

Philip Larkin (1922-85)

classmate

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Philip Larkin

Philip Larkin is the most significant poet to emerge in 1950's. His writing is the repudiation of the obscure and cerebral verse of T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound and W. H. Auden. He himself writes in an article to Daily Telegraph - "I dislike such things because they are irresponsible exploitation of technique in contradiction of human life as we know it." The North Ship (1945) his first collection of poems, mostly of love poems bears significant traces of Yeatsian influences, because Larkin was considerably influenced by Yeats' poetry. But soon after, he shifted his allegiance to Hardy who remained the greatest source of inspiration in his work. The next important collection of his poem is "The Less Deceived" (1955). His poems also appeared in "New Lines" (1956), "Robert Conquests" anthology of significant new verse of the fifties. And the next volume appeared in 1964 entitled "The Whitsun Weddings" and the latest book of his poems, "High Windows" was published in 1974. Professionally a librarian at the Borman's James Library of the University of Hull. Larkin attempted two sig-

significant and sensitive novels also. They are *Jill* (1946) and *A Girl in Winter* (1947).

IV The most important of the movements' poets who sought to resuscitate in English poetry the virtues of intelligence and intelligibility. Larkin in his poems presents himself in the role of a sceptical, astringent observer of contemporary life. His verse is noteworthy for its virtues of lyrical consciousness, its sensibility, sensitivity, honesty, clarity and bold imagery.