | Postcards. Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>9 items  | 1979-1984   |
| U DP207/36 | Compliments slips (annotated). Philip Larkin to Andrew Motion.<br>3 items  | c.1979-1980 |
| U DP207/37 | Memorandum. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Expresses thanks for his comments on The pleasure steamers; poetry competition. 1p.<br>1 item   | 28 Jun 1978 |
| U DP207/38 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Arrangements for meeting in Oxford; comments on Roy Hattersley's 'It's my pleasure' programme on Philip Larkin; house redecoration. 2pp.<br>1 item                         | 12 Dec 1978 |
| U DP207/39 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Visit of Alan Brownjohn. 1p.<br>1 item   | 22 Feb 1979 |
| U DP207/40 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Awaiting news from London; supper engagement. 1p.<br>1 item  | 1 Jun 1979  |
| U DP207/41 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Had not got the job he had applied for. 1p.<br>1 item  | 5 Jun 1979  |
| U DP207/42 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Supper engagement; examination scripts. 1p.<br>1 item  | 7 Jun 1979  |
| U DP207/43 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Confusion over supper engagement. 1p.<br>1 item  | 15 Oct 1979 |

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| U DP207/44 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Supper engagement; contact with Anthony Thwaite at Encounter; teaching [William] Empson. 1p.<br>1 item  | 17 Oct 1979 |
| U DP207/45 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion (Oxford) to Philip Larkin.<br>Seeks advice regarding switching publisher (to Faber and Faber) and how best to approach Charles Monteith. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 27 Sep 1980 |
| U DP207/46 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion (Oxford) to Philip Larkin.<br>Thanks him for his advice; dinner engagement; horrified by Leonard Cohen's popularity; completing his anthology; had decided not to apply for a fellowship at Cornell University; reading and enjoying Conrad thanks him for his advice; dinner engagement; horrified by Leonard Cohen's popularity; completing his anthology; had decided not to apply for a fellowship at Cornell University; reading and enjoying Conrad. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item | 3 Oct 1980  |
| U DP207/47 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion (Oxford) to Philip Larkin.<br>Dinner at All Souls, Oxford, and meeting with Charles Monteith; had received an unsolicited publishing offer from Deutsch. 1p.<br>1 item  | 11 Nov 1980 |
| U DP207/48 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion (Oxford) to Philip Larkin.<br>Thanks for dinner; awaiting news from Charles Monteith; due to visit India shortly. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 23 Nov 1980 |
| U DP207/49 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Had been turned down by Faber and Faber; delighted to have won the Arvon Foundation prize; enjoyed trip to India; anthology enarly completed. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 27 Jan 1981 |

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| U DP207/50 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Death of Lesley Dunn; had been asked by Methuen to write a book on Larkin and seeks his opinion. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 19 Mar 1981 |
| U DP207/51 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Andrew Motion's book on Philip Larkin; Lesley Dunn; Douglas Dunn's new book; work; drafting an 'Indian' poem; fan mail following the Arvon Foundation prize; judging the Oxford Poetry competition. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item | 28 Mar 1981 |
| U DP207/52 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Selecting poetry books for the library; is working on his book on Philip Larkin. 1p. With TL (carbon) PAL to AM, 6 May 1981 attached, to which the above is a reply.<br>1 item  | 17 May 1981 |
| U DP207/53 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Encloses typescript of his book on Philip Larkin (not present); has included 'Bridge for the Living' in his Poetry Book Society Christmas Supplement. 1p.<br>1 item   | 12 Sep 1981 |
| U DP207/54 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Grateful for Philip Larkin's comments on Andrew Motion's draft book; new flat in London; has been made editor of Poetry review. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 18 Sep 1981 |
| U DP207/55 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Expresses thanks for his article on Sylvia Plath; work on Poetry review; visits to Norwich. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 18 Nov 1981 |
| U DP207/56 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Permissions for quotations in his book on Philip Larkin; response to his poem 'Independence'; buying a house in Norwich. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 20 Jan 1982 |

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| U DP207/57 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin<br>Use of extract from Philip Larkin's first workbook; poetry reading in Hull. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 26 Jan 1982 |
| U DP207/58 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Response to his first issue of Poetry review; visit to the United States of America; contribution to the South Bank Show programme on Philip Larkin. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item                                  | 29 Jul 1982 |
| U DP207/59 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Enjoyed party, where he met Christopher Ricks; encloses letter from 'a lunatic' (not present); had not yet seen South Bank Show programme; reading proofs of his book on Philip Larkin. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item | 27 May 1982 |
| U DP207/60 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Apologises for misprints in his contribution to Poetry review; warns Philip Larkin to expect an approach from Jeremy Bradshaw regarding a publication about landscapes. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item                 | 7 Jul 1982  |
| U DP207/61 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Andrew Motion's private life and marriage; views on children. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 25 Mar 1983 |
| U DP207/62 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Andrew Motion's private life - -: 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 30 Mar 1983 |
| U DP207/63 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Monica Jones's health; had seen Anthony Powell to discuss the Lamberts. 1p.<br>1 item   | 19 Apr 1983 |

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| U DP207/64 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Asks whether Philip Larkin would be interested in preparing a poetry anthology for Chatto & Windus; Andrew Motion's book on the Lamberts. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item        | 3 May 1983  |
| U DP207/65 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Philip Larkin's unwillingness to edit a new anthology; had met Constant Lambert's widow. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 12 May 1983 |
| U DP207/66 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Feelings regarding his first meeting of the Poetry Book Society committee. 1p. With envelope<br>1 item   | 27 May 1983 |
| U DP207/67 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Asks whether Philip Larkin would like to suggest and write a new introduction to a 'forgotten classic' for inclusion in the Chatto & Windus list. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item | 30 Aug 1983 |
| U DP207/68 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Thanks him for comments on his Philip Larkin book; meeting. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 29 Sep 1983 |
| U DP207/69 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Thanks him for his introduction to The condemned playground; Andrew Motion and Philip Larkin's portraits; the Lambert book. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item                       | 15 Aug 1984 |
| U DP207/70 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>His plans to marry Jan Dalley; the Lambert book; holiday in Tuscany. 2pp. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 1 Apr 1985  |

Hull History Centre: Correspondence between Philip Larkin and Andrew Motion

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|------------|--|----------------------------|
| U DP207/71 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Thanks for the wedding present; Philip Larkin's impending operation. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 3 Jun 1985                 |
| U DP207/72 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Visit; Philip Larkin's health; visit to Beverley; tea with Monica Jones. 1p. With envelope.<br>1 item   | 16 Jul 1985                |
| U DP207/73 | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Philip Larkin's health; Andrew Motion's forthcoming holiday; departure of Joanna Motion for Australia.<br>1p. With envelope.<br>1 item  | 31 Jul 1985                |
| U DP207/74 | Handwritten letter signed. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>Arrangements for dinner. Map enclosed.<br>2 items  | late 20th cent.            |
| DP207/75   | Typescript letter signed. Andrew Motion (Oxford) to Philip Larkin (in Oxford).<br>Arrangements for lunch. With envelope.<br>1 item   | late 20th cent.            |
| U DP207/76 | Postcards. Andrew Motion to Philip Larkin.<br>With envelopes (7)<br>16 items   | 28 Nov 1978-<br>6 Nov 1984 |
| U DP207/77 | Typescript letter unsigned. Philip Larkin to Susan Oldacre, Department of English, University College London<br>Reference for Andrew Motion following his application for a post as lecturer. With: Photocopy. Typescript letter signed from Ms Oldacre to Philip Larkin requesting the reference, 2 May 1979<br>2 items | 9 May 1979                 |
| U DP207/78 | Typescript letter unsigned. Philip Larkin to the Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.<br>Reference for Andrew Motion following his application to be a Fellow and Tutor. With: Photocopy of typescript letter signed from the Principal to PL, 16 May 1980, enclosing particulars of the post.<br>1 item               | 27 May 1980                |