

Name	Doreen Cornthwaite
Relationship to NN	Second cousin
Interviewer	Charlie Lambert
Date of recording	16/9/22
Location	Carlisle
Dur	23 mins 15

Top: I was born in South Africa, came to UK for a year in 1959. My parents came back to retire, mum was from Millom and my father from Silecroft. I came over in 1965 and have never left. Norman was my cousin once removed on my father's side.

01.30 How I discovered that I had a well-known poet as a cousin... 'a poet of sorts'.

02.45 I received a gift of his book 'Provincial Pleasures'. *Reads the letter from her aunts and uncle.*

04.25 I came over in 1965. It was only in 1968 that I got to know Norman.

05.30 This is the first letter I received from him (*she reads it*), sent to me at Border TV where I was working.

08.10 I started to visit him. Originals of these letters are at the John Rylands Library. I photocopied them at Border TV. First letter was 1968 and the last was 1985.

09.50 I went to visit. Stayed on the top floor in his old room.

12.15 Norman was totally different from what I was used to. I loved the library (in their house). Rule was I could look at the books but not to move any of them.

13.40 *What do you make of N's literary reputation?* I'm in awe of it. His poems are so easily understandable.

14.55 He said 'when I die no-one will remember me'. I'm more and more astonished that even young people now pick up his poems and enjoy them.

16.20 When Norman died I had lost my parents fairly recently, and my young brother, I felt really really sad. I was there when he was in hospital. His mind was still good, his body let him down.

18.00 I do miss him. Grateful for the opportunities he gave me.

19.30 Went to the mission at Kuruman (S Africa) where Dr Livingstone used to stay. I had a signed copy of Norman's book. I asked the missionary if he would like to have it. He said he'd been teaching Norman's poems to the schools in Kimberley and then he wrote to Norman and invited him to visit but Norman didn't feel able to go.

I found some books he wrote in Kimberley library, these were his two novels.

22.45 I went to Canada, have relatives there. I would get Norman to sign poetry books and give them out as thank you presents. They were very proud to have his books.