

1 November 2001

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Philip Larkin: Further
Requirements -
edited by
Anthony Thwaite
(Faber and Faber)

6 May 2002

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Philip Larkin: Trouble
at Willow Gables
and other fictions -
edited by
James Booth
(Faber and Faber)

11 June 2003

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Maeve Brennan dies
(aged 73)

2 December 2010

—

Philip Larkin Statue
unveiled at Hull

Paragon - created by
Martin Jennings

1 October 2010

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Philip Larkin: Letters
to Monica - edited
by Anthony Thwaite
(Faber and Faber)

18 July 2011

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Jean Hartley dies
(aged 78)

19 January 2012

—

The Complete
Poems of Philip
Larkin - edited by
Archie Burnett
(Faber and Faber)

28 August 2014

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Philip Larkin: Life,
Art and Love James
Booth (Bloomsbury)

2 December 2016

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Philip Larkin's
memorial stone
unveiled in
Poets' Corner,
Westminster Abbey

I've lived in the same
small flat, washing
in the sink and
not having central
heating or double
glazing or fitted
carpets or the other
things everyone has

I haven't any biblical things such as wife, children, house, land, cattle, sheep etc.

I pulled myself
together enough to
hear 'The Archers',
but felt cheated that
there wasn't any
cricket to listen to

It's delightful to doze
when the wireless is
on, it becomes a sort
of hallucination, part
of one's dreams

Waiting for the
bathroom to be free,
hearing muted jazz
from France on
my small ugly
rented radio

...as a suit it radiates
trust, goodwill, and
responsibility

I shall have to
grow a moustache
and take to a pipe,
an "old briar"

Have no fear: never
while the world
stands shall I grow
a moustache

I was telling mother
about your spring
clothes, and found
that she'd never
seen or heard of
your pop-beads.
Only with difficulty
did I dissuade her
from determining to
buy some

God! Is there no
escape anywhere?
How do people think
poetry gets written?

God damn!

The wireless really
has come on now
– some foul play,
played with that
noxious melodrama
that only English
radio broadcasting
can achieve

I use my Dan Archer
cup every morning:
first I fill it with water,
tip the water into the
kettle, and so make
exactly enough

I have resumed my
life here in a low gear
- bacon, eggs, the
Archers - but am not
cheered by the faces
around me

I'm listening to Mrs
Dale's Diary, and
thinking how inferior
it is to the Archers.
Horrible indulgent
upper-class voices
mouthing creme
des cliches

Am greatly looking
forward to The
Archers tomorrow!
Isn't all the intended
horseplay curious?
Is that what people
do? I can't think how
they'll get the whole
thing into 15 minutes

I am getting sick
of all this kissing
on The Archers, it
doesn't go at all well
on sound radio

I lay in bed
listening to the
omnibus Archers -
how dull it is!
Wish I could have
the writing of it for
a week

For sheer interfering
nosey-parkering, the
A's take the biscuit
- nosey-archering it
ought to be called

What I don't like
about P. is his
commonness -
he has a common
sort of voice, and his
facetiousness always
grates on me

I say, keep me posted about Carol Grey and Philip Archer, won't you? I'm losing touch.

I can quite see that the news of Christine's engagement has been the cause of it - since she can't get the sister, she - subconsciously if you like - turns to the brother. (The same thing happens in Brideshead in reverse, if you remember)...

You won't be hearing
The Archers just now:
there was a poignant
scene tonight when
Christine taxed Carol
with "being in love",
and of course Carol
couldn't say what her
real feelings were

I felt a faint glow of
comfort last night -
at least I wasn't at
The Archers' party.

There is always
a worse

Sometimes there
clings about your
letters a faint
redolence of perfume
– whether from your
hand or from the
place you keep your
notepaper I do not
know. If there's a
faint redolence about
this one, it'll be of an
orange I have
just eaten

My trousers seem
to have been made
for a much bigger
creature – probably
an elephant

Breakfast this morning was good – the best I've had for a long time.

Grapefruit, kippers, china tea, a comb of honey, Oxford marmalade, bramble jam and currant jelly

I staggered away
from the table,
dreading my next
encounter with the
scales. I'm sure
I shall be
frightfully heavy!

An autumn of
starvation for
this creature!

I said afterwards that
it reminded me of a
parade of the 70,000
Deadly Sins

Take a standard football crowd (soccer), cut a fringed orange antimacassar in two and hang one round the neck of each man: give him large false orange cuffs & white gloves to emphasise the tawdry ugliness of his blue Sunday suit, and clap a bowler hat on his head – then you have a Lodger ready for marching

There is something
very fine about the
notepaper you use –
fibrous and yet
pearl-smooth,
delightful to touch

She thinks she'll buy
a lemon twin set for
the summer

Cream brocade
sounds elegant

Tell Monica I like
my new skirt very
much. I think it
wonderful that it
does not crease, and
is washable

I was interested to hear that she had ordered a new dress in London. Is it for evening wear?

I also bought a tie
and a pair of socks.

This goes rather
contrary to my
principle of never
buying at sales!

There were some
very pretty silk ones,
but I don't really
need a silk one

I have been to the
hairdresser's this
afternoon and am
now all curled up
about the head

I have been making a spray of artificial violets and purple anemones to wear on an ancient dress. I don't suppose you can recall it. The navy one with a silver stripe in it and ornamented with diamante buckles. It is to be informal dress, so I hope I shall not look too pre-war

Kitty came over on Saturday whilst Walter went to London. She came in her new winter coat and hat. The coat looked very nice, she bought the material in London when they were there some time in the summer. (only 6 3/- per yd!!). It is a subdued mustard colour and she wears it with a black dress and a smart black hat

She also had her hair
done in a new way.
The latest Paris style.
I wonder if you have
seen this fashion?

I liked it immensely.
It is taken right back
from the forehead
and then formed into
a roll right round the
head – something
like a halo – only
rolled – and finished
off with a band of
black ribbon

Kitty is sporting a new pale pink hat for the occasion, and will look very nice in her Swiss embroidered grey, it's a lovely shade of grey two-piece, with grey gloves and pale pink necklace