A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE
OF THE
J. A. BAKER ARCHIVE
IN
THE ALBERT SLOMAN LIBRARY SPECIAL
COLLECTIONS
AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

BY
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INTRODUCTION

Biographical History

John Alec (J.A.) Baker (1926-1986), writer, was born in Essex and educated at King Edward VI Grammar School (KEGS) in Chelmsford. He grew up an only child in Chelmsford with his parents, Wilfred Samuel and Pansy K. Baker. Chelmsford would remain his home for much of the rest of his life, and it was in walking and cycling the surrounding Essex countryside that his passion for wildlife first flourished. Baker’s father Wilfred worked as a draughtsman, and was also a borough councillor and later made Mayor of Chelmsford in 1964.

While many of his school friends joined the British forces when they came of age in 1943, Baker’s myopia and history of ill-health prevented him from signing up. Instead, he was employed in a variety of jobs during his late teens and early twenties. These included working as an assistant at Oxford University Press; a trainee librarian at the British Museum Library; local employment as a ‘timber boy’ felling trees and pruning orchards; and a brief unsuccessful spell in teacher training college, before joining the Chelmsford branch of the Automobile Association (AA) in or around 1951. It was about that time too that he met Doreen Grace Coe (d. 2006), who also worked at the AA. They were married at the London Road Congregational Church in Chelmsford on the 6th October 1956.

Since his teenage years at school Baker had been a voracious reader and harboured a desire to be a great writer. He tried his hand at poetry (none of which was ever published) and short stories, one of which, titled ‘Always at Torquay’, appeared in a magazine in October 1950. It was not, however, until later in the 1960s that he would give up his job at the AA and commit to writing full time. During this period he wrote his first and most critically acclaimed work, The Peregrine, which was published by Collins in 1967. Baker had, in his own words, come ‘late to the love of birds’1, but this passion once found, as well as his love of the Essex landscape, was intense and life-long. In writing The Peregrine Baker drew on the detailed birdwatching diaries that he had made over more than a decade. It was the richness and poetry of these natural details that drew many critics to recognise The Peregrine as a masterpiece, and in 1967 it was awarded the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize and The Yorkshire Post’s literary prize for best work of that year. A second book, The Hill of Summer followed in 1969, but, though it was much reviewed, its reception was

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more lukewarm than that of *The Peregrine*, with which it was unfavourably compared, and it was generally seen as the inferior of his two works. J. A. Baker died in Chelmsford on Boxing Day in 1986.

**Archival History & Contents**

In recent times Baker’s works, and *The Peregrine* in particular, have undergone a resurgence in popularity: in the words of the author and naturalist Mark Cocker, ‘Today it [*The Peregrine*] is viewed by many as the gold standard for all nature writing.’ In 2010 a new edition of J. A. Baker’s works was published, comprising of *The Peregrine, The Hill of Summer* and a selection of previously unseen diary entries written by Baker during his birdwatching excursions of the mid-1950s onwards. These diaries were edited by ornithologist and conservationist, John Fanshawe, and the new edition included introductions from both him and Mark Cocker. The original diaries were given to David Cobham, the renowned film and television director and producer; by J.A. Baker’s widow, the late Doreen Coe, and formed part of an archive of material Fanshawe amassed from several other sources including: Bernard Coe, brother-in-law to Baker; and various of Baker’s friends and professional acquaintances, including his school contemporaries Donald (or Don) Samuel and John Thurmer, the Cornish peregrine specialist Dick (R.B.) Treleaven, and Baker’s editor at Collins Publishers, Michael Walters. It was through the generosity of Bernard Coe and John Fanshawe that the collection was given permanently to the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex in 2013, since when it has been held as one of its Special Collections.

The J. A. Baker Archive contains original literary works, correspondence, published and unpublished items and other working papers created by or belonging to J. A. Baker, including juvenilia and material related to his two works *The Peregrine* and *The Hill of Summer*. The archive covers Baker’s literary and non-literary output, including his articles for the *Essex Bird Report* and RSPB *Birds* magazine. There are complete and partial drafts of both *The Peregrine* and *The Hill of Summer* as well as copies of typescripts for a variety of other earlier poetry and short prose works. Baker’s ornithological diaries are present in the archive, as too are his optics and annotated maps used for birdwatching. Some of the diaries as well as the drafts show significant absences – pages or sections missing, which Baker reputedly removed during writing. His diaries and maps reveal details of Baker’s peregrine ‘hunting-grounds,’ based mostly to the east of Chelmsford and

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focussed especially around the Chelmer Valley, the Blackwater estuary, and the villages of Little Baddow, Danbury and Goldhangar.

A large proportion of the collection is made up of Baker’s correspondence. There are 33 letters sent by Baker as a young man to school friend Don Samuel and 16 to another school acquaintance, John Thurmer. Later correspondence includes applications for arts grants and details concerning Baker’s Social Security papers. In addition to these, the collection contains fan mail for *The Peregrine* and *The Hill of Summer* and the correspondence Baker held with other bird enthusiasts including the ornithologist Richard Treleaven.

The archive is a resource for the publishing history of his writing, containing not only correspondence with publishers but also annotated proofs. In addition the archive reveals direct evidence of Baker’s creative process and his literary interest, including as it does his miscellaneous notes relating to his writing and reading. His interests in nature and environmental conservation are represented in the collections of press-cuttings amassed by Baker, cuttings that also include the contemporary critical and popular receptions to Baker’s work.

A section of posthumous material, collected by John Fanshawe reveals insights into Baker as a person and into his legacy as a writer. It contains memories of Baker given by his family, friends and colleagues, photographs taken posthumously of Baker’s library, and copies of published and unpublished works by other authors that are based on Baker’s writing.

**System of Arrangement**

When I first came to it the J. A. Baker Archive, was housed in two fifty-litre plastic clip-lock boxes; and had been maintained in the general groupings in which John Fanshawe had received them from the original sources. The materials have now been organised into archive containers more appropriate for their long-term protection. It was not possible to retain all of the original groupings of material in all cases and arrive at a rational arrangement and chronology, as often a single folder or file would be stuffed with all manner of things that made more sense when separated. I have, therefore, arranged the items into sections; these sections have been ordered alphabetically by type, excepting the grouping titled ‘Posthumous Material’, which has been placed as the final section in the catalogue, a position I felt was more logical.
Within each section the material has been arranged chronologically – or as close as can be managed given that some items are undated – according to an item’s earliest date (for example, a diary with entries dating 1956-1962 would be placed before a diary with entries dating 1958-1960). Where a section contains sub-sections these are titled according to type (for example the section ‘Published Material by J. A. Baker’ contains the sub-sections ‘Magazine Publications’, ‘Manuscripts’ and ‘Proof Copies’) and are also arranged chronologically according to the earliest date both within their internal series of items and as a group (this does unfortunately mean sub-sections often have overlapping spans of dates; however, their titles should provide coherent direction as these often also happen to fall into alphabetical order by type, as with the example above). Where items have been separated from their original grouping I have indicated this in the item description. The systematic placing of several items was problematic since there were some related groups that cover a span of years as well as items that were hard to accurately date (for example, some of what I have titled ‘Ornithological Correspondence’ begin in a similar vein to what I have titled ‘Fan Mail’; however, the distinction is that the former is characterised by series of longer letters from the same correspondents that, though they may contain praise of Baker’s writing, further include specific details and news of birdwatching, particularly that of peregrines). Numbers begin afresh with ‘1’ in each section (e.g. A1, A2, etc., B1, B2, etc.) to allow for the placing of any possible new acquisitions.

Otherwise I have catalogued the materials according to the guidelines outlined by the International Council on Archives (ICA) General International Standard Archival Description3 and provided by the Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts (GLAM) Guidelines for Cataloguing Literary Archives and Manuscripts4, to provide the ‘minimum number of elements which is considered essential for international exchange of descriptive information.’5

The names of donors are given where they are known, but unless otherwise stated, all papers were received from Bernard Coe, brother-in-law of J. A. Baker. Much of this information on donors has come from the original deposition notes provided by John Fanshawe when the collection was gifted to the University of Essex in 2013 (see item L11).

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5 See above, p. 7.
The names of those who sent correspondence to Baker I have given as accurately as possible from the signatures or addresses provided in most letters, though where these or the addresses are of uncertain legibility I have prefaced them with a question mark in square brackets. As this archive contains relatively recent material and it is unknown whether or not those who wrote to Baker are still living, I have, in the interest of preserving personal information, retained only the town and county in the address details of correspondence sent from private individuals.

All sizes are height or length by width. Where a date or origin is inferred I have indicated this in square brackets, e.g. ‘[? 1947]’, ‘[c 1966]’. Where material is undated I have indicated this with the abbreviation ‘n.d.’ (i.e. no date), e.g. ‘n.d. [? 1950s]’. In descriptions of the manuscripts I give the number of pages or leaves in square brackets where there is no original numbering. Baker numbered the pages of most of his manuscripts, but where this numbering is inconsistent with the collation I have indicated the collation in square brackets, followed in round brackets by Baker’s original numbering and details of any pages that are missing or that have been excised but are remaining.

For printed books and published articles I have recorded as full a bibliographic reference as possible using MHRA style guidelines. Where the details are unknown I have indicated this in square brackets (e.g. ‘[author unknown]’ or ‘[publication unknown]’), and where there is a collection of items with multiple known and/or unknown places of publication or authors I have recorded this as ‘various’ in square brackets.

In the descriptions of materials I have used the term ‘holograph(s)’ to indicate manuscripts handwritten by the person responsible for the work contained therein; and ‘ms.’ for all other handwritten manuscripts or handwritten elements present therein. I have also indicated in the section or item descriptions where material is in a photocopied form, and, using the term ‘printout(s)’, where material has been printed by computer.

In the content notes to the items I have abbreviated J. A. Baker to ‘JAB’, as well as ‘Donald Samuel’ to DS and John Thurmer to ‘JT’.

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The J. A. Baker Archive is the most important source of material from and relating to Baker that we have. As a man and a writer, he has long been elusive – next to nothing was known about his personal life until the 2010 publication of his diaries. The long-term popularity of his writing, however, is strikingly evident, both for the vividness of his language and for the message at its centre: though both Baker’s published works are tied in time to the birth of the ecological movement of the 1960s, his themes resonate strongly with the environmental concerns of today. His own unique brand of fierce, poetic nature writing has been a touchstone for many twenty-first-century writers and naturalists, from Kathleen Jamie to Werner Herzog. It is to be hoped that the collection will remain where it belongs, in Baker’s home county of Essex, a source for the growing number of Baker scholars and admirers. I also hope that this descriptive catalogue goes some way to fulfilling the wish expressed by John Fanshawe, to ‘in the longer term … establish an archive of these papers’ as part of ‘a process that has already, and will, we hope, continue to reveal insights into the author’s life and influences.’

**Conditions, Access & Citation**

The collection is open to any accredited reader. Copyright of items produced by J. A. Baker belongs to the Baker Estate, or to the publisher in the case of published material; permission must be sought from the Albert Sloman Library Special Collections as well as from the copyright holder (where known) for reproducing material. The country and repository code for the Albert Sloman Library is ‘GB 301’ and should be included when citing the reference codes of sections or items in order to identify the archive institution at which the material is held. For further information concerning copyright please contact the Albert Sloman Library Special Collections.

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Bibliography

Publications concerning J. A. Baker referenced in this catalogue:


Other available publications concerning J. A. Baker:

A CORRESPONDENCE OF J. A. BAKER

Arranged into series by type or individual correspondent where appropriate, and then chronologically by letter.

A1 Letters to Donald Samuel in Baker’s Hand, 1944-1947

This series consists of 33 letters written by JAB to Donald Samuel (b. 1926 d. ?), a school friend from Baker’s year at King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford. Samuel’s family lived on Writtle Road in Chelmsford, Essex (UK), a short walk from Baker’s parents’ house on Finchley Avenue. Baker generally addresses his friend as ‘Sam’, and signs off with his own school nickname ‘Doughy.’ These letters were sent to DS during his time in the Royal Navy on his postings abroad (no envelopes remain, however, so their exact destinations are often unclear). All of the items listed below were contained in a brown envelope (223mm x 318mm) with the manuscript title ‘Don Samuel’s letters from JA Baker Aug 1944 to Jan 1947’ [? in John Fanshawe’s hand] (n.d. [c. 2010]).

A1.1 Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, [? August] 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford. Various sizes. [20] pp. (pages numbered: [i-xii], 1-5, 8 on verso, 6-7). 6 unnumbered sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides (193mm x 158mm) AND 4 numbered sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides (various sizes).


A1.2 Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 30 August 1944, 1 Pleasant Street, Craigy-don, Llandudno, North Wales. 202mm x 126mm. [4] pp. 2 sheets of white notepaper written on both sides.

Details of JAB’s holiday in Llandudno, during which he writes that he enjoyed re-reading The Pickwick Papers.

A1.3 Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Dear beloved colleague’, 7 August 1945, “Poet’s Corner”, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford. 171mm x 111mm. 35 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 18 sheets of white notepaper written on both sides.

A comic skit; news from friends and family in Essex; details of a trip to London taken by JAB and mutual friend Edward (Ted) Dennis.

A1.4  Holograph letter signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 19 September 1945, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

202mm x 124mm. 64 pp. 32 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides.

Details on JAB’s reading (in 13 weeks, he says, he has read 57 books of every type, length, and quality) and on his search for a job; recommendations of books and authors for DS; and news from Essex.

A1.5  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 8 December 1945, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

177mm x 127mm. [4] pp. 2 sheets of white notepaper written on both sides.

Christmas greetings to DS from home, and good wishes for DS’s New Year abroad.

A1.6  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 19 January 1946, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

187mm x 112mm. 22 pp. (+ 14 blank on verso) (pages 15-18 have been written on the verso but starting from the reverse end, so numbered 22-19 respectively on verso). 18 sheets of lined notepaper written on one or both sides.

Thanking DS for his letter about Port Said and sea-sickness; JAB gives news of their mutual friends, including John Thurmer, and of DS’s family; JAB wishes DS a happy new year and hopes that he has had an enjoyable Christmas in the tropics. There are more details on JAB’s applications for jobs, and on the progress of his writing and the reading he has undertaken – books, he writes, are a subject about which ‘I am like Tennyson’s brook – dribbling on for ever’ (pp. 16-17).

A1.7  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doh-i’ to ‘Sam’, January 1946, ‘The Lune Attic, Much Raving, Near Feather Bed Lam’ [20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford].

181mm x 114mm. 12 pp. 6 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides.

Some comic sketches and birthday wishes for DS. JAB gives details about his reading and writing and on his forthcoming interview for a job at the British Museum Library.

A1.8  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughi’ to ‘Sam’, 17 February 1946, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

186mm x 114mm. 16 pp. 8 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides.

In reply to DS’s letter concerning his stay in Australia and Tasmania; JAB writes about his interview at the British Museum Library and subsequent employment; several draft poems by JAB.

A1.9  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doh I’ to ‘Sam’, 17 March 1946, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

160mm x 131mm. 27 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 14 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

Some comic sketches; news of friends and family in Essex; JAB’s opinions on certain writers and on modern poetry; details of his employment at the British Museum.

160mm x 131mm. 23 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 12 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

A reply to DS’s letter about Australia, with some details of JAB’s current reading and a description of Essex in the springtime, as requested by DS.

A1.11  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 25 April 1946, *20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.*

160mm x 131mm. 11 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 6 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

JAB thanks DS for the criticisms of his own poetry, and devotes the rest of his letter to discussions of other writers and poets.

A1.12  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 5 May 1946, *20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.*

160mm x 131mm. 26 pp. 13 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

JAB advises DS on future careers; notes on JAB’s current reading and writing, including on the ‘ultra-modern poet Dylan Thomas’ whom JAB finds ‘surrealistic and difficult to understand’ (p. 13); news from family and friends in Essex.

A1.13  Holograph letter, signed ‘D’ to ‘Sam’, 27 June [1946], [? Cornwall].

Various sizes. 12 pp. 6 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides.


165mm x 130mm. 30 pp. 15 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

JAB encourages DS to be a writer; JAB describes more of his own writing, and thanks DS for his criticisms; more on JAB’s work at the British Museum; news from mutual friends and from DS’s family.

A1.15  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 31 July 1946, *20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.*

164mm x 130mm. 32 pp. 16 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

JAB gives a more detailed account of his holiday to Cornwall in June (1946).
A1.16  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 4 August 1946, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

163mm x 131mm. 30 pp. 15 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

JAB writes of his final days working at the British Museum and tells DS he has decided to go to Gloucester to find farm work.

A1.17  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 20 August [1946], The Farm Guest-House, Bledington, Oxfordshire.

163mm x 131mm. 16 pp. 8 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

JAB describes his search for farm work in Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucester, where he arrived too early for harvesting. He writes that he has since travelled around the midlands and thence reached Bledington to stay in a guesthouse.

A1.18  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 4 September 1946, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Various sizes. [24] pp. (first 18 pages only numbered). 9 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (164mm x 131mm) AND 3 unnumbered sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides (203mm x 157mm).

In reply to several of DS’s previous letters and outlining JAB’s return to Chelmsford from Gloucestershire after a failed romance, with 3 draft poems (dated August–September 1946), titled: ‘The Lovely Child’, ‘Parting at Night’, and ‘Nocturne.’

A1.19  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 15 September 1946, 8 Writtle Road, Chelmsford.

160mm x 131mm. 22 pp. 11 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

News of DS’s family, with whom JAB is staying while his own parents are away on holiday; and on JAB’s desire to find employment away from Chelmsford.

A1.20  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 16 September 1946, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

162mm x 131mm. 14 pp. 7 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

A series of comic sketches and parodies.

A1.21  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 17 September 1946, 8 Writtle Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

161mm x 131mm. 24 pp. 12 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

JAB writes of seeing the film Brief Encounter (David Lean, 1945) at the Pavilion cinema in Chelmsford.
A1.22  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 26 September [1946], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Various sizes. [12] pp. (pages numbered: [i-ii], 1-10). 1 unnumbered sheet of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (160mm x 131mm) AND 5 sheets of numbered white notepaper written on both sides (200mm x 163mm).


A1.23  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 14 November [1946], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Various sizes. [24] pp. (pages numbered 1-16, [17-24]). 8 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (161mm x 131mm) AND 4 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides (190mm x 159mm).

A reply to a previous letter from DS, in which JAB gives news of mutual friends and an account of some modern poets who he recommends to DS, including Stephen Spender and Alun Lewis; and 2 copied poems by Alun Lewis (‘On Embarkation’ and ‘A Welsh Night’).

A1.24  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 14 November [1946], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

178mm x 116mm. 10 pp. 5 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides.

Written after the above, concerning DS’s younger sister Jean and the rest of the Samuel family.


Various sizes. [20] pp. (pages numbered 1-6, [7-20]). 3 sheets of numbered lined blue notepaper written on both sides (161mm x 131mm) AND 7 sheets of unnumbered lined white notepaper written on both sides (various sizes, approx. 190mm x 160mm).


A1.26  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 4 December 1946, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

61mm x 131mm. [8] pp. 4 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

Sending Christmas greetings to DS abroad from JAB and the Samuel family.
A1.27  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 1 January 1947, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

161mm x 131mm. 20 pp. 10 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

Wishing DS a happy New Year and telling him of Christmas at the Samuel family home.

A1.28  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 3 January 1947, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Various sizes. [18] pp. A single sheet of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (164mm x 131mm) AND 8 sheets of white notepaper written on both sides (202mm x 161mm).


A1.29  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 5 January 1947, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

161mm x 131mm. 4 pp. 2 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (164mm x 130mm).

JAB writes that he is sending DS more examples of modern poetry (not included).

A1.30  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 7-8 January [1947], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Various sizes. [44] pp. (pages numbered: 1-26, [27-44]). 13 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (161mm x 131mm) AND 9 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides (203mm x 161mm).


A1.31  Holograph note [from JAB to Donald Samuel] [January 13 1947], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

204mm x 159mm. 20 pp. 10 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides.

Comprising a poem by JAB titled ‘The Tree of Heaven’, signed off with the words ‘Notes to follow’, and the poem itself dated ‘Dec 4th to Dec 16th [1947]’.

Various sizes. 30 pp. (+ 2 leaves). 15 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (160mm x 131mm); WITH 2 black and white newspaper cuttings, various sizes.

JAB tells of a trip to see the pantomime ‘Aladdin’ with the Samuel family and Pansy Baker, and gives news of mutual friends John Thurmer and Edward Dennis; with an article from The Essex Chronicle (author and date unknown) that begins ‘Preaching in Chelmsford…’; and a second article, from The Telegraph (author and date unknown) titled ‘Few Could Say Lord’s Prayer’.

A1.33 Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Sam’, 19 January [1947], 8 Writtle Road, Chelmsford.

161mm x 131mm. 8 pp. 4 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides.

Wishing DS a happy twenty-first birthday and sending news from the Samuel family.

A2 Letters to John Thurmer in Baker’s Hand, 1944-1951

This series consists of 16 letters written by J. A. Baker to John Thurmer (b. [1926]), a school-friend from Baker’s year at the King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford, Essex (UK). Baker generally addresses his friend as ‘Thurmer’ or ‘Thurm’, and signs off with his own school nickname ‘Doughy’. JT came from Witham, Essex (a village not far from Chelmsford), though these letters are on the whole addressed to JT during his time in the British Army and on his postings abroad, during which he rose to the level of Sergeant. All of the items below were contained in a brown envelope (215mm x 217mm) with manuscript titles: ‘Letters from J. A. Baker Mainly 1944-1951’ and ‘John Thurmer’s letters from JA Baker 1944-1951’ (n.d. [c. 2010]).

A2.1 Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Thurmer’, [date-stamped 19 January 1944], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Various sizes. [9] pp (+ 3 blank) (pages numbered 1-8, [9]). 4 loose sheets written on both sides (203mm x 126mm) AND a bifolium of lined notepaper written in pencil on one side of one leaf (203mm x 159mm); WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB discusses his reading, specifically of lyric poetry. The bifolium contains some drafted stanzas, possibly not in JAB’s hand.

A2.2 Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Thurmer’, 11 September 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

252mm x 200mm. [2] pp. A single sheet of white notepaper written on both sides.

JAB writes that he has returned from a fortnight’s stay in Llandudno, and congratulates JT on his examination results and on his placement in the army. JAB proposes that this winter he will get down to ‘the business of authorship’ [p. 2].
A2.3  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Thurmer (or John)’, 18 September 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

Various sizes. [9] pp. (+ 3 blank). 4 numbered sheets of white notepaper written on both sides (203mm x 121mm) AND a bifolium of lined white notepaper written on one side of one leaf (203mm x 159mm); WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB gives details on his own reading. The bifolium contains some notes of drafted poetry in pencil, likely in the hand of JT.

A2.4  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Dear Invalid’, 15 October 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

203mm x 126mm. 10 pp. Sheets written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

A get-well-soon letter to JT after he had undergone an operation at Wormley Bury Auxiliary Hospital, with news from Chelmsford and of mutual friends, and details of JAB’s reading.

A2.5  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to [Thurmer], 4 October 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

202mm x 126mm. 10 pp. 5 sheets of white notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

Criticism of some poems previously sent to JAB from JT; more on JAB’s own reading and writing; and wishes for JT’s recovery from his operation.

A2.6  Holograph letter, signed ‘J. Doughy Bakery’ to ‘Dear convalescent’, 30 October 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

203mm x 126mm. 11 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 6 sheets of lined white notepaper holograph on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB writes about autumn and his reading.

A2.7  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Dear Wallaby’, 13 November 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

203mm x 126mm. 12 pp. 6 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB writes concerning JT’s continued recovery at Wormley Bury Auxiliary Hospital.

A2.8  Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Dear old sock’, 4 December 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

202mm x 127mm. [6] pp. 3 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

Comic sketches and nonsense poetry.
A2.9  **Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Dear old skin’, 18 December 1944, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.**

203mm x 158mm. [10] pp. 5 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB wishes JT a merry Christmas; writes about a visit to London; and sends news of their mutual friends.

A2.10  **Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Dear Thur’, [envelope postmarked 7 February 1945], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.**

198mm x 156mm. [12] pp. 5 ½ sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB writes about his reading and on some of their mutual friends.

A2.11  **Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Dear sock’, 5 April 1945, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.**

259mm x 165mm. [14] pp. 7 sheets (including 1 trimmed) of lined blue notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB thanks JT for some books and newspaper clippings, and writes of a trip he took to Danbury with a mutual friend.

A2.12  **Holograph letter, signed ‘Doughy’ to ‘Thurmerer’, n.d. [? 1946], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.**

182mm x 119mm. 25 pp. (+ 13 blank on verso). 20 sheets of lined white notepaper, pp. 1-12 written on both sides, pp. 13-25 written on rectos; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

Written piecemeal over a period of days, in which JAB describes his applications for work and his employment at Oxford University Press in London; also some remarks on JT’s time staying in Jerusalem (the envelope is addressed to the Levant), on news of friends, and on JAB’s reading.

A2.13  **Holograph letter, signed ‘DoughI’ to ‘Thurmite’, [envelope postmarked 11 April 1946], 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.**

Various sizes. [21] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso) (pages numbered: 1-15 (1 blank on verso), [16-21]). 8 numbered sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides (160mm x 131mm) AND 6 unnumbered sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides, titled ‘Poems’ (203mm x 157mm); WITH holograph addressed envelope.

A reply to JT’s letter in which JAB writes about his own reading, of their mutual friends, and on leaving his employment at OUP and taking up work at the British Museum Library; enclosed are 4 poems by JAB for JT’s appraisal (dated January–April 1946), titled: ‘On the Road to Rome’, ‘Before the Dawn’, ‘Westminster Bridge’, and ‘For Edith.’

161mm x 130mm. 22 pp. 11 sheets of lined blue notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB sends news of Chelmsford and mutual friends, and writes of his reading and writing and plans for employment.


187mm x 145mm. 6 pp. 3 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB thanks JT for a card, and writes of his new employment felling trees for ‘Sadds of Maldon’.

A2.16  Holograph letter, signed ‘John’ to ‘John’, 6 August 1951, 20 Finchley Avenue, Chelmsford.

178mm x 114mm. 14 pp. 7 sheets of lined white notepaper written on both sides; WITH holograph addressed envelope.

JAB refers to being ‘twenty-five today’ (p. 1); describes the wedding of their mutual friend Edward ‘Cuff’ Cufflins to Olive Wyborn; and writes of his employment at the AA.

A3  Correspondence related to publications, rights and permissions, 1966-1988

This series is divided into three sub-series and ordered chronologically, the first of which is 'general' correspondence from a variety of sources; the second and third sub-series are presented along the lines of their pre-existing ordering and relate to specific subjects (i.e. the publication of Italian editions of JAB's works, and the production of a film of The Peregrine by the BBC's Natural History Unit).


140mm x 204mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side. [N.B. This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

A note advising JAB that his manuscript of The Peregrine had been dispatched by registered post.
A3/1.2 Typescript letter, signed ‘John Moore’ to ‘Michael Walter’ [copied and forwarded to JAB], 19 October 1966, Kemerton, Nr. Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.
229mm x 180mm. 3 pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 headed sheets written on one side, stapled in top left corner. [N.B. This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Letter of appreciation for JAB’s manuscript of The Peregrine, advising Walters about it and providing some notes for corrections.

254mm x 204mm. [2] pp. A single headed sheet written on both sides. [N.B. This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

The Viscount, as one of the five judges, writes to confirm JAB’s award of the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize for 1967.

Various sizes. [2]pp (+ 2 blank on verso). A single slip written on one side stapled to a single headed sheet typescript on one side (297mm x 209mm). [N.B. This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J2.]

The magazine requests permission and agrees payment for the use of a quote from The Hill of Summer (quotation on attached slip).

202mm x 203mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [N.B. This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Requesting permission to quote a passage from The Peregrine in an art exhibition catalogue.

Various sizes. [24] pp. (+ 8 blank on reverse). [N.B. These items were originally together in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Book Grading, Lists, Libraries, etc.’ (260mm x 205mm), see item J3.]
A3/1.7 Typescript letter, signed ‘I. Callan’, Collins Publishers to ‘Dear Sir/Madam’, 31 March 1983, P. O. Box Glasgow, G4 0NB.

297mm x 209mm, [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Containing guidelines for the computerisation of Royalties at Collins.


Various sizes. [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 sheets: the first a headed sheet written on one side (209mm x 148mm), the second a sheet photocopied on one side, enclosed (297mm x 210mm).

[N.B. This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Requesting JAB respond to an invitation to be a guest reader at the Foundation’s Prose & Poetry course. Copy of letter from 14 October enclosed.


278mm x 215mm, [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side; WITH addressed envelope. [N.B. This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Informing JAB of Harper & Row’s decision to republish The Peregrine for the following year, 1989.

A3/2 Concerning Italian editions, 1979-1982

These items were originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding the drawing up of contracts for Italian editions of The Peregrine and The Hill of Summer with Rizzoli publishers.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding the Italian editions of The Peregrine and The Hill of Summer.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding the publication date for the Italian editions of The Hill of Summer and The Peregrine.

254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding news of Italian edition of The Hill of Summer.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding the drawing up of contracts for Italian editions of The Hill of Summer and The Peregrine with Rizzoli publishers.


297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

A letter stating that it encloses three complimentary copies of the Italian edition of The Hill of Summer (not included).

A3/3 Concerning film rights and the BBC Natural History Unit, 1984 - 1985

These have been stapled together in top left corner and were not originally arranged in chronological order, though I have reordered them as such here for clarity. These items were originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

The Rights Manager requests JAB’s response to enquiries about film rights for The Peregrine.

A3/3.2 Typescript letter, signed ‘John Sparks’, BBC Natural History Unit to ‘John Baker’, 7 February 1984, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS8 2LR.

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

John Sparks, the Head of the Natural History Unit, asks to meet JAB to discuss a BBC dramatization of The Peregrine, and ‘how the skills of the Natural History Unit could be harnessed to produce a film worthy of your book.’ Note in JAB’s hand: ‘Replied 17. 2. 84’.

A3/3.3 Typescript letter, signed ‘John Sparks’, BBC Natural History Unit to ‘Mr. John Baker’, 24 February 1984, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS8 2LR.

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

In reply to a letter from JAB and regarding the making of a television film of The Peregrine. Note in JAB’s hand: ‘Replied 9. 10. 84’.
A3/3.4 Typescript letter, signed ‘John Sparks’, BBC Natural History Unit to ‘Mr. John Baker’, 22 October 1984, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS8 2LR.

297mm x 210mm. [1] (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

In reply to a letter from JAB, and setting out plans for a meeting to discuss the making of a television film of *The Peregrine*.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding BBC film production of *The Peregrine*.

A3/3.6 Typescript letter, signed ‘John Sparks’, BBC Natural History Unit to ‘Mr. John Baker’, 3 December 1984, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, BS8 2LR.

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding a meeting between John Sparks, Peter Jones and JAB, and their discussion of a television film of *The Peregrine*.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.


A3/3.8 ‘Statement of Advance’, Collins Publishers to J. A. Baker, [statement date 9 July 1985], WM. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., P. O. Box Glasgow, G4 0NB.

204mm x 190mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

‘First half advance for dramatized T.V. rights’ for *The Peregrine*, at £637.50.


254mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Regarding the advance for the BBC film production of *The Peregrine*.

A4   Financial Correspondence, 1968-1979

This series is ordered chronologically. It contains JAB’s social security papers.

A4.1 Typescript letter, the Arts Council of Great Britain to ‘Mr. Baker’, 2 January 1968, 4 St James’s Square, London, SW1.

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

Titled ‘Help for Writers’, this grants JAB a ‘prose bursary of £1,200’.
165mm x 139mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet form printed on one side. [This item in a brown envelope (108mm x 171mm), ms. title in JAB’s hand on the reverse: ‘Sub Exemption Papers Sept ’71 to Sept ’76, 5 Years Exemptions’, see also items A4.3, A4.4.]
Receipt of cheque received from JAB for the sum of £35 16s. 4d.

208mm x 148mm. 4 pp. Bifolium form printed on both sides, signed ‘J. A. Baker’. [This item in a brown envelope (108mm x 171mm), ms. title in JAB’s hand on the reverse: ‘Sub Exemption Papers Sept ’71 to Sept ’76, 5 Years Exemptions’, see also items A4.2, A4.4.]
Certificate to prove that ‘the above named person is not liable to pay contributions under the National Insurance Acts as a self-employed or non-employed person while his income does not exceed £468 a year’ (p. 1).

208mm x 148mm. 4 pp. Bifolium form printed on both sides, signed ‘J. A. Baker’. [This item in a brown envelope (108mm x 171mm), ms. title in JAB’s hand on the reverse: ‘Sub Exemption Papers Sept ’71 to Sept ’76, 5 Years Exemptions’, see also items A4.2, A4.2.]
Certificate to prove that ‘the above named person is not liable to pay contributions under the National Insurance Acts as a self-employed or non-employed person while his income does not exceed £468 a year’ (p. 1).

A5 Ornithological Correspondence, 1974-1985
These items are ordered chronologically with the undated material at the end. They were originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1. For more on the correspondence between JAB and Richard Treleaven see item L5.

A5/1 Correspondence from ‘George Dood’, 1974

A5/1.1 Holograph letter, signed ‘George Dood’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 22 October 1974, St. Margaret’s at Cliffe, Dover.
253mm x 203mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides.
A reply to JAB, containing information about peregrine falcons and their eyries along the Kentish coast, in particular those between Dover and Folkestone.

A5/1.2 Holograph letter, signed ‘George Dood’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 3 November [1974], St. Margaret’s at Cliffe, Dover.
253mm x 203mm. [3] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 2 sheets written on both sides.
A further letter containing information about the Kentish peregrine falcons, their population density, nesting sites and behaviour.
A5/1.3 Holograph letter, signed ‘George Dood’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 11 December 1974, St. Margaret’s at Cliffe, Dover.

253mm x 203mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides.

The writer sends more information on peregrine falcons along the Kent coast, including details of clutch sizes, nesting, and breeding behaviour.

A5/2 Correspondence from Richard Treleaven, 1977-1985

A5/2.1 Typescript letter, signed ‘Richard Treleaven’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 1 October 1977, South Petherwin, Launceston, Cornwall.

297mm x 210mm. 2 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 sheets written on one side.

In reply to a phone call from JAB (30th Sept), in which Treleaven praises The Peregrine and provides his own observations of the habits of peregrines along the coast of Cornwall.

A5/2.2 Typescript letter, signed ‘Dick’ [Richard Treleaven] to ‘Mr Baker’, 4 December 1977, South Petherwin, Launceston, Cornwall.

297mm x 210mm. 3 pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 sheets written on one side, the final one trimmed.

Treleaven shares his own peregrine bibliography, comments on other writers’ work on the species, and provides more details of his time spent watching them in Cornwall.

A5/2.3 Typescript letter, signed ‘Dick’ [Richard Treleaven] to ‘Mr Baker’, 25 February 1978, South Petherwin, Launceston, Cornwall.

297mm x 210mm. 1 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side.

Some general remarks on the state of writing on peregrines and on contemporary articles from an American newsletter.

A5/2.4 Typescript letter, signed ‘Dick’ [Richard Treleaven] to ‘John’, 10 January 1979, South Petherwin, Launceston.

297mm x 210mm. 3 pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 sheets written on one side.

Treleaven recounts the rescue of an injured peregrine tiercel from Bodmin Moor, and gives some background on his birdwatching at Bounds Cliff, Port Isaac, and the behaviours of a favourite breeding pair.

A5/2.5 Typescript letter, signed ‘Dick’ [Richard Treleaven] to ‘John’, 8 January 1985, South Petherwin, Launceston.

172mm x 290mm. 1 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side.

Treleaven tells JAB of his recent writing and painting projects.
A5/3 Other


Various sizes. [3] pp. (+2 blank on verso). 2 sheets written on one side (first trimmed, second approx. 297mm x 210mm), stapled together.

A note hoping that ‘the enclosed will be of some use in connection with the enquiry you received’; with details of the ‘Sussex Ornithological Society Recording Sheet’ on verso, attached to a copy of a form providing details of Peregrines seen by C.M. James, Horsham, Sussex, between January 23 1956 and March 29 1959.

A6 Fan mail, 1967-1985

These items are ordered chronologically with the undated material placed at the end and put into alphabetical order according to the surname of the sender. These items were originally separated into the brown cardboard folders titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ and ‘Hill of Summer Reviews and Opinions’, and I have indicated which folder for each item.

A6.1 Photocopy of typescript letter, signed ‘Maurice Wiggin’ to ‘Miss Wurzburg’ [forwarded to JAB], 20 January 1967, Cranleigh, Surrey.

229mm x 180mm. [1] pp. (+1 blank on verso). Copy of a single headed sheet written one side.

[Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Wiggin writes of his ‘raving’ review of *The Peregrine* in *The Bookman* magazine.


253mm x 202mm. [1] pp. (+1 blank on verso). A single sheet of lined paper written on one side.

[Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine* and requesting more information on peregrine conservation.

A6.3 Holograph letter, signed ‘A. A. Outram’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 24 June 1967, Toronto, [Canada].

221mm x 215mm. [1] pp. (+1 blank on verso) (+1 l.). A single headed sheet written on one side; WITH a single leaf colour-printed clipping of a map of Ontario province attached with paperclip.

[Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine*. 

26
215mm x 184mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.
[Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]
Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.

253mm x 204mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single blind-stamp headed sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]
Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.

A6.6 Holograph postcard, signed ‘Bernard Martin’ to ‘J. A. Baker c/o Wilfred Baker’, [1967], address unknown.
89mm x 139mm, [2] pp. A single 3d. postcard written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]
A note congratulating JAB on winning the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize.

A6.7 Typescript letter, signed ‘T. Partington’ to ‘Sir’ [J. A. Baker], 3 January 1968, Cobham, Surrey.
137mm x 178mm, [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]
Message of appreciation for The Peregrine, and asking for JAB to identify the specific part of East Anglia the book refers to.

202mm x 127mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]
A note congratulating JAB on winning the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize.

A6.9 Typescript letter, signed ‘Mrs. Whitfield Vye’ to ‘Mr. Baker’, 15 February 1968, Durham, [County Durham].
278mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]
Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.
A6.10  Holograph notecard, signed ‘Hans Edinga’ to ‘Mr. Baker’, 22 March 1968, Utrecht, [Germany].
105mm x 138mm. [2] pp. A single headed card written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.

Approx. 297mm x 210mm. [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). Bifolium written on two sides only. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
Asking for clarification on some of the language in The Peregrine.

266mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). Single sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.

202mm x 127mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J2.]
Message of appreciation for The Hill of Summer. The paper is headed with ‘The Sunday Times’ address.

177mm x 136mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J2.]
Message of appreciation for The Hill of Summer.

178mm x 136mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J2.]
Message of appreciation for The Hill of Summer.

180mm x 139mm. [2] pp. A single headed sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.

298mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side; WITH two black and white photographs pasted onto one side of white card with autograph title; WITH a wax-sealed envelope. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine. The photograph is autograph titled ‘My gyrfalcon Enzio’.


280mm x 215mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). Single headed sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.


297mm x 210mm. [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 sheets written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]


275mm x 200mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet of lined paper written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]

Concerning The Peregrine and pesticide use.


297mm x 210mm. [3] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 2 sheets written on three sides; WITH a black and white photograph attached with autograph note on verso (90mm x 140mm). [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm × 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine and sending Baker a copy of the Dutch biological periodical ‘Einstein’ (no longer enclosed). Some autograph notes from Baker in ink in the right-hand margins regarding a reply, e.g.: ‘Praise his English’. The photograph is of a honey-buzzard called ‘Nimrod’ and has an autograph note on the reverse, ‘From the Dutch admirers of your book “The Peregrine”, Verpaalen’.

297mm x 210mm. [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 sheets (the first trimmed) written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine, and giving details on falcons in South Wales.


278mm x 216mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet of pale blue tissue paper written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message in appreciation of The Peregrine; the writer thanks JAB for his letter of August 2 and writes of his recent tour of Europe.


228mm x 153mm. 11 pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 6 sheets written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine and The Hill of Summer, in which the writer describes his experiences tracking peregrine falcons in Northern Ireland.


228mm x 189mm. [3] pp. (+ 3 blank on reverse). 3 sheets written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine, in which the writer requests information on the location of the coastline in the book and asks JAB to recommend a good bird identification handbook.


254mm x 204mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for Baker’s article ‘On the Essex Coast’ in the RSPB Birds Magazine, 1971 (see item H1.3).


211mm x 140mm. [1] pp. (+ 3 blank). Bifolium written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for JAB’s writing.

215mm x 166mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet yellow notepaper written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.


330mm x 203mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine.

A6.30 Typescript letter, signed ‘Tony Langford’ to ‘Wm. Collins, Sons & Co. Ltd.’ [forwarded to JAB], 30 May 1974, Redruth, Cornwall.

253mm x 204mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine, forwarded with an autograph note in red ink by Michael Walters.


279mm x 214mm. [3] pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 sheets written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]


253mm x 203mm. 2 pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

In reply to JAB; regarding the world of publishing and JAB’s arthritis, and in appreciation of The Peregrine and The Hill of Summer.


183mm x 144mm. [4] pp. Bifolium written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J2.]

Message of appreciation for The Hill of Summer.
A6.34  Typescript letter, signed ‘Vic Dolby’ to ‘Mr J. A. Baker’, 11 February 1975, *Children’s Clinic, Batman Avenue, Melbourne, Victoria, [Australia].*  
337mm x 206mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side. 
[Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]  
Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine* and *The Hill of Summer*, including some information on Australian Peregrine falcons.

A6.35  Holograph postcard, signed ‘Tom Wall’ to ‘Mr Baker’, [? August 1975], address unknown.  
152mm x 108mm. [2] pp. Printed exhibition card written on verso. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]  
Advertising ‘Tom Wall: The Sounds of Colour’ at The Mall Galleries, London; the artist requests JAB to visit the exhibition during its course, and praises *The Peregrine*.

297mm x 210mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]  
Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine*.

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet of brown paper written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]  
Message of appreciation for the Italian edition of *The Peregrine* and asking for information on locations where Peregrines might be observed in the UK.

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet of brown paper written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]  
Thanking JAB for his letter of 11 January 1980 and for the information he provided on UK peregrine populations.

217mm x 180mm. [2] pp. A single sheet of yellow notepaper written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]  
Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine* and *The Hill of Summer*.  

32

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet of white notepaper written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Further message of appreciation for JAB’s writing and requesting more information on other work of his.


210mm x 130mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet white notepaper written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

A reply thanking JAB for his letter.


Various sizes. [4] pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side (149mm x 205mm); WITH 3 photocopied sheets (297mm x 210mm) attached with paperclip. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine, with attached copied pages from Christmas Crackers: being ten commonplace selections by John Julius Norwich, 1970-79 (Penguin books), containing an extract from The Peregrine.


177mm x 136mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single lined sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Hill of Summer.


210mm x 120mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for The Peregrine and asking if the estuary mentioned in the book is the Blackwater. Note on verso in JAB’s hand: ‘Replied 22 11 83’.
A6.45  Holograph letter, signed ‘Philip H. Aldridge’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 30 December 1983, 
*Staplefield, Haywards Heath, Sussex.*

190mm x 190mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard 
folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Thanking JAB for his reply, and discussing peregrine nests at Old Harry Rocks [in 
Dorset] and a visit the writer made to Bradwell.

A6.46  Holograph letter, signed ‘Philip H. Aldridge’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 5 February 1984, *Staplefield, 
Haywards Heath, Sussex.*

190mm x 190mm. [2] pp. A single sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard 
folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

The writer says that he is returning for a trip to Maldon and around Bradwell (Essex) 
and asks if JAB would provide him with details of locations relating to *The Peregrine.*

A6.47  Holograph letter, signed ‘Philip H. Aldridge’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 12 February 1984, *Staplefield, 
Haywards Heath, Sussex.*

190mm x 190mm. [6] pp. 3 sheets written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard 
folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

The writer relates an account of his day spent birdwatching around Maldon, Bradwell 
and the surrounding areas recommended by JAB.

Street, London.*

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side. 
[Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine* and *The Hill of Summer.*

A6.49  Holograph letter, signed ‘Gretchen Davis’ to [J. A. Baker], n.d., [address unknown].

303mm x 228mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso) (+ 1 l). A single sheet of orange paper written on 
one side; WITH a magazine clipping (enclosed) (approx. 297mm x 210mm). [Originally in the brown 
cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine,* with a page taken from *Life* magazine (date 
unknown).

A6.50  Holograph letter, signed [?]‘Barabard Harris’ to [J. A. Baker], n.d., *Nashville, Tennessee 
[USA].*

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single lined sheet written on one side. 
[Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Message of appreciation for *The Peregrine.*
A6.51   **Holograph letter, signed ‘Carol Hart’ to ‘Mr Baker’, 4 October [year unknown], Newmarket, Surrey.**

203mm x 152mm. [2] pp. A single headed sheet written on both sides. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J2.]

Message of appreciation for *The Hill of Summer*.

A6.52   **Holograph card, signed ‘Queenie Julien’ to ‘Mr Baker’, n.d., [?] Eares Colne.**

154mm x 109mm, [4] pp. Colour bifolium card written on the inside. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Card showing a photo of a blue-tit, with a message of appreciation for JAB’s writing and informing him of the death of [?] Truman Gording.

* * *

**B MANUSCRIPT NOTEBOOKS, DIARIES & NOTES IN J. A. BAKER’S HAND**

*Arranged chronologically. Undated material is placed at the end of the series.*

B1   **Holograph blue ‘Poetry’ notebook (n.d. [c. 1940s]).**

200mm x 162mm. [61] pp. (pages numbered: 543-596, [597-598 missing], 599-604, [i (holograph contents list on inside lower cover)]. School-type lined notebook, blue-patterned cover with holograph title ‘Poetry’ on upper cover.

Transcriptions of poems by other authors, including W. H. Auden, Stephen Spender, Cecil Day Lewis, John Masefield.

B2   **Holograph purple ‘Poetry’ notebook (n.d. [c. 1940s]).**


Transcriptions of poems by other authors, including Rudyard Kipling, Sir Edward Dyor, and A. C. Swinburne.

B3   **Untitled holograph black notebook diary (1954-1956).**

200mm x 162mm. [100] pp. (+ 1 blank l.) (pages numbered: 1-10, [11-12 missing], 13-20, [21-22 missing], 23-26, [27-34 missing], 35-42, [43-48 missing], 49-78, [79-80 missing], 81-94, [95-102 missing], 103-126, [127-138 missing], 139-152). Lined notebook, boards in black “marbled” cloth effect, spine dark red cloth tape, most pages separated from boards.

JAB’s birdwatching diary, titled ‘1954’ on first page. Diary entries from March 1954 to February 1956. [N.B. *This item contains annotated yellow postit notes and page-markers made from strips of scrap paper, presumably placed by John Fanshawe and in his hand.*]
B4  **Collection of holograph birdwatching diary notes (1954-1962).**

158mm x 100mm. [13] pp. (+ 11 blank on verso) (pages numbered 1-7, [8-9 missing], 10-14). 12 lined sheets held together with paperclip.

Notes made by JAB listing dates, bird species, and places visited for each year 1954-1962.

B5  **Holograph ‘Boots Chemists Scribbling Diary’ ‘1955 BIRDS’ (1955).**

305mm x 203mm, [100] pp. (pages numbered: i, [ii-iv missing], v-vi, 1-16 [17-20 missing], 21-28 [29-30 missing], 31-32 [33-34 missing], 35-38 [39-40 missing], 41-42 [43-44 missing], 45-48 [49-50 missing], 51-98 [99-100 missing], 101-102 [103-106 missing], 107-116 [117-118 missing], 119).

‘Three days on a page’ diary, in card boards, both loose, autograph title on upper cover, many pages also loose.

Birdwatching diary for 1955.

B6  **Collection of untitled holograph excised diaries (1956-1963).**

Approx. 225mm x 178mm. [537] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso included) (pages numbered 165-166, [167-168 missing], 169-170, [171-174 missing], 175-176, [177-178 missing], 179-182, [183-184 missing], 185-206, [207-208 missing], 209-212, [213-218 missing], 219-232, [233-238 missing], 239-240, [241-244 missing], 245-246, [247-262 missing], 263-272, [273-280 missing], 281-284, [285-310 missing], 311-316, [317-318 missing], 319-342, [343-394 missing], 395-462, [463-468 missing], 469-486, [487-490 missing], 491-492, [493-577 missing], 578-581, [582-583 missing], 584-593, [594-601 missing], 602-631, [632-647 missing], 648-657, [658-661 missing], 662-663, [664-685 missing], 686-695, [696-699 missing], 700-705, [706-709 missing], 710-711, [712-725 missing], 726-728, [729-768 missing], 769-772, [773-776 missing], 777-786, [787-788 missing], 789-798, [799-802 missing], 803-857, 857(A) (on verso), 858-883, [884-1010 missing], 1011-1026, [1027-1038 missing], 1039-1044, [1045-1078 missing], 1079-1080, [1081-1082 missing], 1083-1152, [1153-1168 missing], 1169-1170, [1171-1262 missing], 1263-1266, [1267-1282 missing], 1283-1288, [1289-1292 missing], 1293-1294, [1295-1505 missing], 1506-1521, [1522-1523 missing], 1524-1533, [1534-1537 missing], 1538-1539, [1540-1580 missing], 1581-1586, [1587-1588 missing], 1589-1604, [1605-1619], 1611-1620). Excised sections of lined notebooks, some leaves still bound together.

Collected sections from JAB’s birdwatching diaries, dated between March 1956 to May 1963. Incomplete. [N.B. *This item contains page-markers made from strips of scrap paper, presumably made by John Fanshawe. A reproduction of about a third of these diary entries is published in The Complete Works of J. A. Baker (London: Collins, 2010).*]

B7  **Collection of untitled holograph diary excerpts (1958-1975).**

Various sizes. [10] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 6 lined sheets. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

Pages excised from JAB’s birdwatching diaries, dating between November 1958 and October 1975.
B8 Untitled holograph note of years 1976-1983 (n.d. [? 1984]).
163mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single trimmed lined sheet. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
A list headed ‘Out Car’ of the years 1976-1983 in columns with particular dates and months, temperatures and meteorological details.

103mm x 150mm. [7] pp. (+ 7 blank on verso). 7 lined sheets written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]

B10 Collection of miscellaneous holograph notes (n.d.).
Various sizes. [7] pp. (+1 blank on verso). 4 lined sheets, held together with paperclip. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
Notes, presumably from different times of writing, with various titles, including autobiographical notes and ‘memories’ listed for ‘Short poems’ and ‘anecdote poems’.

329mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single lined sheet written on one side. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
A list of 185 bird species listed in 5 columns.

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C MAPS BELONGING TO J. A. BAKER

Arranged chronologically by publication date. The annotations are in a consistent hand, presumably JAB’s, and follow a code that marks sightings of specific bird species; for more on this, see Robert Macfarlane, chapter ‘Hunting Life’ in Landmarks (London: Penguin, 2015), pp.139-161.

120 x 205mm (folded). Cloth-backed, cover missing, ms. annotations in ink and in red, brown and green pencils.
Covers JAB’s hometown of Chelmsford and the Essex coast.

120mm x 205mm (folded). Cloth-backed, cover missing, ms. annotations in ink and in red pencil.
Covers the areas west and south of JAB’s hometown of Chelmsford.
123mm x 145mm (folded). Cloth-backed, cover missing, ms. annotations in red and black ink and pencil.

Covers JAB’s hometown of Chelmsford, the Chelmer Valley and Blackwater Estuary.

127mm x 261 mm (folded). Paper, Ms. annotations in ink.

123mm x 218mm (folded). Cloth-backed, ms. annotations in ink.

125mm x 195mm (folded). Paper, ms. annotations in ink.

127mm x 195mm (folded). Paper, ms. annotations in ink.

125mm x 195mm (folded). Paper, ms. annotations in ink and pencil

125mm x 195mm (folded). Paper, ms. annotations in ink.

Covers JAB’s hometown of Chelmsford and the Blackwater Estuary.

132mm x 242mm (folded). Paper, ms. annotations in ink.


135mm x 196mm (folded). Paper, ms. annotations in ink and pencil.

Ms. note in pencil on inside cover: ‘Thwaite A140 Coffee LAY-BY Hevingham Woods – LUNCH’.
D1  Mirakel 8 x 40 Binoculars, Harwix (Berlin, Germany, [mid-20th century]).
Approx. 165mm x 150mm x 55mm. Black-coated alloy, chipped, with leather neck strap, in scuffed tan leather case (approx. 170mm x 185mm x 75mm), top panel detached and remaining, seams repaired and reinforced with glue and sticking-plasters; functioning.

D2  Miranda 10 x 50 Binoculars, ‘Gold-Coated Optics’ (Hong Kong, [late-20th century]).
Approx. 195mm x 170mm x 65mm. Black plastic and alloy, in black leather-look case with red velvet interior (approx. 230mm x 210mm x 85mm); strap missing from case; functioning.

D3  Brass Monocular, [make and manufacturer unknown] ([origin unknown], [? first half of 20th century]).
Approx. 280mm x 55mm. Covered with brown leather, plus leather strap and caps; not functioning.

D4  Black-Coated Alloy Monocular, [make and manufacturer unknown] ([origin unknown], [? mid-to-late-20th century]).
Approx. 300mm x 60mm. In light kaki canvas and leather holder (approx. 315mm x 65mm); not functioning.

D5  Dialyt 7 x 50 Monocular, Hensoldt Wetzlar (Germany, [mid-20th century]).
Approx. 200mm x 60mm. Black-coated alloy, exterior damage, with two black leather lens caps; functioning.

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E PERSONALIA OF J. A. BAKER
Arranged chronologically.

E1 Baptismal certificate for J. A. Baker, [Chelmsford] (1926).
205mm x 247mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). Printed and coloured card certificate.
This is to certify that John Alec, child of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred S and Pansy K. Baker,
was baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, at the
London Road Congregational Church. Date October 10th 1926, Chelmsford.’

E2 ‘Order of Service for Marriage’ of J. A. Baker and Doreen Coe, Independent Press Ltd.
London (1956).
165mm x 107mm. 8 pp. Quarto pamphlet printed on all sides; WITH ms. addressed envelope
(addressed to Doreen Coe and post-marked Dec. 1955).
‘London Road Congregational Church: Chelmsford. The Order of Service for Marriage.
Wedding of John Alec Baker and Doreen Grace Coe on Saturday, 6th October, 1956’ (p.
1).

(1973).
Various sizes. 4 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). A single headed sheet typescript on one side (297mm x
210mm), AND bifolium typescript on three sides (328mm x 205mm).
Details of W. S. Baker’s estate and an invoice for legal services.

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F PHOTOGRAPHS BELONGING TO J. A. BAKER
Arranged chronologically, though most are undated. Undated material is placed at the end of the series and
arranged alphabetically by the contents. All these items were placed originally in a brown envelope (243mm x
322mm) addressed to ‘Mr J A Baker, Marlborough Rd., Chelmsford’ with the ms. title ‘PHOTOS’ on the
upper.

F1 ‘Trinity Rd., Boys’ School’, [photographer unknown] (June 1936).
[? (too fragile to measure)] x 150mm. Single black and white photograph, rolled, annotated with
ink on reverse and with pencil on front; damaged.
School photograph, with rows of boys and their teachers. Some names noted in pencil in
JAB’s hand, including ‘Me’, a bespectacled sandy-haired boy in the top row.

F2 Portrait of a young J. A. Baker, E. Nixon Payne, Chelmsford (n.d. [c. 1945]).
115mm x 89mm. A single black and white portrait in white card folder (missing upper cover).
A head-and-shoulder portrait of a youthful JAB with glasses.
F3  Portrait of a young J. A. Baker, E. Nixon Payne, Chelmsford (n.d. [c. 1945]).
115mm x 89mm. A single black and white portrait in white card folder.
   A head-and-shoulder portrait of a youthful JAB without glasses.

F4  J. A. Baker with group at a party, [photographer unknown] (December 1951).
163mm x 210. A single black and white photograph.
   JAB (top row, first from left) in a large party group – possibly an office Christmas party.
   Ms. dated on reverse.

F5  J. A. Baker with large group at a party, [photographer unknown] (December 1953).
163mm x 210. A single black and white photograph.
   JAB (top row, fifth from left) in a large party group – possibly an office Christmas party.
   Autograph dated on reverse.

F6  Wedding of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe), Navana Photographics, 35 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford (1956).
303mm x 228mm. Single black and white photograph in stiff white card folder with silver gilt horseshoe motif on upper cover.
   Large wedding photo of bride and groom smiling at camera and cutting the cake.

F7  Wedding of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe), [Navana Photographics, 35 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford] ([1956]).
127mm x 203mm. A single black and white photograph in stiff white card folder with silver gilt horseshoe motif on upper cover.
   Picture of the bride, groom and congregation during the wedding ceremony.

F8  Wedding of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe), [Navana Photographics, 35 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford] ([1956]).
127mm x 203mm. A single black and white photograph in stiff white card folder with silver gilt horseshoe motif on upper cover.
   A picture of bride, groom, and four family members posed outside London-rd., Congregational Church.

F9  Wedding of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe), [Navana Photographics, 35 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford] ([1956]).
127mm x 203mm. A single black and white photograph in stiff white card folder with silver gilt horseshoe motif on upper cover.
   A picture of bride, groom and large group of guests posed outside London-rd., Congregational Church.
F10  **Wedding of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe), [Navana Photographics, 35 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford] ([1956]).**

127mm x 203mm. A single black and white photograph in stiff white card folder with silver gilt horseshoe motif on upper cover.

A picture of guests at a decorated dining table.

F11  **Wedding of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe), [Navana Photographics, 35 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford] ([1956]).**

203mm x 127mm. A single black and white photograph in stiff white card folder with silver gilt horseshoe motif on upper cover.

A picture of the bride and groom.

F12  **Wedding of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe), [Navana Photographics, 35 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford] ([1956]).**

203mm x 127mm. A single black and white photograph in stiff white card folder with silver gilt horseshoe motif on upper cover.

A picture of the bride with bouquet.

F13  **Collection of wedding photographs of J. A. and Doreen Baker (née Coe) with negatives, [photographer unknown] ([1956]).**

87mm x 62mm. 8 black and white photographs; WITH 8 negatives in a black-and-white-striped paper wallet (132mm x 92mm) from Navana Photographics (35 Bloomfield Road, Chelmsford); WITH a plastic bag of wedding confetti (66mm x 54mm).

Pictures of bride, groom and wedding guests.

F14  **Author picture of J. A. Baker, [? Neil Libbert] (1967).**

303mm x 230mm. A single black and white portrait photograph; WITH 2 A3 photocopies (n.d).

A large portrait of JAB sitting in an armchair, leaning on one hand and looking to the left of frame.

An ms. note on reverse: ‘J. A. Baker, Neil Libbert’ ‘1967’. [N.B. *This photograph is likely misattributed. It has previously been included on the back cover of the 2011 edition of The Peregrine (Collins), where it was copyrighted to Neil Libbert. However, recent contact (made by David Simmonds) with Neil Libbert through Bridgeman Images (17-19 Garway Road, London W24PH) states that Libbert has never photographed J. A. Baker.*]


A single black and white photograph in white card folder (103mm x 124mm); WITH a photographic enlargement (152mm x 203mm) (n.d.).

JAB and Doreen (second and third from right) with one man and three women on a sofa.
A single black and white photograph in white card folder blind-stamped with galleon motif on upper and with gilt edges (100mm x 152mm).
   Doreen and JAB (first and second from right) seated with two women.

A single black and white photograph in white card folder blind-stamped with galleon motif on upper and with gilt edges (100mm x 152mm).
   Doreen and JAB (first and second from left) seated with three women.

F18  J. A. Baker with group at a party, [photographer unknown] (n.d. [? c. 1960]).
A single black and white photograph in white card folder (100mm x 152mm).

F19  J. A. Baker with group, [photographer unknown] (n.d. [? c. 1960]).
A single black and white photograph in white card folder (103mm x 124mm).
   JAB (second from left) seated with four men and two women.

F20  J. A. Baker with group, [photographer unknown] (n.d. [? c. 1960]).
A single black and white photograph in white card folder blind-stamped with galleon motif on upper and with gilt edges (100mm x 152mm).
   JAB (first from right) standing with five men. Location unknown.

A black and white portrait photograph in a white card folder (203mm x 152mm); WITH two photocopies of the same (203mm x 152mm). 
   Three-quarter-length portrait of Wilfred Baker in mayoral robes and chain, with mace.

113mm x 160mm. A black and white photograph; WITH a photographic enlargement of the same (148mm x 210mm).
   JAB shaking the hand of Mr Guy Schofield at the Yorkshire Post Literary Luncheon at the Queens Hotel, Leeds. JAB’s The Peregrine was nominated as the winner for The Yorkshire Post’s prize for the best literary work of 1967.

F23  Christ Church [photographer unknown] (March 1972).
Colour photograph in grey card folder (155mm x 118mm), ms. note in pencil on folder upper: ‘D. Baker’.
   Picture of the façade of Christ Church, location unknown.
F24  Collection of photographs titled ‘COLLEGE’, [photographer unknown] (n.d.).
Various sizes. 17 black and white photographs, in yellow card wallet (138mm x 88mm) from Navana Photographics (35 Bloomfield Road, Chelmsford), ms. title on upper cover.
Pictures of JAB, others, and various locations.

Various sizes. 60 black and white photographs in a yellow card wallet (138mm x 88mm) from Navana Photographics (35 Bloomfield Road, Chelmsford), ms. title on upper cover; WITH 6 photographic enlargements (various sizes).
Pictures of Doreen and JAB, together and separately, in various locations.

F26  J. A. Baker with formal group, [photographer unknown] (n.d.).
153mm x 212mm. A single black and white photograph.
JAB (second row, fourth from left) in a formal picture of a group of men.

F27  J. A. Baker with group at a party, [photographer unknown] (n.d.).
86mm x 106mm. A single black and white photograph.
JAB (centre, foreground, sitting on the floor) in a large party group, possibly an office Christmas party.

F28  J. A. Baker with group at a party, [photographer unknown] (n.d.).
A single black and white photograph in white card folder (123mm x 100mm).
JAB (centre, foreground, sitting on the floor) in a large party group, possibly an office Christmas party.

F29  Pair of photographs of J. A. Baker with group at a party, [photographer unknown] (n.d.).
117mm x 158mm. Two black and white photographs.
Both from the same event. First: JAB (first on left); and Second: JAB (second on left) in party group with same one man and two women.

* * *

G  PUBLISHERS’ CONTRACTS FOR PUBLICATIONS BY J. A. BAKER

Arranged chronologically.

331mm x 203mm. 5 pp. (+ 5 blank on verso). 5 sheets printed and typescript on one side, signed ‘Adrian House’, stapled together.
The contract made between JAB and Collins Publishers concerning the publication of The Peregrine, promising JAB an advance of £250.

330x 217mm. 5 pp. (+ 5 blank on verso). Copy of 5 sheets printed and typescript on one side, signed ‘Adrian House’, stapled together.

A copy of the contract detailing the agreement between Collins and Harper & Row (New York, USA), promising JAB an advance of $1500.


378mm x 254mm. 2 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). Copy of 2 sheets printed and typescript on one side, signed ‘Adrian House’ and [?]’S Gallinard’, pinned together.

A copy of the contract detailing the agreement between proprietor Collins Publishers and publisher Mercure de France (Paris) for their publication of a French language edition of The Peregrine, promising JAB an advance of F. Frncs. 2,500.


378mm x 254mm. 2 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). Copy of 2 sheets printed and typescript on one side, signed ‘Adrian House’ and ‘Nachi Eguchi’, pinned together.

A copy of the contract detailing the agreement between proprietor Collins Publishers and publisher Kawade International Publications Company (Tokyo) for their publication of a Japanese language edition of The Peregrine, promising JAB an advance of US$ 420.


331mm x 203mm. 5 pp. (+ 5 blank on verso). 5 sheets printed and typescript on one side, signed ‘Adrian House’, stapled together.

The contract made between JAB and Collins Publishers concerning the publication of The Hill of Summer, promising JAB an advance of £200.

*   *   *
H PUBLISHED WORK BY J. A. BAKER

Arranged alphabetically into series by type and chronologically within each series.

H1 Magazine Publications (Fiction & Non-fiction)

H1.1 Photocopy of ‘Always at Torquay’, [unknown publication], 13 October 1950, p. 368.
267mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 copies of a single sheet, photocopied on one side.
A short story written by JAB that appeared under the section ‘Queer Story’ in an unknown magazine publication.

297mm x 210mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single sheet, photocopied on one side.
An article written by JAB on peregrine activity in Essex, including sections on ‘Appearance’, ‘Bathing’, ‘Daily activity’, ‘Hunting’, ‘Prey’, and ‘Relationship to man.’ An editorial note at the beginning reads: ‘A member of the Society, J. A. Baker, recently had published a book … in which he set out his experiences over many years with peregrines wintering in Essex. Instead of reviewing this book we decided to invite the author to furnish us with a summary of his observations in the form of a short paper.’ [N.B. This item was originally donated by Richard Treleaven with item L5.]

297mm x 210mm. [3] pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 sheets, photocopied on one side, stapled together in top left corner. [Originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Peregrine reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 227mm), see item J1.]
A copy of the article written by JAB for the RSPB’s Birds magazine regarding the protection of the Essex coastline. [N.B. This article was reprinted in the 2010 and 2011 Collins paperback editions of Baker’s Complete Works.]

H2 Manuscripts

H2.1 Early holograph manuscript of The Peregrine (n.d. [? 1965-1966]).
205mm x 152mm. [364] pp. (+ 32 blank on verso) (pages are numbered, but not consecutively; instead, numbering begins over with each new section or chapter). 198 lined sheets of notepaper, some sections held together with paperclips, whole held together with a rubber band.
Early, or first, draft of The Peregrine. Complete.
H2.2 Late holograph manuscript of *The Peregrine* (n.d. [? 1965-1966]).
205mm x 152mm. [387] pp. (+ 381 blank on verso) (pages are numbered, but not consecutively; instead, numbering begins over with each new section or chapter). 384 lined sheets of notepaper, one section held together with paperclip. Whole held together with a rubber band.
Late, possibly final, handwritten draft of *The Peregrine*. Complete.

H2.3 Typescript of *The Peregrine* (n.d. [? 1966-1967]).
253mm x 203mm. [272] pp. (+1 blank l.) (+ 272 blank on verso) (pages numbered: [title page and chapter title page unnumbered], 1-10, [chapter title page unnumbered], 11-36, [chapter title page unnumbered], 37-268). 273 sheets written on one side, in a blue card covers (approx. 284mm x 230mm) strengthened at the joints with red cloth-tape, white printed paper title-label on upper cover: 'THE PEREGRINE by J. A. BAKER'.
Early, or first, formal draft of *The Peregrine* sent to Collins, with handwritten editorial corrections and comments. Complete.

H2.4 Early typescript of *The Hill of Summer* (n.d. [? 1968-1969]).
253mm x 203mm. [74] pp. (+ 74 blank on verso) (pages numbered: 18-61 [62 missing], 63-81 [82 missing], 83-93 [94 missing], 95). 74 sheets written on one side; incomplete.
Early, or first, typed draft of *The Hill of Summer*, with ms. editorial corrections and comments. This draft is written in a journal format.

H2.5 Late typescript of *The Hill of Summer* (n.d. [? 1968-1969]).
253mm x 203mm. [134] pp. (+ 134 blank on verso) (pages numbered: 15-27 [28-30 missing], 31 [32-34 missing], 35-48 [49 missing], 50-71 [72 missing], 73-88 [89-92 missing], 93-95 [96-98 missing], 99-115 [116 missing], 117-146 [147-156 missing], 157 [158 missing], 159-162 [163-179 missing], 180-183 [184 missing], 185-187 [188-192 missing], 193-194 [195 missing], 196-197 [198-199 missing], 200 [201 missing], 202). 134 sheets written on one side; incomplete.
Late, or final, typed draft of *The Hill of Summer*, with ms. editorial corrections and comments. This draft shows the book being divided into chapters with titles rather than journal-style entries.

H3 Proof Copies

*Arranged chronologically. These items were originally housed in a cardboard box, the lid of which was titled: 'Treasure Chest: A Super Collection of 14 birthday cards' (approx. 225mm x 160mm x 24mm).*

8vo. pp. 191 (+ 1 blank on verso). Bound in red publisher’s paper, white printed paper title-label on upper cover, holograph notes on the inside of the lower cover, holograph annotations throughout.
Proof copy of *The Peregrine* with a system of notes in JAB’s hand (e.g. ticks and underlining). Complete.
8vo. pp. 1-120, [H5, 6, 7 missing], 127-191 (+ 1 blank on verso), (H4, H8, I1-4 inclusive, and K7 are all excised but remaining). Bound in red publisher’s paper, white printed paper title-label on upper cover, holograph notes to blank verso of M8 and on the inside of the lower cover, and holograph annotations throughout. 
Proof copy of The Peregrine with a system of notes in JAB’s hand (e.g. marginal notes, running totals, and underlining). Incomplete.

8vo. pp. [1]-[26] [B6 missing], 29-62, [D5-E4 inclusive missing], 73-82, [F2-F3 inclusive missing], 87-118, [H4-H5 inclusive missing], 123-154, [K6 missing], 157-158, [K8 missing], (B3-4, F4, F7-8 inclusive, G8, K4-5 inclusive, and K7 are all excised but remaining). Bound in red publisher’s paper, white printed paper title-label on upper cover with ‘uncorrected’ changed to ‘corrected’ and signed ‘J. A. Baker’, holograph notes on the inside of the lower cover, and holograph annotations throughout.  
Proof copy of The Hill of Summer with a system of annotations in JAB’s hand (e.g. marginal notes, underlining). Incomplete.

8vo. pp. [1]-22, [B4-6 inclusive missing], 29-86, [F4 missing], 89-150, [K4-K5 inclusive missing], 155-156, [K7 missing], 159 (+1 blank on reverse) (E1 and K4 both excised but remaining). Bound in red publisher’s paper, white printed paper title-label on upper cover with holograph sub-titles (“POSSIBLE POETRY” and “March 26 ’69. 25/-”), with holograph notes on blank verso of K8 and on the inside of the lower cover, and holograph annotations throughout. 
Proof copy of The Hill of Summer with a system of annotations in JAB’s hand (e.g. marginal notes, underlining, running totals). Incomplete.

* * *

J PRESS CUTTINGS AND REVIEWS COLLECTED BY J. A. BAKER

Arranged by the sections in which they were originally ordered with each section internally arranged according to chronology. Photocopied material is arranged according to the original publication dates of the material, where known. Undated material appears at the end of each series.


The items below are contained in a brown card folder (approx, 355mm x 227mm), covers separated at spine, autograph titles on upper cover crossed out and replaced.

Various sizes. [2] ll. 2 black and white cuttings, stapled onto white card (155mm x 102mm), ms. title (? in the hand of John Fanshawe) at foot in pencil: ‘Radio programme.’

The first clipping shows the date of broadcast; the second is the programme listing for this episode of the series *LIFE* (introduced by Dr Desmond Morris and produced by Ronald Webster), in which birds of prey are discussed by several people including J. A. Baker. [N.B. John Fanshawe mistakenly identified this as a radio broadcast, when it in fact aired on BBC Two.]

J1.2 Radio typescript, [author unknown], ‘Hugh Barrett reviews “The Peregrine”’, *Woman’s Hour*, BBC Light Programme, 8 June 1967.

330mm x 205mm. 2 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 sheets written on one side.

Script for a book review insert into the BBC radio series *Woman’s Hour*, produced by Virginia Browne-Wilkinson.


252mm x 203mm. 3 pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 sheets written on one side.


J1.4 Collection of newspaper and magazine reviews for *The Peregrine*, [authors various/unknown], [*publications various/unknown – see below*], ([various dates] 1967-1968).

Various sizes. 86 ll. Black and white cuttings and printout photocopies, some stapled or attached together with cellotape.

A collection of 72 (not including duplicates) press reviews and articles on JAB’s *The Peregrine*. The majority of these are seemingly from UK or US publications, including *The Sunday Times* and *The New York Times*, but also included are publications from elsewhere around the world, such as the *Karachi Morning News*.

J1.5 Photocopies of the upper covers of a pair of editions of J. A. Baker, *The Peregrine*, [cover artists unknown], (n.d.).

Approx. 210mm x 145mm. [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 printout sheets, colour photocopied on one side.

J1.6  Magazine excerpts, [authors unknown], *The Peregrine Fund Newsletter*, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, No. 5, Fall 1977, pp. [1-3], 9.

280mm x 210mm. [4] pp. (+ 4 blank on verso). 4 printout sheets, black and white photocopied on one side.

Copies of pages featuring an article about the ‘Morro Rock Peregrines’ on the American West Coast and on peregrine conservation at Sedge Island, New Jersey, during 1977, with a page including a donation form for The Peregrine Fund at the Laboratory of Ornithology, headed by a quote from JAB’s *The Peregrine*.


237mm x 137mm. [1] l. A single black and white cutting.

Overview of contemporary ‘provincial’ writing, comparing the work of Arthur Barton and J. L. Carr to JAB’s *The Peregrine* and *The Hill of Summer*.

J1.8  [J. A. Baker], holograph notes on press reviews for *The Peregrine*, (n.d.).


A list of 59 worldwide reviews of *The Peregrine*, including information on date, publication, reviewer, number of words, and quality (e.g. ‘good’, ‘bad’, ‘brief’).

J1.9  Pair of newspaper programme listings, [various authors], broadcast *In the Country*, [BBC], (n.d.), 9.30[? pm], [? *The Radio Times*], [edition unknown].

Various sizes. [2] ll. 2 black and white cuttings, stapled onto white card (155mm x 102mm), ms. title (? John Fanshawe) at foot in pencil: ‘programme with Ted Ellis’ with the date ‘1967’.

Listing and breakdown for the series *In the Country*, which included a section of the programme on “’A World of No Attachment’”: J. A. Baker discusses with Ted Ellis his ten years’ intensive observation of the peregrine; AND a larger introduction written by Paul Humphreys concerning the same programme in more detail, with mention made of Baker being interviewed for it in the studio at BBC Norwich. [N.B. - it is unclear which channel this programme aired on and whether it was a radio or a television broadcast].


The items below are contained in a brown card folder (approx. 355mm x 240mm), autograph titles on upper cover crossed out and replaced.

330mm x 203mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single headed sheet written on one side.

An overview of the week 26 June to 2 July, with details of that week’s reviews of The Hill of Summer from The Times (reviewer Alan Bold), The New Statesman (reviewer Frederick Laws), and The Dublin Evening Herald (reviewer Paddy Hughes); along with details of ‘Survival, the documentary series about nature conservation and animals, produced by Anglia Television, [which] is to feature THE HILL OF SUMMER and THE PEREGRINE in one of their programmes in late August’ (p. 1).


330mm x 205mm. 2 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). Copy of 2 sheets written on one side, stapled together.

A review sent by BBC European Talks to Collins attaching the script for a talk on The Hill of Summer, reviewed by the Science Correspondent John Newell.

J2.3 Collection of newspaper and magazine reviews for The Hill of Summer, [authors various/unknown], [publications various/unknown – see below], ([various] 1969-1970).

Various sizes. 54 ll. Black and white cuttings and photocopies; some stapled or attached with cellotape.

A collection of 48 (not including duplicates) press reviews and articles on JAB’s The Hill of Summer from around the world. The majority of these are seemingly from UK or US publications, including The Times Literary Supplement, The New Statesman, The New York Times, but also include other foreign publications such as The Sydney Morning Herald.

J2.4 [J. A. Baker], holograph notes on press reviews for The Hill of Summer, (n.d.).

203mm 152mm. [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). A single lined sheet written on one side.

A list of 17 British press reviews of The Peregrine, including information on date, publication, reviewer, number of words, and quality (e.g. ‘excellent’, ‘fair’).

The items below are contained in a brown card folder (260mm x 205mm), several manuscript titles on upper cover crossed out.


Various sizes. [6] ll. 6 excised black and white sheets.

A group of pieces about prizes and funding available to authors and writers, and information regarding changes to Collins Publishers.

J3.2  Newspaper article, Keith Nurse, ‘£5,000 for 46 Authors’, [publication unknown], [edition unknown], ([autograph dated 14 January 1984]).

108mm x 45mm. [1] l. A single black and white cutting.

Article concerning pay-outs under the Public Lending Right scheme for authors.

J3.3  Advertisement, [Author unknown], ‘Science Fiction: the 100 Best Novels’ (London: Xanadu, 1985).

104mm x 124mm. [4] pp. Bifolium black and white leaflet printed on all sides.

An advert supplement to The Bookseller, 19 October 1985, for the guide to ‘the 100 best novels’ in science fiction, selected by David Pringle, with a list detailing the current availability of titles.

J3.4  [J. A. Baker], pair of miscellaneous holograph notes (n.d.).

Various sizes. [2] ll. 2 slips of notepaper written on one side.


J4  Miscellaneous

Arranged chronologically.

J4.1  Newspaper article, [author unknown], ‘Councillor’s Son Marries at Chelmsford: Mr. J. A. Baker and Miss D. G. Coe’, [publication unknown], [edition unknown] ([1956]).

Approx. 138mm x 48mm. [1] l. A single black and white cutting. [N.B. This item was originally in the same envelope as J. A. and Doreen Baker’s ‘Order of Service for Marriage’, see item E2.]

120mm x 50mm. [1] l. A single black and white cutting. [N.B. *This item was originally in the same envelope as J. A. and Doreen Baker’s ‘Order of Service for Marriage’, see item E2.*]


J4.3 Collection of photographs and illustrations titled ‘Peregrine’, [Authors/photographers unknown, various], [Publications unknown, various], (n.d. [? 1970s-1980s]).
Various sizes. 131 ll. 131 colour cuttings from magazines and newspapers, books, cards etc., in a brown card folder (352mm x 238mm), various ms. titles and contents in JAB’s hand on upper cover crossed out and replaced.

A group of pictures of landscapes, birds (a range of raptors, including peregrine falcons, and other species) and animals.

*   *   *

K UNPUBLISHED WORK BY J. A. BAKER

Arranged alphabetically by title. Untitled pieces are given by their first line. These items are all photocopies, likely made by JAB, and were received from Bernard Coe as such; the fate of the originals is unknown, presumably destroyed.

K1 *Československá, 1948* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [6] pp. (+ 6 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of 5 typescript sheets with holograph title, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.

A free verse poem.

K2 *Death of the Birch-tree* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.

A free verse poem.

K3 *Dick Barton, Unlimited* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [7] pp. (+ 7 blank on verso) (pages numbered: [i], 1-6). 3 sets, copies of 7 typescript sheets, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.

A play-script in a nonsense style.
K4  *How soon the land goes back to those companions of dull clay* (n.d.).
Various sizes. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.
   An untitled free verse poem.

K5  *It's always Beef on Sunday* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (2x) [5] pp. (+ 5 blank on verso). 2 sets, copies of 5 typescript sheets, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.
   A poem, subtitled ‘For Several Voices’.

K6  *Lament* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.
   A free verse poem.

K7  *Large White Dwarf* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [5] pp. (+ 5 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of 5 typescript sheets, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.
   A surreal short story about a man who becomes the owner of an aggressive dwarf.

K8  *The Last Kingdom* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of 2 typescript sheets, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.
   A free verse poem.

K9  *[Leaving at last the everglades of drawing day…]* (18 August 1953).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.
   An untitled free verse poem.

K10  *Little Joseph has a haircut* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [3] pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of 3 typescript sheets with holograph title, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.
   A short story telling the first-person account of a boy at a hairdressers.

K11  *Owl Light* (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.
   A free verse poem.
K12 Pilgrimage (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.
A free verse poem.

K13 Sestina (n.d.).
Various sizes. (3x) [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of 2 typescript sheets, photocopied on one side, 2 sets stapled together.
A sestina that begins 'I waited for her voice among the glades.'

K14 [Storm in a Summer Garden…] (22 July [year unknown]).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single holograph sheet, photocopied on one side.
An untitled free verse poem.

K15 Upon the Journey – A Place to Sleep In (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.
A free verse poem.

K16 When we are old we will not long be old (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [1] pp. (+ 1 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of a single typescript sheet, photocopied on one side.
An untitled free verse poem.

K17 Who do you think he is – a District Nurse (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [5] pp. (+ 5 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of 5 typescript sheets, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.
A surreal short story about a man who goes to his doctor.

K18 [You tease me for my longings…] (n.d.).
297mm x 210mm. (3x) [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 3 sets, copies of 2 typescript sheets, photocopied on one side, each set stapled together.
An untitled dialogue poem between 'She' and 'He'.

* * *
L POSTHUMOUS MATERIAL

Arranged chronologically.

L1 Photocopies of a pair of roadmaps of [?]Basildon, ‘Summer Hill Nurseries’, [publication unknown], (n.d. [date of copy ? 16 April 2003]).

297mm x 210mm. 2 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 black and white printout sheets, photocopied on one side. [This item was originally in the brown cardboard folder titled ‘Hill of Summer reviews and opinions’ (approx. 355mm x 240mm), see item J2.]

Showing details from pages of a road map series with the location ‘Summer Hill Nurseries’ with ms. annotations (author unknown). Each page is dated ‘16/04 2003’ at head. Provenance unknown.


297mm x 210mm. [57] pp. (+ 57 blanks on verso, + 1 blank l.) (pages numbered: [i (title)], [1]-56). 57 printout sheets written on one side, in a clear plastic cover (approx. A4).

The draft script for a proposed television film based on the journals and book by JAB. [N.B. This item was received from David Cobham].

L3 [David Cobham], J. A. Baker – some notes after talking to the widow, Doreen (n.d. [? 2006]).

297mm x 210mm. [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 printout sheets written on one side, stapled at top left corner.

Transcribed notes made by Cobham during an interview with Doreen Baker, giving some background history of JAB’s family and details on his character. [N.B. This item was received from David Cobham].

L4 Photographs of J. A. Baker’s library, Bernard Coe (13 February 2007).

297mm x 210mm. [23] pp. (+ 23 blank on verso). 23 printout sheets in a clear plastic cover (approx. 300mm x 215mm).

A series of black and white photographs of bookshelves containing some of the books belonging to JAB. [N.B. a full list of these books transcribed by John Fanshawe is available at http://libwww.essex.ac.uk/Archives/baker.htm].

297mm x 210mm. [2] pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 printout sheets written on one side, in a clear plastic cover (approx. A4).

Correspondence in which Treleaven discusses his own letters to and from JAB, and JAB’s birdwatching skill, and encloses a copy of an email concerning records of peregrines published in the Essex Bird Report between 1960 and 1973. [N.B. This item was received from John Fanshawe. Also originally enclosed with this item was the copy of JAB’s article ‘The Peregrine in Essex’, Essex Bird Report (1966), see item H1.2.]

Email to Myles Archibald, Cc Hannah Macdonald, from Michael Walter, 22 October 2009 (forwarded to John Fanshawe and Mark Cocker, 23 October 2009).

297mm x 210mm. 2 pp. A single printout sheet written on both sides.

Forwarded correspondence between Archibald at Harper Collins and Walter, who was JAB’s editor at Collins when he wrote The Peregrine and The Hill of Summer, containing Walter’s memories of JAB. [N.B. This item was received from John Fanshawe.]


297mm x 210mm. [3] pp. (+ 3 blank on verso). 3 sheets written on one side, stapled in top left corner.

Contents: Carr writes of his memories of working with JAB at the Chelmsford Area Headquarters of the Automobile Association. [N.B. This item was received from John Fanshawe.]

Holograph letter signed from ‘Jack Baird’ to ‘John’ [Fanshawe], 22 March 2010, Dundee, [Scotland].

210mm x 148mm. [2] pp. A single sheet of yellow notepaper written on both sides.

Contents: Baird writes of his memories of JAB at the King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford, in the early 1940s. [N.B. This item was received from John Fanshawe.]

Photocopy of J. A. Baker’s diaries, 1954-1956 (n.d. of copy [? 2010]).

297mm x 210mm. [697] pp. (+ 697 blank on verso). 697 colour sheets, photocopied on one side, yellow postit notes attached, in damaged cardboard tray (approx. A4).

A photocopied set of JAB’s diaries made by John Fanshawe. [N.B. This item was received from John Fanshawe.]
297mm x 210mm. [4] pp. (+ 4 blank on verso). 4 colour sheets, photocopied on one side.

Copy of an article in which Jameson discusses the doubts cast by ornithologists on JAB’s birdwatching capabilities and his portrayal of peregrine falcons. [N.B. *This item was received from John Fanshawe.*]

L11 John Fanshawe, ‘J. A. Baker Archive: Outline list’ (University of Essex, the Albert Sloman Library: 30 October 2013).
297mm x 210mm. 2 pp. (+ 2 blank on verso). 2 printout sheets written on one side, stapled in top left corner.

Copy of the preliminary deposition notes made by John Fanshawe. [N.B. *This item was received from John Fanshawe.*]