

The Amy Johnson Letters (Part IV)



**A collection held by the
Local Studies Library at the
Hull History Centre [L DIAJ]**

Part IV covers the period between
1st April 1927 and Whitsun 1927

Amy Johnson was born in Hull on 1 July 1903. Her family were of Danish descent and were established fish merchants; Andrew Johnson, Knudtzon & Co. In 1925 she completed her BA Degree in Economics at Sheffield University and returned to Hull to take a secretarial course.

In 1926 she had her first experience of flying on a five shilling pleasure trip. The following year she moved down to London to pursue a career in advertising. In 1928 she began taking flying lessons and within two years was not only a qualified pilot but had also become the first woman to qualify as a ground engineer.

In May 1930 Amy made a solo flight to Australia in a Gypsy Moth D.H.60 G-AAAH which she named Jason (the trademark of the Johnson family fish business). Although she failed to break Bert Hinkler's record, she was the first woman to complete the 11,000 mile trip, and as a result she was given considerable press coverage and received telegrams of congratulation from across the world including King George V and Queen Mary and the British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald.

When she returned to England she was presented with a CBE and in August 1930 the Daily Mail newspaper gave her a gift of £10,000 for her achievements. She was also given a civic reception at the Guildhall in Hull. Further record flights followed including London to Moscow with co-pilot Jack Humphreys in January 1931 and then Moscow to Tokyo.

In 1932 she met and married the Scottish aviator Jim Mollison and in December she broke his record for a solo flight from England to South Africa. In July 1933 the couple attempted a non-stop flight from England to New York via Canada. Their plane ran-out of fuel just 50 miles from their destination and they both received minor injuries when the plane crashed. Despite this they were given a ticker-tape parade through New York.

In 1934 Amy and her husband made a record flight to Karachi in India as part of the Australia MacRobertson Air Race, but they had to withdraw from the full race. In 1936 Amy regained her record for a flight between London and Cape Town and the record for the fastest return flight.

In May 1940, Amy joined the women's section of the Air Transport Auxiliary flying both machines and men to wherever they were needed. On 5 January 1941 on a routine flight from Blackpool to RAF Kidlington (near Oxford) she went off course due to the poor weather. She bailed out into the Thames estuary and was seen alive but the rescue attempt failed and her body was never recovered. She was officially presumed dead in December 1943.

In 1932, Amy used a gift of a purse of gold sovereigns presented to her by the children of Sydney to purchase a gold cup for the City of Hull; [The Amy Johnson Cup for Courage]. This trophy is awarded to a Hull child (aged under 17) for an outstanding deed of courage.

In July 1974 a memorial statue was erected to her honour in Prospect Street, Hull.

In 2003 the Royal Mail issued commemorative stamps to mark the centenary of her birth.

Description of the collection:

Purchased in auction at Christies by the Hull Local Studies Library on 16 Oct 1985, the full collection of 286 letters charts Amy Johnson's life during a six year period, 1922-1928. In one letter dated April 1928 she talks of the start of her flying lessons 'now for the good news - I'm joining the London Aeroplane Club and then I can get tuition and always use their aeroplanes'.

The majority of the letters are from Amy to her partner Hans Arregger but the collection also includes letters to Amy from her father at Andrew Johnson Knudtzon Ltd. and from Vernon Wood of William Charles Crocker and Company of London offering her a job with the typing staff at three pounds per week.

As was common at the time, Amy wrote to Hans almost every day during the height of their relationship and some of her letters contain twenty pages or more. In view of this we have created six volumes to aid downloading and reading of the collection.

Related material:

The Local Studies Library also holds the Amy Johnson Library. Initially part of the Johnson Bequest to Kingston High School in 1941 the collection of 250 books was transferred to the Local Studies Library in December 1987 when the school library closed.

For more information about the books and records relating to Amy Johnson at the History Centre see [Discovering Amy Johnson at the Hull History Centre](#) available from the History Centre website.



124

LEARNERSHIPS in PETER JONES, Ltd.

SLOANE SQUARE, S.W.1.

JUNE, 1926.

1. The Company are retail traders in everything that women and children wear and in every kind of furniture and other requirements of ordinary private houses.

The Company are also estate agents, builders and decorators.

The class of trade is good and rising. The Company do not cater for extravagant luxury but for the best class of trade short of such luxury.

The business is fairly large. At this date the staff is between five and six hundred.

The business is successful commercially and is growing rapidly.

The work is of very great variety and it is correspondingly easy to find positions that are suitable to individual aptitudes. The work is quite interesting. In several cases positions have been taken by Honours Graduates of Oxford, Cambridge and of other Universities who were no longer so young as to be very easily adaptable. In most cases, they have found the work more agreeable than their former occupation which has generally been teaching.

2. The owner of the controlling interest has a similar interest in another very much larger London "store." Promotion in both of these two houses is available equally for candidates from either but at present all Learners start in Peter Jones Ltd.

3. The Learnerships are intended to meet the difficulty that arises from the facts that, on the one hand, the method of recruitment customary in this trade does not produce a sufficient number of persons capable of doing justice to the possibilities of the responsible and lucrative posts to which the business gives rise and that, on the other hand, recruits of much greater education and general culture and of really exceptional natural ability are commonly unable or unwilling to support themselves for the period during which they would be acquiring technical knowledge but rendering services of small immediate value.

Accordingly the following system has been devised.

4. A Learner is given a Remuneration Account. He is required to send in to the Counting House each week a bill for his own valuation of the services that in his own opinion he has rendered during that week.

When this valuation has been considered and settled, the amount is placed to the credit of the Remuneration Account. The Account is credited also with anything that may become due to the Learner in respect of the Company's system of commission upon personal connection or otherwise.

Against this Account the Learner is allowed to draw at the rate of three pounds weekly or at a higher rate in some quite exceptional cases.

5. The engagement is terminable in law at one week's notice upon either side or by the payment on the part of the Company of one week's authorised drawings in lieu of notice and the Learner may furthermore leave without notice at the end of the fourth week.

6. But Learners are accepted only upon the clear understanding that they will regard themselves as strictly bound in honour either to leave at or before the end of the first four weeks or else to continue until the credits to their Remuneration Account have become equal to their drawings, unless the Company prefer at some earlier time to "cut the loss" and to release the Learner.

7. The reason, why Learners are not required to bind themselves legally, is that it would be useless for the Company to retain a learner who did not desire to make his services valuable.

The Company are therefore obliged to trust in this matter to the sense of honour of those who accept these Learnerships.

8. With regard to security of tenure, the policy of the Company is to consider carefully before the end of the first four weeks whether it will be wise to continue any further the particular Learner's tenure of his Learnership. If they decide upon continuance, they do so with the intention of continuing for at least another nine weeks unless there arise some very exceptional reason to the contrary.

There is a similar consideration before the end of the thirteenth week and, if the Company then decide upon continuance, there is upon their part a similar intention to persevere for at least another thirteen weeks.

9. In exceptional cases a Learner may be given the choice of leaving the Company or of continuing upon a less drawing-rate but the real object of these Learnerships is to secure people capable of making themselves worth their drawing-rate within a period of not many months and as a rule the Company will prefer not to retain Learners who do not appear to them to be of this calibre.

10. It may be as well to mention here that the Company have a Minimum Wage scale which is based upon Mr. Seebohm Rowntree's figures and varies according to the cost of living in the same way as do the pay-rates of the Civil Service. As a minimum the rate is rather liberal.

11. Considerable ability, supported by adequate energy and character should certainly bring to its possessor in such businesses, as are carried on by the Company, an income decidedly better than ordinary expectation in the principal professions.

12. The working hours at first are 8.55 a.m. to 6.10 p.m. (1 p.m. on Saturdays). Later the hours depend upon the duties of the post. As far as possible, the Management give to responsible workers wide discretion in this respect.

13. Holiday leave may be taken to a reasonable extent twice a year. Pay is not continued during holidays and all pay-rates are based upon this assumption. Members of the staff are advised to instruct the Counting House to transfer automatically to a Savings Account at least enough of their pay on each pay-day to provide for their holidays. Interest at five per cent. is allowed on any such deposits.

14. During illness pay is continued often over very long periods under certain regulations and at the discretion of a committee appointed by the Staff Council, which Council is elected by secret ballot and is representative of the whole staff.

15. The business of the Company is conducted upon an extremely advanced form of profit-sharing. The owner of the controlling interest takes no salary or fee himself and no one draws from the business by way of remuneration more than appears to be the current commercial value of his services.

16. No part of the capital takes more than a moderate fixed interest and all the remaining profit is capitalised as an addition to Share Capital.

The resultant Shares are distributed to the staff in proportion to their earnings and are their unqualified property.

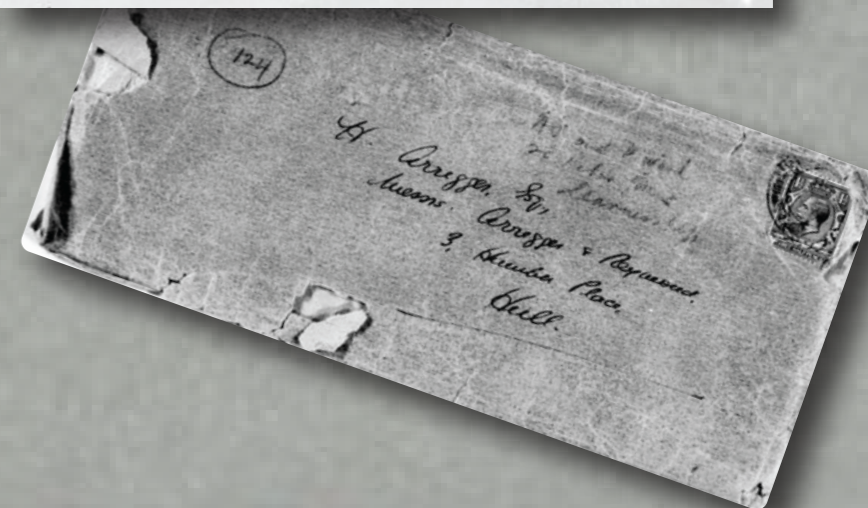
The Shares carry no vote so long as their dividend is not in arrears. They have a cumulative dividend at the rate of seven and one-half per cent.

17. The business is self-governing as far as possible but no risk is run that its technical efficiency may be injured. The Company maintains a weekly gazette to which are welcome communications, signed or unsigned, questioning or criticising the Management. Such Communications and the replies of the Management are published freely.

Bundle of papers from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/124)

Includes remuneration forms, information about careers for graduates at Lewis', a letter from Amy to Mrs Wood thanking her for her legal advice and a letter from a solicitor

1 Apr 1927



18. Under the system of commission upon Personal Connection any member of the staff may ask at any time that the Counting House will accept as his personal connection the name of some friend or acquaintance from whom he believes that he can obtain business for the Company.

When the Counting House has accepted that name according to certain regulations, the member of the staff in question is entitled to commission at the rate of one penny in the shilling upon all business whatsoever that may be done by the Company with that customer during the continuance of the employment of the holder of the list or within three months after the termination of that employment.

The holder of the list, upon which the name appears, need have no direct connection whatever with any individual piece of business. It is taken for granted that his personal influence with the customer in question is a continuing general factor in the relations of that customer with the Company. Some Learners make in this way alone a considerable income. The Company gives good value and its goods are bought generally with taste and discernment. It is therefore not difficult for friends and connections of members of the staff to give a good deal of business to the Company with advantage rather than with any disadvantage to themselves.

19. The Management cannot enter into previous discussions with candidates of small points of detail. Freedom from any obligation to continue beyond the first month is intended to avoid that need.

20. It should be understood quite clearly that the Company gives no sort of guarantee, express or implied, that it will retain any Learner for any particular period or that it will be able to offer him a permanent career but the total volume of its business is continually increasing at a great rate and, as in the case of most successful business organisations, its difficulty is not to find a sufficiency of openings for candidates, who combine ability, energy and soundness of character but to find candidates able to do justice to the possibilities of the positions that have to be filled.

21. Candidates for these Learnerships should send a carefully arranged, complete statement of all the facts that will in their opinion be useful to the Management in coming to a decision. The competence, with which that statement is prepared, will be, of course, a very material factor in that decision. Correspondence about these Learnerships should be addressed to the Staff Secretary.

5th West. Post House
West. End Lane.
N. W. 6.

1st April 1927.

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of yesterday's date, and for the trouble you have taken in giving me the benefit of your legal advice. As my own independent opinion regarding Peter Jones' Learnership scheme coincides with yours, I feel all the more sure that to stay on under this scheme would be inadvisable.

It is very kind of you indeed to offer to supply me on your typing staff, and I do not think you will find me slow in adapting myself to the legal atmosphere and

2.

gaining that legal experience which will help me forward. As you advise me, however, I am turning this over carefully in my mind before I make a definite decision, and I would like to see you first, as you suggest.

I will come down tomorrow as soon as I finish and shall probably arrive between 1.45 and 2 o'clock. I hope this will not inconvenience you in any way.

With very many thanks for all your kindness.

Yours sincerely,

Clay Johnson.



Miss Middleton says they badly need someone for the next fortnight, & if I've anything like at all, can easily be valued at £3. So I probably shan't owe anything for next week!!

It's not so far to Oxford St. as to Sloane Sq. & I shall be glad to be in that neighborhood, because there's nothing to do round Sloane Sq. during the lunch hour.

Are you satisfied with this letter, darling? I can't promise you one every day in future, because I feel I want a bit more rest than I'm getting. Of course you'll say I haven't written you much last week, but even when I can't get a letter off it worries me when I know you'll be expecting one.

My cold's getting worse & I've got neuralgia a bit in my gums. Hope I don't feel rotten tomorrow. I wish I could learn Golf & then I could save some.

Write soon, darling & as often as you can. I will, too. And tell me what you decide

about Easter.

I'm enclosing the copy I wrote for Harrods in case you would like to see it. Don't destroy it though, please. And also the papers which Mr. Wood gave me back. I would like them returned when you have read them, because I may want to refer to them when I talk to Mr. Spedden Lewis. I shall probably set my mind improved quickly now, as I shall have to take notes from this worthy gentleman.

I suppose he's awfully exacting, but this, you will say, is good for us. I am also sending you Mr. Wood's estimation of Lewis's system. Please return this also. What a big pocket! You'll wonder what's coming!!

I'm thinking of you a lot, darling, & longing for Easter. - am working off the days now. All my love & lots of kisses,
Q.

The best of luck with your Spanish potato speculation - Don't lose what money you have got!

Miss Johnson, Learner.
Department A

Peter Jones, Ltd.,
Sloane Square,
S.W.1.

Your Remuneration Account has been credited with
10/- for services rendered during the week ended
17/3/27

F.W.S. Emery
CHAIRMAN
Secretary of the Company.
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMY

Miss Jonathan, Learner.
Department A.

Your Remuneration Account has been credited with
9/4 for services rendered during the week ended
18 MAR 1927

F.W.S. Emery,
Secretary of the Company.

Peter Jones, Ltd.,
Sloane Square,
S.W.1.

I've just read your letter again & find I've forgotten one or two things.

If you really come to London in June & are very nice to me, I shall regret not having applied for the post in Switzerland. I'll only regret it if you fail me. & I shall have lots of faith in you deep down inside me. - Just a little more than you have in me!

I was glad you didn't enjoy the Palais, because that proves it wasn't my fault when you didn't enjoy it with me. If you'd said you'd enjoyed it I'm afraid I should have felt rather rotten about it, because four never enjoyed it with me. - except perhaps the first time.

What do you mean, darling, when you say if it wasn't for me you might look at things differently? I believe it's complimentary to me, but am not sure. I wouldn't like you to look at things in the "modern way" you describe as existing now at the Palais! Do tell me.

Love, D.

Page 3.

(Fashions).

Sprung now reigns supreme in fashion's kingdom and proclaims her royal decree. - Simplicity, achieved through art, shall be all-powerful and the sports mode sold its way. The colours to be favoured are blues of every hue, from the softest bluish tint in mother o' pearl to the royal richness of the mountain gaitan. Grey is beckoned from the shadows to challenge beige.

Sprung is holding her court at Harrods, and all her line is here set forth for you to see. Lovely modest creations - gowns, wraps and tailors. Tempting unobtrusive modes - frocks, coats and suits. Sprung's millinery. All the tiny important details which breathe charm and make or mar.

Sprung invites you to share her attractions and be as alluring as she.

Come and see for yourself!



Does Furniture tell you secrets?

To us, every piece of Furniture reveals a secret. It may bewail its sad lot cast amongst uncourteous companions; it may perhaps proclaim its triumph for an unnumbered place in elegant society; it may sigh for those few inches more, or less, for more slender outlines and more graceful form; or - it may whisper coarsely of taste and refinement, beauty and simplicity - so does this walnut piece.

Walnut is the quint of perfection in furniture. Our reproductions of rare and costly antiques huddle contentedly together in any room, and each piece finds itself in such delightful company that all whisper in unison their secret of charm, elegance and good judgment.

Walnut has however other friends of taste and distinction. Various types of painted furniture and lacquer are happiest when beside a walnut piece.

Here's a picture! - A drawing-room peopled with little bits of Walnut tables, - this, especially "oyster" - that, characterized by cabriole leg. A perfectly proportioned walnut cabinet - a frame of beauty for

cherished pieces of Dresden, Colport and Chelsea. A charming bureau-bookcase, the pride of the dainty tea-tables and fashionably low card-tables nestling close by - all, without aristocrats!

And - interestingly with these, softly shading feminine grace and charm, a tall lamp pedestal, a few occasional chairs, a miniature cabinet - in fascinating coral sprinkled with old English flowers.

Happy, indeed, the guests to be entertained in such a room! And satisfied, we feel, their hosts, to see the happiness of her guests!

In another picture, elegant Walnut forms the background for a few beautiful lacquered pieces. Lacquer - red, blue, black and cream - proud and happy amidst its walnut companions! A charming little bookcase, its slenderness disguising its capacity for use, with a miniature cupboard underneath; a decorative coffee-table with removable tray-top; a lamp pedestal with its lamp lending an Oriental touch; a corner

cabinet with rounded cornice, blended red & cream, its two glass shelves just sufficient for one or two pieces of porcelain, its under cupboard ready alike for majolica or music.

Many pictures more could I paint for you, indicating every piece of furniture to whisper to you its secret of refinement and taste. But perhaps you, in your own mind, have many pictures - more beautiful than those of rooms in your own home, perfect with their pieces of walnut and lacquer or painted furniture!

THE most characteristic feature of retail distribution in the last 20 years all over the world has been the continuous expansion and development of the departmental store. There has, in consequence, been a complete alteration in the type of personnel required to organise, manage and direct these stores. The larger the store, the more executive posts, and the more posts there are with actual responsibility, the more difficult it is to find suitable candidates for them.

Lewis's has been finding it difficult in recent years to find suitable personnel for the developments that are constantly taking place within its organisation, and has decided on the definite policy of recruiting for executive posts from university trained men and women, who will be put through a course of intensive training, with a view, if suitable, to early and rapid promotion to responsible posts.

Selected candidates will be engaged as trainees for a minimum period of six months, during which time they will be allotted to departments in the store to obtain a detailed knowledge of a particular department, to come into direct contact with customers, and to acquire an intimate knowledge of merchandise.

The first step in promotion is to the post of departmental charge hand, which implies control of staff, display within a department, the marking up of goods, stock-keeping and all departmental routine. Charge hands stand immediately under the departmental sales managers, who are, in effect, completely responsible for the selling side of a particular department. This post requires a thorough knowledge of methods of handling, of stock-keeping systems, and of methods of attractive display combined with the capacity to handle and inspire staff.

The purchasing side of the business is in the hands of buyers, who are recruited, in the main, from the sales managers, and who have their headquarters in London, where Lewis's have a central buying office. The qualifications for a buyer are a really intimate and technical

knowledge of the values and qualities of a particular type of merchandise. The buyer's work can easily be the most interesting in the whole store, but as it implies handling a comparatively large capital, mistakes become very costly and the life is essentially only for the keenly efficient.

Beyond the buyers, and over the sales managers, are group managers, who control a series of departments and form the recruiting ground for the posts of deputy general manager and general manager.

Salaries. During the initial period of training a salary at the rate of £130 to £150 per annum will be paid. The first promotion will carry with it a salary from £200 to £250. In the next grade the salary starts from £300, but varies with the size of the department and experience. Further promotion would carry a minimum salary of £400.

In addition to salary, commission is paid on increased turnover. On each promotion a figure is fixed for the trade required, which is that of the turnover of the department for the past 12 months, at a fixed rate; and paid on any increase over this figure, at a department, however long a person may be in charge of a department, the original basic figure is never varied to the advantage of the employee. Many employees in Lewis's succeed in earning more in commission than in salary.

Trainees must be prepared for hard work, for much longer hours and much shorter holidays than is usual in professional posts. They should have some instinct for buying and selling and the making of a bargain and for the control of subordinates. Promotion depends entirely on the individual and not on seniority. There is, further, no guarantee of continuous employment, and while Lewis's aims at giving every employee a fair chance, there will be no special preference given to the university man or woman who enters the store.

Application should be made in writing to the Staff Manager, Messrs. Lewis's Ltd., at either Liverpool, Manchester or Birmingham.

**THE DEPARTMENTAL STORE
AS A CAREER FOR THE
UNIVERSITY GRADUATE**

LEWIS'S LTD.
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER BIRMINGHAM

Memorandum No:155.
Dict: 23.2.27.
Typd: 23.2.27.
VH/WT.

Chairman of the
Committee for Economy
to all Learners.

I. Buyers' valuations of Learners' services and Learners' valuations of their own services should be in the Counting House not later than noon on the Monday following the week in question. A box marked "Remuneration Accounts" will be found just inside the door of the Counting House. Learners and Buyers must enter their names in the attached book as evidence that they have posted their valuations.

II. If no valuation is received from a Buyer the Learner's valuation will be accepted and, if no valuation is received from a Learner, the Buyer's valuation will be accepted. If no valuation at all is received by nine o'clock on the following Wednesday, the accepted valuation of the preceding week will be carried on for the week in question, and there will be no opportunity of appeal.

III. A Learner whose valuation is not accepted will be so informed by the Deputy General Manager not later than noon on the Wednesday next following the week in question.

IV. It must be clearly understood that the Buyer's valuation is in the nature of a criticism of the Learner's valuation and that if the Buyer criticises the Learner's valuation to the extent of disagreeing with it the Deputy General Manager will endeavour to procure agreement between the Buyer and Learner. If she fails the final valuation of the Learner's services will be made by me. The Learner will, however, have a right of appeal to arbitration against my valuation.

V. Learners can always obtain information as to the state of their Remuneration Accounts by application to the Counting House.

VI. The Staff Secretary will at their request explain to them the system of Pool Commission.

W.C.
11 MAR 1927
CHAIRMAN
OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMY



WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER
21, BUCKLEBUURT,
LONDON, E.C.4.
AND AT
44 KING STREET WEST, MANCHESTER
10, HOPE STREET, BIRMINGHAM
282 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

MISS AMY JOHNSON, B.A.,
c/o E. GREEN, ESQ.,
50, WEST END MANSIONS,
WEST END LANE,
HAMPSTEAD, N.W.6.
31ST MARCH 1927.

DEAR AMY,
Sincerely yours
OUR REF. VSW. 1.

After you left me yesterday evening, I went again carefully through the papers you had left with me, and must confess that I find some difficulty in understanding them.

The scheme, in the hands of good Employers (and I have no reason to doubt but that Peter Jones Ltd. would come within that category), would appear to be ultimately advantageous to the participants, but it is clear that you are more or less absolutely in their hands. This system of advancing £3 per week, and subsequently valuing your weekly services at something less, leaving a balance due to the firm week by week, was presumably introduced for the purpose of finding a girl during the period of what we might call her apprenticeship, with a living wage. On the other hand, the creation of this debt, termed by the Employers as a debt of honour, creates in my mind a feeling

WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER. 31st March 1927. Continuation Sheet No. 2.

of distrust especially when I see that your remuneration is fixed at such a small sum as about 10/- leaving an adverse balance against you of £2. 10. 0 per week. I cannot comprehend how any girl of 23 can be valued for purposes of the work upon which you are engaged, at such a figure, and for that reason, in the absence of any further explanation, I can hardly say that the scheme is one which would appeal to me.

I understand you are ambitious to obtain a Secretaryship. I cannot promise you one here, particularly as you have not had that legal training which is one of the essentials of that position. I will, however, take you on to start with in the Typing staff at £3 per week, and when you have acquired the necessary legal atmosphere and you prove yourself suitable, I have little doubt that I can place you in more congenial employment in the firm or outside it.

Turn this matter carefully over in your mind, and if you would like to see me before definitely deciding to come, I can arrange to stay in the office on Saturday afternoon until you are freed from your work.

Yours sincerely,
William Crocker

124A

Sunday, 10 a.m.

Just a few lines before I get up, darling, and then I am going a walk on the heath with her & her. I mean to see if it will do me any good. No perhaps just as well you couldn't come this weekend, darling, because I've got a sore throat & very bad cold & don't feel at all well. I can't imagine how I've got this cold - of course, it's a menstruation one. But I've done nothing these last 2 days to encourage one. My fingers are swollen badly with chills again, & I've never had them so a fire - haven't the chance, except in the evening, & I wasn't home when they came.

I wonder if you got any wire before the letter. I think it's quite likely, but I didn't receive because I thought it would prepare you. Were you very mad, darling? I really can't remember exactly all I wrote, but I know I put one thing which wasn't nice. You ought to understand how I was feeling, darling. Because I know you sometimes feel like

that yourself. I suppose I was in an irritable mood, & I felt the only way to relieve my feelings was to burst someone I loved very much. (I didn't analyse my feelings like this at the time, but I think that's how they must have been). You see, every night at 8.30 before we have finished dinner & I have a chance to begin my letter. And even then there are usually lots of interruptions - Mrs. Green is rather delicate & Mrs. Green adores her & won't let her do anything if she's not feeling well. So I always feel I have to help Mrs. Green out, and that delays me.

On Friday it was 1/2 to 9 before I started & I was going to write to you first as usual, & then I thought how unfair I was being to other people. I hadn't written home for over a week, or Mrs. & Beattie & Betty for over a fortnight, & poor Beattie had sent me a p.c. telling me how much I was. I never receive a letter, have never written

124A
you at all, & Miss Swallowell has written me 3 times & I haven't answered. There are others as well. So I decided to write home first, & then I had any time left to write to you. (Mrs. Green has put the water out for me, so I must go. Will finish later.)
2.30 p.m.

Have just finished dinner, & I do feel rotten, darling. I wish I had you to look after me, tho' Mrs. & Miss. Green are very kind. We've been a walk on the heath. It was lovely, but has tired me rather. I wonder if you've gone to Hamboro on your bike. I shall miss my rides on the pillion. Who will you take now? I'm sure Mollie would love to go somewhere, & I don't see why Father should deny her the pleasure. I think she's probably be quite pleased to know you were safely in Beeth. Maybe she's wondering when you are now!! Shall I ask Mollie to

call & see you some time Saturday or Sunday afternoon?

I haven't yet finished explaining about my "nasty" letter. I told you I was irritable because I couldn't find time to write you the long letter I wanted to, and then you letters in the morning, had disturbed me quite a bit. In spite of your crossing that bit out about winning my own salvation, it has been in my mind ever since & it still irritates and troubles. I can't forget it, and in spite of myself, it has already made a lot of difference. It was Tuesday when you wrote it & I made up my mind not to say anything as you'd crossed it out, because I thought I'd soon forget about it. But I haven't. It isn't just the words, & I don't mind you telling me to find my own salvation. It's the fact that you consider I need to find a salvation, & that your help is

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Incomplete)
(Reference L DIAJ/124A)

'Just a few lines before I get up darling and then I am going to walk on the heath.'

n.d.

124A
essential for this. And you have decided
to withhold your help & leave me to
find this strange thing by myself.
There is also implied again your
unwillingness to see in that
you don't want to find a solution
while I do. What on earth did
you mean, "anyway"? Your girls
cannot see of asking for your advice,
and although I am very grateful for
all you have done for me so far, I
feel I must go my own way in the
future. And as I don't feel happy
dependent on other people's advice -
never take it unless it coincides with
my own opinion (with very few exceptions),
I don't think I shall find things so
difficult as you seem to imagine.

And then again I was fed up
with how you talk me about going to
the Palace. You know perfectly well
why I dislike the Swiss so much -
in case you don't, I'll tell you. It's
because they so utterly refuse to recognize

me at all, & of course one cannot
expect them to. How are they to
know that I'm your mistress, and
that you no longer want the society of
the young girl they chop-her. The
Catholics, the Scots, the Consul, the
Dolores, etc. have all recognized that
we belong to each other, in spite of
our refusal to bow down to English
Customs & be engaged. Yet the Swiss
would never see this, & I could never
understand why you wanted me kept
hidden, as it were, from their notice.
Every time they have asked you to go
to the Palace, to dinner, to dances, etc.
they have asked you about & ignored
me, & you have never had to alter
things (except perhaps at that one
brandy dance when you took me as
the only one you could take up, so
no wonder they never gave me another
thought.) Mrs. Archer always
recognizes me as your special friend.
And she knows no more about me
than do the Swiss. Why is it?
If you can explain I should love to know

124A
If you were in my place you'd dislike
them just as much as I do. There are
a lot of things I stand which you
wouldn't see if you were me. And
yet if I try to tell them you get so
awfully mad.

And now you run off to the Palace
with them as soon as can be, they make
you again after the game - ask you to
spend Gade's with them & go on picnics
etc. By all means enjoy their
entertaining company, but don't expect
me to enjoy your enjoyment - that's
all.

It's a good thing I don't care so
much for what people think or say -
otherwise I'd hate you & lose all my
faith. There is not one person of all
who know you & I who has persuaded
me to stick to you. Not a single one
- not even the Consul. They all
say the same thing - "A charming
boy, but not a marrying man." I
don't care a damn whether you're a
marrying man or not. Whatever

difference does it make! The fed up
will deal with & I wish the institution
of marriage was at the bottom of the
sea. I hate the word. And if
Blair tells me many more things
about you - "call for my sake" - I
think I shall lose my temper & say
something I'll be sorry for.

As soon as ever I had posted
my letter to you on Thursday I was
sorry, and when your awfully nice
letter arrived on Friday morning
saying how you had heard you were
looking forward to my long letter, I
felt as though I'd have just anything
to have fetched it back. That's why I
don't like to write. It was difficult to
word it, in case your clock opened
it. Did you understand I was
really awfully sorry?

Thank you so much for the soap,
darling. It's a topping one. I love
to see you laughing like that, & I
admit you will give me about as
being able to be one's self in England.



124^A
I don't know when I can have dinner with you. It was very stupid of me if I did. I believe that's one reason why I'm so longing for you to come so that we can have our own little house & be ourselves absolutely, without any pretence or concealment or interference. I'm as sure as hell I want it. I'll try real hard to bring back your boyishness, abbi. I can't do it by myself. You need lots of company & companionship & the right atmosphere & surroundings for that. Yet when we go to Switzerland, you spend your time at the dentist! You won't need him, will you, darling?

If you're writing to her. I'll tell you that she's ever so much for letting me have the soap. I also hope I shall see her this summer. But if you go to Italy I don't see that I shall get to Switzerland. However that's some time off yet.

Let's chat about Easter now. Only a

week or Friday! I see it near now! You've been thinking a lot about it these last few days & have got a lovely holiday picture of the places within reach of London.

I am now going to make my suggestion, darling, and criticize yours, if you don't mind. I've seen some pictures of Leamington Spa & read about it, & I'm afraid it doesn't appeal to me very much at the moment. It will be so crowded

particularly with Londoners as it is one of the most popular excursions from London - I'd love to express excursion from Paddington. It seems to stand second in the same relation to London as Airedale or Scarborough to Hull, except that there are so many rooms in London. Of course it is a splendid centre for all the interesting spots of Warwickshire, but I think they will all be so crowded.

Let's go to Wales, darling. I do so badly feel in need of rest & peace & beautiful scenery. I think some

124^A
of the most beautiful little places are along the coast in Monmouthshire. I'm enclosing you some photographs of different ones. It would be just as easy (or difficult) for you to get them as to Leamington Spa, & in fact, I think, what I would sooner than the longer journey to know I'm going to a lovely quiet place.

I think I would like either Corlog, Dolgellau (this sounds delightful), or Bala, or perhaps Harrogate would be the best centre. We needn't stop when we go first. There might be more people at Harrogate, because one can go easily from there to bat. Pwllheli. I think Dolgellau looks charming. How do you? I'll leave you to decide & I do hope you won't think it's too far to go. The longing for mountains & the sea, darling. I know I ought to be satisfied to have you anywhere, but if I can have you and lovely scenery I may as well, mayn't I, dear?

If I am stuck at Lewis's I can take an extra day, if it's convenient, by doing without my pay. It will be worth while if we go to Wales. Maybe, I can take 2, if you can, but will ~~write~~ about that later.

I should love to go to Sharnford - or - even sooner than that, but preferably not on a bank holiday. It's too near London.

I just find Dolgellau described as 'the Switzerland of Wales'. Do let's go there, darling, please. I'm sending for a Guide & I'll let you have it. I feel quite excited already at the prospect of going there. We'll have a more delightful "honeymoon" than ever before, darling.

How I must try to tell you some of the happenings of last week. The "five-language" girl is one of Lewis's exaggerations. She can't see halves in adding "local colour."

124A
7.
This girl is a cousin of Olive's future husband (doesn't "future husband" sound awful? Just there a nice expression?), & she has been abroad all her life. I'm not quite sure when she was born, but her parents are both English, & she speaks English perfectly because wherever they are living, English is always spoken in her home. Her mother speaks French well, because she has spent many years in France, & also German, because her home is now just outside Vienna. The other 2 languages she speaks are Swedish, I believe. Her people have plenty of money & have sent her to London to get a commercial training to take a post in Vienna. She is going back in June. She is a very nice girl, & I wouldn't mind seeing more of her. I don't suppose I shall know as Olive is leaving London at Easter. Olive & she & I had dinner at the Poplars, & we didn't dance because we had no partners. I wouldn't dream

of dancing with any man who came & asked us. What do you take me for, enjoying I am dancing with strangers.
On Wednesday Olive & I dined with Mr. Wood at the Holborn Restaurant. I thoroughly enjoyed it & only danced with Mr. Wood once. Have you been? It's very nice, but awfully expensive. Dinner 7/6.
On Thursday morning there was a post offered in the "Pipette" at Peter Jones for a secretary on the Chairman's staff. Salary 9/6. I applied at once. On Thursday evening after I had posted your letter a letter came from Mr. Wood (our last post is 10 o'clock!) giving me his opinion of Peter Jones' system, which pretty well coincides with my own, which you know, & offering me a post in his office on the "Pipette" staff at £3 per

124A
8.
week, adding that as soon as I obtain the legal experience necessary he had no doubt he could find me more congenial employment inside & outside the firm. He said I had to think it over carefully & if I would like to see him first, I could go from Peter Jones on Saturday & he would write for me. I didn't know what to say exactly as I wanted to hear about the other post, so I just replied that I thanked him, was thinking it over as he advised & would like to see him. On Saturday morning I had a hole at Peter Jones to say his kind wishes was coming & would like to see me. I had a long talk with her & found her very nice & quite different from what I had expected. She was amazed when I told her of my valuation at 8/6 & 7/6 & quite agreed that I was right not to carry on under such conditions. Then she told

me that the sort of person they wanted was someone with really first-class shorthand able to take articles down for the "Pipette" at high speed for hours on end. I said I hadn't actually done it but thought I could, but she said I'd have to come on that first at £3 per week, & if I were worth it could earn £4.10 to £5. in a little while. Then I asked her what would happen to my debt. I owe about £8 already for 3 weeks, & then she said of course if I stayed over the month it would carry over, & she herself admitted it wasn't fair for her only to take me temporarily & persecute me to stay over the month & incur my debt. Then she said she would talk to our Staff Manager about it & come down to me again. But I never saw her again & all I heard was a message left that I had to report at Oxford Street at 8.45. on

Monday morning. That's all I know. So when I went to see Mr. Wood I told him the whole story & he was exceedingly nice. He said I'd try it & if I didn't like it, his offer was still open to me. He said there was no hurry to decide. He has a typing office - dictaphone, an instrument whereby you can speak to anyone in any room without using a telephone. He says he would start me on typing documents, etc. from the dictaphone, & then put me on some cases will figure involved, because I told him I was fond of figures. He then took me out to lunch, & left us to finish because he had to catch a train. I went home by bus & felt the rest of my holiday with working, ironing, dancing, helping Mrs. Jones, letter writing, etc.
I shall probably learn tomorrow what has been decided, but I suppose what they are doing is to try me for this week, because I shall be of much more use then than at Peter Jones.



125

Monday. 4.45 p.m.

Well, darling, here I am at last fallen a victim to the 'flu'. Toler, or Ned Luck, or Providence, - whatever one chooses to call it - has disposed of my immediate future for me. I had an awfully bad night last night - restlessness & neuralgia, - burning hot & wet with perspiration & yet my mouth was so terribly dry & I had to keep on getting up & making myself a hot drink. I knew I shouldn't have got up this morning, but it was the first day of my new job & I knew they needed me badly. So I got up & went ^{for so they said} but looked so rotten when I got there that they sent me to the doctor & he ordered me straight home to bed, & said he didn't want to see me again before Monday.

I am fed up about it, darling, because he lost my job, & it does seem a topping one. It is a beautiful office with lovely machines, & the other 3 girls seemed to think I could make friends with. And I believe the work would have been interesting as

well - were quite apart from the shop-girls - don't clock on (we can come what time we like, except that they take it in turns to come at 9 o'clock for a week at a time) - have our own cloakroom & don't wear uniforms.

I asked Miss Middleton what I should do when I came back, & she said she was very sorry but she couldn't keep the job for me as she must have someone at once. I haven't even had a chance to show what I can do, else they would possibly have taken someone on temporarily & let me go back to this job. She says I shall have to go back to serve sets in Peter Jones, & I couldn't stick that. So I have been busy writing to the Chairman resigning my post, & then I'll write to her. Wood & ask him if I can start on Monday if I'm fit again. I feel really sorry for lost this job because I think I could very soon have earned quite a big salary.

I do feel rotten, darling, & would give anything to have you to look after me. But I am ever so thankful I can still live. I'm not at that wretched hotel. I don't know what I would have done if I had been there.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/125)

'Well darling here I am at last fallen a victim to the flu!'

4 Apr 1927



I was glad to have your letter this morning, darling, & to know you had understood my wire. I was afraid there would be a nasty letter for me, & yours is nice. How relieved I was when I found you in a mood quite foreign to you, & one in which I would like you to be more often. Don't be cross, darling; - but just a wee bit more humble would. I do love you so much when you become an ordinary mortal for just a little while. Don't misunderstand, please, darling. I feel so keenly about this & you never could understand me. You don't even yet, though occasionally you say or do something which gives me courage to stick to my old ideals, which I am sure are right though you scoff at them. Maybe I can tell you some day what I mean.

I am sorry you'll be too busy this week to write me every day, but I understand about it, darling. You mustn't let it worry you to get a letter off to me, else you'll get fed up with the continuous efforts. Did you notice that we had each said we couldn't promise a letter every day? I think we are both selfish & would like to receive a letter every day, just replying when we have time! I should be able to write you a

live every day this week now, though I can't promise it will get worse. I can't very well ask her. I mean to take my letters to the post every night.

It is a long day to-day, darling, & I'm dreading the night. Shall be very glad when next week comes & I'll be settled in a job & feeling well again & looking forward to Easter.

Mrs. Drew has gone to a meeting this afternoon & I am in by myself. This morning I went in to see Olive whilst waiting for my medicine to be made up, because I was quite near, & she has almost decided to put off her wedding till next Xmas. She wants to come back after Easter & share a flat with me. Winnie also is coming to London after Xmas & wants to share a flat with me. Would you want me to, darling?

I don't want to make you miserable any more, dear, but I suppose I shall again, as you will see. Though I don't think we shall feel a bit like that when we're together.

I forgot to answer your query about Mr. Fittschi. If he were to invite me to enjoy some country air during my convalescent week-end I don't think I should refuse, though I wouldn't like him to know I said so. But there is no particular longing for the friendship

-3-
of anyone for the sake of his car, and if Mr. Fittschi has no desire for my company I'm quite content for my address to remain unknown to him. I shan't forget I owe him 3/- How funny that some people take it for granted I belong to you, whilst others merely take me for your dancing partner or something of the sort.

My throat is awfully sore. I wonder if I can gargle it? I think I'll try with some kullon or peroxide. I have to keep cleaning my nostrils with salt & hot water else I can't breathe.

Some of your letters "intended to help us" there is no need to burn, darling, because they will help me when I'm in the right mood. Some have done so far. It's my fault that I haven't taken all your advice as you meant it, because sometimes I'm not in a very humble mood & then I'm impatient with your preaching. Couldn't you temper your lectures with just a little touch of humility, darling? I don't mean that affectation when you say "In my humble opinion --" or "I don't profess to know much about it, but to my plain mind --" etc. etc.

There are leaps of phrases you say like that, darling, which irritate me terribly because they seem so smug & hypocritical. I don't believe you know the meaning of real humility. The only times I've thought you do are sometimes when you speak of your mother. Do you know, darling, that I would rather be your mother & possess the respect & admiration, as well as love, you bestow on her, than be what I am & possess only your love. Glad a confession, darling, which I have never before felt able to make to you, & if you're so clever as you think you are, you'll be able to read a lot of my thoughts & feelings between the lines.

I'll promise to burn any letters which contain anything that irritates me, darling, because I often take your letters out & read them over again, & sometimes I'm in a happy mood & suddenly stumble across something which makes me miserable. Will you do the same with mine?

I wish you the best of luck with all your business deals, and please only write me when you can really spare the time. I'll be patient & I understand. If I were in hell would you be blaming me for your miserable words, darling? All my love & a big kiss, J.



126

Tuesday 1 p.m.

Weren't you glad, darling, that you had managed to get a letter off to me yesterday when you knew I was in bed? - I was so awfully pleased to have it because I didn't think I could expect one. You were a dear to send me it. When you go specially all the way down to the General so that I shall see your letter the sooner I always intend to thank you for it, but sometimes I'm afraid I forget to when I'm writing the letter. But I always notice it, darling, & feel so grateful to you even if I forget to mention it when I'm writing.

I don't like being in bed, darling, & my cold doesn't seem to get any better. My throat is still as sore, though I've done heaps of gargling - Can do it even so easily now. It just needs an effort of will, like opening your eyes under water, or breathing water up your nostrils, etc. doesn't it?

Mrs. & Mrs. Green are ever so sweet to me. Mrs. Green has let a fire in my room to-day & it's quite nice & cosy. They've been in a much better position than they are now & have been very comfortable. During the war Mrs. Green joined up & by so doing lost her job

because her firm had got her an exemption certificate & he wouldn't use it. Mrs. Green worked during the war & paid her premiums in 5's, and some of her worst things were stolen. Now Mrs. Green has got a job at only half her former salary. They never grumble, & I've gathered this information from bits they have told me. When I came home Mrs. Green said I could come for 20/- per week & when I got more money could pay her more. But I think after Easter I will give her 30/-, because they are so kind & I save gas fire bills & laundry bills & lots of radium & I would have in ordinary days. Don't you think it's better, darling? (See how quickly I come back to you for ^{your opinion} advice!! - Don't give me up any mind & don't think your opinion will change it, tho' it may, if you disagree with me & give me a good reason for doing so).

Isn't it funny my writing so long? - I don't seem to be able to do it longer. Hope you can read it. When you told me how busy you were I felt quite sorry for you having to wade through all those documents yesterday & my long letter. Did you feel fed up when you saw them? I thought you'd be pleased, but I didn't realize you were so awfully busy - tho' Monday, of course, is an extra hard day for you.

I've been busy reading some pamphlets

126

APR 5 7:30 PM 1927



H. Arregger, Esq.
Messrs. Arregger & Raymond,
3, St. James Place,
Dublin.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/126)

'Weren't you glad darling that you had managed to get a letter off to me yesterday.'

5 Apr 1927

126

-2-

I sent for on the Llanelli County in Wales & Dolgellau.
 It seems funny that out of a large book of all
 the holiday haunts in England, Wales & S. Ireland.
 I should turn the page over idly & pick out
 Dolgellau, & then on investigation find my first
 attraction strengthened. I am awfully keen
 to go, darling, & I do hope we shall manage it.
 You can if you want to. Do you remember
 Lord Llanover? I don't believe you would
 have made the effort if you had been left to
 yourself. Would you?

I'll leave it to you to choose between
 Dolgellau & Harrogate. The former is more
 inland - we can climb the Llanelli hills, &
 Harrogate is on the coast within reach of
 Swansea. Whichever one we go to we can
 spend a day in the other. I'll send you these
 booklets, which are really lovely, as soon as I
 can go out & get a big envelope. And then
 you can read them this weekend. The
 writer for information about houses & will let
 you know as soon as I hear. I think your
 best way will be through Nottingham &
 Sheffersonby, & you will have to change on to
 the J.W.R., I think, when you get to Wales.

But if you can't go till Saturday I'm afraid
 it's not worth going, because as I'm out
 at Peter Jones I must come back on Tuesday

unless I don't go to her. Wood left after Easter.
 3.15 p.m.

I've had my lunch & a rest - couldn't sleep -
 but I had a much better night last night. I'm
 developing a tiny cough now. You don't think
 I'll have pneumonia, do you? Oh, I'm sure I
 shan't because I must be quite well for Easter
 unless I, & I feel much brighter to-day
 already.

I was especially glad to have your views
 about accepting Mr. Wood's offer as I have now
 lost the opportunity to decide for myself. If you
 had advised me to stick to the offer I should
 have felt worse than ever about it. How I don't
 mind so much because I shall be so thankful
 to be settled at last. It is a long way to
 the City from here & will cost me a lot in fares.
 But it is very nice to get out of the centre of
 London after business & I think is worth the time
 & money one wastes on the journey. Don't you?

I've been thinking about you all yesterday
 & to-day, darling, & you seem kind & warm & I
 can find time to let my imagination work, as I can
 now. I've been talking to you just as though you
 were here, & I can even now feel your arms round
 me, because I know how nice you would be to
 me if you were here.

How I mustn't waste any more of your
 time, darling. I hope I'll be a little tomorrow.
 All my love, A.

Don't worry about the paper I've sent you. There is nothing urgent. Any more will do, darling.



127

Tuesday. 9. 30 p.m.

Darling,
 How glad I am the post goes so late here so that I can write at once & thank you for the delightful surprise I have just this minute received. You are a dear, & so very thoughtful & kind. I thought perhaps you might make a special effort to let us have a letter in the morning, but I didn't think of anything so nice as this. The only thing that spoils it is that I can't have you here as well, darling, to share them with me. Are they plums? I think they must be, but I've never seen anything like them before. I've picked out the ripest & left the rest to ripen in the box. I'm glad they're not all ripe & then they won't have a chance to go bad before I can eat them. They taste delicious, darling, & just slip down my sore throat, making me forget all about it. Thank you, darling, so very, very much. I'll give you lots of special kisses for them when I see you at Easter. (It's a good thing for you I can't give you them now, else I'd probably give you the flu as well, & I wouldn't like to thank you in that way!)

Mrs. Green says she will take this specially to the post for us. I didn't ask her to, but they guessed I'd want to thank you straight away when I asked Mrs. Green if she had any letters for the post! They are good to me as well. - So you won't mind if I share with them, will you, darling?
 I was feeling awfully waxy of being in bed & then there was a ring at the door & Mrs. Green brought in this big parcel. I guessed it was from you, darling, before I saw the writing even! - Shouldn't I? - It was nice of you as well to send them by express post. You wanted me to have them as soon as possible, didn't you, darling? You are good to me, & I do love you specially for your thoughtfulness.
 By the last post I had a letter from Mrs. Spedan Lewis -
 "Dear Madam. I note with regret the contents of your letter of the 11th inst. I hope that some post that you will find satisfactory, will come soon in your way. I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,
 (signed - personally) J. Spedan Lewis."
 Isn't it strange? I've copied it exactly and stands, including the commas.
 How I must stop, because Mrs. Green is ready to take this.
 Thank you again, darling.
 All my love & lots of kisses,
 A.

127

VILBURN N.Y.
APR 5
11:30 PM
1927



H. Arregger, Esq.,
 Messrs. Arregger & Raymond,
 3, Sun-Sea Place,
 Hull.

Yours,

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/127)

'How glad I am the post goes so late here that I can write at once and thank you for the delightful surprise I have just this minute received.'

5 Apr 1927

128

Wednesday 12.15 p.m.

Thank you so much, darling, for letting me have a letter this morning. It is good of you to make time to write to me every day when you know how much I am wanting your letters. I was awake this morning at 6, after a fairly good night, listening for the postman, but he doesn't come till 8 o'clock. You would get one from me by the first post & another by the second. - did you, darling?

These plums are delicious and I am enjoying them - they are so sweet & juicy. Did you taste one before you sent them? I know you usually open the box, don't you?

It is her. Green's birthday today & they always celebrate by going out to dinner, so her & her. Green & her. Green's father & brother (who came yesterday to stay with them - I haven't, of course, seen them yet) are all going out to dinner & then to a show. So I shall get up later on because I don't want to be left in bed. Her. Green doesn't want to have me if I don't feel well enough, but although they

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/128)

'Thank you so much darling, for letting me have a letter this morning.'

6 Apr 1927

are very kind to me they are not the sort to make a fuss of illness or do a lot of "coddling up."

Thank you for writing to her. ^{Itself} Darling. You interpreted my feelings towards him quite correctly. If his friend I don't see why he can't be nice to me as well, even when you're not there. When I'm quite neglected by your friends except when in your company it makes me feel as though I'm only tolerated for your sake, and I want to be liked for myself as well. Shouldn't I? I understand perfectly that if her. Hatch regards me as belonging to you that he would wait till you asked him before offering me his friendship in London.

But I didn't understand before that that is how he does regard me. You see, some people see us together a great many times & conclude I belong to you, & others see us together for years & conclude nothing of the sort. So you see it's rather difficult for me to guess. Whilst you want me I want nobody else, but sometimes I get the feeling that you're only like the dog in the manger. You know what that means, don't you?

128

WILBURN N.Y.S. APR 6 7 30 PM 1927



H. Arregger, 8 1/2
 Messrs. Arregger & Raymond,
 7, Chamber Place,
 Shell.
 Tots.



I would have gone for news from that on wed. but that was in his province. Can you
+ get to know? It should be safe for the day, any way than it does from them.

(128)

- 2 -

Perhaps Mrs. Fritsch told her husband
you might like the chance again to spend
a weekend in London! You are very
popular with landladies, very dear!
But all the same it was nice of her to ask
you. <sup>There are heaps of 3 day & day excursions to London for
sp. & Stratford. In. with for 6/- so they will be crowded!</sup>
The Superintendent of the S.W.R.
has sent me a useful fund of information
about fares to Dorking. -
Ordinary fare is 5/6 return,
but I can get an excursion for 3/6
return by going at 9.25 a.m. on
Thursday, arriving Dorking at 4.25
p.m. (not so bad!) & returning any
time on the Monday or at 10.35 a.m.
on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday.
So if I am with Mrs. Wood I shall have
to ask for Thursday & Tuesday off. I
wonder if he will let me have that. I could
also go at 2.10 p.m. on Thursday &
arrive at 8.47 p.m. - but that's not an
excursion fare & I'd have to pay ordinary
fare, which seems a waste. I wrote
this morning to ask Mrs. Wood if I could
come on Monday (I think I'll be
quite fit by then - hope so!). but I didn't
mention anything about Easter.

I have told Mrs. Wood at home I have had an invitation to spend Easter at Stratford with a
girl from Peter Jones. She did not ask me, but she only comes down on Monday. Has to family.

I do wish I had you now. Easter
still seems so far away. Are you
looking forward to it just as much as
you were, darling, or are you too
busy to think about it? I hope your
partner comes so that you will
feel peer.
You mustn't misjudge Olive, darling.
She's been awfully decent to me since I
came. - She has got me these dep. &
made it convenient for me to meet
Mrs. Wood. - And it's most embarrassing
how learned she thinks I am! You
should hear her talk about me to
other people! You wouldn't know it was
me she was talking about. I don't often
boast myself. It's just that I don't
care for the way she talks to me about you,
but I try to keep off the subject. And
I'm not very keen on the atmosphere at
Winchmore Hill. We won't have our
flat like it, darling. I can't explain
what I mean by the atmosphere. - I just
seem to feel there's something which
doesn't suit me - wouldn't suit you.
Am looking forward to your letter
tomorrow, darling.
All my love & a big kiss
to cherie.

129

Thursday. 1 p.m.

Thank you so much for your letter, darling. It is a pity you are specially busy just now because all the time I want your letters so much I don't feel it's fair for you to feel you must write me every day. Do you find time to read my long, badly-written epistles? You must tell me if you would rather have short letters, - this after this week I shall have so much time to spare for writing & thinking. There was a letter from her. Was this morning to say I can start on Monday at 9.30. (I wonder if it's 9.30 every morning - would prefer 9-5.30 than 9.30 to 6, wouldn't you?). Am very keen to begin work again & am glad I haven't to wait till after Easter.

I feel a bit better to-day, darling, but the cold in my head never seems to improve, in spite of being very careful. The neuralgia, also, tho' ^{very} mild, is ~~very~~ persistent, & my teeth are all right, as the doctor examined them. Ho, darling,

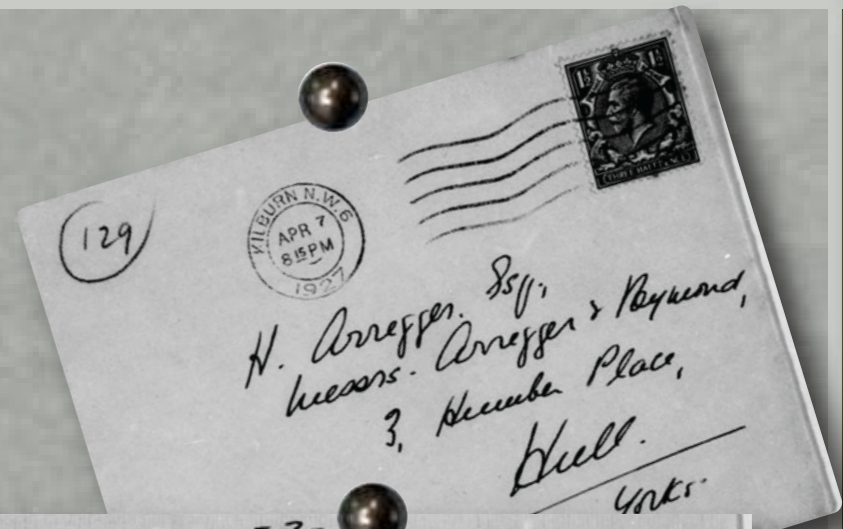


I haven't seen another doctor except the one at Stur's who sent me home. I hesitated quite a bit about sending for one, but as I already had my medicine, I didn't bother. I know my temperature is well down now, & my pulse is again going as leisurely as usual.

How are you feeling, darling? You don't tell me very much about yourself except that you are so busy. I do hope you have good luck with the potatoes 'cos you really do deserve a run of good business to relieve you somewhat of your worries. I wait I was with you to help you with your figures for the

Chartered Accountant, tho' I don't suppose I'd be more help than usual!

I wasn't awake when the postman came this morning. I got up yesterday about 5 o'clock & stayed up late so that I would have a good night. - Here's my love. - -



129 2.15 p.m.

I don't make a good invalid, darling. I am so impatient with all these aches & little pains & because I can't do things as usual. I have just got up now & I simply must do some washing & ironing, 'cos I've no hankies left & no clean clothes for next week. All my big hankies are in my trunk - I didn't bring many things with me.

Mrs. Grace's brother hasn't yet showed himself to be the type of man Olive painted him. He is always popping up to see us but never stays more than 3 or 4 hours. At first of course I was distressed by him & disliked him before ever I saw him. Maybe Olive talks to him differently from how I do. He's about 50, I think.

This week has gone quite quickly in spite of being in bed, & I think next week will go quickly as well in my new job. Do you think it's a cheek to ask for Thursday & Tuesday so soon after I've just started? But her & her. Helen would

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/129)

'Thank you so much for your letter, darling.'

7 Apr 1927

be back till Tuesday - they also are
going away for Easter on the Thursday.
They may not be back till Wed. -
They don't know yet. Where shall
I tell people I'm going for Easter?
I must tell them all alike, & there
are even more to tell than there
would be at home! - Mrs.
Green, Olive & she will tell her
brother Vernon & her people in Leeds),
her. Wood, Mrs. Mabey & my
people. I've told them at home I've
had an invitation to Scotland. - They
will of course conclude I've accepted
it. Perhaps I'd better stick to that,
had I? - will everyone.
Now I do doubt all this lying &
deception. - I used to think it fun,
but now I'm afraid it irritates me.
Shall I say the truth, darling? -
After all, what does it matter to
anyone but ourselves. And people
may just as well get used to us
now as in June. Did you think

(129) -3-
So? Please give me your advice
about this, because I must be able to
say where I'm spending Easter,
must I?
There was a letter this morning
from Mrs. Mabey asking me to have
dinner with her tomorrow at the
Criterion to meet a friend of hers
(a lady). I should love to go &
hope I'll be better by tomorrow,
but I've arranged it so that Mrs.
Green can see her tomorrow if I'm
not fit to go. Have you seen
anything of Evelyn by the way?
I must write to her.
Now for a few lines home to
tell them I'm going on all right.
Don't work too hard, darling.
I don't want you to be worried
at Easter.
Good luck & all my love &
kisses,
Amy.

I am especially thankful now for that
Au-de-Cologne you gave me, darling. It
is so refreshing on my handkerchief, &
I sprinkle a few drops on my pillow when
I go to bed & it makes the room so
fresh. You are very good to me.

130

1.20 p.m.

Today's verdict - much better but rather weak! - I was surprised, darling, when I went out into the sunshine this morning for the first time, how very weak I felt. I sit it funny that a cold can take so much out of you! I wrapped up well & only walked even so slowly & such a little way. And yesterday afternoon I washed my hands and then ironed them, & I was so awfully tired afterwards & had such a pain in my back that I hadn't the energy to do anything in the evening but lie on the settee here (a most comfortable lounge - quite the biggest & softest I've ever seen - just lovely for two, darling, but too big for us alone) & listen to a wonderful woman concert at the Albert Hall. There is a crystal set here with 2 pairs of earphones. I don't often listen because I can't bear earphones on my head.

Except for being tired I feel much better to-day & had a good night again. I was by myself last night again. Don't mind at all, but it does make me want you all the more. I am sometimes surprised myself that even when I have

the greatest longing to be alone yet I always want you. I've grown to be so much a part of me, darling, that without you I don't feel complete.

Whilst I was out I called for 2 pairs of shoes which were being mended & had to pay 8/-! I do begrudge the money for shoeblack & tubes & brushes, after having enjoyed the convenience & economy of a bicycle for so long! It will cost me about 1/2 per day to get to the City & back. I am wondering if I shall get anything from Peter Jones for this week but don't suppose so, as May don't give pay during sickness any more than during holidays.

Thank you for your letter this morning, darling. I am sorry you didn't make better prices with your potatoes because you did deserve some luck this time.

You surely won't need to set off at 6 a.m. for Dotselley! What an awful waste of time. Altho' it's probably quicker from London yet there is a direct line there. You of course have to go from the L. & N.E.R. to the S.W.R. I am sure the railway authorities in that case are not very careful about the information.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/130)

'Today's verdict - much better but rather weak!'

8 Apr 1927

they give. When mother came to Bourneville they told her all wrong. They gave her a connection which only ran on certain days & didn't tell her so. And when she went to Kotttingham to see a great Aunt they told her she must leave at 7 a.m. & she found out afterwards she couldn't have done. (I told her she couldn't, but she wouldn't take my word for it, of course). I suppose you have to go to Reading to join the F.W.S., haven't you, because Manchester isn't on that railway. (not by their map anyhow).

There is having a very quiet wedding after all. No guests. It's to be at St. Jude's early on April 23rd. & just our & Teddy's family are going to Powolton's for a breakfast. I shall come over - can't afford it, & I wouldn't like to ask for the morning off. Oh! I'd probably get it easily enough from her. Word. I have decided to give her an assortment of useful things, & I got some awfully good reduced linen goods at Peter Jones. I know they are real bargains. - e.g. a pair of pure linen hemstitched Single Sheet for 2/9.

I'm sure you are too busy darling, to read any more, & my brain seems incapable of producing anything worth writing

so I'd better stop here. Lunch is just ready as well - or it ought to be. It's nearly 2 o'clock. I help Mrs. Green quite a lot with washing pots, etc. & curiously enough (that's wrong. I'm not really surprised) do not find it a bother. Even since you pointed out to me the deficiencies in our house system I realised that it was because of them that I unconsciously so disliked doing things at home. We do things here on the principle that to spend a little extra time & trouble each time we do a thing saves a great deal of time & trouble in the end. For example we polish every spoon & fork & knife as it is put away, which doesn't take long, & then the silver hardly ever needs cleaning. I am learning quite a few useful things.

Am looking forward to your long letter this week-end. I quite understand you haven't the time to answer my letters & am satisfied to get just a few lines (but only when you're so busy!)

All my love, darling, this place is very difficult to find.
 Mary.

Maybe it's easier & less difficult because every one will be out on Sat. & Sunday - all day & it will get lonely.

(131)

Tues. 8 p.m.

I've just finished dinner, darling & am missing you most awfully. I wasn't going to write you tonight because it seems silly when I've only just said Good bye to you, but I feel I must. Are you missing me, darling, I wonder? I think perhaps you will, 'cos we've been so very happy together this holiday haven't we. You've been a darling to me all the time & I do love you more than ever, if that's possible.

I think I must be rather tired as well now, & my Remembrance isn't any better. Have got some Honoquine & will mention some in Pau-de-Cologne (as it says - isn't it a good thing I have some!) & put it on tonight when I go to bed. It's no fun any longer going to bed! - I'll just go straight to sleep - if I can.

How have you found things in Hull, I wonder? Shall be glad to have your letter when you tell me all about it. Write me soon, please, darling.

Everything seems all right here & at the office. I must be a very good storyteller because no one seems to doubt my young stories about Foster!

There was a letter from Olive (Pitt) waiting for me & she says she is coming back to London in 2 weeks time to stay until September. Isn't it a bother! She doesn't mention the wedding & has no idea whether she's getting married on Thursday or postponed till Sept. I suppose it's better write to congratulate her & send her a present. I hope she doesn't expect me to show a flag with her, & hers. You seem to think she will want to come here, which will be an awful nuisance if she does.

There was also a letter from Olive Swallowell from Cranston's "Pantoe"! How goodness she chose the Pantoe instead of the "Waverley"! That's rather a narrow escape, isn't it? - She stayed the first night at the Kenilworth, but wasn't comfortable so moved over to the Pantoe. (Noonberry Street, you know). She wants me to ring her up - Don't

(131)



H. Arregger, Esq.
3, December Place,
Hull.
Yorks.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/131)

'I've just finished dinner darling and am missing you most awfully.'

19 Apr 1927

(131)

2.
Julia knows how to explain things to her,
because whatever I tell her will
reach home, as you say. But I'll
be careful.

I feel better whilst I'm writing
to you, darling, - but I do want you
so much.

There wasn't much work to do at
the office. I was there at 2 o'clock, &
no one wanted to be back. However,
we'll soon settle down, I suppose.

Mollie has sent me an "Easter
Egg" box of chocolates & a card &
Mutter has sent me 2 Easter cards,
so they were thinking of me after all.
Mollie is a dear child. Mutter &
Betty are in Wiltshire just now.

because Betty isn't well, & Mutter is
busy entertaining her. Less. (You
met him, didn't you?)

Goodnight, darling. Thank you
so much for being so good to me.
I would like to be able to do a
lot for you some day in return.
Do you think I shall?
All my love & lots of kisses.
La cherie

Mollie is at Wiltshire also, I find,
so I'll ask her to say you when she
comes back. I don't know when that
will be though.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/132)

'I'm so glad darling to have your letters, which I've only just been able to read and very sorry that you are so worried.'

21 Apr 1927

(132)

Thursday. 1.30. p.m.

I'm so glad, darling, to have your letter, which I've only just been able to read, & very sorry that you are so worried. I wish I was with you to help you to forget your worries when away from the office, & I really would try hard to help you. You have had some bad luck with your trunks of potatoes. But don't get too worried, darling. Perhaps you'll be able to make up for it soon with some good shares of luck. I like you to tell me all about your business, but not if you're feeling too tired to write or would rather forget it.

It was a wee bit disappointing not to have your letter this morning, but I knew you must have too busy. It was a pleasant surprise to find it waiting for me tonight, because I didn't think there could be one till the morning.

Have you felt sleepy since you were back? Last night I was awfully tired & intended going to bed

early, but Mrs. Green managed my back for me (she does it very well), & that made me rather late. My rheumatism hasn't been any better until this afternoon, when it almost suddenly began to ache less, & it isn't hurting much now. You got Home again.

Here is a letter from Lewis's tonight & they won't give me any money.

Yes, darling, of course I will help up the Fritzels & ask them about your goods. I also would like you to have them back because they're worth more than the new ones, & then you can use the new ones for motor cycling. You ought to have a run after the office whilst this glorious summer lasts. It's nearly as hot as summer in London today.

Mrs. de Haughton told me this morning that she had to arrange about the holidays & would I let her know as soon as soon possible when I would like mine. She says I shall only get a week, as it is my first 6 months. Fair! That's a blow! That's what comes of changing my job so often. I feel



(132)

WILBURN N.W.6
APR 21
11:30 PM
1927

H. Arregger, Esq.,
3, Chamber Place,
Hull.
Yorks.

(132)

- 2 -

awfully disappointed because there's nothing we can do in a week. Will you please give me some advice, darling, because I don't want holidays without you, & I don't see what can be done in a week. Supposing it were possible that I could go abroad again I believe Mrs. Wood might let me have a fortnight, if I only got paid for one week of it. Do you think so? It's worth trying. Or else if we can't arrange anything together perhaps it would be better to do without any holidays this summer & have a fortnight in the winter, when perhaps I could come home with you for Christmas. (It's that a check to me again it? - But it would be lovely if it were possible). I would like a summer holiday though.

The only thing a week would be any use for would be to find a flat ready for you coming, darling, but then I can't give any definite dates for my holiday. Do please

tell me what to do, darling, & then
I can perhaps go & talk to Mrs.
Wood about it. Don't forget.

When I pulled out the little sponge
it began bleeding quite a lot,
which makes me think that it is
because I keep it in a whole day when
there is probably more friction through
walking, etc. Don't you think so?

And then, this morning when I woke
up my pyjamas were soaked with
blood, & I don't know yet whether
there's anything wrong or if it's just
menstruation started more than a week
too soon. Because it was awfully
bad when I got up, but has gone off
& been very little during the day.
I believe it's all right though, & I've
no pain at all.

It was nice of you, darling, to
take my letter specially to the P.O. so
that I should get it to-day. I am
looking forward to the one you promise
for tomorrow, but hope you hadn't to need
to get it off. All my love & kisses, darling, &
don't worry. La Chérie

Some of the plums are beautifully
ripe, but a few are not ripe yet.

P.S. ⁽¹³²⁾

Yesterday I bought an awfully
nice pair of feet carvers for Oliver's
wedding present. There is a shop I've
discovered in Champs-Élysées - sounds like
a German firm - Benzott - a very big,
high-class jeweller's shop - & they are
retiring & selling practically everything
at half price. They have some
topping things but frightfully expensive.
There's no "cheap" stuff, but over a kilo
bargains if you look round carefully.
These feet carvers were marked 25/-
under the box, & on the top was a label
saying half the marked price, which
was £1. 2. 6. on the top of the box.
I paid 11/9. They were very nice
ones indeed.

What I would have liked for
myself was a box of lovely little
cake knives - solid silver handles,
Sheffield Stainless Steel blades - at half
£1. 12. 6! They are worth that
money, never mind half it. But I
couldn't care to buy anything without
your advice, because you might like

them. They had very good teaspoons &
coffee spoons & soup spoons, also knives,
but the knives I got at the other shop
were cheaper & just as nice I believe,
while the forks I got for them I much
prefer to those in this shop.

I wish I had a lot of money &
I'd buy nice things for you, in case
you need them sometimes!

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/133)

'I wonder what you are doing to day darling..'

24 Apr 1927

133

Sunday. 4p.m.

I wonder what you are doing to-day, darling, because if its too busy in Hull I shall have it to send it won't be fit for your ride to Maid. (I hope your writing to me instead!).

It seems quite a long time since I wrote to you - Thursday. Wasn't it? - On Friday I couldn't write because it was my night out with Winnie. We had dinner together at the Club (the Warwick - an awfully nice place with several branches, if only I had known about it when I first came to London). & then met her cousin & a friend of his, both Scotch & quite nice boys. They had booked seats for a show & I was awfully disappointed to find it was the Lido Lady which I had seen.

There are so many others I want to see. Wasn't it bad luck! I didn't enjoy it particularly the second time, & especially as Cicely Courtneidge, one of the best, was being understudied.

I was glad to have your nice letter darling, & thank you very much for the £1 note. I thought, too late,

that I ought to have told you to keep it as a further slight reduction of the "National Debt." Is it £12 I owe you now, darling? I'm afraid my memory is getting a bit defective, but I believe that's right. Don't forget to tell me if its less! I'm ashamed of myself for not having made more of an effort to pay it off sooner, but it shall be my next job, & especially as I haven't to save up for any summer holidays. - I've decided to do as you advise & ask for them in the winter instead. Let Mr. Wood personally & see what he says.

Your coming in the summer will make a change for me anyhow, & it will be nice to break the monotony of winter, as you say.

I'm more hard up over money than I thought I was, because I was almost sure I had £3 in my portmanteau in an envelope, & its empty now. I may easily be wrong, but its strange that I am over £3 short in my



133



H. Arregger, Esq.,
3, Chamber Place,
Hull.

Yorks.

133

-2-

last book, which I always keep up to date & am sure I haven't left out anything of importance. And also I know I had a P.O. for 2/6 in my handbag, which has disappeared. I may have lost it, but can't think how. It was in my hole even with some more money, & that all right.

I don't like things like this. They worry me. I have now just about £2.15.0 in hand, so I must save up now very carefully. I don't like to be without any reserve when I am on my own.

There is another thing worrying me as well - what I told you about in my last letter. I really believe, darling, that it isn't menstruation, but something which keeps bleeding & then stops for a bit & starts again. I have rather a pain sometimes, but its only like an ache, & I can't localise it. Do you think its all right? There was nothing all Friday & yesterday, & it began again this morning when I got up, but not badly.

I'm sorry, darling, to burden you

with my little troubles, when you have so many of your own. How tired out you must have been on Thursday to fall asleep & sleep half the evening. I do love you, darling, just as much when you're tired (when it doesn't make you bad-tempered) because then I feel you need me more so much.

Have you been working this weekend? I wonder? I have. On Saturday morning I was asked if I could stay & work in the afternoon as the Copying Dept. was awfully busy & work had to be done for Monday morning for the Court at 11.30. So I stayed till 6, & came again this morning from 10-2. Four of us wait, & even now we haven't finished. I left first, as I'd finished my job, but the others stayed longer.

For the latter part of this week I haven't done any typing, but only studying. It's rather nice.

133

-2-

I don't quite know when the typing but it seems as though I've been having to do more responsible work. On Monday I began to make Affidavits of Documents & then I have to swear to them. It's rather interesting finding out what I have to do next, but I believe the work will be rather responsible. I'll tell you all about it as I find out more myself. I meet nice people in Mr. Lee's office (a very nice one - the windows you would see from Whappell & Webb. Do you remember?) & everything seems more real or alive.

It's pouring with rain now!

I saw Mr. Fitchie on Sat. morning. He had, of course, forgotten all about your gloves, but promised to make inquiries & give me a ring on Monday. He says the scraps have come out well, & he'll let me see them in due course.

My remuneration is almost better, but I get surges of it at times. One shall wear my thermos. Would love to take some baths, but can't find either the time or the opportunity, which are two necessities, are they not?

I went to the Library when I got in last night & was lucky enough to get Shaw's "The Doctor's Dilemma" & "Getting Married," & am at present reading Ibsen's earlier prose plays, just to be able to compare with his later works. Have you read any? They are good stories but not very good style & in parts rather too patently "clever," what the critics call "youthful" I suppose!

Tell me all about your Grandma darling, & everything you do, & tell your father London badly needs some tucks of potatoes, which you must come over to look after. Kind regards to him. I wrote to your people the other day & sent your love. Lots of kisses, darling, & heaps of love. Ann.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/134)

'I've been looking forward all day darling, to
answering your letter - it was such a nice one.'

25 Apr 1927

(134)

Monday. 8 p.m.

I've been looking forward all day,
darling, to answering your letter.
- It was such a nice one. I'd no
idea you so very much loved to
have my letters, else I'd have
written to you last Wed. (Friday, I
couldn't, but am sorry I forgot to
remind you of the engagement). But
I thought we'd decided not to write
every day? - I'll write you as often
as I can, darling, if I know you
miss my letters so much when they
don't arrive. My first thought
always on waking up is to wonder if
there will be a letter from you. On
Saturday morning I looked at the
2 or 3 envelopes & didn't see your
writing & was intensely disappointed
& then I found the typed one was
from you, which made me glad
again.

This morning there was a big post
for me - your letter, one from Teddy,
(he seems so worried because now he
is having to look after the rest of the

arrangement for the house - Irene
did everything. He says accounts &
letters keep piling up & he is kept busy
because they have to be attended to).
Then there was an envelope from
home containing a letter from Mother,
one from Betty, & Mother, & "New
ora Mother" dictated through the window.
Mother says she will give you a ring
some time to make arrangements
about the postman. Irene has
already sent the money for the
cutlery I got for her & seems quite
pleased with the purchases, even
though she hasn't yet seen them.
She says she trusts implicitly in my
taste & good judgment! - good from
Mum, isn't it?

It is nice & peaceful just now -
Mum & Mrs. Green have gone downstairs
to play cards in the ^{the garden} flat. -
I've refused the invitation on the excuse
I've got a lot of letters to write (but I'm
only writing to you, darling.) I've
never yet been down in spite of
numerous invitations. I think it's



(134)

MILBURN N.W.S.
APR 25
11:30 PM
1927

H. Arregger, Esq.,
3, Chamber Place,
Dull,
Yorks.

(134)

2.
Lamentable enough, & I'm sure Mrs. Green's
brother wouldn't be a "rotter" - but
it must be awfully lonely for an
old man like that, all by himself
with a crippled arm. I think it
is worse for a wife to die first,
because the husband must feel so
helpless as well as lonely. Don't
you think so? (I'm thinking of
ordinary cases, darling, not personal
ones.)

What a shame you've lost so
much over the potato speculations.
I do sympathise with your bad
luck, dear, because you deserve
better. What is it I am to help
you with when you come to London?
You broached the subject once in
Dull, but I didn't understand very
clearly. Will you explain some
time?

About holidays, darling - the
first thing to celebrate is your
birthday, which comes a long time
before mine. I have forgotten how
old you will be, but I'd not

forgotten the date. Do you think you'll be able to come to London for it? I do wish you could. It will be on a Thursday, I think - 3 weeks on Thursday. That's awfully near. What would you like best for a present, darling? - Don't say anything impossible. You are mean about Whitehurst, dear! - You as good as say that you will only try to spend it will be because unfortunately Mrs. Dolson's car isn't large enough to take you will please to Leicester. In one letter you tell me you'd do without any summer holidays in Switzerland & want to spend them with me at Kenas, & I look at you for saying that, & then in the very next letter you say you would go for what if the car were bigger. Don't you really mean me to believe what you say, or are you just teasing me as usual? Because even if the Dolsons could take you,

(34) -3-
you couldn't afford the passage, could you? I already am looking forward to what tho' it is so far away, but if you were going to Switzerland for the sake of it to come. You see how selfish I am! Do say we'll spend the holiday together, darling. Since we were so happy last time, I am longing to have you again, but I want more than anything to have you for good.

All Golden Green Hippodrome this week. There is Spirit Thawing in "The Greater Love." I would like to see this, but don't know whether it were to go, because there are 4 cases of smallpox reported in Golden Green.

Mrs. Fritsch didn't ring me up to-day, so perhaps he hasn't had an opportunity of making any enquiries.

Of course, darling, I will get those shirts for you if they have any left the right size. I would have

gone today but hadn't sufficient money with me. Will go tomorrow, & if the wot sense of the colour will write straight away & ask you to send me the colour. If you had 3 more, making 4, wouldn't you get rather tired of grey? They are certainly useful, but to buy 3 to get a reduction of 1/6 isn't economy unless you really need them. Do you? I'll perhaps decide for you when I get to the shop tomorrow. It is nice of you to take notice of what I like, darling. Will you always be like that, I wonder. I hope so - but I'm afraid it's only when you like as well.

What a pity the weather changed just when you could have taken advantage of some sunshine. A visit to Hamboro' would have done you good. Do you know that the weather forecast is - depression following depression in quick succession. Cold & wet, &

(34) 4.
wind & rain - ground frost at night - snow in the north & likely in the South - future prospects - cold & windy. - Cheerful, isn't it? Yesterday it hailed here & poured with rain. I see the City funny on a Saturday afternoon? - There wasn't a soul to be seen except policemen when I left the office at 6 o'clock on Sat. - it was even more deserted than on the Sunday morning.

I have had a very busy day to-day - began before lunch & worked late. - & I've a lot to begin tomorrow. This morning I had a piece of bad news - I had to take some work I'd been doing to her. Lowellyn, M.A., one of the Parkers, & he seems surprised that I didn't know that I was destined one day to become his Secretary. He's not a bit popular, & everyone says they wouldn't like

to work for him. He's not nice to look at, & is rumoured to be an absolute stammerer & awfully inconsiderate. - And then the room which I should occupy is beastly - On inside being room with no windows or ventilation - electric light has to be on all the time. Just imagine all through the summer never to have any of the fresh air or glorious sunshine. The girls here don't seem to mind - they say it's warm in winter (which I call stuffy) & cool in summer - & it's the best I suppose I so love - feel I need. Am I silly to bother about a thing like this, darling? - And then I am disappointed to be a secretary & not do investigation work as Mr. Wood had promised. But I think really Mr. Jewell might not have said anything to me, because his secretary, though engaged has not yet given me her notice. If you were me, darling, would you mention

(134)

5
it to Mr. Wood when I ask him about my holidays? I suppose I ought to, really, but I don't like this prospect. At present I'm quite happy learning to help Mrs. Lee, whom I like very much. - You needn't be jealous, darling. He's the greenest little man, & full of weird ways & mannerisms, & his manners, but there's something likable about him. None of them like him who don't know him fairly well. Please advise me, darling, will you?

It is nice of you to think already about my birthday. I shall of course want you with me, else it won't get celebrated at all, but it is probable you will be in Italy then, isn't it?

If not, I do hope you will be here with me. But it is a long, long time yet.

After I had sealed & stamped the envelope yesterday I was sorry I had troubled you with any money worries. They are so trivial, but

Please give my love to Evelyn & John when you go down. My face has almost finished staining & the hair has finally come off unfortunately, the my hands are ordered.

I was tired yesterday & had been trying for some time to find out when the mistake was in my book, so that that was the uppermost thought in my mind when I was writing to you, & it always seems as though I must tell you all the things in my mind. The Postal Order I had been careless enough to give to Mrs. Dean with the rest of my money for dip. When I'm not tired I don't worry over these things as I do when I am awfully tired. It will be all right if you tell Evelyn we spent Easter week-end with friends. That's all I told them at home. - Just said I'd got to know some nice people with a car. I didn't of course mention your presence. I told them the places we visited, so there's no need for you to tell any fibs. They probably guessed at home that you would be here, tho' they're rather slow sometimes. How I've spent all the evening writing to you, darling. Is it a waste of time? All my love & thought & kisses. Ta chérie.



Tuesday. 8.30 p.m.

You will be sorry to hear darling I had a big disappointment this morning. There is someone I love even such a big lot, & I so look forward to letters from this particular dear person, - & this morning there wasn't one. Not even tonight either. Perhaps he was much too busy to write to his Chérie, - do you think so? But of course there will be our extra nice letter tomorrow morning. I know that.

This lunchtime, darling, I went to find the shop for your shirts. Your diagram was more or less right but altho' there was a men's outfitter just where you had marked, it wasn't the name you said. So as I knew the diagram was more likely to be wrong than the name, which you would get from the shirt, I went on a journey of exploration, & soon found the right shop nearly at the far end of Leuchard Street, & not at a corner at all. Perhaps you bought the shaped shirt at the shop

you marked, because there was one like it in the window - 8/6. Did you?

I bought 3 grey shaped corduroy gophers shirts & 3 collars - collar size 14½, shirt size 14. - @ £1.3.0. Did send the money. - I was over you £10.17.0. The man in the shop was very nice & I asked him to post them for me, so you will either have got them already or they will soon arrive.

I also feel that there isn't need to tell you when I haven't a letter to answer.

Isn't it been a lovely day! The weather experts seem wrong again, or perhaps the depression professional haven't left Iceland yet.

How I have a lot of washing today - also mending & sewing for which there won't be time tonight. I sit 8.30 late to finish dinner? Of course, I've been helping to clean & wash up.

Am trying to arrange to start classes next week.

I do hope there will be a letter tomorrow from the dear person I love so much. All my love & kisses,
To Chérie



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/135)

'You will be sorry to hear darling I had a big disappointment this morning.'

26 Apr 1927

Wednesday 8. 4.5. p.m.

Please excuse a letter tonight,
darling. I'm irritable and
depressed & have a bad
headache.

Love,

Amy.

Thanks for enclosure to
your letter. Received
tonight.

136



H. Arregger, Esq.
9. Humbler Place,
Dull.



Yours.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/136)

'Please excuse a letter tonight darling.'

27 Apr 1927

Thursday 9 p.m.

Again I am sorry darling, that I don't feel like writing. You must be cross. It won't do any good & I can't help it. The head kind to throw this word off, but its very persistent. But I don't feel irritable like I did last night. - only awfully lethargic & miserable & depressed. It's a queer mood, & I feel somehow as though something has gone wrong with you. - Almost as tho' I had lost you. It's a rotten night last night & couldn't sleep for thinking. There is someone you have just become very interested in, isn't there? It's so silly to have feelings like this, but I can't shake them off, & they've been haunting me all day. Please tell me all about it. Is it someone new you've met or one of your old sweethearts turned up again & received your interest?

Last night I was awfully irritable & wanted to write you a nasty letter just to give vent to my feelings. - It's not

I did write half one & then tore it up, because I was determined not to make you miserable. I only wrote you those few lines because you seem to think 'You don't sleep?' I shouldn't when I don't write to you. You don't tell me how you spend your evenings, but I don't mistake you as you do me. Since you went away the only night I have been out was the one with Winnie. I forgot to mention about it in my letter of the night before, but told you at the next evening. I didn't appreciate the way you told me that you hadn't time to write to me because you devoted so long to her. Leel, whom you see ^{ten} any how every morning & every night & all Sundays. Is she still as fond of sitting on the floor & gazing into your eyes! You afraid I, as a Sunday, would suffer hopelessly ~~from~~ in comparison with her.

maybe if there had been a letter

137

KILBURN N.W. 9
APR 29
9:30 AM
1927



H. Arregger, Esq.
3. Chamber Place,
Hull.

Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/137)

'Again I am sorry darling that I don't feel like writing.'

29 Apr 1927

to-day it might have made me feel better - if it had been a nice one. But you're not to blame, 'coz you couldn't know I'm feeling in such a mood. I just hate streets & houses & tubes & busses & ~~people~~ ^{people} & stuffy rooms & typewriters - I wish I could climb up a mountain & be high above all these things, where there's light & air & sunshine.

You seem such a long way from me just now - usually you seem quite near & I almost forget the number of miles which separate us, but now you're so far away. Are you quite well - there's something wrong, the perfectly sane of that. Have you changed your feelings towards me? Please do tell me, if it's anything of which you are conscious, & set my mind at rest.

I hope you enjoyed the letter. You know that you're just as free to talk anyone so you say I am to let anyone talk me. Reason is a right any day. I am glad to hear you got Geneva news.

Please forgive this rotten selfish letter. I don't know what the matter will be. I don't want to lose you.

how I've just listened to a talk on the wireless about Lake Geneva - 2 miles of cream & wet, & 3 miles of blue glacier, and snow blowing off the mountains like smoke - it makes me think there must be another life where one is given a chance to enjoy all the beautiful things missed in this life.

I know I should tear this letter up, ^{burn it,} but somehow I don't like to burn my feelings. I wonder if you will laugh at me or be cross. To be cross would do me more good than to laugh which would send me mad. Please, please write.
Yours with love. J.



Postmark
April 30 1927
138
H. A.

138
Friday. 8.15 p.m.
Now at last, darling, I feel able to write to you properly. Although I still feel rotten (due to the "usual nuisance" starting to day - it's usual day - which is too bad because I'd one dose last week - it lasted 5 days intermittently! - & that makes 2 for one mouth. I do feel fed up, because I haven't taken my medicine, thinking that I'd got it over last week) yet it's not the unhealthy state of mind I've been in these last 2 days, & which now, thank Heaven, has disappeared.
Thank you for your two letters, darling, both of which arrived together this morning. Why didn't you post the one you wrote on Wed. so that I should get it on Thurs. morning? If you had done, it would have stopped me doing something which I must confess before I go any further. - I was so unwell because you only sent me a warty letter (you did realize

it then without my telling you?) after keeping me waiting so long, & the only letter I have it by the evening's post when I don't look out for letters & so am never disappointed because there aren't any, & then not letting me have a letter the following morning because (as I reasoned it) you would think the first one ought to last for 2 days as I received it late, - that when I went to post your letter last night I missed it on purpose. I waited until the postman had emptied the box & then put your letter in to go by the 8.30 this morning. This was so that you wouldn't get it by the post at which you would look out for it, & I wanted you to know that it's not quite the same to get a letter by a late post when you've one been disappointed.
I am sorry now about it, darling, - but I don't think you would mind like I did, because

Haven't your skirts arrived yet?

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/138)

'Now at last darling, I feel able to write to you properly.'

30 Apr 1927

(138)

2.

it wasn't a nice letter, & I have let you have a letter every day.

When your two letters arrived this morning I was glad I hadn't written you a nasty one the night before last, as I was so tempted to do. As it is, I am sorry for all the nasty things I thought about you, & said to you in my imagination. But why did you write me things like you did?

Were you being nasty on purpose? - What irritated me most was the way you calmly told me why you hadn't written - if I'd told you anything like that you'd have been furious. But why should they be so slow to apply to my behaviour & answer to yours?

And then you do it by any means give me an account of how you spend your evenings & if you've been out you simply say so, like I told you about my evening with Winnie. (I didn't omit to tell you for that reason - I simply forgot about it), - & yet you

don't like it if I don't write to you every evening or else tell you beforehand what I'm doing. I would rather you be like this, darling, than not care what I do, but it was the way you told me off that irritated me so in the second I was in when your letter came. And your foregone conclusion that "out of sight out of mind" was how I regarded you, is so absurd that if I had been in a different mood it would just have amused me. You can't have been thinking with your usual clear head when you accused me of that. And you didn't write it in jest, either! - That was clear.

It was nice of you to ^{ask me if} offer me I'd like one of your rings in London & also to enquire, as an afterthought, about the thing which was (& shall be) worrying me so much, but even then couldn't make up for the rest of your letter.

Your two sentences "why don't you like telling me what you did

(138)

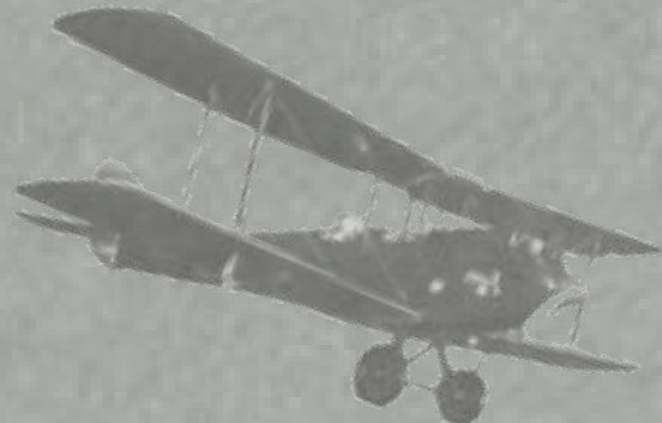
3.

on Wed. night. But I should not worry you. It was nice of you thought to write to me last night instead of spending all the evening downstairs - oh, they make me so mad, - the throwing them in the fire how is I can't bear them. It's not you at all saying that I didn't do anything on the previous Wed. night except come in straight from the office, have my dinner, help with Green, & read quietly till bedtime.

It's that a crime! I simply didn't write to you because I'd written the night before & understood that was agreed not to write so often. & it pleases how? - And when I think of the long time I spent the evening before, all by myself & enjoying writing to you because you seemed so much nearer, (& I was under the impression that I'd written you a rather nice letter than usual, which didn't seem to make any impression on you at all. Don't you care whether my letters are nice or not, so long as

I am accounting for how I spend my time?) - oh, they make me feel the working my brain writing you as I do! - It wasn't a bit nice of me to write to you instead of joining that wretched bachelor downstairs. - How could you say anything so sarcastic! But I must go on thinking of these things. I've burnt the letter as I promised to do with all your nasty ones. I didn't mean to write all this tonight, but it's been on my mind ever since the letter came & it's better to tell you about it. - When I write you nasty things I confess I'm in a bad mood or something of the sort, but you write them in reply to my specially nice letters, & you seemed to be in such a good mood.

How I will forget all this & start a fresh page.



138

H.

What has happened to the letter you started to write me yesterday morning? Do please let me have it, tho' you can write please keep the account of Mrs. Leech's dream. I would like to know about the dinner, if you remember enough to tell me.

You certainly ought to go to see that play at the Theatre. It sounds awfully good & I know Conway Harle is a good actor though I have only seen him on the films. (I've not been to the pictures since we went to "Leopoldo" - your cured me of pictures as you have of dancing - & then you doubt your beneficial influence over me.) Tell me all about it, won't you?

By the way, what did you mean about taking anybody? Who did you want to take? Please tell me. Did Mrs. Scott happen to be transferred to Switzerland? I envy

Mrs. Scott - charming herself, with a charming husband, dear little baby girl, & beautiful surroundings - what more can anyone want. Have you heard how the little girl is? I hope she's quite well again. She's so sweet.

I received a notice some time ago about the Bull Society in London, but Mother sent me the letter referred to by Mrs. Morrison & when I found out it was connected with it, I decided that was more than enough to make me put the whole of London between the Bull Society & me. Morrison will be the Lord Mayor of Hell looks us attractive for me.

It is nice of you to ask me about your rep. but you will bring them will you when you come for good, won't you? And it isn't worth while doing anything before then. Altho' it is nice of you to think of things like that, it yet raises doubts in my mind

138

5.

again as to how much is "hearing" about your coming to London, & how much I can believe.

Why do you specially want to spend my birthday with me, darling? - Is it because it's fiddler off than yours? - This I think is most likely you'll be in Italy on July 1st, if you have to go.

Today wrote me the other day & also to write from Nancy's invitation & she says she is going on all right & has to stay in bed another week & be in quarantine for - don't know how long. She leaves the hospital on 7th day, & is then going to W'sea for 10 days. The evening is fixed for 28th day. Has Mother fetched the postmark on 4th? She doesn't mention it in her long letter today, enclosing £1 for which she has sent my byke, a character sketch from my handwriting by a man she knows who has never seen me. It is very

good on the whole. (An enclosing it for you to read. Please return it.) She also sends me a lot of scraps she has done for me, including one of myself, which you may like to have now I am away. I offered a print like it to you once in Hell but you didn't want it & gave it back to me. Do you want it now as you can't have my coloured one on ones? - Send it back please if you don't want it.

This lunch-lunch I fetched you the collars you need - 3/- - that £11. 14. 0. how I owe you. Do you like the link I have bought it for you because I thought it would look nice with the grey skirts than those you have. - & also because I'm sorry for the nasty blimp I've thought about you. Don't hesitate to tell me if you don't like it.

138
 out of his bookcase. I took one & was glad I'd read some of it when today he sent for me & dictated some letters about a Company of which he is a Director, & I know about the points he asked me to test my knowledge. He is going to let me help to draft the Articles of Association & I am to help with the next Company to form. I have always been interested in Company Law, & know something at any rate about Shares, etc. I spend quite a lot of time at the office studying, & should be quite happy if only I had congenial surroundings.

You must surely be tired with this long letter, are you? Wonder? You only identify nice things about you now, & am so glad this black mood has passed over. Do we both seem to suffer from them, darling, don't

You think we might try to understand each other better & make more allowances?

Please write me a real nice nice letter, darling. - I don't mind if you tell me off, but please don't leave & don't be sarcastic; & say a few nice things to me if you can say them truly. I really love you lots more than you have any idea of, but in these black moods I'm ashamed to say that I often hate you. Unlike you, I feel strongly that when we are together, more often than not one of us will be able to dispel the other's bad mood, before it has taken form hold. You're afraid to rest it, aren't you, darling? - Not I'm not. So long as we remember neither of us is perfect, we shall be quite happy.

Goodnight now, darling. Please say you forgive my bad mood. All my love, to Cherie.

surprise visit. He always looking for you & expecting you, so that I shouldn't be so surprised to see you actually. - but awfully pleased!! My birthday is such a long time to wait.

Also, when I was with Mr Wood I asked him about my holidays & he is thinking it over. If he offers me a fortnight in the summer shall I take it?

Then he asked me what I did with myself in the evening, & I told him I was fond of study. - And I had a trainwreck to ask him if there was anything I could study in the Solicitor's profession which would make me more useful to the firm. He seemed quite pleased & said he would think it over. He sent for me the next day & said he needed someone to know Company Law (it's his pet subject I believe) & he told me I could borrow books

139
 6.

Mrs. Fritsch didn't ring me up till this afternoon & then I was engaged with Mr Wood so couldn't speak to her. Her ring was tomorrow.

The other day Mrs. Wood sent for me to ask me how I was getting on, & I seized a suitable opportunity to tell her the room wasn't very head aches. He said I'd ask her. So if I could work in his room. There wasn't an opportunity till today, & I didn't ask outright even then, but there's no hope at all. However, now she asks what I can do to make it better & it has failed, I can resign myself more or less to my fate! - But I couldn't do this before I had made some efforts to improve things. I must try best to let it get on my nerves, but I shall hate not to get any sunshine & fresh air in the summer. I've lost all my nice colour, darling. - but I'll put some on if you give me a



(139)

Saturday. 4.30.

It's absolutely wonderful here darling.
 I'm at New Park, sitting on a
 fresh green slope by the river, with
 blue sky overhead, lovely green
 hedges & bushes & flowers all round
 & enjoying the glorious sunshine.
 If only you were here & we could
 dispense with the people. I'd be
 quite happy. There are swans on
 the river & some undergrads
 practising lawn just gone by in
 their boat, with their adherents
 cycling along the path at the side.
 In spite of there being a lot of
 people, it's very peaceful & refreshing.
 Have you been here, darling? I've
 never been before. The hedges &
 flowers & plants are beautiful, &
 some of the hedges are a mass of
 blossom. I've been through the
 Conservatories, but there are not
 many flowers there. Anemones
 & daffodils are growing with amongst
 the grass. I do wish you were
 here, darling.
 I have a book with me for

company, & keep reading bits of Shaw's
 preface to "Getting Married." Have
 you read it? Altho' I agree with
 his criticisms in the abstract, there
 are some I don't agree with when it
 comes to personal feelings. (I don't
 seem able to regard this subject
 absolutely impersonally, which is a
 pity. I only wish I could, & do
 so, but my own feelings keep
 cropping up & colour my ideas).

I didn't know whether to feel
 glad or sorry there was no letter this
 morning. I didn't feel in the
 mood for a nasty one in reply
 to my not very nice one. But I
 do hope there will be a really
 nice one on Monday. Well then,
 darling?

Now I'll read some more of my
 book & finish this later.

(139)

1 May 1927



May?

H. Arregger Esq.
 3. Chamber Place
 Hill.

Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
 (Reference L DIAJ/139)

'It's absolutely wonderful here darling.'

1 May 1927

Letter from Amy Johnson to
Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/139B)

'Thank you darling so much for
letting me have a letter last night.'

1 May 1927

139

Sunday. 8.15 p.m.

Thank you, darling, so much for
letting me have a letter last
night. It seems funny that
because I missed the post on
purpose I should be lucky
enough to get a letter from you
yesterday (altho' I thought you
would get it by the afternoon
post on Friday, but evidently it
didn't arrive till Sat. morning),
while if you had got mine you
might have written me, or else
not sent me a mine one, & I
didn't feel in the mood for a
hasty one.

I was glad to see it on the
table waiting for me when I got
in from the garden at about
7.15 p.m. I had some tea &
read your letter, & felt so
much better that after washing
up I did a lot of washing &

wringing & washed my hair. I felt
quite energetic & didn't get to
bed till nearly 12 because I
finished "getting worried" with
my hair dried. But I'm
afraid I overdid it because
I've been to-day.

(I do all my own washing &
ironing to save laundry expenses,
but am now paying Mrs. Green
4/- per week for the use of gas
& electric iron, etc. Because
she keeps a box for her chest
& often does some washing for
her mother downstairs & puts the
money in the box to give her
for it. So I told her she could
either keep this 1/- or put it in
the box, & as I expected she
prefers to put it in the box.)

This morning I went a
walk with Mrs. Green. The
air is fine out here & in a few
minutes one can be in the country.

139

2.
Hampstead is known in London as
"Healthy Hampstead." In spite of
our difficulties at Hester, darling,
I'm sure it is good for me to be
out here with friends & not in
the centre in a hotel. I'm quite
comfortable here & it is so nice to
get outside London in the evenings.
We'll have our flat as far outside
as we can, shall we, darling?
But they're awfully expensive, & I
think it will be a long time
before we are able to get (& afford)
what we would like. But I
don't mind writing, do you, darling?
We'll both work hard & build up
a home. - Shall we, dear? -

You see I'm not sure about your
ideas, & am afraid sometimes
I go too far in what I say.
When you leave any remarks
unanswered I always know
I've taken for granted something

I shouldn't, but when you're
nice & agree with me, then I
feel happy.

To-day I've been reading an
article about marriage in
Germany & I've just been out a
walk (after having been writing
letters - Mother, Father, Mother,
Nene, Oliver - since about 2.30
& I wanted to feel fresh to write
to you) & have been thinking
about their system of divorce.
I've never realised it so clearly
before, because not having
such a system in England I've
never been brought into contact
with it, & I never could
understand or sympathise with
your views. Often I've had the
idea that if I'd been bringing
a lot of money with me I'd
not have been so indecisive about
me. (Don't get cross - I know
now it's not here). Do you remember



139

3.

When you & Mrs. Fritsch & I were on the subject & you got awfully cross with me because I didn't understand, but you shouldn't have done because I'd no idea at all as to what you were both meaning. Now when Mrs. Fritsch told me quite bluntly (as you said) - but it didn't seem blunt to me, but only understood me as a point with which I had never before been brought into contact. I much prefer the conventional method of 'working down' to the highest method (if there is one - it's rather a lack of method, I think) & I hope my daughters will marry Swiss boys & I shall save up to give them a dowry before to-day. The subject has irritated me, because I didn't care to think of marriage as being so much of a money matter.

But now I've really thought it out. I see that my ideas were mistaken. (The few Swiss I meet here had nothing to do with my ideas - they just detached my thoughts into that channel, that's all.)

I'm sorry, darling, that I'm willing to offer you (unless you care to wait until I've saved something up!) - but you see the highest & yours in England, however much you may prefer your own country's institutions & ideas you can't introduce them into another country for your own purposes. Did your mother want to know how much dowry the set, darling? Or perhaps she knew that things are different in England.

It was unfortunate there was all that trouble about Henri's wedding, because it has placed

139

4.

poor Father in rather a false light, so regards his generosity. He really is generous in his own way, & if Henri had only got married according to his ideas, he would have acted differently about the money question. But of course he doesn't regard it as his duty to set Henri & Teddy up in their house - & he thinks it disgraceful that he, & not Teddy, should be providing the money. I used to see things like Father does, but now I see them differently. I can see that it's his duty to start them off (& not more generously, as he thinks), & that it is not disgraceful of Teddy to let Henri.

Are my ideas right at last, darling? I don't want to irritate you again, but if I do change my ideas I don't see

why I shouldn't tell you about it - do? -

Thanks for carrying the postman's love for Mollie. I know you would, & told her not to be afraid to fetch it because you would be sure to carry it for her. Perhaps if she hadn't been there you might have written me a bit more personal letter, but it was me all the same, & I like to think of you being friends with Mollie. She's a nice child, in spite of a lot of foolish ideas she has, but I think she'll be all right when she's older. Did you? Did you take her out for a ride yesterday? I know she'd be awfully pleased if you did - & it was a glorious day here.

Will there be a nice long letter for me tomorrow, I wonder. You can't say that you haven't any time during the week. I know it must be a real job

139

5.

You on ordinary days, darling, because the post goes so early. If it were so early here, I'm afraid you wouldn't get letters so often, because I've worked to write every bit of lunchtime, & can't do them during the day. It is nice of you to let me have letters as often as you do, & instead of grumbling when there isn't one every day, I ought to be glad when there is one - but it's only when I wait a long time & then get a nasty one, that I get fed up. You wonder, wouldn't you, darling?

The enclosing the character sketch from my handwriting which I forgot to enclose on Friday - it was an awful mess to catch the post. Am also enclosing 2 or 3 cuttings from last week's "Sunday Herald" which I've been going to send so many times & have always

forgotten. They struck me as rather good when I read them, but don't you bother to read them if you haven't used them. They're nothing important - only some of your ideas are expressed rather well, I think.

Bernard Shaw's preface to "Getting Married" I have enjoyed much more than the play itself, which I can't altogether understand. He sometimes seems to stoop to rather a cheap kind of humour, & except for 2 or 3 "advanced" ideas (which are better expressed in his Preface) there seems to be little object in the play. I entirely agree with him when he attacks the modern marriage system, but I must confess I don't understand the object of his play, unless it's simply to put these ideas somehow into the



139

6

mouth of his characters (which is how it strikes me).

I thoroughly enjoyed "The Doctor's Dilemma" & also the Preface. I'd love to see it acted, but can't find any plays of Bernard Shaw's on the Theatre List. I'm sorry to have missed it at the Shipway Theatre.

I wasn't so very much surprised that the play at the Grand wasn't so good as promised by the "Mail" report. Because altho' the report denounced the acting (wasn't that good?) I don't think the plot of the play sounded up to much.

It's supper-time now, darling, & I've written you a lot, haven't I? I hope you won't be bored with it. Am looking forward to an awfully

nice personal one tomorrow. Are mine too personal, darling? Sometimes I look through & see "I" "I" "I" all over the page, & it seems so selfish, but I wish you would write me letters with more "I's" in. I talk too much about myself & you not enough about yourself. If you'll only talk more about yourself, darling, I shall be driven to talk so much about myself. Do try. You be selfish & I'll be unselfish for a bit. (If I can).

You're wanting you lots & lots & lots & am always looking out for you - will you give me any more surprises, I wonder? Please do, darling (but not when you're not feeling well).

All my love & thoughts
& kisses
Daisy.

140

Monday. 9.30. p.m.

Thank you, darling, so much for your long letter this morning. It's much nicer than any you've written me for some time, but I must be very hard to please because even that didn't satisfy me. It's you I want so awfully badly, darling. - & your letters seem just like drops of water to a thirsty man. I need you so much to make me happy. I know I can't be perfectly happy without you. I'm awfully depressed again tonight, darling. Although I'm thinking top & bottom I don't seem to be able to summon the energy to put my thoughts down on paper, but I must pull myself together because it's now nearly 10. Mum & her. Mum went out after & it was nearly 8.30 when I'd got the fire washed up. Then just as I was going to begin my letter to you, the widower man came &

only went at 9.30. I'm afraid I'm not very nice to him, & he doesn't ask me down now.

What are you doing, darling? I wonder. I so want to sit on your knee & have a good cry. I sit it silly to feel like this - but I can't help it. Why is it, darling? Mum & Mrs. Green may be in any minute, & even when I'm alone I can't let myself go naturally, because people may walk in & surprise me as everyone knows the key is under the mat. There's a big lump in my throat, & I do want you.

I had rather a shock last night because Mrs. Green asked me when I was going to begin paying her 30/- per week. I know I ought to, 'cos they're awfully poor & by ever so hard to manage on what they have. - & I don't think 25/- will even pay for what I eat. So I must start on Friday with 30/- per week. It's not much from

140

KILBURN N.W.5
MAY 2
11:30 PM
1927



H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Humber Place,
Hull.

Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/140)

'Thank you darling, so much for your long letter this morning.'

2 May 1927

-2-

living on £3 per week. - I don't mean that I want more than I have, but I did awfully want to join a tennis club, & I can't possibly afford it. There is a very nice one near here, & I'm longing to play again, especially as I so badly need some exercise - I don't get any of any description, as altho' I've so far to go to the office there are only a few yards to walk. And it would help to feel in the sun till you come - July seems such a long way off. - as long again as I've been in London, & that seems ages. Clubs are awfully expensive in London, & then I'd need frocks & stockings - haven't any white ones as I haven't needed them for tennis the last year. I can only just save 10/- clear now for my clothes & amusements, etc. I shan't worry when I feel well, but it makes me feel up when I'm

in this depressed mood. You're the only one I grumble to about money matters, darling, so please have patience with me, as I feel I must talk to someone.

It has been rather bad this week because I didn't take my medicine - for the reason I told you. (Do you think, by the way, there's anything to worry about in that occurrence? There must have been something wrong).

Will there be a letter in the morning? I wonder. I don't suppose so as Monday's a busy day for you. But I do want one, altho' there's never the sentence in I so want to hear you say. (There are several, but one specially).

I love all your photos, darling, & wouldn't be without any of them. As I make no secret of loving & wanting you so much, you can't possibly be accused of being conceited in thinking I'd like them. But as you keep most of

3.

your thoughts & ideas hidden away (& only give me glimpses sometimes when I'm specially nice), it's I who feel afraid to take it for granted that you want me as much as I want you.

It's nice of you to want pictures of me, & I'll see if I can find one of those taken in the garden.

It's post-time now & I must run for the post. - The postman keeps his bag open for me 'cos he knows I'm always late!

Will it always be "business first" when you come to London, darling? If it makes enough money for us to be happy together, I shan't be so jealous of it.

All my love, & a big kiss.
Toot-night, darling. C.



(141)

Tuesday. 9. 30 p.m.

Thank you so much for your letter this morning, darling. It was a nice one again & I was so glad to have it - especially as I didn't think there would be one.

I feel better again today, but am tired as I've worked very hard - but quite the healthy sort of tiredness.

Thanks for returning my character sketch - I certainly agree with your criticism. If you want yours done you will have to get in communication with Nellie before she goes to Monday School on Friday. She had hers done at some Bazaar or school affair - don't know what exactly - & she asked me if I'd like mine done. I didn't reply for some time

& she was awfully cross about it, because she said she'd paid the money & I'd left it too late. However, by dint of persuasion she evidently managed it somehow. I haven't the least idea who it is who does it. It's O.K. Sweden that's all I know. It would be fun to know what yours is - I'd very much like you to have it done. Ring up Nellie, write her, & ask her if it's possible. Tell her I want it. I'll drop her a P.C. to ring you, as I know you don't like ringing up at home.

Mr. Fritschel rang me again to-day & he says he's got your photos. He asked what he should do with them & I said he'd better send them on to you, but he thinks if he keeps them till you come you may come quicker. I said I didn't think

(141)

KILBURN N.W.6
MAY 3
11:30 PM
1927



H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Chamber Place,
Kew.

Mrs.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/141)

'Thank you so much for your letter this morning darling.'

3 May 1927

2.

You'd come before what, if that,
& he seemed quite disappointed.
He's going to ring me sometime
to go a ride with him in the
car. Okay? ?

2 or 3 people seem to be
wanting me at the office! -
I told you I'd been appointed
assistant to her. Lee is his
so busy, & than her. Wood gave
me some Company work to do
which is proving a long & quite
difficult job (making précis
of the Article of Association
of 2 Companies, one of which
is taking over the other & showing
where they differ & how - sounds
simple, but isn't so easy and
sounds). - & poor her. Lee
hasn't had any help since last
Friday. He was fed up this
morning but can't say anything
'cos he's the junior partner only.

The girl who is to be Mr. Wood's
Secretary is in my dept. & this
morning he asked her what
machine she used & what I used,
'cos my work was so much harder
& looked nicer. She had to admit
we used exactly the same
machine (& hers is much newer,
but she's a heavy typist). I felt
quite pleased.

I hope you & Mrs. McKie
enjoy the break. Please give
her my love. I'll write to her
as soon as I've time - I haven't
heard from Mrs. Healey for a
long time either.

Father's going straight to
Bournemouth 'cos he's so poorly. I
may see him on his way back.

It's a glorious night - new
moon & deep blue sky. The
weather's really perfect, but I
don't think you're so lucky in
the north. I only wish I could
enjoy the sunshine.

Always love & kisses,
D.



142

Wednesday

Thank you, darling, for your P.C. this morning. It was nice of you to send it as you hadn't time for a letter & I loved the little verse. I wish you yourself said as nice things as that. Sometimes I long for them, even tho' I know its conceded of me to want them.

What kind of weather is it in Hill, I wonder. It's awfully hot here - the heat is depressing & unseasonable. It makes my head ache, & its rather thunderstormy. I like sunshiny heat but not this kind.

Do you remember, darling, when I was adding up how much I still owe you, I believe I put £11. 14. 0. & it should only be £10. 14. 0. You ought to have put me right, darling - ~~unless you want to make something out of me.~~

I owed you £14. - gave you £5, spent £1. 6. 0. on 3 shirts & 6 collars = £6. 6. 0. & leave £10. 14. 0. owing. That's right, isn't it? I can't afford to be a whole £1 out! As soon as ever I have 14/- I'll send a P.O. & then it will be an even sum again.

How I would love to be able to go for a ride on the bike just now & get some cool air. It's so awfully hot.

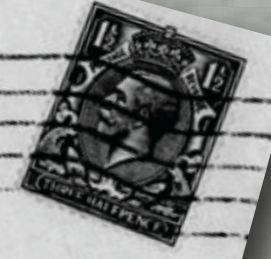
There is really nothing special to tell you, darling, so please excuse a longer letter. This is just so that you shall be without one tomorrow. Am looking forward to yours in the morning.

Shall I ask her. Mitschi to send you gloves, because you need use the others for the bike now?

Dearest love & lots of kisses.
Yours, Amy.

142

KILBURN N.W.9
MAY 4
11:30 PM
1927



H. Arregger Esq.
3, Humber Place
Hill.
Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/142)

'Thank you darling for your PC [postcard] this morning.'

4 May 1927

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/143)

'Thank you ever so much for your
letter darling.'

5 May 1927

(143)

Thursday.

Thank you ever so much for your
letter, darling. I love every word of
it & feel so happy after I'd read
it. Have read it heaps of times & I
know nearly every word of the nice
parts. - It almost satisfied me!
What made you write me such a
specially nice letter, darling?
I wish you had also sent me what
you said you wrote about my
letter of Sunday, but perhaps
you'll be able to express yourself
better in person, tho' you'll probably
forget all about it long before you
see me again. We usually forget
to discuss these things we postpone,
don't we?

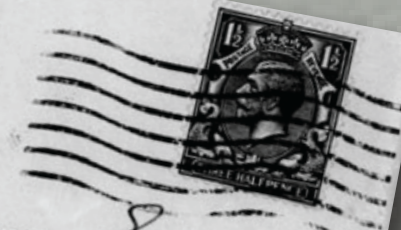
It isn't often you really
answer my letters, but this time
you have done, & I'm glad you've
told me more about yourself
than you usually do. Really,
darling, it's so much better when
you tell me things instead of

keeping them to yourself. It's lovely
to know you're planning about
our flat, & I'm glad we both
feel the same about building
it up gradually. I don't mind
how hard I work, so long as it's for
you, and I'll let you do all the
working & spend my spare time
spoiling you. (But not too much!)
When you come for good you'll have
a promise to keep to me (how well
see who's memory's the longer!).
but perhaps I shan't keep you to it.
We'll wait & see!

I don't know how much a
couple of rooms would be, but I
think we ought to be able to find
something suitable. Larger flats
are very difficult to get, I believe,
& are awfully expensive, especially
outside in the suburban districts.
£130 seems to be about the
cheapest with 1 p.w. notes!!!
But these are only advertisements
ones, there will be cheaper ones.



(143)



H. Arregger Esq.,
3, Hunter Place,
Hull.

Yours.

-2-

You are silly, darling, about the
wiseover man. I can't help him
coming, & I certainly never want
him & do my best to discourage his
attention. He must be awfully
thick-skulled. He really isn't
worth making a fuss about, darling,
because I never give him a thought.
Why he comes in when the others go
out must be because Mrs. Hen
goes in & tells him I'm alone & he
must keep an eye on me. And
it's rather difficult to ask her not to
do this, because he's her fella -
but I'll be diplomatically at some
suitable time.

Can you understand now why
I don't like your relations with Mrs.
Leed? And the far more cause
to be fed up than you have. Mrs.
Leed shall have your private room
alone with you & sit on the
carpet, etc. - & she's a lot
older than you & is quite good-
looking & attractive. Whereas

This silly old man is about 65 & is
green-looking, & only comes into
the general sitting-room (never in
my bedroom as Mrs. Leech likes
to air your underclothes - I can
never spoil you in such a way
'cos I'd have to copy her!) & he
has never stayed longer than an
hour, & that only once. If you
did come for a surprise, & found the
silly old thing there, you wouldn't
go away without me, darling. I
wouldn't let you.

When are you going to come
again? It seems such a long
time since Easter & I do want so
much to see you again. Please
come as soon as ever you can,
darling. Do you think it likely to
be soon? Week-ends are best when
I can be with you longer. I can
manage an invitation to spend
the night (all of it) out, when you
come, darling.

You ought to play tennis or get

3.

Some exercise somehow, though it
certainly doesn't seem worth joining
for only one month. - But why
only one month? Do you think
you'll go to Italy really? There
are plenty of courts where I could
play tennis by the lake, - some
hard ones are quite near - but
I've no one to play with. I thought
if I joined a Club I'd get to know
some nice people, & I do want to
play again so much. You've no
idea how fond I am of it, & I
haven't played for such a long
time (but I enjoyed our picnics,
etc. better!). I certainly have
one white frock, the one I had for
Degree Day in Sheffield - it's still
as good as new, but you ought to
know enough about Ladies' frocks
to know that one isn't enough
when one plays tennis often,
especially in London when things
get dirty more quickly. I also
had one pair of new white silk
stockings last year, which laddered

the first time I put them on. Don't
you remember that I never wore them
in Switzerland. I asked you to go
shopping with me for another pair but
I never needed them. But I can't
afford tennis, so I'll have to wait
till you come & it won't be too late
to have some fancy frock, will
it? - If you'd like to, that is.
I'm sorry you're so hard up,
darling. Whenever you tell me you
are, I feel so ashamed because
I owe you money & can't pay it.
And I can't give you any more
now 'cos I haven't any. But
you mustn't send me the money
for the shirts. I can manage
that quite all right, & I'll do my
best to let you have the rest as
soon as I can. You don't think
I enjoy being in debt, do you? -
But I haven't had much chance
to pay off such a big sum,
have I, darling? I don't like to
owe it for such a long time. I

4.

shall never borrow again on any
account whatever. It's been a
lesson to me, which I hope I shall
forget. I don't know what you
mean, darling, when you say I
once told you that you didn't spend
enough. I know that long ago when
I'd no idea of the state of your
finances that I used to think like
that, but I haven't done so ever
since I knew you really hadn't
any money, & just don't say
you hadn't in fun. (As I used to
think was the case, because you
gave the impression of having bags
of money).

There has been excitement
at the office to-day. - Another girl
(in my dept.) has got engaged
(making 7 altogether in the whole
office!) - we bought her flowers &
had special cakes for tea. She is
very proud of her ring & looks very
happy. She's a nice girl. - You
noticed that the nicest ones are always
independent of good looks, which shows

that good looks are not everything.

Would you like your other gloves sending so that you can let me have the ones that were mending? - Or isn't it worth while if you're coming soon? - How soon, darling?

There has just come a letter from Tally from Downmound & he & Nandua & Nandya are coming down through London next Thursday. They are staying today & Tally is taking me to any show I like. Still that nice? - I like to go to shows when relations come, but when you come, darling, I'd sooner go to bed. - Shouldn't I?

When will you come to look for a flat? I'm longing for that time. It doesn't seem a bit here, & often I think I'm just dreaming, as I have done ever since I knew you. - And then you don't think I've much will-power. - & yet I've made you love me, haven't I, & I've loved

5.
you so much. - And when you come to London for good, I'm going to try to make you do something else - but I haven't told you what, else you might shy - being a well-bred & spirited horse!!

I hope you enjoyed the breakfast last night. - am hoping there will be another nice letter in the morning, telling me all about it - as well as other nice things.

Are you feeling better to-day, darling? I am. Have had an awfully busy day & have a lot of work to start in the morning so shall have to go early. Every day I lunch in because it's cheaper - a few of us do. We take it in turns to shop & have rolls & fruit - I've got some awfully nice sugar marmalade. I get a good meal at night when I get in, & lunch out do come so

awfully expensive.

There doesn't seem anything more to tell you tonight, darling. Do please write me lots more awfully nice letters, full of your own thoughts & ideas & ambitions (I'm ambitious for you, darling, & I'll try to help you as much as I can when you come to see), & what we'll do together. I do wish I left at 5.30 so that I could get in early to get things ready for you, but will manage somehow, & it won't matter being late with dinner as we shall wait to go to shows, etc. - at least, not often.

Your handwriting is full of character & I certainly am curious as to what an expert would say about it. Hope I can find out something.

All my love & thoughts. Will save my kisses till you come. Yours, C.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/144)

'You would be surprised to see me
now darling.'

6 May 1927

144

Friday. 9.15 p.m.

You would be surprised to see me
now, darling. - I'm lying on the sofa
in the sitting-room in my pyjamas
& dressing-gown. Have just had
a bath. - We take it in turns &
leave the water on the gas - it's an
awful job & the one who is first
has to leave it early, you see. I'm
usually last as I write my
letters first, but tonight I am so
very tired that I've had mine
first & left Grace's going to post
this for me. It's terribly hot,
darling, & this kind of heat
doesn't agree with me - it makes
me so tired, & my feet are
always burning. We had a
very severe thunderstorm this
morning. I was held up by
it at the station & got to the
office very late, even then getting
wet. But after the storm it was
delightfully cool & fresh - how it is

hot again.

Thank you, darling, for your
letter. I don't think I quite
understand about the money
question - do you mean that
you'll help me to save up the money
to pay back to yourself? - It's
awfully nice, darling, of you to want
to help me but I don't quite see
how you can save to pay back
yourself. I wouldn't like you
to make me a present of money,
darling. But I never have that
fear with you that I have with
most people that I shall offend
or hurt anyone's feelings by
refusing an offer, etc. - because
you never do or say anything which
I feel I want to refuse. That's
not very clear, but perhaps you may
be able to see what I mean.
This subject is so difficult to write
about, so well leave it, shall
we, darling? I've always
intended to pay you back every



2.
penny you've lent me, but I must
admit that it worries me because
it is taking me such a long time,
& I hate being in debt.
I've just read your letter again,
darling, & it sounds as though you're
doing something awfully nice for
me, but I'm so stupid that I
shall can't understand. Please
don't be cross, darling, & if you're
not too fed up, please explain here
clearly. It doesn't cost you 10/-
to take anyone to the theatre, does
it? - You have never paid that
for me. - & you are extravagant
with other people if you spend 10/-
over them.
I'm afraid, darling, I can't
promise not to spend money
unnecessarily when I'm bored up.
It seems to be a habit of mine to
spend it most extravagantly when
I have least - that seems
paradoxical, but perhaps you
know what I mean. I'm so
afraid I should treat my

promise. But I will try to be more careful, darling, & think twice before I spend money - even on your birthday. - I am learning by experience, & am much less extravagant & careless than I used to be, don't you think?

I forgot to explain last night about the money for Mrs. Jones. The other day she asked me when I was going to start paying 30p & I said I thought it was arranged I should only pay 30p when I got more than £3. But she said that wasn't it at all - I was to pay 30p when I found out tomorrow that I had to pay Mrs. Jones the money I owed her. It has been such a misunderstanding so now I pay 30p per week + 4p for fuel on Saturdays & 4p for doing my own laundry (use of gas & oil, etc). It can't be helped, & I know 25p couldn't pay her properly. She doesn't know I bought my ear-rings myself, or what things I have bought since I

3.

came, except a few I couldn't help & telling her I don't take land ladies (even friends) into my confidence, darling, & I don't let people think I'm hard up. You don't think I talk & gush to everyone as I do to you, do you, darling? - I know to a shame to worry you so, but you're the only person I can really confide in.

Your guide turned us against those ear-rings, darling. - Have never worn them since you wore them. I'll give them to someone as a present sometime. That, I know, was spending money unnecessarily, but I can't remember ever having bought myself an article of jewellery before. (except a bracelet I can remember saving up for as a child - it was 15/6 I believe & took me months to save up - have still got it. It's quite a pretty one). I explained to you how it was & was persuaded to take them. But it's all right if I give them away, isn't it?

Thank you, darling, for the swap. It's good of you, but I don't like giving things to you on one side. Is it fair?

Have had an awfully busy day. Mrs. Wood has given me a problem to think over during the week-end. - a certain company is buying up another company, but one man in the latter refuses to part with his shares (about £4,000 worth of preference shares), & the purchasing company wants to make him. There only seems to be one way to force him & that is to alter the rate of interest from 7 1/2% to 5% (as it used to be once) & so induce him to sell. But in this case he will probably go to the Court & plead that he is being squeezed out. I have to try & think of a remedy. Can you think of anything, darling? I haven't thought of anything yet.

Will there be a letter tomorrow, darling? - I do hope so, & then I'll write you a long letter at the weekend. Am feeling in the best of the rest & hope it will be fine enough again to go to Ken or somewhere. I was travelling wasn't so expensive. You still looking out for a surprise, darling. All my love. Footieight.



(145)

Hampstead Heath.
Sunday 3. p.m.

'It's beautiful here, darling, and I do wish you were with us to enjoy the green trees & blossom & sunshine - tho' perhaps you have gone a nice one you like and are enjoying yourself more than I am. Hampstead Heath is quite different from how I've always imagined it, & if you know the right paths to go, you can get almost right away from the people. It is beautifully peaceful & restful just when I am sitting, & yet the road is only a few yards away. Mrs. & Mrs. Green & I came this morning & we've just had a picnic lunch. It's very funny that you're having cold & windy weather in Shell. Except for the undergrowth the other day it has been glorious here just like the Easter weather when we were away. It has been almost too hot for the time of year, but to-day there is a delicious breeze, which makes the temperature very pleasant. Perhaps you've been able to go for nice yesterday

& to-day - I hope so 'cos the change will do you good - if it's warm enough. I'm glad you have your Swiss clerk to take on the pillion, also you'd be looking for someone else, & I might not approve!

Yesterday I felt rather disappointed because I didn't get the full benefit of my half-day holiday. After lunch I had to go to the library because my books were due, but I couldn't get off as quickly as I wanted to because Mrs. Green said he was just coming, so I waited (about 3/4 hr.!).

After that I went with him to watch cricket 'cos I was too tired to do anything strenuous - it is very pleasant to sit in the cricket field (quite near, with plenty of trees & beautifully green) & I read my book as I'm not keen on the exciting game of cricket. We were in about 5.30 for tea & I then found they were having visitors - Mrs. Green's mother & a Swedish lady & her daughter (very nice people), so I couldn't desert her then. We had

(145)

KILBURN N.W.6
MAY 8
11.30 PM
1927



H. Arregger Esq.,
3, Chamber Place,
Shell.

Yours

- 2 -
afternoon tea & then dinner had to be got ready, - it was 8.30 when we'd finished, & then there were all the pots to wash when the visitors had gone. It was turned 11.30 when I got to bed. I don't mind helping - & I do a lot - 'cos Mrs. & Mrs. Green are awfully nice, but I do hate to waste a holiday when it's such glorious weather. Wouldn't you? how I'm away from home I no longer hate housework & washing pots, etc. & I'm sure in my surroundings that influence me so much. For instance, at home because Mother rushed about so much I was exactly the reverse, & here Mrs. & Mrs. Green are awfully slow & methodical, & that irritates me almost as much. I hope when I'm by myself I'll be able to strike the happy medium & be quick & methodical. But all the same I am very fond of them both & Mrs. Green is quite broadminded, tho' he can't understand how I can enjoy Hobson & Shaw. His taste is boy's taste of adventure! - & yet he

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/145)

'It's beautiful here darling and I do wish you were with me to enjoy the green trees, blossom and sunshine.'

8 May 1927

enjoys novels which are too "good" for me - e.g. Warwick Deeping, etc.

Thank you darling for your letter. I was glad you let me have one for the weekend but I was sorry you weren't in the mood for writing. That was obvious even if you hadn't told me. I always know when you make a special effort to write because you feel you have to, & I don't know whether I'd not rather be without a letter at such times. - I don't mean when you're just in a bad mood, because that doesn't necessarily mean it's a non-letter-writing mood - & I like to know the things you think about me then. If you don't really feel like writing, darling, - please don't - because we must get into the habit of doing things from a sense of duty, that would spoil everything, & we'd rather prove that way. Haven't you noticed? Just because we admit we don't feel like writing any particular day doesn't mean that we love each other any the less. But you do get very cross when I don't write & I'm afraid you would be

N.B. Don't let answers to strictly important letters run into.

3
crosser still if I told you it was just because I didn't feel like it. - & I don't mean either of its because I'm not feeling well. I know that all this is well enough in theory, & that if you didn't write me for two or three days & then sent a letter saying you didn't write 'cos you couldn't be bothered, I should be awfully fed up.

But I ought to be really, & kindly ought you if I did the same. What do you think about it?

Do you remember many years ago I more or less thoughtlessly declared that if ever I got married I should insist on separate rooms & week-end holidays for me & my future wife? I have long since given up the former idea, but the form contained in the latter seems to me sounder & sounder the more I think of it. The former idea of weekends is of course childish, but the root of the idea is simply a refusal to be

any man's permanent servant. It is unnormal to imagine that a marriage service is like a magic spell enabling two people to live peacefully together for the rest of their lives in complete love & accord. There are bound to be times when they quarrel, get on each other's nerves and even dislike each other, besides the times when one or other may be in a black mood & try to make himself or herself better by making the other one miserable. If both could be of angelic patience and forbearance they might be able to tide over these trying times, - (when one can always be nice when the other is nasty) - but these ideal people are rarely found & I think such an accept of patience would prove an awfully unexciting person to live with for long, don't you?

And so long as the marriage laws are so stupid as they are at present I think the only way to help these natural difficulties & enable two people to retain their

4.
interest in, & love for, one another, is for a greater measure of freedom to be agreed on between the two than the words of the marriage service (hopelessly antiquated) confer. This would not be possible for the great majority of couples, when it is taken for granted that the one is the servant & doerkeeper of the other (as it seems for bread & lodging.) Because the essential basis of such an agreement is that the two can be broadminded enough to be absolutely fair to each other. I think there would be far less friction & jealousy & much more happiness if this could be the point (usually concentrated on, instead of unpalatable promises "to love, honour & obey" all the rest of one's life. If a wife knew that she could trust her husband to be fair to her under all circumstances, I don't see any objection to her keeping away from her if she feels a bad mood coming on & seeks other



society which he feels will keep him to combat this mood. Because after all, one undoubtedly does express more restraint on one's needs when amongst many people than in the privacy of one's home & while some moods of depression seem to require loneliness, others are dispelled rather by the right society.

You poor darling, you must be fed up with all this! As you've already guessed he's been thinking hard about Howard Shaw's ideas, deciding which I agree with. Some of what I've been writing on his ideas but a lot is my own especially the remedy (for some people). I wish I could write a book bringing up problems of marriage & divorce. It's awfully interesting. You really ought to read Shaw's papers & "Getting Married" - the whole of it is very interesting indeed. Yesterday I got out of the library a book of Shaw's on Freud which seems to be very good & also Shaw's "Three

Do you want to go down to see your father?

Unpleasant Plays" including "Mrs. Warren's Profession" which I'd want to read for some time. He professes to like plays is also very good & throws a lot of light on his own views & ideas. I am sure, and know, reading them I could find time for us both, and enjoy it very much. Do you find time for any?

It is the last that Father is coming. Darling & not on his birthday. Have you possibly come & spend your week end? How if you're hard up. We've got thinking of it, so what. Will he be any splendour & I do want you then. You will come then, will you, darling? Father is writing me again this weekend to tell me more definitely about his arrangements. There was a P.C. last night from Topsy. I haven't seen or heard from her for weeks & had no idea where she was - then on the P.C. she says "Are you doing anything next Sat. & Sunday?" If not, please come over & see us. She is Lighter Regent.

over an hour's express journey from London - let face it. It's fine next Sunday I may go, if Father's gone back. Then the following weekend I'm taking you away to see to come. I haven't seen or heard from Winnie since she was here. What makes you think she's so fond of me? You are funny to think I may have been seeing her & not telling you about it. I tell you almost everything I do & I should certainly tell you if I ever found out with anyone if Olive had come & live with us. Haven't heard from her for some time, but I should think she'll soon be back in London. I never go out in the evening for pleasure, & that one night out with Winnie & she's the only one I've been out with anyone since you was back. Why do you feel impatient, darling? - Don't you love me? If you soon don't love me, darling, I shall have to come to the conclusion that you never will, & I don't think

to go to shop in West Hampstead. This week I'll be a large Delage open touring car for £150 & an awfully nice open 4-seater grey Fiat (new bonnet) for £137. The Delage looks topping. It's just as big, if not bigger, than the Fiat's. Much & seems in good condition.

The car is making such a noise! Have you heard it yet this year? It is funny that the post comes now so late, because I always post them at the same time here. If you really do want my letters as much as I want yours, I sympathise with you having them so late. I love to have him first thing in the morning, & it seems even the same when it only comes late. Am looking forward to the see tomorrow morning. All my love, darling.

I wonder how to share my life with someone who didn't meet me. You'd be suspicious (as usual) of how I was spending the time I didn't account to you for. I thought maybe Mr. Hitchcock would have given me a reg. this weekend. Had to admit. I wish would have been lovely in this weather. I hardly can't say time about your gloves, darling. It seems wonderful as the 'Platypus' & reminds me of his promise to take me out somewhere, & to look that. If you'd like your gloves, will you drop him a line, & let him know to you. That's just as you do my sending them, isn't it? You ought to go into partnership with him with the car when you come, darling. That would be lovely, wouldn't it? You sure don't like to be delighted to keep it close! There are some very good bargains (or seem so) in a lot

Letter from Amy Johnson to
Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/146)

'Thankyou for your letter, darling - I'm
glad you had fine enough weather to
go rides on Saturday and Sunday.'

9 May 1927

(146) Monday.
Thankyou for your letter, darling - I'm glad
you had fine enough weather to go
rides on Saturday & Sunday, but I
don't think it can have been so
gorgeous as here, else you wouldn't
have felt cool even in the shade.
The sunshine doesn't seem to
stimulate you much as it does mine.
I can think much better & more
clearly in the open air & hot sunshine,
but it seems to make you lazy, so
you didn't write me very much,
did you? - Tho' what you did write
was quite nice. I do envy you
going for your picnics just the same
as tho' I wore them, but it isn't
quite so nice by yourself, is it?
Speaking for myself, I'm feeling badly
in need of company ("satisfying"
company, I mean - hardly congenial,
because most of the people will
whom I come into touch are quite
congenial, but not satisfying
somehow.)
You didn't tell me how you enjoyed

Your evening with the Sassons. Haven't
they started their picnics yet? I
expect you're looking forward to
them, aren't you? It will be nice for
you again to be a "dear, charming
boy." - Won't it? Don't you miss
these middle-aged people's attentions?
You ought to take advantage of it
whatever you can, cos I shall be so
sweet to you - & it's a good thing for
you that I'm not that way inclined
cos you'd soon weary of such "silly"
sweetness. How don't be cross,
darling. I am nice to you in spite
of all this, am I not, darling? -
Specially when you want me & look
after me.

I had another letter from Father
this morning & he's coming to London
tomorrow, Tuesday. I would
rather it had been Thursday as originally
intended, but it can't be helped.
I've booked for the Hippocampus (Sunday)
& am having dinner at the Cecil
with Naudema & Naudema & Father

- 2 -
& then we're all going to the theatre.
Father is going on to Liverpool on
Thursday & Naudema &
Naudema are going to Shell on
Wednesday. Next Sunday I'm told
Tuppy'll go out & see her, but as
Father is going earlier than I
thought I think I'll go to see Topsy
on Saturday as the hairs are near
convenient.
So please don't be fed up darling
not to get a letter on Wednesday
morning, because as I'm having
my hair trimmed tomorrow lunch-
time (it will be an awful treat but
I think I shall manage it - haven't
had it done since I was in Coker
jones!) there won't even be time
to write a few lines then. I hope
you won't not write me one just
because I can't send you one will
you, darling? If you send me a
line you'll reply to I'll make up
for Wed. see Thurs. night. Will you,
darling?
To-day is your busy day, but you

promised to write me a few lines
when you were near Felix yesterday,
so I'm looking forward to something
tomorrow morning.
Do please tell me darling what
you specially need, cos it's no use
my wasting your birthday present
through not knowing what you
want. Is there any article of
clothing (for summer) that is within
my means (they're very small I may
as well warn you, & unfortunately
it's Father's birthday on the same
day & I'd like to get him something
nice as a mark of my appreciation
for him providing the means to let
me come to London. (The word you
wrote itself - I wasn't even thinking of
such a thing, but it's rather significant
don't you think?)
There is so little to tell you,
darling. I may not be able to write
you much on Wednesday either if
Father stays, but I'll try to get a
few lines off. You don't spoil me
with the sort of letters I want!
All my love, darling, Q.

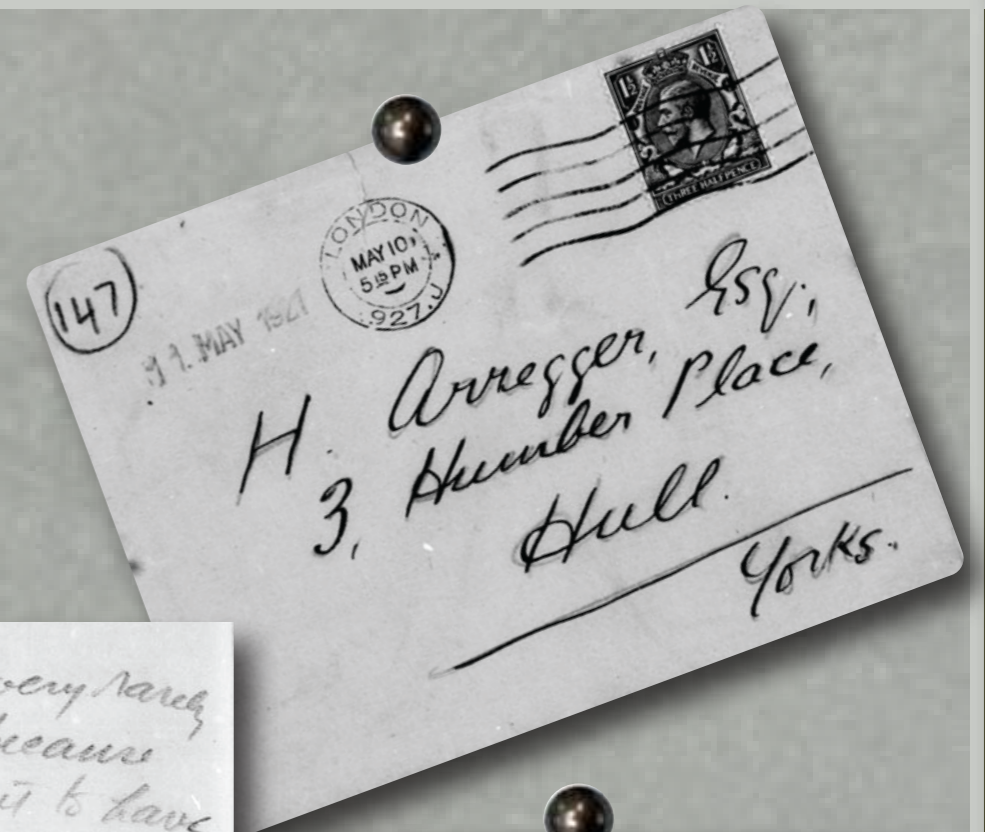
(146)
WILMOUTH, N.W.6
MAY 9
11:20 PM
1927
H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Stumber Place,
Shell.
Yorks.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/147)

'I was so glad that I could write you a few lines to day after all darling.'

10 May 1927



This pencil hasn't any point, so I can't write any better. I'm sorry darling.

Thanks ever so much for your letter. Am glad you had such a nice weekend. You I also was listening to the Gostbourns concert on Sunday night, but have guessed that you were.

I can see Big Ben from here!

It's for your sake darling that I was insisting we should only write when we feel like it. I write because I like to & because I know you're disappointed if my letters don't come & also because I want letters

147
H.P. in Ties

I was so glad that I could write you a few lines to-day after all, darling. & now I find I haven't any pen with me. Altho' I was lucky enough to find this paper & envelope in my bag. I hope I haven't lost my pen.

I'm sitting in St. James Park & of course you'll be wondering how I've got here! I asked to get off early & they let me come straight away so I'd just finished a big job I was on for Mrs. Wood. I went straight to the Club but Father had gone out & Grandma & Grampa were resting. I'm going back at 4.30 for tea.

back. But it's very rare that you write because you really want to have a talk to me. Is it? I can always tell the difference when you write 'co you want to & when only you feel you ought to.

It's much cooler today but it's nice & pleasant here in the Park watching the idlers go past in their motors.

This pencil's hopeless & I'm sure you'll have difficulty in reading this so I won't write

any more.

All my love,
darling.

Please excuse the dirty envelope.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/148)

'I am sorry darling that now I am free to write you again I am feeling so very tired.'

12 May 1927

have a letter this morning from
Hans I didn't expect one.
It is a pity the weather has
changed - it is awfully cold - I
haven't felt warm all day - no fire
anywhere. Last many people seem to
feel the cold like I do. Mrs. & Miss
Green are not having any more fire
it makes a lot of work & makes things
dirty. I wonder if I shall ever get
to that stage when the sooner set
showering than light a fire, or in stuffy
rooms because to open the windows
lets the soot in. It's always rather
hard open windows & a fire than get
the heat of a stuffy room. Doubtless
you? But you're always warm snug
without fire.
You said when I came to London
that you'd love to come often on
business but you've not been once
yet (on business), & other years when
I've been in there you've often come.
Your business isn't very considerable
of me, darling. Suppose it refuses
to let you come & live here - it
may do quite easily because it

148
MAY 12 1927
H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Devenish Place,
Hull.
Yorks.

148
Thursday. 7.45 p.m.
I am sorry darling that now I am
free to write you again. I am feeling
so very tired. (That's made you
say "Oh!" in an impatient tone of
voice. Don't it?) Last night
couldn't do it agree with me in
London because the days are so very
shameless, and I've really worked
awfully hard at the office to-day to
make up for yesterday & the day before
when I had a little time off.
How have you got on in Glasgow,
darling? It was a very sudden
decision you made, wasn't it? If
I hadn't noticed the York postmark
before I saw the Shand Palace
newspaper I might have thought for
a minute that you were in London,
& that would have been awfully
disappointing if you'd had to come on
business just when I couldn't see you.
Tell me all about your business,
darling, when you write, & all about
the lots of money you're making,
etc. It was disappointing not to

2.
"Business first" - very nice but awfully
unpleasant. - isn't it? However, I
mustn't grumble because I'm also
thinking of putting business first.
Father had a long talk to Mrs. Wood
and he says they're pleased with
me (I'm not making it up & you
needn't be contemptuous), and have
decided to give me a good chance to
get on. He wouldn't say anything
definite but he gave me to understand
that if I go on as I am doing I'll
soon be getting more money. They must
have been on the subject of salaries
because Mrs. Wood told Father what
Mrs. de Hopton was getting (£7 will
be bonus - per week that is), & I said
she hadn't much work to do. Of
course she's in a responsible position
being the superintendent of the girls
there, but she doesn't do much work.
And Father said he wouldn't be
surprised if I wasn't doing nearly
as well if I worked hard for a couple
of years. So whilst I have such a
good chance I ought to make the most
of it, don't you think so? How if we
bold put business first we ought

to be jealous of each other, ought we?
(It's funny why I keep on asking you
questions in my letters & you never
answer them. When you can't give
me lectures you seem at a loss for
anything to say. I'll release you from
your promise & you can lecture me
as much as ever you like, darling,
else I'll be getting quite out of hand.)
Father has given me an awfully
good time & has been very good to me.
We always get on best when we're by
ourselves. I've noticed it often before.
On Tuesday after I'd written you those
few lines in pencil (could you read
them? - I'd left my pen at the office)
I went back to the Cecil Hotel & had
tea with Father & Grandma & Grandpa.
It was awfully expensive! Then we
had a topping dinner in the Full
Room at the Shand Palace. Father &
I shared a 1/2 bottle of white wine,
but I'm afraid I don't enjoy white
wines - they're far too sweet. It
was awfully good at "Sunny" & I
thoroughly enjoyed it.
Grandma & Grandpa went home



3.

on Wednesday morning. I had lunch with Father at the Regent's Palace & then he took me shopping to Savoy & Jagers & bought me a lovely little jumper suit & pair of gloves. It ought to have come today but they haven't sent it yet. Hope it's not gone astray. After the office we had a very nice dinner at the Regent's Palace & I persuaded him to buy red wine. We had a 2 bottle of Beauvau & it was quite good. Then we had liqueurs with our coffee. He actually asked me if I smoked & the servants would have given me a cigarette. But he seemed very pleased when I told him I used to do but had practically given it up. We then went to see "Fellow Savants" & on the way bought me a bunch of lilies & lots of chocolates. Fellow Savants is a comedy at the Haymarket & is extremely good. It's a refreshing change from musical comedy & the humour was awfully clever. It is a very simple plot set in a tiny fishing village where

the rich old lady dies & passes over the family, leaving her money where it was least expected. The scene of the reading of the will was exceptionally good. There were no beautiful girls & Laurenceau here & sold Villains, but the acting was some of the best I've seen for a long time. Father went to Lowtoft this morning & I am missing him quite a lot. He's awfully keen for me to make good and do well in his Wood's office. He didn't mention you or ask me any questions so I don't know whether he thinks we don't speak to each other any longer, or what. He will know you've been to London some time because Mother yesterday wrote to thank me for the 50 shillings I had received "on Hares" - that's all she says. She has sent me her terms request but I've still no hearing pending a Club to join. As a matter of fact I must give up the idea, but I know that it is very bad for me not to get any exercise or recreation. What do

4.

you suggest?
I've been very busy at the office to-day having taken Hares in a criminal case. - There were piles of papers to go through & it just suited me sorting everything out & getting all the facts clear. When I'd assembled all my evidence I made a beautiful Schedule & it looked most professional. I find that the legal phraseology comes quite easily to me, so I must be careful not to adopt it unconsciously in my letters, else you will be fed up with you, darling?
It was very nice of you to write me those few lines at York because I should have thought you weren't writing on purpose because I couldn't. That was the only thing to think, wasn't it? I got the letter first post the next morning which was very good, & much better than London can do! How long were you able to keep awake to think of me, & what did you think, darling?

It is not very nice of you to take so little interest in your birthday. I don't see any reason why you can't tell me what yours is, because I've no idea as to the keeping yours like. Indeed are some suggestions in context underwear, etc. because I thought you might find yours needing some keeping for the summer. - Will you tell me if there's anything you're wanting in that line because I'm not very clear as to what men wear in the summer. Because you suggest something isn't to say you'd set it! You must likely wait, or it's an awful blow having 2 birthdays on the same day. - & my pass also is up on the same day which means another 18/- for the next month. It would be cheaper to take me for 3 months but I didn't think it wise as I don't know when I'll be in 3 months' time.
Will you please darling for once, answer my letter. Can't you write your dear little beloved business give you a job in London next week-end? If there were 8/6 Sunday trips to Mill Hill you

you a surprise some weekend, but here aren't any. The railway people must think that it's only the end people want to know to London, that they've been very busy. All my love, darling, yours C.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/149)

'Please excuse the type of paper I'll be using
in the future, darling.'

13 May 1927

(149)

Friday 8 p.m.

Please excuse the type of paper I'll be
using in the future, darling. I've
found a shop where I can get this by
the lb. for 4/2d. per lb. It is in
various colours and textures, but is
quite good enough for letters, don't
you think, & will save me a bit on
writing pads which are very expensive.

I had a long letter from Meme
the other day. She is now at W'sea &
is recuperating ready for the ceremony
on May 27th. Father says her house
is looking awfully nice. Meme tells
me she's got ~~so~~ very thin & only weighs
just over 7 stone. - But I think she'll
soon get it back again, don't you?
She seems to like my presents to her
very much indeed & especially the
leopard shawls & slippers - as I knew she
would because she told me she
wanted them before I thought of buying
them. They will be coming through
London on their way back in the car,
& Meme is going to extend the luncheon
over Whit, which will mean they will
probably be here at the Whit holiday.

I'm not going to see Tuppy on Sunday. Her presence is for a few weeks
Tuni does so slowly.

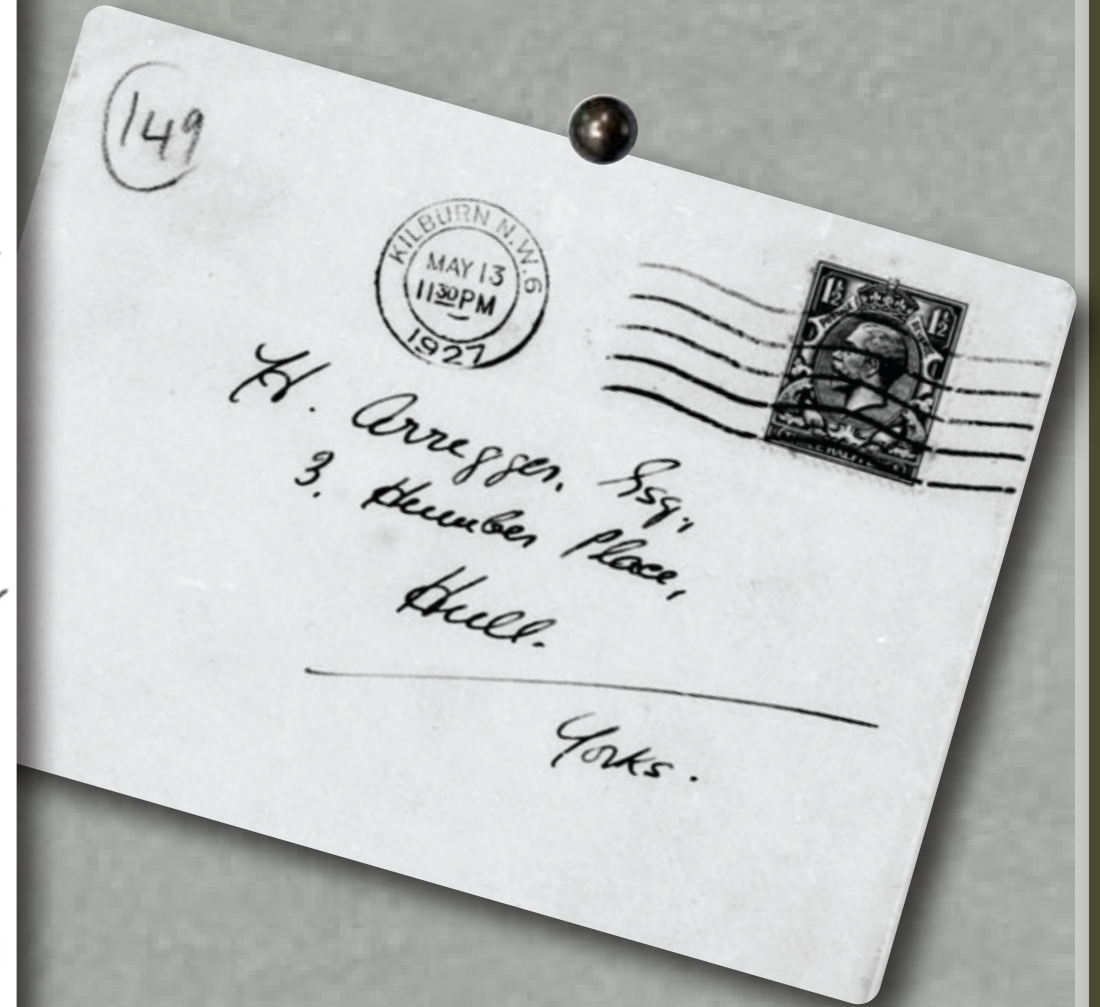
I hope they won't because I would
rather like to get out of London, &
they of course will want to stay here.

Mollie also wrote me a long
letter before she went away, & I read
a very amusing one she sent to
Father just after she got to boarding
school. It seems to be coming up to
her expectations all right, but I believe
she's feeling a bit homesick, tho' she
won't admit it of course.

I am reading "Mrs. Warren's
Profession" at present & don't quite
understand exactly what her profession
is. Will you explain to me when you
have time? I can't really understand
the play when I don't even understand
the title, can I?

It's been another busy day at the
office & I'm afraid I've tired again.
During the day at the office I never felt
it, but always the minute I get inside
the door of this flat & sit down to
dinner I relax & feel awfully weary.
After I've written to Meme I have a bag
full of washing which will keep me
busy for hours.

Have a nice weekend, darling, &
enjoy yourself. Lots of love, Amy.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/150)

'I was pleased to have your letter, darling,
this morning at last.'

14 May 1927

150
14 May 1927
H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Heumber Place,
Hull.
Yorks.

150
Saturday 8 p.m.
I was pleased to have your letter, darling,
this morning at last. It wasn't a
very flattering thought that as soon as
even I relieved you from the task of
writing when you didn't feel like it, you
immediately took advantage of the fact
not to write for 2 days. But I know
you couldn't have been when you were
away (though it's surprising how many
letters you find time to write when
you're away with me on business)
and when you said you were glad on
Friday you hadn't stayed in to write
me on Thursday, I didn't mind so
much. - & now the guilt's over it.
You quite misunderstood my first
paragraph, darling, or probably I didn't
phrase the sentence properly. What I
meant to say was that it was a pity
that when I was free & had time to
write to you again I was feeling so tired
& not in a letter-writing mood. Do you
mind my saying that? The way
you understood it, or I wrote it, is
absolutely wrong. Surely you know an

better than to think I'm sorry to be able
to find time to write to you.
9.45 p.m.
Have just finished supper. You
had a lazy afternoon - didn't get up for
sunni till nearly 3 o'clock
because Mrs. Wood kept me. - Have been
reading up one of our cases which is to
go shortly before the House of Lords. -
It is in a big book & is awfully
interesting - all about philately. -
Incidentally I'm learning quite a bit
about that subject. I also finished
Skene's "3 Unpleasant Plays" & then
did some more washing & washed
my hair. I spent nearly all last
night also washing because I'd got
quite an accumulation. You're no
idea how long it takes to do it
properly. - & of course I wouldn't do
anything other than properly!
On my way back from the City I
got out at Kings X & had to find out
anything about tips to Hull. But there
aren't any. There are week-end
excursions at a few and a third =
28. & I awfully wanted to give you a

2.
Surprise visit next weekend for your
birthday, but I've been making minute
calculations & can't possibly afford it. So
I'm afraid, darling, you must be content
with knowing I would have come if I
could. You already got a lot of enjoyment
even just imagining the surprise I'd give
you. What a pity you couldn't manage
this weekend in London. - I feel that
I hate potatoes more than ever, because
they've been cooking but double & you
said they entered the scene. Potatoes
caused all your worry during the Easter
holidays, & they've made you have severe
losses, & they will insist on coming to
Hull instead of London where they ought
to come, & now they've again they're making
you stay in Hull. It would happen
that when you come to London for good
you'll consistently have to go over to Hull,
will it? I shall be awfully lonely if
you go away often, & am I'll be not
reconciled to the business first theory,
(a matter, practice). It's not nice of you
to mislead me that I've put business
first since going to Mrs. Wood's. What
makes you think it? You know perfectly
well that you're always come first, but

that isn't to say you always intend so.
You may be put first whoever needs
me most, & success. William Charles
Crocker really do appreciate me & make
the most of my abilities.
We have got a fire tonight & it's quite
cheerful to sit in front of it & feel warm.
Do you like rhubarb, darling? I used
to be very fond of it but I'll soon never
want to see or hear of it again. The
food I get here is very plain, but
wholesome - no cakes or sweets of any
description - except rhubarb. I've had
nothing else but rhubarb for an after-
dinner sweet ever since I came here.
That is the absolute hull & an exaggeration.
Occasionally there isn't any left & then I
have biscuits & cheese. You're no
idea how much I'm looking forward to
doing my own cooking & arranging the
meals as I like them - & as you like
them when you're there, & as you said
and I'll never have bacon, except
occasionally for the sake of the fat, &
I'll always have real brown bread
& lots of grapefruit & lots of interesting
dishes for dinner & supper. The worst
of it is it's so expensive to have me

cheap & however much one dislikes it, the cheapest way of living is to be seen by joint & serve cold all the week. But I think it will make life more interesting & manage one better than to have plenty & not have to think & please.

There was a surprise for me this afternoon. A letter came from Fanny saying she was gift & an awfully nice little note. I sent her a P.C. when I came to London. The present is the dearest little waist with a dainty edging in tulle. I wonder if she's done it herself. It's ever so cleverly done and I do love it.

You'll like it as well. She asks whether you're coming to live in London. You see she takes it for granted we'll want to be together. When I tell her you're coming soon? She says she hasn't heard a word from you for such a long time. You ought to write to her, darling. I'll do without a letter one day if you'll promise to use the time to write her a few lines. Will you? Your sisters love you so much you

both - had no idea you'd ever been there. Didn't it the girl in the Concubine Concubine who lived there? - I think I've heard you mention the place but I certainly didn't know you'd actually stayed at all the time. Please tell me all about it. Haven't the Sedons asked you to join them for what? - They probably will do soon. - They're so fond of their "charming boy" (32 on Thursday!) - I'm sure you weren't so old, darling. - But still I shall be over 30 when you're 40 & as old as you in everything but years! Please excuse the blot I've just made - everything fell on the pen. (I always write on my blue - it's a bad habit, I know)

Have you read about the raiding of Amos? I pass them every day on my way to & from George's station. There are policeman stationed all round & everyone going inside the building is questioned.

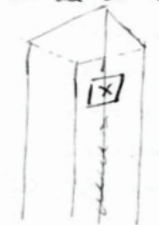
And have you read about the basilly ruin at Clary & Business? The fact up with seeing the placards & newspaper headlines & couldn't help

wouldn't expect them like that. How long is it since you've written home? Fanny has been to the seaside with the people she's with & is going again soon. She says she is going to America as soon as she gets a visa. Does she mean to live, or just for a trip?

That new train to Liverpool sounds awfully good. It's almost unbelievable the journey can be done so quickly. Wouldn't you like to go for what to see your brother? It's the expense that prevents you, isn't it? If it weren't for you coming to London in the summer, I'd feel awfully put up at not having any summer holiday, but as it is I don't mind so much, tho' I would love to go all the same.

It is still a long time to Arbitram & I'm purposely not looking forward to it so as not to be disappointed. Some potatoes will probably turn up at the last moment. I would like to go on the bike if it were enough & I think it will be best for me to come as far as possible to meet you. I don't know what you mean at Matlock

learning about it. First I didn't know because I'm afraid my nerves must be bad & it frightens me sometimes at night when I'm lying awake. There are all sorts of weird noises in this flat - the cisterns are all up here & when any of the other flats above a lot of noise can be heard the queerest noises. Then there's the cat which is always prowling round & making me jump. And my bedroom is in a sort of closed square



and the most stark noises travel upwards through the window. I'm really nervous sometimes & get quite frightened & unquiet sleep - which is most unlike me. Even if you weren't coming to London, darling (do you get fed up with my talking about it so often?) I should still look forward to the time when I could have a flat of my own, or share with Winnie, because I feel that I must



be able to look forward to congenial surroundings. That reminds me of congenial company - you understood perfectly what I meant, darling. The people with whom I come into contact are quite congenial inasmuch as it's possible to get on with them without undue friction and they're quite pleasant, but for a life-long friend rather more than mere congeniality is needed. You're the only person I've not found wanting in that respect. You always looked on Winnie as being satisfying company, until this last visit when I was frankly rather disappointed in her. You're not always easy to get on with darling but you're always satisfying, which I'd rather you be. It is nice of you to imply that I satisfy you. - Do you think I always shall?

It's bedtime now - Goodnight, darling. Will finish this off tomorrow. I'm sending you a big kiss.

Sunday 2 p.m.

Have just finished dinner, darling. It's not a very nice day & awfully warm. I wonder what you're doing. It won't be long enough for you to go out on your bike. Wish I could have been over yesterday as I so much felt like doing & then I'd be with you now. Wouldn't that be nice! But you wouldn't like my hair at present. - It is an awful state because the selfist man cut it last week & it looks really disgusting. Am glad I can't see it myself but it would be nice to know other people can.

You seem not to mind my getting into touch with Mrs. Morrison through the Hull Society! You don't really want me to cultivate his acquaintance for the sake of coming to Hull on his hip, do you, darling?

I think I have got pyoderma (don't know how to spell it), because my gums are going pale & white like yours. We'll have to save our money & go together to get our teeth out. There are some cases of smallpox in Hampstead & there are notices all over advising people to get vaccinated. Am wondering if I ought to as I have to havel in the crowded Tubes. Do you think so?

I'm rather glad I didn't go to Leyton Buzzard to see Tuppy because

I'd rather go on a finer day. This morning I went to church & this afternoon I have a lot of ironing to do when I finish this. I'd better get on with it now. It's pouring with rain & hailstomming.

About a fortnight ago I started with my cold soles & they really do make me feel more energetic. But the worst of it is for a girl that you has to keep stopping them for a week & the stopping again always needs an effort of will, so the whole seems very cold when you're in a warm bed!

Hope you do well with your potatoes tomorrow. Don't work too hard.

Goodbye, darling, all my love & thoughts,

D.

(151)

Thursday 7 p.m.

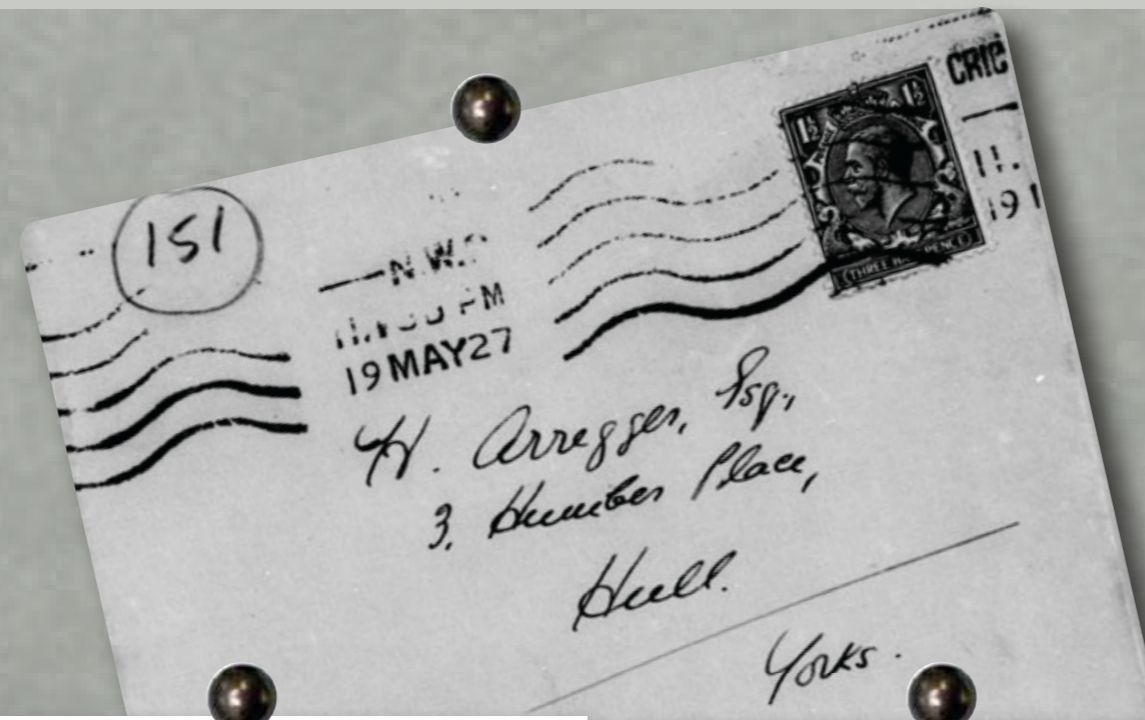
Oh darling, I am wanting you such an awful lot. All the way back from the station I've been telling myself that I'm greedy not to be satisfied and that I'll soon be seeing you again, but it's no good. It doesn't help me not to feel so miserable because you're gone and I can't come to you however much I want to. Are you feeling any better? I wouldn't have been on your way. It was awfully nice of you, darling, to say you'd stay till 1 o'clock for my sake, and I would have so much loved to have you even for that bit longer, but it would have been rotten for you travelling through the night and you wouldn't have felt better for it tomorrow. I hope you sleep well tonight, darling, and have some better luck with your business tomorrow.

I didn't hurry in tonight because I didn't want to come back here - this flat is much more depressing than sleeping - and altho' I've been in half an hour since I've not really yet. There are crowds of people here - haven't seen them yet in the stages in my room, but I can hear them.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/151)

'Oh darling, I am wanting you such an awful lot.'

19 May 1927



When I went to the telephone-book to look up Mr. Fitch's no. I found I'd forgotten the name of his firm. However, I thought it began with "L" and after consulting my secretary for a minute or 2, I remembered it, to my great relief. He was very sorry to hear you were & asked if you had any better luck with Breuer. I told him "no" & that you were feeling rotten about it. He asked if you would be back for the weekend or, if not, for what. But I told him "no." He is going to ring me up sometime, but I don't think he will. He has his own circle of friends, and at any rate, I wouldn't be keen to join them.

Thank you so much, darling, for the good time you've given me - I enjoyed the first 2 nights best, & it did seem a shame to have to be away from you for the other 2 when I can have you so seldom now. Yesterday especially I hardly had you to myself at all. It seems to be getting harder & harder to have to say goodbye to you & let you go miles away from me. You ought to know about it, darling,

that I shall get fed up with leaving you. The fed up long ago will not leave you, & haven't got used to it in the least, or ever what.

8.15 p.m.

Have just finished dinner - the salad was very nice & I missed my own dressing, but rhubarb is still on the go - I didn't have any. The "crowds" turned out to be one lady! - She's awfully nice & she & her 2 sons, Dean & the Swedish boy (who is still here) & myself, make a crowd in this flat.

As you're not here for the weekend, darling, I think I'll go on Saturday to see Tuppy - I'll get some money tomorrow. What a shame it isn't to be a "job" that I'm spending a night out! - but it? I'm hoping it will make me feel better to spend a weekend with her. And then I am going to save up as much as I can & will pool our money & savings for what shall we, darling? No! let you let you go on paying everything for me when I also am earning money, but I know you wouldn't let me pay for myself when we're together, so will see how long a saving fund we can

accumulate beforehand, shall we?

I must write to Fanny tonight to thank her for her gift. I'll give her your love & shall tell her you'll write to her soon, so you will, won't you?

You will probably have opened your birthday present by now, & if the socks are not the right size please send them back & I'll change them. I just got a medium size, & they'd shrunk in the wash for sure. - If they're too big you can reuse them out in cold water, without any soap, & they'll shrink. I was sorry I'd told you I was so hard up because I know you didn't want to accept a present and that spoils my pleasure in giving it. But you would have been disappointed to have nothing on your birthday, wouldn't you, darling? I'll initial the bankbook for you when you come to London.

What a lot I've written for & yours not even back yet! The thinking of you, darling, & wondering you in the rain, & also at the office tomorrow when you get this. I think you'll be pleased to have it, - yes?

Write me a nice letter, please, as soon as you can. - I've only your letter to look forward to here & I see you again in a fortnight's time. All my love
Amy Johnson & a big kiss!



(152)

London.
Friday, 9 p.m.

You are very naughty, darling, for sending me such an extravagant present! - But it was an awfully nice surprise! - When I came in tonight and found the parcel waiting for me I wondered whatever it could be and I opened it real quietly to find out. Thank you very, very much indeed, darling. I am sure they will last me till I see you again and then well be able to share what are left. - at what time - yes, darling? I'd enjoy them twice as much if I could share them with you. And thank you for the letter also. It wasn't so nice as I could have liked but I knew you were worried and in a rather depressed mood, so I read between the lines and found lots of nice things there. - shouldn't I, dear? I am glad you thought your present useful, but it wasn't so nice as I wanted to get. I had so little time for shopping and so could not choose the best shop with the nicest things. Just

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/152)

'You are very naughty darling, for sending me such an extravagant present!

20 May 1927

To go into the first shop and buy something isn't any way of getting a present, but I couldn't help it in this case. So you have something useful, if not beautiful!

And now, darling, I've a bit of awfully good news. - I've got a job raise to-day!! I'm just splendid. You're feeling ever so glad about it because it will make it easier for me to save something now. And I am also going to be Mrs. Wood's Secretary. But that isn't till October.

Do you remember my telling you that the girl Mrs. Wood had promised the post to confided to me that she was afraid she wouldn't be up to the work? Mrs. Wood told me to-day she had had a talk with Mrs. de Hopton and had told her she thought it would be beyond her powers, so she sent for me this morning & told me about this & asked me if I would like the job. You've not awfully keen on being anyone's secretary but I'd rather be Mrs. Wood's than anyone else's, I think. However, I can't be Mrs. Lee's "assistant" for

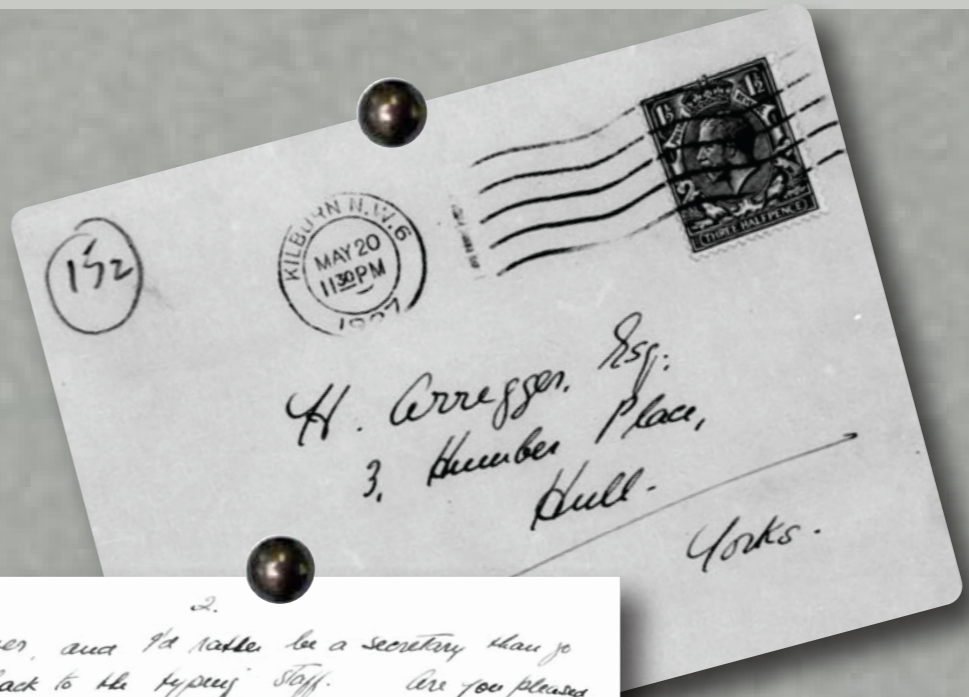
2.
ever, and I'd rather be a secretary than go back to the typing staff. Are you pleased about it, darling? Her secretary goes for her holidays next week so I'm having a "preliminary carder," as he says, then.

I wonder what you're doing now, darling. Are you very busy, and have you been losing or making money? - Do please write me a long nice letter this weekend telling me all about everything, and how you're feeling, and if you know much you miss me, & that I'll see you again soon. I'm expecting a letter tomorrow morning, but perhaps I oughtn't to, as you would probably be busy to-day. Have you done anything while you're back to Hull yet? You've been busy to-day, especially this afternoon & was late in. I've just washed my hair, & a pair of stockings, ready for tomorrow & she waits on for balls. I hope well be able to afford a glass, darling, but I'd not like only to have a bath once a week, as here, & have to hot all the water on the gas. Mrs. Lee's washed our very badly & they've been getting

to business, etc. but have decided they can't afford it. It seems to be a struggle for them to live on the money Mrs. Lee earns, which can't be much, can it? - I've no idea what.

I am going to Keighton Buzzard tomorrow at 2 o'clock and shall come back on Sunday night, but I'll try to write you while I'm there. You must try to get out, darling, if it's fine. I do hope you're feeling in a better mood by now. I fell miserable last night, and after I'd written to you I went a long walk so that I should sleep well, but I think I overdid it and slept very badly till early morning. I do miss you so very much and haven't such a bloody business to take my mind off it, as you have. I will see you at 12, darling, and hope to be able to help you this time with expenses, tho' 2 weeks isn't long to save up in.

Goodnight, dear. Hope you have a nice week-end. What a good time we'd have had if you'd still been here! - But I ought to be satisfied (tho' I'm not!). All my love & a big kiss for the present. Lots of real ones when I see you again. A





153

H. Arregger, Esq.,
3. Hunter Place,
Hill, Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/153)

'I've just had breakfast darling and Yuppy and I
are writing our letters before setting out for a
cycle ride.'

22 May 1927

153

Leighton Buzzard.
Sunday 10 45 a.m.

I've just had breakfast, darling, and
Yuppy & I are writing our letters before
setting off on a cycle ride. She has
borrowed a bicycle for me because she
says there's absolutely nothing else to do
here but cycle. I'm not greatly
encouraged by what I have seen of the
place so far, but the country round is
supposed to be some of the prettiest in
England. I'll tell you tomorrow when
I've seen some more of it, because if I
don't post your letter before we go you
won't get it tomorrow. It isn't at all
a nice day - cold & windy - terribly
windy - & with rain any minute.
What are you doing, I wonder. - Perhaps
it's not fine enough for you to go out,
so you'll be feeling a bit fed up. - Yes?
I'm afraid I'm not so happy & contented
as I ought to be. - & my head aches
rather badly. - Also I didn't come
suitably dressed for cycling in the rain
and I'm awfully cold. Perhaps I'll
feel better when I get out.

Thank you for your letter yesterday,
darling. I knew you would be glad

when you got to think that you hadn't the
journey to start at 10 o'clock instead of
quitting. That was why I didn't
persuade you to stay, alas! I wanted
you awfully badly.

You do seem to be having a
rather fine poor darling, with business.
I wish I could help you, but there's nothing
I can do, and when you're so far away
I can't even help you to forget your
worries when you're away from the office.
(It's pouring down with rain now).

There is nothing for you to do but stick
it, and I do hope that you'll soon
have a change of luck. When do you
start to get busy with oil?

Thank you for your mother's
message. She will be glad to hear
your brother at home and I'm sure
you'll feel now that you want a
holiday in Switzerland more than
ever, don't you? But why do you
say you're glad you're not at home?
How that you've been in business on
your own I think you'd not be
happy ~~to be~~ without your problems
& excitement & worries, would you?
It would do you good to get away from
everything for a time but I think

2.

You'd soon get bored. How that I've
had a taste of London, I don't think
I'd be happy in a quiet place, even
tho' I yawned often at the noise &
brood. The intense "liveness" gets
hold of you sometimes and makes you
want it as soon as you're missing it.

I don't think Tuppy has improved with
living in this dead place. Her mind
& whole outlook is absolutely blocked
with her "big problem" and she seems
to have no room left for enjoying life.
She has fallen violently in love with the
headmaster of her school - he is about
40, a typical headmaster of a small
country school - ugly, awkward, nervous,
but genial & kindhearted - he is
married, has no children, but his job
seems to be quite a liberating one because
Tuppy says he's a beautiful house & garden
and a car. She tells me his wife had
an illness about 7 years ago & they
have had no sex relations between them
since that, and that altho' he is fond
of his wife & she of him, he doesn't
love her in the same way as he does
Tuppy. If poor Tups weren't so dreadfully
serious about it, it'd be awfully



amused at the whole thing because it's
easy enough to see what has happened.
She has an extremely affectionate disposition
and is always needing someone to pay
special attention to her & fondle her &
reply to her caresses. She rather repels
than attracts the ordinary type of man,
but there seems to be no doubt that
when she comes into touch with quite
intellectual & learned men she somehow
manages to bring out that physical
side of them which, I suppose, is usually
kept under by their intellectual side.
(I don't know whether you see what I
mean & it is difficult to explain). She
doesn't try to do this, I'm sure, but I
believe she's quite pleased when she
finds she can exercise some power of
fascination. The position as it stands
now is evidently that they are both of
them very much unpassioned (note I
don't say "in love"!) and Tuppy wants
to go away with him and ^{is sure} she would
do if she said the word, but she's afraid
to do that because he wouldn't be able
to get another teaching job when it was found
out & he's working hard to get a living
out of it. I wanted to find out how serious

3
it really was, so I advised her to go away
with him to America or Australia or somewhere
and start life over again. But she says
she doesn't think he'd be happy to leave
his job here & his house & garden & car, so
I told her that if she didn't think she could
make up for these things, she ought to try
to make the best & take another job.
Because I'm sure it's simply an infatuation
which wouldn't have happened if Tuppy
weren't of such a childish affectionate
nature, or if she were living in a larger
place with wider interests. However, she
says she simply couldn't do that. She
can't do without him! he can't do
without her. I saw him last night & he's
pretty much what I expected him to be.
I'm afraid I haven't any sympathy for
Tups, except that I know she can't help
herself. - but she doesn't make any effort
to do anything or make any decision. She
can't get beyond the idea that she wants
to marry him & can't. - I feel a wee
bit disgusted (which is prejudiced of me) &
a bit impatient with her, - her only
constructive idea is to get a job in town
& have a flat so that he can come
over & visit her. I strongly put my foot
down then & told her so. Myself, I think

it will gradually puzzle out. Poor kid,
she's genuinely worried & in a place
like this she has nothing to take her
mind off it. I'm thankful I'm in
London.

He's stopped receiving news & I'm
proud, so must try to get warm
somehow.

Tomorrow I'm going to the courts
to listen to that big case. He been on.
Mr. Wood says I may go, but I don't
think Mr. Lee wants me to, so I
shall see tomorrow whether I'll
exercise my privilege or not.

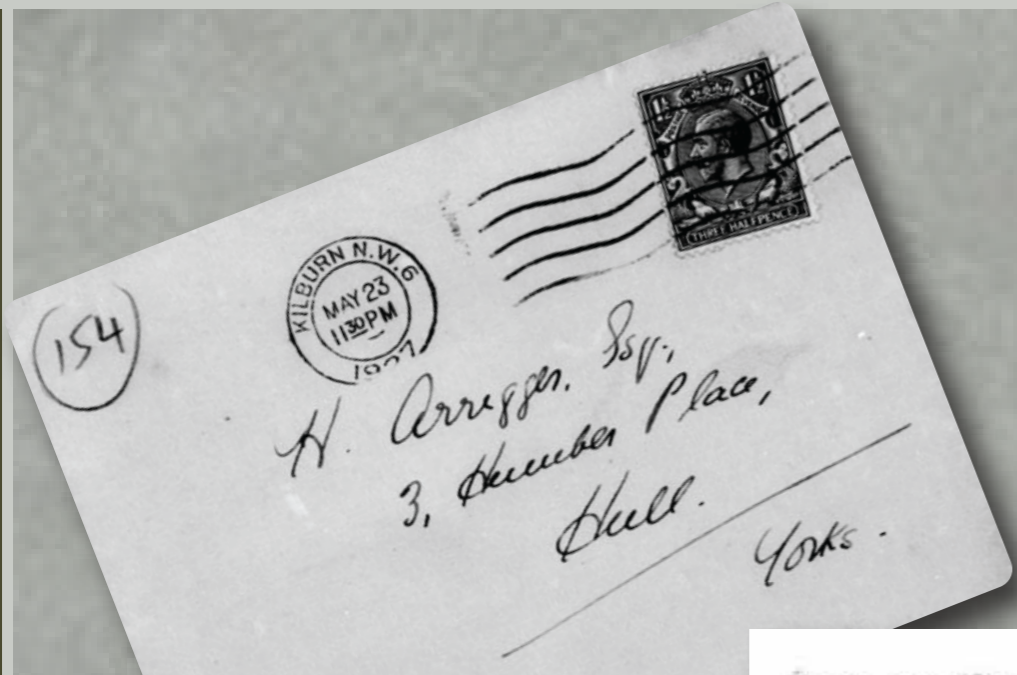
I hope he not bored you,
darling, with other people's problems.

Don't get downhearted over your
travels - & look forward to what, when
I'll come up north somewhere to see
you.

All my love, darling, & lots
of kisses.

Am looking forward to a nice
long letter tomorrow.

Love from
M. J.



154
 Monday, 8 June
 I haven't gone to my class tonight, darling, because I feel too rotten. If it had been anything else I would be wretched for you, but I have made the effort, but on it was only on South Parkway - which I love (you do, don't you?) - I didn't think it was all that. I rather did too much yesterday & have knocked myself up. I then 5-day the usual business has lasted 4 days too soon. I fell really ill last night and the nervous journey back didn't improve matters - when I finally got into Boston I forgot I ought to have walked to Boston Sq. for the books, & so I had to change at Tottenham Cr. Rd. (Exford Cr.) & back Skell, just for a bit distance! I had aspirins & had been for me a drink of hot port & lemon, but the still felt when all to-day - ache all over, have an awfully bad head & toothache & have a cold coming - my throat has been feeling most awful, but so far I'm in the only way I'm not sorry. The middle of 'swallow' on the train's way get vaccinated as soon as I get a bit better. This is the first time I've ever felt in the last afternoon, so of

course in that state I'm sure I can't get it. There are no more symptoms in sight, so I'm in chance to forget it.
 If I mean you mean I wrote you yesterday morning - can hardly believe it is so recent as that. - He went away when he promised your letter & the bike had the most uncomfortable saddle for ever ridden on, so I'm feeling very sore to-day! - It cycles about 20 miles altogether up & down hill - not much, but a big shock when one is out of training. It rained a lot. The country is just beautiful about there - Leighton B. is where the Prince of Wales goes hunting, I suppose - but I like Dorbyshire much better. - The more rugged & varied. I gathered lots of blackbills to send to you & had a job getting them back, so that I was very disappointed to find this morning that they really didn't look like enough to send. Here I've been arranged them in lots of rows & they look just nice, but I'm afraid if I packed them up this morning they'd have died on the way. You would have

liked them, wouldn't you, dear?
 It has been very hot to-day, but is cool & dull tonight - You feeling rather better now than I have done since last night. Are you feeling more cheerful? The way you didn't feel any better yesterday, or even since you came back from London. You must buck up, darling, & not get discouraged. It won't be long now before you get the news - & then I'll see you & will try to make you forget all about business worries & bad news - yes?
 I have been in the courts all day & it was just an interesting experience - have you ever been in? It's a beautiful building. Our clients lost their case, which is a pity because even the judge admitted they weren't to blame. - As well as losing the money they were claiming they also have to pay costs. To put it briefly, our clients discovered 2 promissory notes for a man to whom they were indebted, on the agreement that the notes were only to be presented for payment after the death of the man who had given them. When he died &

the notes were presented, the executor refused to acknowledge them as he said the signature was not that of the deceased man. So our clients brought an action & it was proved to-day that the notes were genuine, so our poor clients can't get any of their money back. The man who is said to have forged the signatures didn't turn up, so the court of course is able to draw into England now without being arrested. There were lots of complications which I was happy to explain to you when you were here, but they didn't assume serious proportions at the last.
 It was a very disappointing letter I got this morning, when you had Saturday & Sunday to write to me. - Then you put it off till the last minute & even had to take it specially to the P.O. to catch the post. I'm not very flattered, but I understand that you wouldn't be in a writing mood. I still don't want you to make special efforts, but I'm feeling rather disappointed that you don't seem to be able to write more than a letter in your 'by hand' without making an effort. Lots of love, A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/154)

'I haven't gone to my class tonight darling, because I felt too rotten.'
 23 May 1927



155

London.

Tuesday. 6.40 p.m.

It is very difficult to get you even a short letter written, darling; when I go to my class, but I'm glad for that reason that you know my secret so that you will know why my letters are short. There are no nice places for tea near where I have to go - I'm in a Lyons place now & it's terribly hot - am not in the least hungry but I always go in somewhere for a drink so that I can write you a few lines, then I usually finish it when I get in at W. Hampstead.

Thank you, darling, for your most awfully nice letter this morning - your really nice ones are so few & far between that they are very valuable. I'm afraid I spoil you with nice letters & you don't appreciate them at any rate, not always. You have never given me so great praise before, & if you hadn't anticipated my taking it as making fun of me, I should certainly have regarded it that way. And it was nice to have

155



H. Arregger, Esq.,
3, Humber Place,
Hull.

Yrns.

such a long letter for a change. I'm sorry now for what I wrote last night, but I'm feeling better to-day. It's most awfully hot tho' & the buses & trusses are terribly crowded. I hate the tubes & wish I hadn't to use them. What they will be like when the weather is warmer still, I really don't know. It is nice of you to think of me & give me advice about economizing my energy, in the midst of your own worries. I'll remember what you say & wish to follow your good advice. How I must go, darling. - will write a little more later. Love giving first tonight, which will be warm work. I expect!

10 p.m.

We were late tonight and I've only just had my supper - how weary I am of cold meat & salad - have had nothing else for dinner & supper for weeks except the hot joint once a week. I didn't want anything tonight but I've just had a little

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/155)

'It is very difficult to get you even a short letter written darling when I go to my class...'

24 May 1927

2

Salad 'cos it was all set ready. He learnt
a lot about fish tonight & I'm sure
a bit worse than I was before - can
fillet & skin it properly & knows how to
 fry, bake, steam & boil it - & stuff it.

It's remarkable the difference it makes
when one knows how to do it properly.
I could even now teach Mother a lot.
And I do really enjoy doing it
properly but I never could find interest
in cooking at home, even tho' when I
was much younger, I didn't know that
everything was not done as well as it
could be done.

I've forgotten what we do tomorrow
night but it's something very useful &
interesting. So long as I myself don't
change my tastes, you'll never have
cause to grumble at monotony,
darling! That's one thing I shall
most strenuously try to avoid.

I do wish Tuppy would listen
to advice, but I can't do anything
more to help her & shall have to leave
her to make her own decision. Her
stories of the little petty jealousies

in the school did amuse me. When she
first went, they were beginning rehearsals
for "H.M.S. Puffin" - the comic opera -
& as soon as her voice was heard she
was appointed the heroine, which doesn't
seem to have ever been forgotten by
some of the staff. I went with her to
see 2 of the teachers who shared a
flat, - tho' it had 3 floors - & it was
the most remarkable value for money
I've ever seen. Tuppy doesn't know
how much they pay, but it can't be
much because they'll only be
earning about £4 per wk. & they buy
their own food & have a woman every
day to do the cleaning; ^{in a furnished flat} The living
room is absolutely beautiful & most
tastefully & well furnished. - It's
pretty near my ideal of what a living
room ought to be - except for the
fire which was just an ordinary gas
one & rather spoilt the general
effect. They have 8 rooms in all
& 2 attics. It's quite remarkable.

3.

The man who owns the whole block of
buildings has a 2nd hand furniture
shop & he let the girls choose the
furniture they wanted for the rooms,
& he also had everything repaired
for them. Wish we could be as
lucky - the same block in 2 rooms
& a kitchen & bathroom would satisfy
me.

I hope you're feeling better to-day,
darling. I'm sorry to hear you felt
rotten on Sunday & I don't mind
now about the short hot nice
letter. The awfully tired but feel
less depressed. - I don't mind
when we're tired & long as I don't
get this ~~awful~~ depression which
rather frightens me, 'cos I get worried.

Now I must get the post. -
I found the clock was a bit fast.
But I've run it close now.

All my love & kisses darling,
Mrs. A.





(156) Wednesday, 1.3.27.

All I'd made up my mind to add today after receiving your letter this morning was - the cold which touches your pain has given me a chill from which I need recover before I can write to you. But as the few minutes now after my lunch I'll heat you to a loyal response in answer to your lecture. - First, I must explain that I opened the small envelope this morning, because the bit in the sheet you left out about my doing such silly things which didn't hit anybody any good so worried me that I knew nothing inside the envelope could make me feel worse. In fact I'd worried myself so much about what these "silly things" meant that when I read the other page, I quite smiled in relief to find out the truth.

You know from experience that when you tell me off I always like to try to explain my point of view instead of accepting your lecture meekly, as I should. So here goes. - First & foremost, I didn't expect the cause of all this trouble till this next Friday, which was the reason why

2.

This is already more than I meant to write, but I know I left it till tomorrow & might have been in the mood, or your letter might disappoint me. I'm sure it was your letter this morning that has made me feel so much brighter. - But it would be to make me feel happy, darling?

Please remember me to Mrs. Reynolds when she arrives (but don't tell her how I signed a certain hotel form in Harrogate last!)

How I must clean the table & wash up my few pots & then to bed. It's already late. I hadn't time to take my medicine again this morning & so am not benefiting from its good effects. In future I must start taking it much longer before I think I ought. It's at any rate something to have one part of me which is always before-hand instead of late, isn't it!

Goodnight, darling. - a big kiss
Will finish this tomorrow.
Write some more tomorrow.

3.

I changed my mind about visiting Tuppy next week and decided to go this. Therefore I never thought of taking my medicine away with me to prepare for an event so far ahead.

The idea of going cycling never for an instant occurred to me - also I certainly shouldn't have put in my crocodile shoes (which are spoilt) & my new green suit & new hat & silk stockings & no sock. On Sunday when we were deciding whether it was fine enough or not, we both decided we must go out somewhere. There was absolutely nothing to do indoors & it was cold & cheerless. I couldn't have stayed in all day. Then I said I would only go cycling if she could lend me some clothes, but all hers were too small. - so I just borrowed a sock. Until I got on the bike I'd no idea how uncomfortable it was & Tuppy said we weren't going a long run. I suggested walking, but I thought it'd be less hard cycling than walking. I took so much care as I could - walked up all the hills & got off & sketched for the rain, in spite of Tuppy's derision.

4.

When we got in what I needed was a hot bath, hot drink & clean change of clothes, but how could I? There was no fire & a cold supper & I had no extra clothes with me. Only my shoes were wet. We didn't get soaked or anything like it because I insisted on Skeltony!

That's all I have to say. The only fault I can find with myself is that I might have been better advised to have insisted on walking instead of cycling, but I don't think that would have made much difference.

When I tell you I don't feel well I don't do it for sympathy, but in case you think I do I'll spare you the state of my health in future.

Your lecture is well deserved on the face of it, but even you don't understand everything. I didn't need another lecture & you have almost spoilt the good you previous advice was doing. Because since you've told me seriously about it I really have begun to try & economise my nervous energy. I don't race to catch Annie when I don't need to & run up steps &

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/156)

'All I'd made up my mind to add today after receiving your letter this morning was...'

25 May 1927

③ When we got in what I needed was a hot bath, hot drink & clean change of clothes, but how could I? There was no fire, a cold supper & I had no extra clothes with me. Only my shoes were wet. We didn't get soaked or anything like it because I insisted on "Showering".

That's all I have to say. The only fault I can find with myself is that I might have been better advised to have insisted on wearing underwear of cycling, but I don't think that would have made much difference.

When I tell you I don't feel well I don't do it for sympathy, but in case you think I do I'll spare you the state of my health in future.

Your lecture is well received on the face of it, but even you don't understand everything. I didn't need another lecture & you have almost spoiled the good your previous advice was doing. Because since your letter I've been seriously about it & really have begun to try & economise my nervous energy. I don't race to catch trains when I don't need to & run up steps &

at a time, etc. etc. because now you're told me I can see for myself that my nerves are bad. You're not quite sure a fool as you seem to take me for and I don't on paper aspect the precautions which would help me to feel better as you seem to think. I can just imagine your impatience and contempt when you read my letters, and it makes me mad. I know exactly how you would look because I've seen it so many times.

I still intend to be careful about my nerves, but if you're so solicitous for my health as would appear from your lecture, you would do me far more good by making me happy & content as you did yesterday than by the harm your letter of to-day is doing. You can probably have seen ^{of course} "in the few lines" I wrote you last night & all I feel able to write to-day. You might at least think before you judge me.

There is no need for you to mention this matter again when you write. I'm sorry I bother you with my moods.

Carlyle,
Amy.

Kind regards to the Council.

P.S.

Next week there is a film at the Double End Theatre called the "Fall of the Tote" & it has some incidents in it taken on the Mallerton, including photographs of I mean who don't know one of them trying to save the life of the other. Have you heard about it? I should like to go.

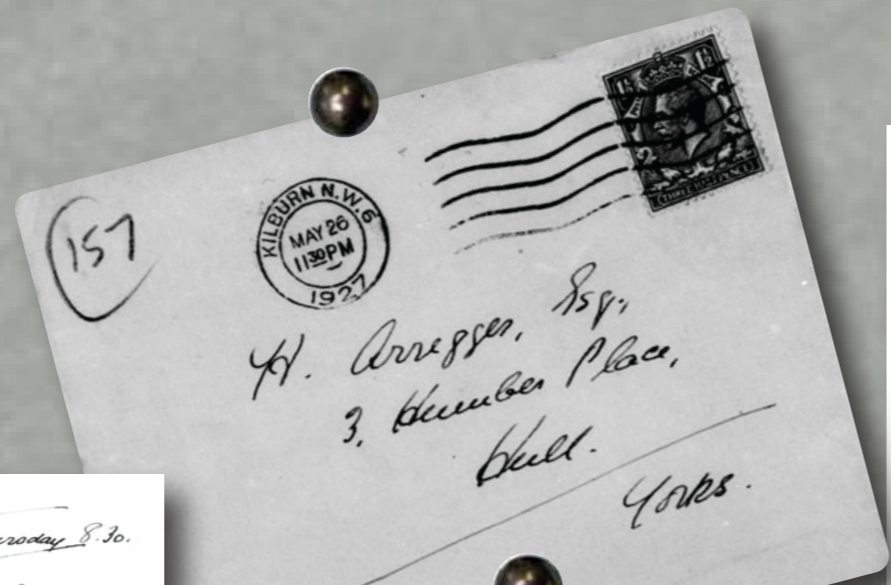
Tuesday, 10.15 p.m.

I've managed to catch the post, darling, & am now writing the few little things I didn't think to put in the letter I've just posted. I'm so afraid that your letter tomorrow (if any) won't be so nice, & I'll be so disappointed if it isn't. You loved the one to-day & I've never had it as many times as I've been able to to-day. It makes me so happy, darling, and you don't often take advantage of so easy & simple a way to make me feel happy. I was very glad you spoke to Father when he passed you - I have no doubt that that I can persuade Father to forget all the old horrors, but I'm not at all sure of how you look at things. But I'm not worried by that now. Some time in London when we're together & Father, or Father's looks, come up we'll undertake them, & we'll both forget our fault & theirs & think of each other's good points & then I think everything will be all right, as it must be before I can be quite happy with you.



I'm glad you're wearing & liking your birthday present things - I was so afraid they weren't nice enough for you. As soon as you are in London for good I'll look after your things & wash your slippers & wash them & look after you as much as ever I have time for - which won't be much. I'm afraid, unless we both feel business first - but the only business first because we need the money for our plans, but it, darling?

I'm afraid the grey hair doesn't go with your grey slacks, does it? - It was difficult to carry the shade in my head & there wasn't much choice. Oh, William I'll either help you with expenses or buy you a new pair of shoes - I think I'd better get the shoes for you, as I know you'll look after me all right & go without any shoes if I don't see to them. You're so particular in some things (shampoo, hair restorer & skin's especially) but rather too economical in others (that in particular & now shoes, it seems).



157
London.
Thursday 8.30.

Thank you, darling, for letting me have a letter this morning. I was already regretting writing so I did yesterday, because with your present business worries you need help from me and not bits of scraps like I showed in my letter. I am feeling very sore & subdued tonight - am in all by myself & have only just finished my supper, so I sat it slowly & read my book. I determined to take your advice about choice of literature and had to choose a "light" book. But I saw one "Come Back Come Home" by Newman, which is a book everyone should read & which I have always wanted, and it is absorbingly interesting, but not too cheerful. Have you read it? You ought to sometime. I didn't know there was so much in it about Derbyshire, but what I have now learnt will make Netherage & the other villages much more interesting to me now. I'll tell you something about it in what I couldn't remember the name of that you in H'sax, so I wrote & asked Annie if she remembered - it "The Robinson's Pack".

about it? - I haven't made any definite arrangements yet for what, because its rather early yet. But if we decide to stay here I think we might as well reserve a room beforehand - or you can leave it & rest it if you prefer. We have been talking to-day at the office about what & everyone is wanting the Saturday morning off. I shall be Mrs. Wood's Secretary then probably. & they want me to ask him when he's in a suitable mood. But for myself, it's no good being free & come on Friday night if you can't leave till Saturday afternoon - & it's not likely you'll be free before then, is it? He told them to prefer to stay Sat. morning & come back Tuesday morning instead of Monday night, because that will be better for you, wouldn't it? - But I don't know yet how things will be managed. Will you let me know as soon as you can when you will be free, so that I can try to do the best at this end? If the office is closed Sat. morning shall I come to Bell on the Friday night? - But where could I sleep? I am looking forward so very much to the change, and will do my best to help you to forget your business worries,

2.
if only you will try not to treat me as a tiresome child.

It has not been a very busy day at the office, but I don't like a day like this when I haven't enough work to keep me occupied all day. Yesterday I went on errand to Somerset House, & it was nice to be out in the sunshine. At night Mrs. Wood's work kept me till after half past six, & I had a rush to get to my class - We made ice-cream & then I made a spongy cake - it looked nice, but I didn't buy it as she said she could do with it herself. - I thought afterwards I could have sent it to you, but it was too late then. - And perhaps you wouldn't have wanted it. When I make anything of that kind for you, darling, you'd have to help me, so my arm gets far too tired with a lot of baking, & it must be stopped once it started. Will you? We'd a few minutes to spare at the end & she showed us how to make an excellent. The never seen one made & was best interested. - It's quite difficult. Perhaps if I could make one, so I did & ate it myself. It cost 6d. - but was quite nice. I wish I could produce these

things, but of course it's quite impossible until I get a flat of my (or our) own.

Mother has sent me a big piece of Father's birthday cake - & I suppose I shall see some ordinary cake coming soon. If I put some under my pillow I should dream of you, but I'm not superstitious.

I saw Mother, Father, Gene, Minnie, and Elsie letters, but I don't feel like writing any more tonight. This morning I got up feeling as though I'd had about 1 hour's sleep, altho' I went to bed quite early last night. - I felt extraordinarily tired all day. (Please don't believe me!).

Gene says they've decided not to come through London at all - I don't know whether she's fed up because I refused to stay here over what, for their benefit, but I don't really think they're very keen to come at all. Anyway, I'm not worrying.

Be sympathetic with you, darling, over your troubles, and wish my thoughts could help you. You've not the least doubt of your winning through.

All my love, darling,
A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/157)

'Thank you darling for letting me have a letter this morning.'

26 May 1927

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/158)

'I am awfully sorry darling it is too late to write
you a letter..'

27 May 1927

158

Friday 10. p.m.

I am awfully sorry darling. It is too
late to write you a letter - especially
as its the weekend, but I'll let you
have a nice one for Monday - if you
send me a nice one tomorrow.

I've been busy darnning stockings
& washing ever since I came in &
there was an awful lot to do. I've
worked hard. Am just going to
have my bath now & then to bed.

Goodbye, darling.

I start as Mr. Woods' secretary
tomorrow for a week.

Lots of love & kisses,

Amy.

158



H. Arregger, Esq.,
3. Humboldt Place,
Huell.

Yours.



Before Whitsun
 159
 H. Arregger, Esq.,
 3, St. James Place,
 Hull.
 Yorks.

159
 London.
 Sunday, 1.20 p.m.

I have just ^{come} in from church, darling, & lunch is not quite ready - I do not look forward to meals nowadays 'cos I always know what they will be - but the girls resigned to it and are not grumbling.

Thank you for your letter yesterday - 4 p.m.

I am sorry your business is worrying you so excessively - sometimes I almost wish it would go smash so that you could leave it and use your brain & talents in a more profitable way. Since lunch I have been knocking out my writing drawer & putting your letters in the bundle I already have. - Corsonal, when I get them out I pick out extra ones & read them, and some of them are very amusing now one looks back on them, altho' at the time you wrote them they made me so miserable I thought I could hardly be more unhappy. You've been reading odd ones right from the first ones I had, and I can see how much you have altered. - How your writing now is different. - lunch more mature &

decisions & business-like. - Also you careful if more learned. The first one I picked up quite by chance is such a complete contrast to the one I received yesterday that I feel I must quote you a few bits - perhaps they will cheer you up when you remember how you used to be. It's written from Hull to H. Sage on June 2nd, 1925 at 7 p.m. - "My dearest Guy - You had a most lovely ride back to Hull (you've certainly been to see me). - - - the way seemed so much shorter. Hope you got back safely to H. Sage & that you felt as energetic for work to-day as I did. - - - - - I'm awfully glad I stopped, for the time thoroughly I enjoyed myself, the more I seem keen on work afterwards. And I could not have enjoyed myself better than I did yesterday every minute I was with you. - - - - - I feel most enterprising & capable of any effort - - - just the mood that lets one walk over the greatest difficulties. - - - - - for there are very few difficulties in my way just now."

You mustn't get downhearted, darling. I don't like to think of you in your present mood - you seem so

159
 2.

tho' you're almost afraid of the difficulties overhauling you. And I don't like either that you should be so absolutely full of your own troubles that you haven't any room left to think of other things. Your partner seems to me rather selfish to "bury" most of the trouble on you & then just go back to Switzerland & leave you to face the music. I wish with all my heart you were head of a museum of your own, where you alone would merit the praise or deserve the blame, and then I should have far more fault in the undertaking.

I am beginning to find it a wee bit difficult to write you nowadays. I can't be perfectly natural & tell you how I'm feeling & thinking, because if it happens to be a depressed mood then I get looking a bit critical & lecturing & if it's an exuberant mood when I tell you how much I'm loving you, I just get silence usually, and if there is a serious mood & he's to explain or what problem my mind has been occupied, I again am usually met with silence. Sometimes when I've written you a letter full of the love I can't give you

in person, you're replied shortly & coldly and made me feel just like a ferociously affectionate child who has been kindly yet firmly rebuffed for its unwelcome caresses. If, from most of your recent letters, I had just struck out the word "Darling," they could just as easily be read as letters to your clerk or landlady or some distant relation - or more often, to a horrid daughter who is always irritating you. When you write me such letters, even the word "Darling" jars, because it's so obviously put in your custom, as I know perfectly well how seldom you actually call me that when we're together, and never when you're talking me off.

Since being in London I've been thrown very much on my own thoughts for company, and then I am finding you & more interesting and perplexing. When I am faced with a problem or a how-^{ever} my first impulse is always to come to you with you. Do you realize, darling, that for a long time now you have been rebuffing me? I don't know whether it's because you have ceased to be in sympathy with me, which of

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/159)

'I have just come in from church darling, lunch is not quite ready.'

Before Whitsun 1927

159
3
These means that you no longer know me
in the real meaning of the word (I mean
you do physically - there has never
been any occasion when I've doubted
that - the physical love alone is so
unmistakable) or whether it simply that
you mind is so absorbed in business
you can't see as well beyond it. I
hope it's the last reason & I believe it
is because I couldn't bear to think
you're lost sympathy with me. I can
hardly need someone to whom I can
tell my problems and perplexities
and be sure of getting sympathy & help.
When you come now to see me there is
never any time left after we've
finished eating & drinking & scribbling
on physical love & sometimes there is
always something more I long for & yet
which I can hardly explain. If I write
to you "I have problems which trouble
me. Will you listen whilst I explain?"
I believe you would promise to listen.
And yet I couldn't tell you in such a
way. I am beginning to realize now
why it is that man never worships a
divine being or an idol or stone or the
sun - anything which is not divine.

Human being. Because it is universally
recognized that man never worships
something, and I suppose nations have
reacted & passed that stage at which
I find myself now, where something has
been worshipped which has been found
falsely, and therefore an unfallible
"something" must be found before
the mind, or soul, can be satisfied
once more. I cannot express
myself as I want to, and I'm not
sure whether I want you to understand.
As often has happened, I am writing
for you to sort out my own thoughts
then merely to fill up pages to form
a letter to you. I am realising
now that religion is just a central idea
around which the mind circles and
worships. In its journey the mind's
soul, is fed on faith, and if this
faith fails I believe then that
particular religion loses its place as
an ideal & becomes merely a
disillusion. If the mind, or soul,
is a response one, I believe it will
go on searching till it finds another
ideal, more unfallible than the last,
when the faith will not be so likely

4
to fail.
I believe that I have been wanting
you my religion - I have been
worshipping you, giving you the whole of
my thoughts, acting on your code of
right & wrong, confessing to you my
sins. In my prayers you always
have first place, and I am sure now
that I've been doing wrong.
You will think all this nonsense,
and I can hardly blame you if you
don't understand what I sincerely
understand myself. I only know
that I love you differently from
merely physically, and that often
you disappoint my heart & faith in
you. Even at such times I still
rejoice that you, as usual, are in the
right, and I still believe that you
are always right, but I'm always
a bit afraid that I may some time
be forced to make the discovery that
you're not always right. And that
is why I am feeling I must have
a stronger faith which won't let me
down, and this I am trying to find,
but it is difficult to find this, and

I have become so critical that I find
flaws in everything, and it is no use
expecting faith to make strong a religion
which my reason ~~forbids me to accept~~
prevents me from accepting.
How fed up you must be with
me, darling! What a pity I can't be
just as you would have me -
everything with love & sweetness just
as you want it, an angel of patience
when you're in a bad mood, a
woman of good sense & cleverness to
help you with your business when you
need me, etc. etc. And yet I know
I'm would be much more perfectly fed
up with you if I were always like
that - & even then you'd not be
satisfied. You're not the type of man
ever to be satisfied - for which I
am thankful!
6.20 p.m.

Have just finished washing up after
tea, darling & the "services" sound kao
you. - My kissing Mrs. S. is so taken
for granted now that I was gently
reprimanded the other day for having
left the washing unwashed! - How
not much more than a mould was, ha!

5
It struck me as rather peculiar that
you should have such a high opinion
of the film you saw "Venues of Pleasure".
It has been several times in the
& I was going since when you were
away because Constance Talmadge is
usually good, but Follen ordered
me against it, saying it was very
ordinary but rather siller than usual
& full of American exaggerations. I
also read a very scathing criticism
of it in one of the papers, saying how
fed up English people were getting with
the American ideas of humour, and
with the scores of exaggerated literary
portrayed in the American social films.
Perhaps Follen & the newspaper critic were
more difficult to please in the way of
pictures than you, who go so seldom.
I have no taste for the pictures
nowadays, and infinitely prefer my own
thoughts and imagination to being
entertained in a stuffy picture house.
However, I like to see something worth
while, which is why I'm going to see
this film next week about the
Kathleen. I am going on Thursday
with Mrs. de Hopton, who has invited
me out to dinner. I shall pay for myself.



It was quite interesting yesterday morning waking for Mrs. Wood & he is very nice indeed. I can quite understand what being in love will be. (I believe you know, before I knew him) I have plenty of work & have lots over for tomorrow when he is in Manchester. I'm glad to see you tomorrow, because I like work & my chosen. Yesterday afternoon I was busy working & passing a couple of specimens for the old weather course. Then I went to the Library & got out "Love & her kinship" & a book on Switzerland, which is very interesting. I want to know all I can about your country, because I so love it. Oh, I forgot, why I was so late yesterday was because after lunch I lay down on the bed to rest & when I looked at the clock again it was 6 o'clock!! - I could hardly believe it because I didn't realize I had been asleep. But when I got up I found the sleep just too heavy because my head ached very badly. So I went out to the library, then had supper & did my rooming. I read the book on Switzerland but I went to bed. This morning I stayed in bed till 10.30 & had a quiet day, spending the whole afternoon writing to you. (It was 1 o'clock

159
So you see I'm trying to take life very quietly when I can. - but I'm taking Phosphoric acid as well.

I don't want to have as much money saved up for what I could, but I've been forced to buy Stocking, wool, paste, & needles & buttons for my morning headaches. He often says I need can't wait. Are you needing anything very badly, darling, except shoes? - And have you paid him. Good yet? What did you do about the work you didn't see? You tell me so very, very little.

About what, darling, - I am disappointed but not surprised that you are making difficulties about our weekend in H. Bay, which you yourself suggested. I never quite understand & still can't why you concern you have always done the right thing by me, and yet you're so afraid of anyone knowing how we stand towards each other. I am sufficiently good friends with Winnie, Topsy & Rega for us all to discuss our affairs freely together, and altho' we don't discuss our "love affair" with each other, we all know & has known how matters are with each other. For instance, I know

what Winnie's relations were with Sue (you remember?), and Topsy will find & now Topsy's will be the schoolmaster's man. They don't know anything definite but I am quite sure they are not ignorant of the real state of affairs. You don't give other people credit for much reasoning & common sense. I am certain that Mrs. Mitchell knows - & that lots of other people, e.g. Father, Evelyn & perhaps some others, guess & are pretty sure. I don't know what you thought of the Lord Walter Model, Dore, but it was obvious to me that Mrs. Mitchell didn't put his things into the study room by mistake. So why, darling, are you so anxious to sleep clear of H. Bay because Winnie may see us. She already told her well you & that well come out to camp on the 10th & see her. You know quite well that whether I thought it was wrong, I was awfully worried about my position. But I worked it all out and came to the conclusion it wasn't wrong & I still don't think it is. Therefore I can do as I know, which at the same time I use my discretion in making it known & keeping it secret. Do you

159
consider it wrong & that you are doing me wrong that you are so ashamed of anyone knowing? If you prefer not to go to H. Bay, we would go. I'll go anywhere you say, but shall leave it to you to make suggestions. You told everyone but Winnie that the party camping will be in Derwent. I probably shall miss her till late in the week while we're during Saturday off & not, but I'm working in Leeds & shall look for her, but for this morning, and in any case I don't think I shall leave till Sat. as Thursday looks busy as it is so late. - However, that depends on where we're going. (Winnie says we'll be at camp, Topsy will be in the park & Rega in the house). I am now leaving it to you to decide as you like.

I make up my mind again & again not to bother you with any letters such as this, but sometimes I have to find some outlet, and you're the only person I can talk to like this. I'm sorry if I make you put up. Have you got a red to-day, I wonder? I hope your feeling better & start work tomorrow. Has there been

anything good in the "Sunday Times" lately? I don't get it now because I rarely find time to read it, but I read instead a series of Health Articles which are appearing in the "Sunday Herald" by Mrs. Barker, which are very good indeed. They embody all my ideas about food values, which I would regard as facts & fancies.

Best of luck, darling, with your business & don't get discouraged. All my love,

I had a P.C. from Milly yesterday morning. I am sure Milly's worrying because they feel they aren't letters & I do wish they could be because I am quite content that they should be as succinct & I realize it must be a big job to write English letters. If you're writing, darling, will you express it on them not to worry because I understand perfectly. I do long to see your people & home again. - You've no idea how much. (A P.C. from Mrs. Price said I found this afternoon that she had your friend's car which & that it was "quite different" to the one I saw in Derby. This