

U DX419 **Records of Pamela Hanley** **1963-2005**
(formerly Kitson, nee Fogwell) relating to Philip Larkin

Accession number: 2023/13

Biographical Background: Pamela Fogwell was born in April 1929. She married Norman Kitson in 1950, they divorced in 1972, and she subsequently married Hugh Hanley in 1974. Pamela and Hugh began their married life at The Gables, Burcott Lane, Berton nr Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, where they lived until 1987, when they moved to Princes Road, Aylesbury. Between 1947-1948, Pamela worked as a library assistant at University College Leicester, under Larkin's supervision. Her memoir of working with him 'Huddled Teabreaks in the Cupboard' was published in 'About Larkin' No.4 (Oct 1997), the newsletter of the Philip Larkin Society. In 1948 she left this job to enter full time education, losing touch with Larkin until she wrote to him years later in October 1963. There followed an intermittent correspondence until Larkin's death in 1985, and they met on at least one occasion. Pamela sometimes sent Larkin unpublished poems of her own asking for advice which he gave. Pamela died in May 2008, aged 79, and was survived by her husband Hugh Hanley.

Custodial history: Sent to Pamela Hanley during her lifetime, kept by her husband following her death, deposited by her husband's Power of Attorney in Oct 2023.

Description: This small collection contains letters received by Pamela Hanley as a result of her connection to Philip Larkin. Correspondents are as follows: Philip Larkin (9 letters), Maeve Brennan (1 letter), Jean Hartley (3 letters), Mary Kelly (1 letter), Andrew Motion (1 letter), Alice, Ann and Anthony Thwaite (6 letters), Brian Dyson (3 letters), James Booth (2 letters). Collection also contains a copy letter from Hanley to James Booth enclosing an article written by Hanley titled 'Personal Postscript to Lucky Jim Country - Leicester', a photograph album documenting a Larkin exhibition at the Brynmor Jones Library, and a brochure for the 1992 Hull Literature Festival.

Arrangement Collection arranged according to the order it was received by Hull University Archives, that is as files of letters sorted by writer.

Extent: 0.016 linear metres

Related material:

- U DPL3/1/23/11 - Letters from Pamela to Philip Larkin, 7 Oct 1963 and 31 Jul 1976 (2 items)
- U DPL2/2/25/51 - Letter from Pamela to Philip Larkin, 29 Jul 1985 (1 item)
- U DPL3/5/4 - Photograph of Pamela and Hugh Hanley, originally enclosed with a letter dated 31 Jul 1976 (see above) (1 item)

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Copyright: Literary Executors of Philip Larkin and various

Language: English

U DX419/1 Letters from Philip Larkin to Pamela Hanley 9 Oct 1963-
1 file (pieces) 15 Aug 1985
File contains the following letters:

1. Letter from Philip Larkin, Pearson Park, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 9 Oct 1963. Includes reference to knowing he was 'lazy & incompetant' in his Leicester days and 'talked too much too, I expect', Molly, Joanne and Barker still being at Leicester, Miss Bennett having retired, publishing another collection of poems next year 'more depressed & ferocious', invite to look in at the library if Hanley comes to Hull.

2. Letter from Philip Larkin, Pearson Park, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 12 Mar 1965. Includes reference to poems written by Hanley and his comments on the same, his opinion of what a poem should be, request that she not mention his name if she sends her poem to a publisher, comment on marriage that 'I think of it as a marvellous thing for other people, like going to the take', would be nice to see Hanley if she is passing by Hull.

3. Letter from Philip Larkin, Pearson Park, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 2 Nov 1965. Includes reference to having written to Dr Michaelis, congratulations on Hanley getting a job, comments on universities getting 'bigger & busier' and 'writing is very far away & has been for the last year or two', working on a jazz piece for the Daily Telegraph, request that Hanley writes again when 'the spirit moves' her, his love of 'the Beatles one' of her poems.

4. Postcard from Philip Larkin, University of Hull Library, to Pamela Hanley, 9 Nov 1968. Includes reference to being just back from a long weekend, confirmation that he will be glad to see her on 16 November.

5. Letter from Philip Larkin, Pearson Park, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 16 Jun 1970. Includes reference to Hanley having sent Larkin some Beckett novels and his opinion of the man as playwright and novelist, six months to be spent at All Souls to finish off the Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse, completion of the new library extension [at Hull], Larkin to receive an honorary doctorate from Leicester, having seen Maurice Ballard in Loughborough recently, having a new second hand car.

6. Letter from Philip Larkin, All Souls College, Oxford, to Pamela Hanley, 1 Nov 1970. Includes reference to Oxford and 'the old boy knitwork', comments on All Souls, finds his fellow boarders 'too old or too young or too argumentative or something', experiencing confusion over what to include in the Oxford Book of Twentieth Century Verse, comments on Hanley's latest poems, if he ever publishes another collection 'it will be called Contented Grunts from a Gilt Edged Trough', Leicester being changed from when they lived there.

7. Letter from Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 13 Aug 1974. Includes reference to having moved house, 'HW' [High Windows] sold out in three weeks, suggestion that Hanley consider submitting work to 'Woman'.

8. Letter from Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 22 Jan 1985. Includes reference to St Mary's Aylesbury, illness of Monica Jones and her having moved in with him, he is hardly working now but relies on his deputies, glad to have escaped the Laureateship, discussion of lecterns, hasn't been to Finstock since the funeral, loathing the dark cold winter.

9. Letter from Philip Larkin, Newland Park, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 15 Aug 1985. Includes reference to convalescing at home, slowly recovering, feels as though he has 'taken a long step into old age', May Sinclair and an admission that he has never read her books, thanks for Hanley's sympathetic remark about 'Aubade'.

U DX419/2

Letters from Jean Hartley to Pamela Hanley
1 file (3 pieces)
File contains the following letters:

28 Dec 1989-
2 Sep 1997

1. Letter from Jean Hartley, Victoria Avenue, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 28 Dec 1989. Includes reference to card received from Hanley, Monica [Jones] not coping very well, Hartley missing Larkin for his 'beatific smile and ready wit'.

2. Letter from Jean Hartley, Victoria Avenue, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 17 Aug 1997. Includes reference to having seen Hanley and her husband, having just read Hanley's piece on Larkin in Leicester and comments on the same, request that Hanley elaborate on the last sentence in her article.

3. Letter from Jean Hartley, Victoria Avenue, Hull, to Pamela Hanley, 2 Sep 1997. Includes reference to letter and photographs received from Hanley, an encounter between Hartley and Judy Egerton, comment that 'women always brought out the best side of him [Larkin]'.

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| U DX419/3 | <p>Letter from Maeve [Brennan], Cottingham, to Pamela Hanley
Includes reference to Brennan feeling no resentment towards Monica [Jones] and the two not seeing each other, Larkin shunning company as his deafness increased, Brennan's characterisation of Larkin as 'so diffident by nature', agreement that Monica Jones, of all Larkin's close female friends, was the most essential to him, Brennan's opinion that each of Larkin's female friends 'responded to different needs in his make-up', hopes to see Win [Winifred Dawson] at a birthday walk in Oxford and Ruth [Bowman] on Monday, hopes Hanley will attend the [Philip Larkin Society] AGM in December, comment that 'Knowing Philip [Larkin] has brought me many friends and acquaintances. My relationship with him was, and still is, very enriching and rewarding'.
1 item</p> | 11 Aug 2000 |
| U DX419/4 | <p>Letter from Mary Kelly, Belfast, to Pamela Hanley
Includes reference to Hanley having sent photographs of a 'most enjoyable Coventry day', hopes that she will meet Hanley and her husband again at another Philip Larkin Society event, cannot make the Brynmor Jones Library event in October but would 'be a bit of a busman's holiday'.
1 item</p> | 30 Sep 1997 |
| U DX419/5 | <p>Letter from Andrew Motion, Anson Road, London, to Pamela Hanley
Includes reference to Motion having read Hanley's poems, opinion on the same, suggestion that she experiment with 'ways of letting your imagination ride on a looser rein - sometimes', good luck wishes.
1 item</p> | 29 Aug 2000 |
| U DX419/6 | <p>Letters from Alice, Ann and Anthony Thwaite to Pamela Hanley
1 file (6 pieces)
File contains the following letters:</p> <p>1. Letter from Alice, daughter of Ann and Anthony Thwaite, to Pamela Hanley, c.1985. Includes reference to Ann and Anthony Thwaite living in Japan for a year, Philip [Larkin] being in hospital but being up and about.</p> | 2 Jun 1986-
20 Oct 1992 |

2. Letter from Ann Thwaite, The Mill House, Low Tharston, to Pamela Hanley, 2 Jun 1986. Includes reference to Edmund Goose and The Camerthan Papers [books written by Ann], Larkin's interest in the first and praise of the second, reminiscences of Larkin written by Hanley, it being Monica's [Jones] decision as to who writes a biography of Larkin's life, Anthony writing 'collected poems' and 'selected letters', Monica Jones being trustee, literary executor and chief beneficiary of Larkin's estate, Anthony will be interested in any letters from Larkin to Hanley, missing 'Philip very much indeed', Anthony having been out of the country during the whole of Larkin's final illness.

3. Letter from Ann Thwaite, The Mill House, Low Tharston, to Pamela Hanley, 9 Jun 1986. Includes reference to Hanley having sent copies of Larkin's letters, an exhibition that Hanley will be attending, Ann will be interested to read Hanley's reminiscences of working with Larkin.

4. Letter from Anthony Thwaite, The Mill House, Low Tharston, to Pamela Hanley, 16 Jul 1986. Includes reference to Hanley having sent her memoir of Larkin and copies of his letters to her, thanks 'collected poems' being held up by George Hartley of the Marvell Press, Andrew Motion to write Larkin's biography, request that he might keep hold of the letters and memoir and that he will consult her before doing anything with them.

5. Letter from Anthony Thwaite, The Mill House, Low Tharston, to Pamela Hanley, 8 Mar 1991. Includes reference to 'selected letters' taking longer to complete but having a deadline from Faber & Faber of end April 1991, requests a brief biography from Hanley, will use letters to her dated 12 Mar 1965, 1 Nov 1970 and 16 Jun 1970, notes that 'P's letters to Kingsley are quite extraordinary - some people are going to be shocked'.

6. Letter from Anthony Thwaite, The Mill House, Low Tharston, to Pamela Hanley, 20 Oct 1992. Includes reference to Hanley's first impressions of the book ['selected letters'] being good, a typographical error on p.433, some reviews having already been printed, some people being shocked, Anthony's opinion that the letters 'show what a marvellously funny, entertaining, phrase-making writer Philip was, however miserable he was'.

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- U DX419/7 Letters from Brian Dyson to Pamela Hanley 5 Aug 1992-
1 file (3 pieces) 10 Nov 1992
File contains the following letters:
1. Typescript signed letter from Brian Dyson, University of Hull Archivist, to Pamela Hanley, The Gables, 96 Burcott Lane, Bierton nr Aylesbury, 5 Aug 1992. Includes reference to Anthony Thwaite's forthcoming edition of Larkin letters, request for permission to retain letters from Larkin to Hanley, copied by Thwaite, as part of the University Archives.
 2. Typescript signed letter from Brian Dyson, University of Hull Archivist, to Pamela Hanley, Rivendell, 6 Princes Road, Aylesbury, 14 Aug 1992. Includes reference to permission having been granted by Hanley for copied of letters from Larkin to herself to be retained by Hull University Archives.
 3. Typescript signed letter from Brian Dyson, University of Hull Archivist, to Pamela Hanley, Rivendell, 6 Princes Road, Aylesbury, 10 Nov 1992. Includes reference to Hanley and her husband having travelled to Hull for an exhibition of Larkin letters.
- U DX419/8 Correspondence of Pamela Hanley and Professor James Booth 21 Nov 1992-
1 file (3 pieces) 30 Jan 2005
File contains the following letters:
1. Typescript signed letter from James Booth, Department of English at the University of Hull, to Pamela Hanley, Rivendell, 6 Princes Road, Aylesbury, 21 Nov 1992. Includes references to 'Letters launch', comments on *A Girl in Winter* and Larkin's ability as a novelist, fascism of D.H. Lawrence, next project by Booth to be on the seventeenth century libertine Rochester.
 2. Typescript signed letter from James Booth, of the Philip Larkin Society, to Pamela Hanley, Rivendell, 6 Princes Road, Aylesbury, 21 Sep 2000.
Includes references to Hanley having sent Booth a copy of her poem 'Where the Old Fools Are' for consideration for inclusion in 'About Larkin', recollection of having met Hanley at the launch of 'Selected Letters' in the University Library, a piece written by Hanley for *About Larkin* No.4, request that Hanley might look at and comment on an unfinished story by Larkin, written whilst in Leicester, titled 'Augusta Bax', Larkin's bookplate, opinion that Larkin should have read Beckett's novels as they would have been 'really right up his street'.

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3. Typescript copy letter from Pamela Hanley to James Booth, of the Philip Larkin Society, 30 Jan 2005. Includes reference to having received a phone call from Booth, enclosure of an article for 'About Larkin', enjoyment at reading Anne Fine piece, having missed attending Larkin Society events due to deafness, an Inaugural Lecture to be given by Booth. Note the enclosure of a typescript article titled 'A Personal Postscript to Lucky Jim Country - Leicester'.

- U DX419/9 Photograph album labelled 'Larkin Exhibition' Jun 1986
Compiled by Pamela Hanley and documenting an exhibition about Philip Larkin held at the Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull, Jun 1986.
Includes photographs of people attending a launch for the exhibition, exhibition panels, 105 Newland Park, Cottingham church, Hugh Hanley tending Larkin's grave. Also includes manuscript transcriptions of letters from Larkin to Douglas Dunn, 5 Aug 1986, and to Gavin Ewart, 26 Jul 1985.
Note that for preservation reasons, the photographs and transcripts have been removed from the original album cover (A5, cream with repeated navy fleur de lis pattern), which has been disposed of having suffered severe damage and yellowing from cigarette smoke.
1 file (15 pieces)
- U DX419/10 Brochure for Hull Literature Festival 1992 1992
Festival held 9-15 Nov 1992, theme 'From Marvell to Larkin and Beyond'.
1 item