

U DX341

**Photocopied letters from Philip Larkin
to Monica Jones**

1946-1984

Historical Background:

Monica Jones was an academic, working in the Department of English at the University of Leicester for 35 years. But she is best known as the long-term companion of Philip Larkin, whom she met in 1947 when Larkin took up a position in the university's library.

Monica Jones was born in Llanelli, but the family moved to Stourport on Severn in Worcestershire when she was seven and she attended the Girls' High School in Kidderminster. From there she won a scholarship and studied English at St Hugh's College Oxford, gaining a first. After graduation she worked as a teacher for a couple of years and then took up a post at the University of Leicester, in 1946.

As well as being a sometime muse for Philip Larkin, Monica Jones was represented twice in fiction - as Margaret Peel in 'Lucky Jim' by Kingsley Amis and in Malcolm Bradbury's 'Eating People is Wrong'.

Larkin and Jones met in 1947 and became lovers in 1950, shortly before Larkin left Leicester to take up a post at Queen's University Belfast. Their relationship continued, with Larkin's subsequent move to Hull in 1955, and endured until Larkin's death in 1985. Monica Jones was faithful to Larkin, although he was unfaithful to her, having relationships with other women until the late 1970s. In 1981 Jones retired early on the grounds of ill health and moved in with Larkin, who left the bulk of his estate to her on his death in 1985. Interpreting Larkin's ambiguous will, she destroyed his volumes of private diaries and papers. She continued to live in his house, increasingly as a recluse, for 15 years until her death in 2001. Following her death, her correspondence with Larkin was deposited at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

For further details see:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/2001/mar/15/guardianobituaries.books>

Custodial history:

Deposited by Anthony Thwaite in 2010

Description:

The letters were collated as part of the research for the book "Philip Larkin: Letters to Monica", edited by Anthony Thwaite

Extent:

5 boxes

Related material:

Papers of Philip Larkin [U DPL] including letters to Larkin from his mother, Eva Larkin

Philip Larkin's personal library

Philip Larkin's personal record collection

Philip Larkin's photograph collection [DLV]

Papers of the Larkin family [DLN] including letters from Larkin to his mother, Eva Larkin

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Correspondence with numerous friends, fellow poets, colleagues etc, including: Barry Bloomfield [U DX213], Colin Gunner [U DP179], Brenda Moon, [U DX257], Andrew Motion [U DP207], James Sutton [U DP174 and U DP182], Ted Tarling [U DP177], Anthony Thwaite [U DP181]

Papers of Anthony Thwaite relating to his editorship of "Larkin at Sixty" [U DP188] and as literary executor to Philip Larkin [U DAT, uncatalogued]

Papers of Monica Jones [U DMA uncatalogued]

Books given to Monica Jones by Philip Larkin

Papers of Maeve Brennan [U DMB uncatalogued and closed to 2033]

Philip Larkin book collection [P/L] Published works by or about Larkin

Other repositories:

Larkin Workbook No 1, British Library [Ad. Ms 52619]

Correspondence between Philip Larkin and Monica Jones, Bodleian Library: Department of Western Manuscripts

Copyright:

Larkin Estate (administered by the Society of Authors)

U DX341/1	Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones Including a letter discussing reviews of Jill, 21 Dec. 1946 and a letter informing Jones of the death of Larkin's father, 4 Apr. 1948. 1 bundle, 21 letters	1946-1949
U DX341/2	Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones Including letters discussing preparation of XX Poems for publication, 1-20 Nov. 1950 and a letter responding to Jones's comments on a draft copy of XX Poems, 26 Nov. 1950 1 bundle, 31 letters	1950

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U DX341/3	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones includes: Letters containing early draft of portions of 'Next, Please', 6, 17 Jan 1951. 2 letters discussing preparation of XX Poems for publication, 16, 31 Jan 1951. 2 letters discussing the publication of XX Poems, 11, 14 Feb 1951. Letter discussing correction of proofs of XX Poems, 18 Apr 1951. Letter enclosing copy of XX poems, 28 Apr 1951 Postcard thanking Jones for comments on XX Poems, [franked] 9 May 1951. 2 letters discussing XX Poems, 18, 23 May 1951. Letters discussing reception of copies of XX Poems circulated by Larkin, 18 Jun, 5 Jul 11, 18 Aug 1951. Letters discussing reviews of XX Poems, 1 Sep, 5, 22 Nov 1951. 2 letters containing brief outline of a draft novel, 6, 15 Oct 1951 (see Larkin, <i>Trouble at Willow Gables and Other Fictions</i>, ed. James Booth, 2002). Letter enclosing TS. draft of 'March Past', 15 Oct 1951. 1 bundle, 73 letters</p>	1951
U DX341/4	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letter indicating that a draft novel has been abandoned, 12 Mar 1952. Letter quoting 'The moon is full tonight' and 'The bottle is drunk out by one', and reflecting on writer's block, 28 Oct 1952. Letter discussing Larkin's inclusion in Springtime anthology, no. 1, eds G.S. Fraser and Iain Fletcher, 1953, 3 Dec 1952. 1 bundle, 59 letters</p>	1952
U DX341/5	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letter discussing payment from the BBC for their use of poem XIV, 'If my darling were once to decide,' from XX Poems, 24 Jun 1953. Letter discussing reviews of the Springtime anthology, 7 Jul 1953. Letter reflecting on lack of recent literary output, 7, 14 Aug 1953. Letter mentioning preparation of some poems for submission to the Dolmen Press, [franked] 22 Jun 1954. Letter enclosing and further letter discussing copy of 'Church Going', [enclosure not present] 3, 10 Aug 1954. 1 bundle, 41 letters</p>	Jun 1953- Aug 1954

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- U DX341/6 Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Aug-Nov 1954
- Letter discussing comments received from Kingsley Amis on poems submitted to the Dolmen Press, particularly 'Church Going', 16 Aug 1954.
- Letter discussing submission of three poems to the editors of the P.E.N. anthology New Poems, 1955, 29 Aug 1954.
- Letter discussing entries in Larkin's diary, 13 Sep 1954.
- Letter discussing advertisement of the post of Librarian at the University of Hull, 23 Sep 1954.
- Postcard and letter discussing rejection of poems submitted to the Dolmen Press, 6, 10 Oct 1954.
- Letters and postcard mentioning application for post of Librarian at the University of Hull, 10, 18, 18 Oct 1954.
- Letters and postcards discussing interview for and subsequent appointment to post of Librarian at the University of Hull, 11, 14, 23, 23, 28 Nov 1954.
- Letter discussing draft of 'Myxomatosis', 14 Nov 1954.
- 1 bundle, 25 letters
- U DX341/7 Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Dec 1954-May 1955
- Letter mentioning publication in the P.E.N. anthology New Poems, 1955, and invitation to review for the Manchester Guardian, 7 Dec 1954.
- Letter mentioning approach from George Hartley (editor of Listen and proprietor of the Hessle-based Marvell Press) with regards to publishing a volume of Larkin's poetry [subsequently published as The Less Deceived, 1955], 20 Dec 1954.
- Greetings card containing TS poem 'Christmas', n.d., 'Christmas 1954'.
- Letters discussing publication of The Less Deceived, the volume title and dedication to Monica Jones, 8, 16 Jan. 1955.
- Letter discussing provision of titles for poems in The Less Deceived, 8 Apr 1955.
- Letter mentioning possible inclusion in New Lines (ed. Robert Conquest, London: MacMillan, 1956), and Poets of the 1950s (ed. D.J. Enright, Tokyo: Kenkyusha Ltd, 1955), 14 Apr 1955.
- 1 bundle, 29 letters

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U DX341/8	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letters discussing plans for a new library building at the University of Hull, 9 May 1955 ff. Letter mentioning meeting with George Hartley and drawing up of contracts with the Marvell Press for <i>The Less Deceived</i>, 23 May 1955. Letter discussing draft of discarded poem, "How we behave, I find increasingly...", 3 Jun 1955 2 letters discussing final copies of <i>The Less Deceived</i>, one enclosing subscription form [encl. not present], 3, 9 Jul 1955. 2 letters containing details of some of the first to order copies of <i>The Less Deceived</i>, incl. Norman Nicholson and Richard Hoggart, 12, 22 Jul 1955. 1 bundle, 28 letters</p>	May-Aug 1955
U DX341/9	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letter containing further discussion of early sales of <i>The Less Deceived</i>, 6 Aug 1955. Letter discussing proofs of Larkin's contributions to <i>New Lines</i> (ed. Robert Conquest, London: MacMillan, 1956), 7 Sep 1955. Letter discussing publication of <i>The Less Deceived</i>, 26 Oct 1955. Letter discussing payment for <i>Poets of the 1950s and The Less Deceived</i>, 29 Oct 1955. Letters discussing first copies of <i>The Less Deceived</i>; production, distribution, reception etc., 24 Nov 1955. Postcard mentioning reception of <i>The Less Deceived</i>, including a letter from T.S. Eliot, 4 Jan 1956. 1 bundle, 36 letters</p>	Aug 1955- Feb 1956
U DX341/10	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones. The contents of this bundle overlap with those in U DX341/11-13 1 bundle, 85 letters</p>	Jan- Dec 1956
U DX341/11	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Postcard and letters with draft and discussion of 'An Arundel Tomb', [franked] 12, 22, 26 Feb 1956. Letter discussing contract with the Marvell Press for <i>The Less Deceived</i>, 22 Feb 1956. TS drafts with pencil markings of 'An Arundel Tomb' and 'Two Winter Pieces', encl. with letter of 26 Feb 1956. Letter mentioning critical response to <i>The Less Deceived</i>, 5 Mar 1956. Letter mentioning publication in May 1956 issue of <i>The London Magazine</i>, in section on 'Young English Poets', 11 Apr 1956. 1 bundle, 16 letters</p>	Feb-Apr 1956

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U DX341/12	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones. Letter containing brief excerpts from juvenilia, 12 Jun 1956.</p> <p>1 bundle, 25 letters</p>	May-Jul 1956
U DX341/13	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including:</p> <p>Letter mentioning reissue of A Girl in Winter, and settlement of account for The Less Deceived, 10 Sep 1956.</p> <p>Photocopy of a photograph of a rabbit, encl. with letter, 28 Aug 1956.</p> <p>Letter containing draft and discussion of "The local snivels through the fields", 27 Sep 1956.</p> <p>1 bundle, 17 letters</p>	Jul-Sep 1956
U DX341/14	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including:</p> <p>Letter mentioning increasing commissions for jazz reviews, 25 Mar 1957.</p> <p>Letter mentioning May issue of The London Magazine, containing a contribution by Larkin to a section on 'The Writer in His Age', 9 Apr 1957.</p> <p>Letter mentioning invitation from Penelope Scott Stokes to attend meeting of the Writers' Circle of Chichester. Also mentioning George Hartley's plan to reissue Jill at the Marvell Press, 9 Nov 1957.</p> <p>1 bundle, 74 letters</p>	1957
U DX341/15	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including:</p> <p>Letters discussing editorship of the P.E.N. Club's New Poems 1958 with Bonamy Dobree and Louis MacNeice, 24 Feb, 6 Mar 1958.</p> <p>Letter and postcard discussing editorship of the P.E.N. Club's New Poems 1958 with Bonamy Dobree and Louis MacNeice, also relations with the Marvell Press, 27 Apr 1958.</p> <p>Letters discussing the composition of 'The Whitsun Weddings', 12 May, 16 Jun 29 Jul 1, 22 Sep, 8, 18 Oct 1958</p> <p>Letters mentioning George Hartley's plans to make a sound recording of Larkin reading from The Less Deceived, 7 Sep 1958.</p> <p>Letter with quotes from 'Gathering Wood' and some general comments on Larkin's early poetry, 22 Sep 1958.</p> <p>Letter mentioning correspondence with the Times Literary Supplement concerning the solicitation by libraries of manuscripts from writers, 29 Sep 1958.</p> <p>Letters mentioning the Marvell Press sound recording of Larkin reading from The Less Deceived, 7 Sep 1958.</p> <p>Letter discussing the writing of 'The Whitsun Weddings', 15 Nov 1958.</p> <p>1 bundle, 69 letters</p>	1958

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| U DX341/16 | Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including:
Letter with draft of 'Far Out' (markedly different to the published version), 11 Jan 1959.
Letter mentioning correspondence received upon publication of 'The Whitsun Weddings', 21 May 1959.
Letter mentioning that Louis MacNeice had told Larkin of the term 'The Movement', 19 Nov 1959
1 bundle, 74 letters | 1959 |
| U DX341/17 | Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including:
Letter discussing Larkin's experience of writer's block, 15 Aug 1960.
Letter discussing composition of 'A Study of Reading Habits', 22 Aug 1960.
Letter mentioning US publication of The Less Deceived, 11 Oct 1960.
1 bundle, 78 letters | 1960 |
| U DX341/18 | Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including:
Letter enclosing and discussing composition and reception of 'Naturally the Foundation will Bear Your Expenses' [enclosure not present], 11 Feb 1961.
Letter enclosing cutting of interview with Larkin from Hull student newspaper, Torchlight, 23 Feb 1961.
Letter discussing Larkin's diaries and his desire to see them destroyed, 11 Mar 1961.
Letter discussing reception of 'Naturally the Foundation will Bear Your Expenses', 11 Jun 1961
1 bundle, 104 letters | 1961 |
| U DX341/19 | Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including:
Letter mentioning Larkin's election to the Poetry Panel of the Arts Council and their first subsequent meeting, 13 Jan 1962.
Letter discussing revisions to 'Toads', 22 Nov. 1962.
1 bundle, 73 letters | 1962 |

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- U DX341/20 Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: 1963
- Letters mentioning Faber publishing Jill and further dealings with George Hartley and the Marvell Press, 13 Mar 1963.
Letter discussing preparation of The Whitsun Weddings for Faber, 13 Jun 1963.
Letter discussing contract terms with Faber, 3 Jul 1963.
Letter discussing Larkin's introduction to new Faber edition of Jill, 4 Aug 1963.
Letter discussing Larkin's introduction to new Faber edition of Jill, 31 Aug, 28 Oct. 1963.
Letter discussing time pressures resulting from Larkin's reviewing output, particularly for the Daily Telegraph, 17 Sept. 1963.
Postcard mentioning Larkin's formal welcome to the Faber list by T.S. Eliot at the publisher's London offices, [franked] 2 Oct. 1963.
1 bundle, 78 letters
- U DX341/21 Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: 1964
- Letter comparing The Less Deceived with The Whitsun Weddings, 4 Feb 1964.
Letters discussing reception of The Whitsun Weddings, 19 Feb 1964.
Letter discussing 'Broadcast', 27 Apr 1964.
Letter discussing 'An Arundel Tomb', 19 May 1964.
Letter discussing meeting of the National Manuscripts Collection of Contemporary Poets (NMCCP) committee, 22 May 1964.
Letter discussing sales figures and royalty settlements with Faber, 4 Nov 1964.
1 bundle, 110 letters

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U DX341/22	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letter enclosing TS draft of 'Laboratory Monkeys', 24 Feb 1965. Letters mentioning the Fortune Press's republishing of The North Ship, 13 May, 10 Jun 1965. Letter mentioning Faber readvertising The Whitsun Weddings on the strength of it being awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, 1965, 26 May 1965. Letter mentioning sales of Larkin's sound recording for the Marvell Press of The Less Deceived, 30 May 1965. Letter discussing Larkin's correspondence with the Times Literary Supplement on the subject of anthology fees, 17 Aug 1965. Letter discussing the process whereby The Whitsun Weddings was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, 1965, 14 Aug 1965. Letter mentioning correspondence with Oxford University Press concerning the editorship of the Oxford Book of Modern Verse [published as the Oxford Book of Twentieth-Century English Verse, 1973], 16 Nov. 1965. 1 bundle, 96 letters</p>	1965
U DX341/23	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letter discussing preparation of The North Ship for reissue by Faber, in light of the Fortune Press's reprinting of the same, 12 Jan 1966. Letters mentioning Larkin's acceptance of the editorship of the Oxford Book of Modern [later Twentieth-Century] Verse, 19 Jan 1966. Letter discussing the task of editing the Oxford Book of Modern [later Twentieth-Century] Verse, 4 Jun 1966 1 bundle, 52 letters</p>	Jan-Jun 1966
U DX341/24	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letter mentioning new edition of The Less Deceived, 3 Jul 1966. Letter reflecting on The North Ship on the event of its reissue, 6 Sep 1966. Postcard and letters commenting on the reception of The North Ship on the event of its reissue, [franked] 14, 15 Sep., 6 Oct 1966. 1 bundle, 62 letters</p>	Jun-Dec 1966
U DX341/25	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones Includes a letter containing draft and discussion of 'The Trees', 3 June 1967. 1 bundle, 40 letters</p>	Mar-Jul 1967

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U DX341/26	Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones 1 bundle, 30 letters	Aug-Dec 1967
U DX341/27	Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: 2 letters discussing 'Sad Steps', TS draft enclosed with second, 24, 28 Apr 1968. Letters discussing Larkin's feelings on being offered and then turning down an O.B.E., 1, 4, 7 May, 7 Jun 1968. Letter mentioning publication of 'The Trees' in the Times Literary Supplement, 18 May 1968. 1 bundle, 53 letters	Jan-Jun 1968
U DX341/28	Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letters discussing preparation of All What Jazz for publication, 28 Oct, 7, 16 Nov 1968. Letters mentioning Larkin's honorary doctorate from Queen's University, Belfast, 2, 5 Dec 1968, 9 Feb 1969. 1 bundle, 42 letters	Jul-Dec 1968
U DX341/29	Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letters discussing publication and reception of 'Homage to a Government', 12, 15, 21, 23, 23 Jan., 6 Feb 1969. Letter mentioning reception of Larkin's jazz reviews, 21 May 1969 Letter reflecting on the possibility of Larkin being offered the post of Poet Laureate in the future, 22 Jun 1969. Letters discussing preparation of All What Jazz for publication, 15 Aug 1969. Letter discussing the task of editing the Oxford Book of Modern [later Twentieth-Century] Verse, 26 Oct 1969. Letter enclosing photocopy of TS draft, 'Holiday', 3 Dec. 1969. 1 bundle, 89 letters	1969
U DX341/30	Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letters discussing and enclosing photocopy of TS draft, 'The Explosion', 6, 11 Jan 1970. Letter mentioning outstanding application for fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, 16 Apr. 1970. Letters discussing composition and publication by Encounter of 'Dublinesque' and 'The Card Players', 7, 11 Jun 1970. Letter discussing publication of 'The Explosion' by the Poem-of-the-Month Club, 14 Jun 1970. 1 bundle, 62 letters	Jan-Aug 1970

Hull History Centre: Photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones

U DX341/31	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letters and postcards written during the term of Larkin's visiting fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, 16 Sep 1970ff. Letters and postcards written during the term of Larkin's visiting fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, 4 Oct 1970-19 Mar 1971. Letter mentioning preparation of volume of poetry [later High Windows] for publication, 13 Nov 1970. 1 bundle, 36 letters</p>	Aug-Dec 1970
U DX341/32	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letters and a greetings card discussing the task of editing the Oxford Book of Modern [later Twentieth-Century] Verse, 14, 17 Jan, 5 May 1971. Letters discussing and enclosing TS draft of 'This Be The Verse', 14, 18 Apr 1971. Letters discussing the task of editing the Oxford Book of Modern [later Twentieth-Century] Verse, 7 Jul, 1, 22 Aug, 14 Nov 1971. Letters discussing and enclosing cutting of 'Cut Grass' as published in the Listener, 29 Jul, 1 Aug 1971. 1 bundle, 85 letters</p>	1971
U DX341/33	<p>Bundle of photocopied letters from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones including: Letter in which Larkin reflects upon his own poetic style, 23 Jan 1972. Postcard mentioning preparation of volume of poetry [later High Windows] for publication, 12 Jun 1972. Letter discussing the task of editing the Oxford Book of Modern [later Twentieth-Century] Verse, 14 Jan 1973. Postcard with draft of 'Long Lion Days', [franked] 22 Jul 1982. 1 bundle, 103 letters</p>	1972-1984