

# The Amy Johnson Letters (Part II)



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

Part II covers the period between  
27 May 1925 and spring 1926

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.





(51)

Wednesday, 10.30 a.m.

Dearest Hans,

Your letter has again come too late. If I'd been in Sheffield I'd have got it yesterday at 5, but we only have two posts here. I booked you a room yesterday at the Scotsman's Pack from Saturday till Monday. I was sure that one would appeal more to your romantic mind, & I finally decided on it when I realised how crowded out the 'George' would be for Whit, being right on the main road. There are always heaps of cars outside it. - And besides, it's a most notorious place - other people's wives & other people's husbands stay there for week-ends, etc. It's not at all a fit & proper place for you. The Inn is much safer. Winnie advises it, & I'd back her anywhere.

If you came on Saturday afternoon,

2.

& went back Monday morning then I think I could spare all the rest of the time for you. Anyway, I'm getting so saturated with work that I feel I must have a whole day's holiday, or something will go wrong. But I must have the rest of Monday & all Tuesday to revise my Economic History for Wednesday. I've not done any yet, & am forced to leave it till just before the exam. I'm by slow degrees conquering Latin literature at present, but all my energy goes into concentration & I've none left to learn with.

It wouldn't be any use my coming to Sheffield on Saturday, would it, 'cos you'd have a bag or something on the pillow. Had I better wait for you here & send you minute directions for the road? I have my pass so could easily come to Sheffield.

Do let me know if I did right in booking. I hadn't to pay any deposit, but thanks for thinking of it & sending the money.

(I'll do another chapter of Latin now) -

(51)

27 May 1925



H. Arregger, Esq.,  
3. Heuben Place,  
Sheff.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/51)

'Your letter has again come too late. If I'd been in Sheffield I'd have got it yesterday at 5, but we only have two posts here.'

27 May 1925



2 p.m.

Have got through  $\frac{2}{3}$  of my Laker, & if I can only finish it & master the 4 set books by Sat. you'll find me looking almost cheerful. But each book needs a fortnight at the least.

I managed all right with my pass & have not gone to Sheffield today. I've finished with lectures for my whole life!! - Unless I fail. --- I must go to Sheffield tomorrow - it's raining today, worse luck.

Father's going to America on Saturday. Don't forget about the keys, are you?

Of the garage, you know, if you can manage it. I've not been on the idea. But maybe it's not feasible. We're all going to have a big celebration when we get the results, so I'll want a car or vehicle of some sort.

Must work now - Hope it's all right about the rooms. I'll write again on Friday to give directions.  
Must love, Yours, Amy

3.15 p.m.

I forgot to tell you that we have an invitation out to tea on Sunday.

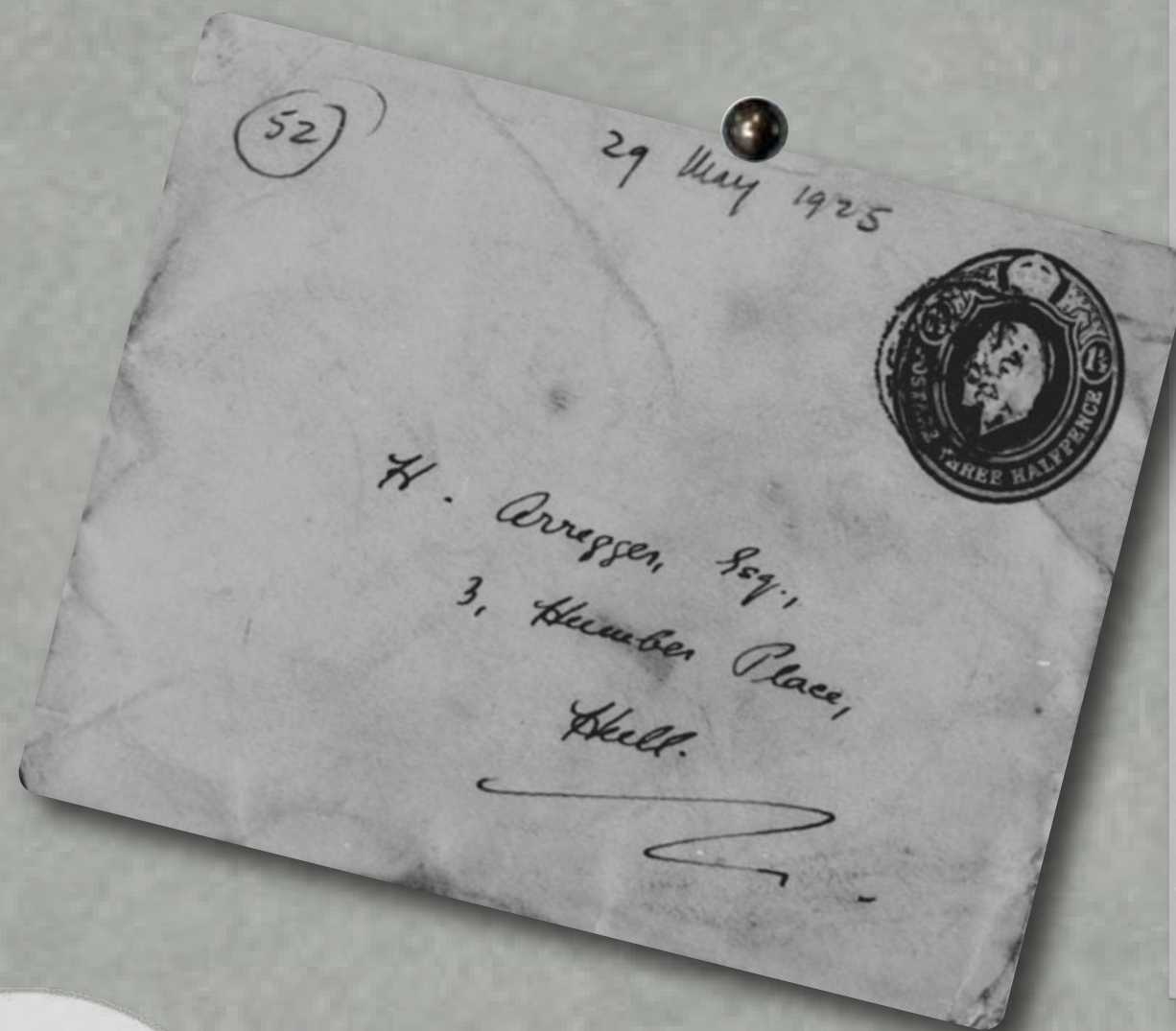
This is coming over & he & Winnie, Gwyn & Tupp. are going to camp near Barlow - where we were last year. We're going to have a general meeting on the Sunday - a sort of lactic tea-party. We needn't go if you'd rather not. But it will be rather fun, & I'd love you to see our little valley. It ought to be very pretty just now. Anyway we can decide when Sunday comes.

My writing's developed thus 'cos I'm doing such an immense amount. I can't get out of this cramped old room.

A. Samuels.







2.  
some of the glorious views round here.  
If you come on your bike I'll  
set off from Hathersage <sup>3 1/2</sup> hours after  
you set off & walk along the  
Sheffield road to meet you. We can  
hardly miss each other 'cos there  
only is the one road.  
Howe Hull go to Beverly -  
Market Weighton - Selby - Doncaster  
- Nottingham - Sheffield.  
(not Howdon & not Tadcaster).  
When you get into Sheffield go straight  
on till the road branches - turn  
to the <sup>right</sup> ~~left~~ at the policeman -  
(the same way as when you came to  
Glossop Rd.) - go straight on till  
the road branches where there is  
the Sheffield Telegraph Office on the  
right & Cole's shop opposite. Turn to  
the left & follow the car lines all  
the way down till they branch.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger Reference L DIAJ/52)

Page 1 is missing from the collection

'If you come on your bike I'll set off from Hathersage 3 1/2 hours after  
you set off & walk along the Sheffield road to meet you,'

29 May 1925



3.

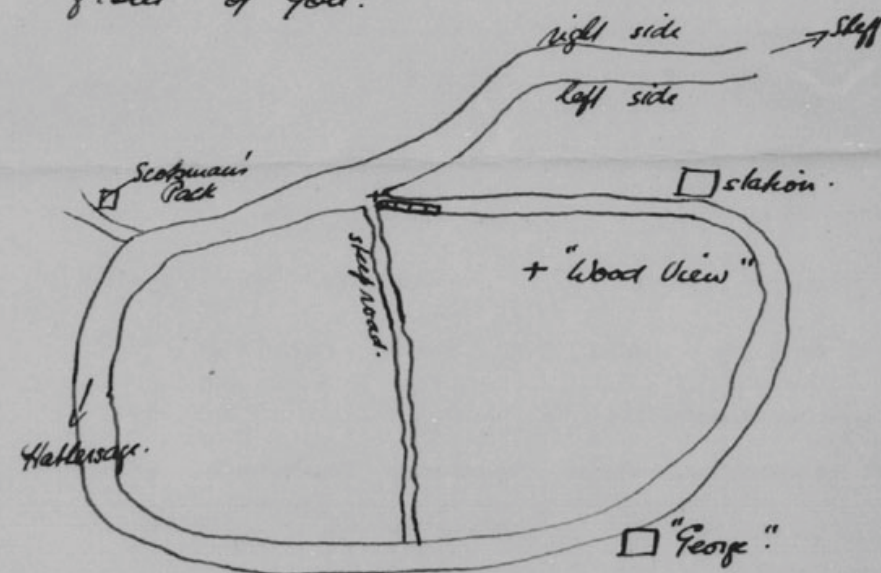
Go to the right & straight on following the lines till the turnings. Then still go straight on. The road is the main one & you can't mistake it. Goes to Foxhouse then Hattersage. If it's fine I'll probably get quite a long way to meet you. It's not far from the turnings. - About 20 mins. on your bike. There are sign-posts up in Sheffield itself to show the way to Hattersage at both the turnings I've told you of, & if you want to ask the way, say you want Kelsall road & then Hattersage.

I'm afraid I haven't left you much scope for your natural intelligence in these copious directions, but I like arranging things.

Supposing you didn't meet me on the road, come straight on till

4.

you see the village, passing quite a lot of houses mostly on the right-hand side, till you see a very steep cobbly street on the left side which just drops off at right angles to the broad main road. Don't go down, but you'll see a group of about 6 houses & it's the end one just in front of you.



Isn't that nice, now! I do hope it's fine. The sun's just coming out now. I'll go to the post whilst





5.

it's fine.

I do want to see you again. It's about a month isn't it? Please don't take any notice of my funny words - I can't help it. Sometimes I take all romance & sentiment, & then I go to the other extreme. You made up your mind to write a stiff letter, didn't you, & then changed your mind on the 3rd. page? Seemed like it. Have just written Nene a most exhaustive treatise on the slaying of beetles - 3 pages - it'll put her off food for days if she reads it. It's just a product of my very morbid present state of mind, & a sign of decadence, as it says in my Latin literature.

Nene's arranged for me to go to her camp. We'll be there together, & shall have some fun. But I'm

6.

going to work hard with shortland.

It will only be for 3 weeks, & I'll probably be in Sheffield for one week, for camp. Going Doron dance & degree day - July 4th.

Mother told me she'd had one - or two? - P.C.'s from you, & she seemed very pleased. Mother's ever such a dear - I don't know how Nene can hate her so much.

I'm not going to do any work whilst you're here, & I'll forget all about exams.

A demand,

Yours, Amy.

Be careful of the turnings on the road to H'sage. The hair-pull bands are awful round here, & there's the Devil's Elbow near Loxwood, where 2 people on a motor-bike were killed last year going to tennis.



Tuesday, 2 p.m.

Dearest Hans,

I have enjoyed this week-end. Do get through your work & come again next Saturday, won't you? I want you to ever so much. - & if I think you'll probably come I'll work ever so hard to get my work done.

Did you get home all right last night? I didn't have any 'feelings' so I suppose you did. I worked from 6.30 till 10 & then went to bed in the daylight, 'cos I was so tired - yes really! - I don't think you'll ever cure me of that.

Have done an awfully good morning's work - got through the most important Latin literature book. - & I feel I know it as well. Quite good.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/53)

'I have enjoyed this week-end. Do get through your work & come again next Saturday, won't you? I want you to ever so much...'

2 Jun 1925

2.

I'll spend this afternoon, tonight & tomorrow morning over cramming Economic History, & then empty it all out tomorrow afternoon. Please pray for me hard at 2 o'clock.

Did your miss mother up when you got in, & what did she say?

After you'd gone I remembered my chief reason for wanting a 'revenge'. I'll tell you next week, & if you can't explain it I'm afraid I'll want my promise back. Don't know why I couldn't remember it when I was "making my confession" - probably 'cos I had to think.

Was your partner awfully Aereated 'cos you didn't come back at the perfectly ridiculous

53

2 June 1925



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





3.

time you said you would? I bet  
you told him some fibs about it.

But I'm so very very glad you  
stayed. Don't quite know what  
possessed me these last few weeks.

Anyway, I'm thinking ever such a  
lot about you now, & I don't mind  
coming back to Hull so much  
now, and I want you ever so  
much to come next week - ever.

You will, won't you? I'm going to  
look forward to it anyway.

Do write to me soon - I'm  
hoping there'll be a letter in the  
morning.

(There was a P.C. from Vogel  
this morning with himself as the driver!  
His illimitable conceit simply lays  
me out. It's astounding.)

Yours, Ann

I've just come across your  
£1 note. Never thought of it since  
all the time you were here.  
~~I'll keep it till~~ - to, of course,  
I can endorse it now. Sorry I  
forgot about it.

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**Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger**  
(Reference L DIAJ/54)

*I've just got back to Hathersage from my exams— it was really an awfully good one & I think I've done quite a decent paper.'*

3 Jun 1925

(54) Wednesday, 6.20.

*Parling.* I've just got back to Hathersage from my exam. - it was really an awfully good one & I think I've done quite a decent paper. Anyhow, I'm not worrying about that - but ab' the paper I dreaded least of the whole lot.

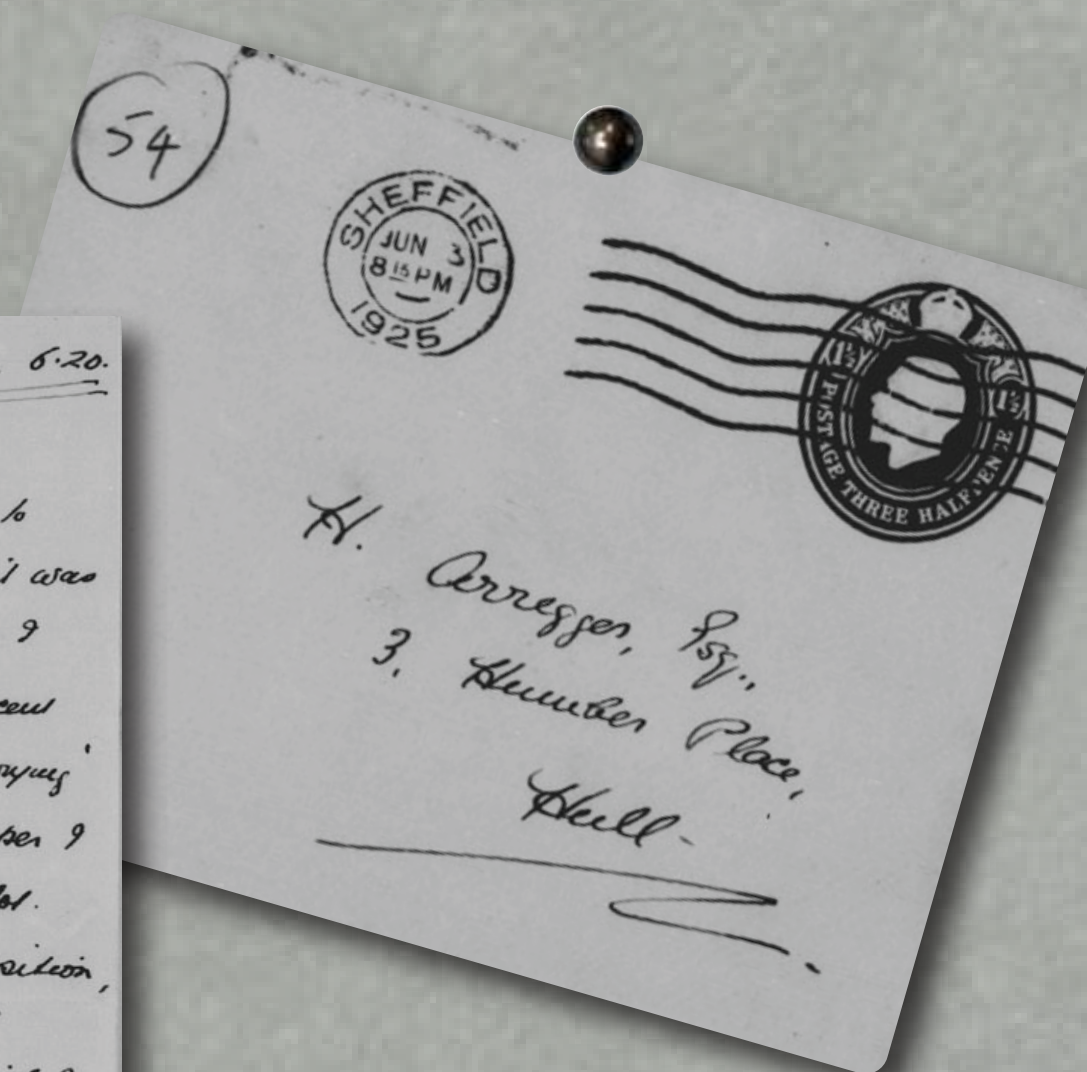
Tomorrow is French composition, essay and outlines of French literature - all in French. Wish I could have you sitting beside me I've all the literature to learn tonight. That's why I can't go to the debate.

This post goes at 8.20 but I'll chance it.

Am feeling' so happy now that exams have begun.

Thanks ever so much for your letter - I got heaps of black cats as well.

I do love you again, Yours Amy.





**Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger**  
(Reference L DIAJ/55)

'Have just got in from Sheffield & it's perfectly glorious & awfully hot. You will come on Saturday won't you?'

4 Jun 1925

55  
Hattersage, 6.15.

Dearest Hans,

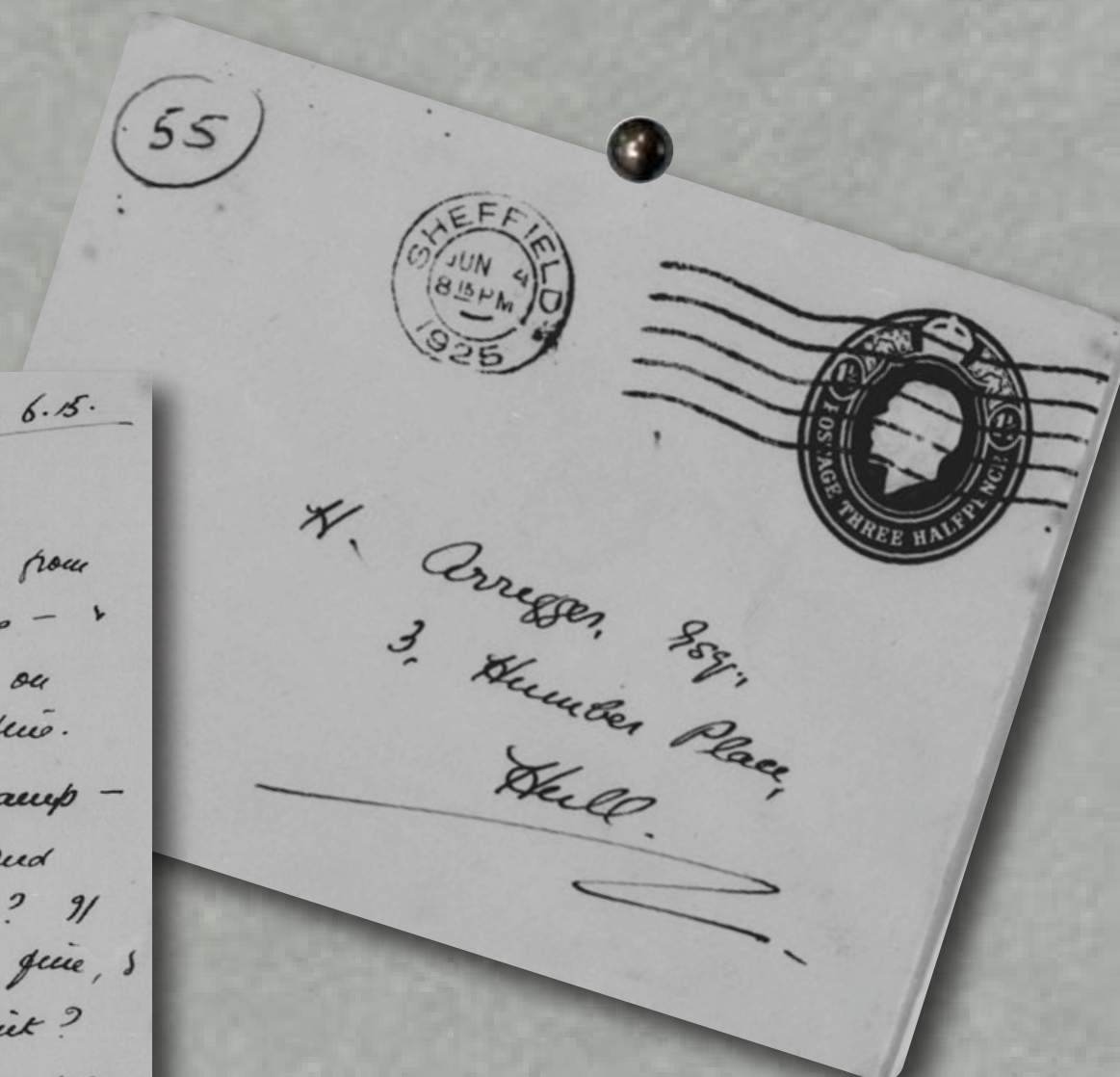
Have just got in from Sheffield & it's perfectly glorious - & awfully hot. You will come on Saturday, won't you? If it's fine. If you like we can be at camp - there will be no one there, and everything's ready. Shall we? It would be topping if it were fine, & great fun. What do you think?

Haven't time to write any more 'co the post goes. Last night it had gone & I went after the postman to the station, & smiled so nicely that he unlocked his bag & put my letter in.

The exam. was quite decent this morning. Shall be glad when tomorrow's two are over.

I wanted to ask you what you think about camp so that you can let me know by Sat. morning.

Do come. - I want you. Yours, Amy.





Waltham,  
Monday, 5.30 p.m.

Darling,

I did feel so miserable after  
you'd gone - don't know why - but  
it seemed so lonely. Was awfully  
glad to get your wire. You wanted  
me to know right off how quick  
you'd been, didn't you? I lost it  
at 11.30, & was very surprised -  
thought something must have happened  
on the way, 'co there didn't seem  
time for you to have got back &  
sent a wire.

I've stopped in all day to work,  
& have worked hard, but my head's  
red hot. Shall be glad when today's  
over, 'co the rest of the week will  
go much more quickly.

There was a letter from Mother  
this afternoon, & she doesn't seem

2.

at all pleased 'co I'm going into  
Dene's dig. I was an awfully  
funny letter, and would worry me,  
but she says she doesn't feel well &  
is suffering with neuralgia, - so that  
will account for it.

I won't have time to write to  
you tomorrow - that's why I'm writing  
now - & 'co I want to, of course.  
Hope your partner enjoyed his weekend.

What happens if I take more than  
4 Kola pastilles? I went on eating  
them this morning quite absent-  
mindedly. - had about 8.

There's a bluebottle in here  
nearly driving me crazy. - Wish I  
could put my head in an ice-  
box.

I'll feel lonely tonight - but I'll  
go to sleep. Write me soon -

All my love,  
Amy.

56



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

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/56)

'Darling,  
I did feel so miserable after you'd gone - don't know  
why - but it seemed so lovely. Was awfully glad to get  
your wire.'

8 Jun 1925







Hattersage,  
Tuesday, 8.15 p.m.

Dearest Hans,

Have had an awfully good day today - two topping exams. I could answer every question on the papers and didn't know which to choose. Tomorrow is French translation - Old French and modern verse and prose. Am very worried about the Old French, but the worst exams are over except French oral, which will be a nightmare. - "Je ne vous comprends pas." - "Parlez plus lentement, s'il vous plaît." - That's all I know.

I've had simply tons of energy all day - Winnie says I must have had an awfully good week-end, and I said I had. She has come back from London with an engagement ring. But she won't wear it. She has it on

2.

a chain round her neck. Isn't she funny? It's an awfully sweet one - ever so dainty. We're all very envious, and have decided we'll all get engaged as well.

I was glad to get your letter this morning. - Was hoping there would be one. But you shouldn't have sent the money, 'cos there were not many expenses. It's most awfully nice of you and you were a dear to think of it at all. We'll fight it out when I come home.

On Monday I was thinking that you'd be having a lovely ride home, 'cos it was glorious here all day, though the mist never lifted from the hills in the distance. Hope you're not feeling any ill effects. - are you? I've got a rotten headache again, but it's reaction after a really hard day.

3.

Maybe I'll see you next Saturday night after I get home, shall I? Will you come down to Aulaby Road?

I'm not working tonight 'cos I don't feel like it, and I've such a lot of letters to answer. Have had 12 just yesterday & today. Lots of people I'd almost forgotten have remembered it's my exam - time. Awfully nice of them. Must write to Father now & tell him I think I've got through so far.

There's no post tonight so you won't get this till Thursday.

Do write me some more - I love to get your letters. Goodbye for now, darling. I'll be glad when Saturday comes.

Yours,  
Amy.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/57A)

'I was glad to get your letter this morning - was hoping there would be one. But you shouldn't have sent the money, 'cos there were not many expenses.'

10 Jun 1925



57B

Wed. 9 a.m.

Darling,  
 Thanks most awfully for  
 your letter. You do write such  
 ripping ones. I feel quite ready  
 now for a hard morning's work.  
 Am just going out to the river  
 with my books. It's a glorious day.  
 I wish I had some of your  
 reserve energy. Don't seem to have  
 any reserve myself at all. When  
 I find I feel energetic I'm so  
 pleased that I use it all up at  
 once. That happened yesterday.

Do write me some more letters.  
 They make me feel heaps better.  
 Saturday is ever so near now.

Yours,  
 Amy.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
 (Reference L DIAJ/57B)

'Thanks most awfully for your letter. You do  
 write such ripping ones. I feel quite ready now  
 for a hard morning's work. Am just going out to  
 the river with my books.'

10 Jun 1925





Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/58)

10 Jun 1925

Sheffield,  
Thursday, 11th June.

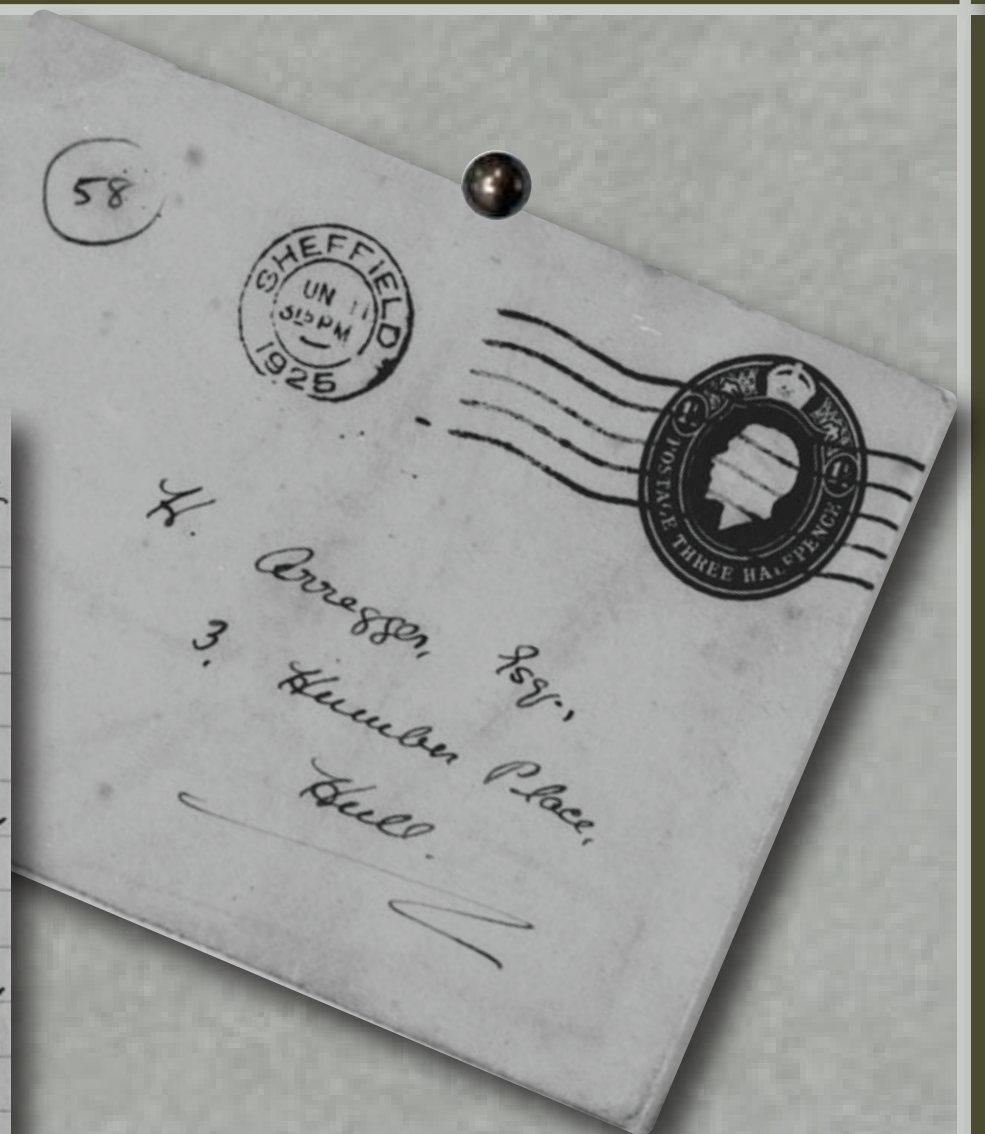
Dearest Hans,

Am writing this in the G.P.O.  
else I'm afraid you wouldn't get one. It's an  
awful nuisance the post in N'say being  
8-20 when I don't get in till 6.

Your letter this morning made me feel  
quite cheerful and ready for anything -  
except the Latin paper we got. It was a  
brute really. And I couldn't nearly finish  
in the 3 hours. Have only 2 more now.  
It's a good thing 'co I'm feeling hopelessly  
fed up. Forgot to take Koko this morning, &  
it made a lot of difference. Have had no  
energy today.

I'm not sending you any photo 'co I've  
got a nice surprise for your birthday. But  
you'll have to wait a bit for it.

Do work hard now & then we'll go to  
Scarboro' & all over, shall we? Am looking  
forward awfully to coming back.  
Chat French tomorrow!! I remain, darling, Yours, Amy.





59



BRIT  
EXH  
MAY



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

59A

Thursday, 4.45 p.m.

Hans, darling,  
You've really no idea how absolutely rotten I'm feeling. Everything has gone wrong today. The Latin exam. was awful, and I was so lost in contemplation of the paper, wondering how they dared to set just the pieces I didn't know, that I didn't notice what I was doing with my hands. When I looked away from the paper I noticed that ink was everywhere. - my hands, frock, handkerchief, exam. paper - oh, it was a mess. It had been leaking evidently, & I was playing about with it not noticing. my frock is quite spoilt - the brown one.

In the afternoon I missed the 2.22 train so as to do some shopping, & then I found out it

2.

was Thursday, so I'd to just waste time till 5.30, the next train. After I'd written to you from the General I strolled down to the station & when I got there found the train had gone. my watch had stopped en route. So I'd to waste time again till 6.25. It's nearly 8 o'clock & I've all my work to start. Can't possibly get through half it so I'm writing to you.

I'm realising that it's very bad for me to rely so much on you, 'cos I find I'm not so independent as I think I am. Whenever anything goes wrong I always want to dash to you at once or else tell you.

Have got a frightful headache & my eyes ache, & it's that awful

3.

or at least tomorrow.

The only nice thing today is the surprise I've arranged for you, & you may not even like it. It would be a blow.

I just feel now as tho' I want to talk to someone & feel I can lean on them. - & I'm all by myself. I think I shall have a rough time of it if I go somewhere right away for a job, don't you? It takes me a long time to make friends.

If only tomorrow were over - then I can come to you any time & tell you all my troubles and worries. - till I go away.

Goodbye, darling,

Amy

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/59 & 59A)

'You've really no idea how absolutely rotten I'm feeling. Everything has gone wrong today. The Latin exam was awful, and I was so lost in contemplation of the paper, wondering how they dared to set just the pieces I didn't know, that I didn't notice what I was doing.'

12 Jun 1925





59B

University of Sheffield Union of Students.



UNION REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT - E. W. J. NICHOLSON.  
SECRETARY - E. H. MANDER.

THE UNIVERSITY,  
SHEFFIELD.

*Tuesday, 1.45 p.m.*

There was a P.C. from Mother this morning  
to say she is coming to Varsity at 5 so that  
we can go back night. I don't think it  
possible, & I've already arranged to go out. So I'll  
probably persuade her to ~~come~~ stay the night &  
well come back in the morning. It's just  
possible I may stay Sat. as well & come back  
Sunday on the back of a motor-bike. Will  
ring up when I get home. Don't you bother.

Mrs. Storey, 324 Outback Rd.

Hope you get through your work.  
The oral French was a nightmare. I had that  
odious Mr. Mander that I hate & he made it  
awful. Don't feel like going to an exam. now  
but I must.

*Yours, Amy.*

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/59B)

'Hope you got through your work.  
The over spend was a nightmare'

n.d. [1925]





(60)

43, Hensforth Avenue,

Tuesday, 5.15 p.m.

Darling,

I wonder how you've got on in Lpl and Manchester - hope things were better than you anticipated. Am looking forward ever so much to your coming over - but you won't like me as a bit as I am now - haven't one single spare of energy. Last night Mollie and I were playing on the sands, so having no reserve energy I feel utterly exhausted today. Have been asleep all the afternoon. I lay down on the bed after lunch just to please Mother & I fell asleep & slept till 4.30. Have just been out to get a crab. Mollie is a dreadful person to sleep with - she kicks & pulls all the bedclothes off - last night she fell out of bed with a terrific thud. - So I don't get much sleep at night.

Pardon this atrocious coloured note paper, but it's all there seems to be.

It's awfully nice to have Toblerone to eat on the sands. You are a dear really.

(60)

2.

There seem to be quite a lot of nice things to do in Brid. now, but I don't know a soul in the place, so I'll content myself with lying on the sands all day. Must go to the station now to meet Mollie so shall have a lot of parcels.

This afternoon I suddenly remembered I forgot to settle up with you about that £1. Never thought of it over & don't know what made me think of it when I did. Do remind me when I see you next.

Come on Thursday if you can, would you?

Beaucoup d'amour,

Amy.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/60)

'I wonder how you've got on in Lpl and Manchester - hope things were better than you anticipated. Am looking forward ever so much to your coming over...'

17 Jun 1925



(61)

43, Hensforth Av.  
Thurs. 6.45 p.m.

Dearest Hans,

What a pity you're not here. The sky's a brilliant blue & the sun's shining gloriously. The sea was wonderful this afternoon - huge green waves and white foam - high tide & coming right over the wall. I have a lot of scores to pay off against "Thursday."

It was awfully nice of you to meet Mollie at the station & send me the magazine & letter. I'm awfully keen on "Punch" - it's really humorous & not silly.

I was terribly disappointed this afternoon - didn't realise I was looking forward to your coming so much till I knew you couldn't come. Went on the Spa all by myself & was in a very bad temper. It was such a shame you

(61)

Love, Amy.

want you here as soon as possible.

2.  
had to be in Hull when it was so beautiful here, & I wanted you here & you wanted to come - yes? - and then it's Thursday - all day!!

Mollie & I are just going for a run. Mother went to Elsie Cartwright's wedding in Horsea today. She said it was an awfully pretty wedding. - & Horsea was in great style.

I do wish you were here 'cos it's so lovely, & it would make you feel so much better. You haven't given me any promise about beer, & you're perfectly free to drink as much as you want - but I absolutely mean what I said about it. - little friendly warning, you know.

Please yourself about coming by train on Sat. if it's wet, but I

BRIDLINGTON  
6. 30 AM  
19 JUN 25

(61)



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

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/61)

'What a pity you're not here. The sky's a brilliant blue & the sun's shining ferociously.'

19 Jun 1925



Obtained B.A. at Sheffield  
University

85, Park Avenue,  
Hull.

20th July, 1925.

1701, "Wail",

Hull.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your advertisement of the 20th inst. I beg to state that I am 22 years of age, and have received a course of commercial training at Woods' College, Hull. I am really fond of office work, and you would find I always try to do everything thoroughly and accurately.

My shorthand speed is 90 w.p.m. verbatim, but I am quite experienced in dealing with correspondence from a few notes only, having had 2 years' experience at Sheffield University in handling the Students' Social correspondence. My typewriting speed is 48 w.p.m. Salary 25/- or thereabouts.

Yours truly,

Amy Johnson.

# Letter from Amy Johnson applying for a post [unknown] (Reference L DIAJ/61A)

With reference to your advertisement of the 20th inst. I beg to state that I am 22 years of age and have received a course of commercial training at Woods' College, Hull.'

20 Jul 1925







thing had to be explained,  
my chocolates eaten, drawers  
opened & ransacked, scent  
sprayed all over her.  
She's not left me since  
I came, except to go to bed.  
(Please excuse my writing,  
I'm frozen, - we don't  
appear to go in for fires  
here - Mrs. Radison can't  
get good help, so she  
manages with as little  
work as possible - hence  
no fire in kitchen = no  
hot water. Don't know  
if I'll ever get a hot bath)  
After she's gone to bed  
I sit in an easy chair

her nursemaid. Only instead  
of my being paid for the  
post, I'm paying for the  
privilege. I don't think I can  
stand it long, but perhaps  
as I get fatter I'll get  
less nervous & worry, as  
fat people are supposed to  
be placid, aren't they, when  
their nerves get so much  
glad over them that things  
can't penetrate. She was  
at the station to meet me,  
immediately I got in  
chattered & chattered &  
chattered. Helped me  
unpack - every single

& then she'll be perfectly satisfied.  
But I wait answer for the  
state of my mind. But it  
doesn't matter what my mind  
like so long as I'm fat, &  
eat & eat!  
You may understand  
how I'm feeling, & you  
may laugh as everybody  
else would. Anyway, I'll  
try & tell you. The house  
is beautiful, the garden  
beautiful, the furniture  
artistic, Mrs. & Mrs. Radison  
perfectly kind & placid &  
old. The child - but  
that's when my doubts  
come in. She's 5' - I'm

"Knipsmead",  
Knipso Rd.,  
East Avenue,  
Bournemouth  
Wed, 12.30 p.m.  
Darling,  
I want to write to you  
& yet I don't want to say  
anything, because it won't  
better things to brood over  
them. I don't quite know  
what's going to happen - must  
just make myself wait &  
see. Why do mothers think  
that the only thing on  
earth to make an ill person  
perfectly well is to eat,  
eat, eat!!! Oh yes, she  
needn't worry, I'll eat right  
enough. I'll come back fat

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/62)

'I want to write to you & yet I don't want to say anything, because it  
won't better things to brood over them'.

7 Oct 1925



5.

& listened to the wireless. - Oh,  
I went out with Mrs. Edison,  
called on a friend of hers. -  
All old & kind. I wonder  
if I'll meet anybody my  
own age - am sure I won't.  
They said they didn't know  
any. But it doesn't matter -  
I'll get fat, hugely fat. -  
Oh, I'll eat. That's what  
I'm here for. Why come  
to Beaumont to eat?

I can't tell you about  
the place, 'coz I haven't seen  
it yet. It looks huge. -  
bigger than Hell, Mrs. Edison  
says.

I took Buntly out this  
morning - in my capacity as

6.

nursemaid. - we went to the Pine  
woods. They're beautiful. I  
had to take my hat off & fill  
it with moss, grass, pine  
cones, etc. & my pockets will  
acorn & leather. Pity I can't  
even have one cool & hat in  
peace.

I expect we shall go out  
in the car this afternoon,  
if it keeps fine. Mrs.  
Edison's dreadfully nervous.  
We go delightfully slowly.  
Never mind, I'm looking  
forward to eating a huge  
dinner. Wish I had that  
bottle of cocktail to give  
me an appetite.

What a little fool I

7.

was to imagine for a minute I  
should go to a hydro, & to  
get pretty frocks.

Buntly is very sweet &  
"perfectly good" as her parents  
say. But I don't know  
exactly what will happen  
to me. I can't even  
cry - "Am I crying &  
what for?" - "Oh no, it's  
a cold I've got."

What shall I do,  
darling? How can I  
stand a whole month of  
it. Oh, I can't. And  
this is my holiday. But  
just to eat. I'd an egg  
for breakfast - don't suppose





8  
I could get eggs in a Hydro.  
- & lots of tea, as much  
as I can drink.

I know I'm talking before  
I've been here long enough  
to judge, but I can see  
so plainly what it's going  
to be like. I could see  
before I came, but nobody  
else would. I'll get food  
& rest in super-abundance,  
but as for peace - that's  
a joke. Dinner's come  
in now - lamb - doesn't  
it wake your mouth water?  
Mr. & Mrs. Addison are  
looking for a house. I, of  
course, must help them in their  
search. Must restful.

Oh, I am ungrateful, & it's  
rotten of me to write to  
you like this, but you've  
no idea how I'm feeling  
now. It's all stimulating.  
How can I ~~be~~ be myself  
when I've everlastingly  
to pretend.

I've just eaten a big  
dinner, & then Mrs. Addison  
said "Oh, you'll soon get  
an appetite when you've been  
here a bit." - - - ?

We both forgot about  
the cigarettes. It was  
awfully nice of you to think

to do.  
We're just going out to  
look for a house.

Hope you're not  
hissing in to mind -  
I mean. I hope you  
don't miss me, but that  
you're not sad - I  
want you awfully.

All my love,  
Clary

of it. - getting them for me,  
I mean. But there's no  
chance to shake them  
for me. So will you shake  
them for me?  
Hope you get on well  
in Lpt.

X X X X X X X X  
17) D. P. 10  
(Daddy writes on my  
writing paper & adding to  
contribution).  
Do please write ever  
so quickly & tell me when



(63)

Bournemouth.

Friday 4.15 pm.

Oh, darling, at last, at last,  
I'm quite alone. I'm happy  
for the moment, - not nearly  
perfectly, - but still, happy.  
There's a glorious fire of pine  
logs, pine trees outside,  
sunshine, fresh air coming in  
through wide open windows,  
lovely music on the wireless  
loud speaker, an easy chair,  
Toblerone & a most delightful  
sympathetic letter from my  
own darling. But they'll be  
back anytime now, & even the  
thought spoils this precious peace.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/63)

'Oh darling, at last, I'm quite alone. I'm happy for  
the moment, not nearly perfectly but still, happy.'

9 Oct 1925

(63)

2.

And I feel somewhat guilty  
because I really ought to be  
in bed - so the Doctor  
thinks - or in the fresh  
air, as all sensible people  
think. Anyway, I'm enjoying  
the lovely heat from the fire  
& can see the lovely  
view & feel the fresh air  
from the windows. If only  
you were here - just you  
& I, in one of these  
topping houses near the pine-  
woods with such jolly  
gardens - roses are in  
every garden in abundance, &  
Bunty & I gathered a large bundle  
of sweet-peas in the garden of

(63)

Postmark  
9 Oct 1925

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





3.  
(63) a house for sale we discovered this morning.

The family have all gone shopping in the car. I stuck to my determination to stay in, tho' they obviously thought I'd be bored stiff by myself. Buntz firmly announced she would also stay in with us, but the kind Lord was sorry for my nerves getting tied up into such a tangled muddle, & mamma decreed that Buntz must go out with them as it would do her more good than "poning over the fire". I didn't tell that move me, so here I am.

4.  
(63) already feeling better for this hour of peace than for all the time since I came.

I shall have to write to you every day, else I'll lose count of them. It took me a long time to calculate it was Friday to-day.

Mrs. Radson had a letter from mother this morning & mother says she's not to let me go "gadding about" but just to eat & rest. Please assure her she needn't worry. There's no chance to go "gadding about". I'm not allowed to go out by myself - I might lose the way. Buntz or

5.  
(63) Daddy must take me.

Perhaps, as you say, in a few days things won't seem so bad. I'm glad you didn't use the old phrase "get used to them" - I'll get used to them easily enough. The sole subjects of conversation are - houses, tennis courts, & the perfection of their children. Why, darling, do parents bore everyone around with an everlasting recital of their children's virtues or vices, as the case may be. These children are all perfection. Jack is a darling boy - 13, at Cheltenham College - sings in the



6.  
(63) choir. Nancy, 11, pretty & fond of housework. Jill, 7, a tomboy. Buntly, 5, perfectly good, no doubt, you'd hardly know she was in the house, a budding Packerman & Pavlovna. That's the family in a nutshell. Mr. & Mrs. Addison both have a habit of telling you the same piece of information 3 or 4 times over as a great item each time. You never hear anyone talk so much as Mr. Addison. It's far too much of an effort to attempt to follow him. I don't by now, because I quickly found he prefers to hold the floor, & my opinions,

7  
(63) even when asked for one heard listened to. I try to say Yes & No in their proper places, but even Buntly notices I say them wrongly sometimes. Mr. Addison's craze now is to get a house where he can make a hard tennis court, & get his money back by forming a tennis club. The advantage is that the children will have the use of it when the members are not using it. This morning we spent examining the hard courts in this district, measuring them with a tape measure & chatting to the grounds-

8  
(63) man. He stops people in motor-cars before hours "For Sale" & talks for hours. I think I'll carry a little stool & knitting round with me. Bournemouth is an enormous place. Were miles from the sea here. It's funny to think that it is a seaside place at all. Here, it's a type of Audley Park Estate, only much more beautiful. Flowers & trees in abundance, green red fungi like umbrellas - hawk person - huge waving grasses & ferns everywhere. There are no two houses alike anywhere round





10  
② here, but they're all beautiful. Beautiful styles, lovely gardens. But the prices - £3000 is £20,000. As Miss. Edison says, money doesn't mean happiness, but it does make the wheels go round.

Oh, but what a long letter I've written you. Please don't be bored. Everything's so lovely just now, the peace & the music & warmth. I'd rather spend the time writing to you than anything else.

Darling, don't you ever have the slightest ambition to live in a beautiful house - not

10  
③ big, but beautiful - surrounded by beautiful things, with lovely scenery & music, & a beautiful wife to look after you & make everything happy & gay. You're not beautiful enough, but perhaps I'd do if I'd very pretty frocks.

The most beautiful picture in this house is a view which looks like a bit of Switzerland, but it hasn't got a hill. I only feel it's Switzerland, 'cos it's beautiful.

I don't want to finish writing, but 10 pages are an awful lot for you to read.

Please write me another

Your letter only arrives this afternoon. I'd nearly given it up for 10-day. But I shall have written to you in any case.

11.  
④ lovely letter, & tell me you miss me & love me & what a gorgeous time will have when we go to Switzerland.

I'll go to bed if I think I ought to, but I don't need to feel, really.

Mother says she wanted for you to come off the platform, so she could run you down to the office, but you never came. She is a dear, but I wish she'd realise I eat more at home than anywhere else, so if taking all there is in life I'd have done better to have stayed at home.

The penny is for thought. Goodbye darling, lots of kisses, Jimmy

⑤ P.S.

I forgot to tell you about the wedding cake. Mrs. Edison had a piece sent her yesterday from Hull, & she gave me it to ~~eat~~ put under my pillow last night, then, as the popular superstition goes, the person you dream of you're destined to marry. I didn't dream of anyone, so I'm awfully sorry, but you'll have to stay a bachelor. Do you mind?

I've got a huge mosquito bite on my leg. You wouldn't like the shape at all. {/}





**Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger**  
(Reference L DIAJ/64)

Envelope only

11 Oct 1925





N.B. The bus takes the rain in  
route from Liverpool.

(65)

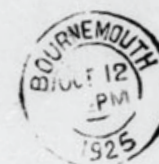
Bournemouth,  
Monday. 3.30 p.m.

Darling.

I wonder why it is that  
this precious peace I'm always trying  
to find is always just out of  
reach & hiding round the corner,  
as 'twere.

Mrs. & Mrs. Addison have  
almost decided on a house, & now  
seem to spend nearly all their  
time here. (We're there now). -  
interviewing builders, measuring,  
timing the distance to the cars,  
school, sea, etc. I couldn't say  
I preferred to stay in this  
afternoon when they informed me  
they would drive round by the  
sea-front specially for me. Any-  
way I elected to find the sea  
while they interviewed builders  
etc. We've found it - Barty  
had to come as well. She  
follows me everywhere & still  
insists on annoying me & calling

(65)



H. Arregger. Esq.,  
3, Humbers Place,  
HULL.

me Auntie Emily. It's simply  
lovely down here - blue sea, blue  
sky, sunshine, yellow sands, bright  
yellow cliffs & up to a few  
moments ago - peace. how it's -  
"Jeremy, come & put your hat on."  
"Jeremy, where's the towel," - then  
an awful race to find the towel.  
Mamma shrieks into the air for  
Lissie, who presumably is on the  
top of the cliff, (which is twice the  
height of Beuppton cliffs). It's a  
huge family of fat women,  
nursemaids, children, etc. the most  
tiresome of whom seems to be  
Jeremy. Her's miles of sand, &  
they've planted themselves about  
3 feet from us. I wonder if it  
would look very noticeable if  
we flitted. Jeremy's howling now.

It was lovely to have your  
letter this morning. To read it  
traps of time. Couldn't under-  
stand the "platform mystery"  
for ages or why my ears should

Letter from Amy Johnson  
to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/65)

'I wonder why it is that this  
precious peace I'm always  
trying to find is always just  
out of reach & hiding round  
the corner...'

12 Oct 1925



(65)

2.

hugle. It suddenly dawned at the 3rd reading. I wonder if you did go to 85, 'co Mollie tells me Irene & Teddy were there for tea, - on coming - she didn't mention you, but of course her letter would probably have been finished before you came - if you did.

The ride along the sea-front was lovely - a promenade about 3 miles long, lined with tiny bungalows. We passed the "Osborne" that Grandma mentioned - it looks a topping place & is in a most delightful position - in the centre of everything. Where Mr. & Mrs.

Addison live. It's difficult to imagine you're near the sea at all. I think I'd have liked to be at the Osborne. It would have been nice to have been here a fortnight & have a jolly week at

a gay hotel. If only I hadn't got that wretched evening frock, I'd be much happier. I feel I must wear it as I've got it, but curiously enough I'm not very keen to go to any dances. I'd rather save the money & spend it in Switzerland, wouldn't you. Are we really honestly, truly going?

Both of us together? Are you quite, quite sure? Oh no, I shan't want to be in Bournemouth, not for a single minute. I don't want to go back to Mrs.

Hall's. - I want to be able to earn more money & then we can both save & pool it. Shall we? But Father says that if I have pupils & get more than I was ~~now~~ getting before, I can't keep it. Isn't that a blow? I shall have to hand it over to him to pay for living at home.

3.

(65)

The sun's gone quite in. Isn't it a pity. It's only 4 o'clock & they said they wouldn't be ready to go till 5 or 5.30 & that probably means 6.30, as it usually is. We haven't had tea yet before 7.30, then we have tea & supper in one. Wouldn't poor Mother have a fit - 1 o'clock to 7.30 will absolutely nothing in between. I never want anything at that hour. Don't like meals in the evening. I've stayed in every evening since I came. Am not allowed to go out, & can't be bothered to insist.

This month will soon be over - a week of it's gone already & I shall have to come home on a Saturday ready to begin work on the Monday. Father won't let me say anything to Mr. Hall - it does seem beastly unfair to me.





But maybe it is better to wait a bit & then write & tell him a docto how orders me to stay longer. Anyway, we shall see.

(Jeremy's fallen down the cliff).

I've not stayed in bed at all. It would have been ridiculous. I've never been let off so lightly since the wretched habit began. If it were always no worse than this I shouldn't grumble. There's time yet for it to get worse, but four days have gone already - nearly five. dunc. Satsai thinks it's the change of air.

It's awfully cold now & only 4.15. What shall I do till 5.30. I'm awfully glad I brought my writing pad, because I thought I might get a chance to write you a few lines. I'm writing a lot, specially for you to read in the train.

(65)

I won't write any more now, 'cos I'm cold & the sun's gone in & I don't feel at all cheerful. & it's an awful shame for you to have to read boring stuff. Well write some more when I get in. The post doesn't go till 7.45. I do love you, darling, & I adore you to call me nice names.

6 p.m. - later.

Still looking at houses. I'm frozen & tired out & more or less hungry. & have got a headache. Am as usual looking after Bundy & she's banging up & down. I positively refused to get out & look at another house. Oh dear. Why are Mother & Father so deadily keen on my being with relations! I would love to do something exciting. If only you were here & we could go out to dinner or something. They're coming now.

1/2 hour later.

It wasn't them coming after all. They're still in, & it's only half a house. I'm frozen & tired to death of sitting waiting for them. Oh, what a life. Another 3 weeks. I'm always going to put colour on my cheeks in future, then no one will think I'm ill. Here they are.

7.20 p.m.

I've just finished tea & excused myself in order to finish a letter for the post. - I'll escape clearing away now. They're no wait, & there's quite a lot to do. how I must try & find something more cheerful to tell you. I'm quite warm now & not hungry, but I've still a bad headache. Wish you were here to kiss it away & look



(65)

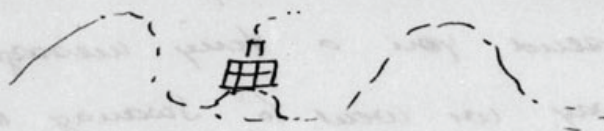
after me. I'll have absolutely forgotten what it's like to be looked after by the time I come home.

I can't remember when I wrote to you last & whether I told you about going to Swanage.

I think it was Saturday we went, but I get so mixed up with the days. I wrote yesterday to Mother & Father & Betty, so that was why I only had time to send you a tiny message.

Anyway, we went to Swanage one day - took our lunch with us, & had a lovely time - except coming back. The drive there was topping - I think you'd love this country - soft rounded hills, fir trees everywhere & beautiful colour schemes. The soil is sandy

& yellow, & the trees lovely shades of greens & browns. The hedges were full of blackberries - great big juicy ones. Berty & I went a walk to see a ruined castle - Long's Castle - awfully romantic, but utterly spoilt by palings round, guides & entrance fees. I said it a shame! There are high hills each side & the castle is on a small knoll between them.



The moats been made into the road, & there's the quaintest village close by - houses 500 yrs. old, with the stairs outside, like they used to be there. It's the district where Thomas Hardy wrote "Less of the d'Urbervilles". It'd love

6.

(65)

to explore by myself, when there are no other people there at all, & pretend I lived in the times when the castle was flourishing. You'd be my knight, of course, & kill nasty dragons (dragons, etc.) & then we'd be married & live happily ever after.

I do love to hear you talk about Switzerland, but not when I can't go. How that I know you're going - we are, aren't we, darling? - I want to know everything you can tell me about it. And you mustn't run down England, 'cos you haven't seen the best parts yet. I haven't, but I want to more & more when I know it's not all like that & district. If you had your bits here we shouldn't have to wonder when to go to. It's lovely country, & the





see Steve's lots & lots.

I'm glad you went to the Little Theatre & enjoyed it. I want you to have a nice time whilst I'm away. - But you can't really enjoy yourself without us, can you, darling? - Do say you can't.

About the Ed. & Phil. dance - don't you think it would be best to take Mrs. Peris & give her a good time - after all, it must be pretty rotten for her wanting to go to things & not having somebody nice like you to take her always. And then you can take Madeleine to another dance, instead of us. I shan't mind awfully - just a wee bit. And then you'll be giving them both a good time. Please, darling mine.

I must dash for this post now. I'd better post it by this one.

(65)

Y.

'cos if I wait till tomorrow you may not get it by the first post on Wed. & then if you go by that early train, you'd have nothing to read. I'll probs write a bit more tomorrow & anyway I'll try & have a letter waiting for you when you come back.

I must run,

All my love & lots of kisses & every success in Spl. Write quickly, darling.

Quay



**Letter from Amy Johnson  
to Hans Arregger**  
(Reference L DIAJ/66)

'I've just read my precious letter again, darling & I notice now that you're only setting off for Lpl at 2 o'clock on Wed & I've sent you a nasty, long, disconnected letter...'

13 Oct 1925

*aussi pour le train.*

(66)

*Monday, later still.  
11 p.m.*

I've just read my precious letter again, darling, & I notice now that you're only setting off for Lpl at 2 o'clock on Wed. - & I've sent you a nasty, long, disconnected letter - as I remember it, - I hadn't time to read it through - & you'll get it tomorrow & will probably want to read it straight away (you do want to read my letters right off, don't you, darling?) & you'll keep it till Wed. for the train & then you'll probably be disappointed. What a shame. I'm awfully sorry I didn't notice before & I'd read it through at least 6 times before I wrote the last letter. But I always gallop through to find the nice bits,

(66)



*Hans Arregger. Esq.,  
3, Kumber Place,  
HULL.*

(They're playing "Tea for Two" on the Wireless - it's jolly nice - just the piano - now it's finished & he's playing Chopin's Waltz in C#.)

What do you mean in your letter by "everything would be better or living for is so far away" & that "pleasure never seems to be at home." - & you say it right on top of agreeing with my picture of a home. - By the way, the homes I always picture, are never in Hull - they're always in Switzerland. It's quite possible I shall be disappointed if - so, when I go, but I don't think so, because I think it will be more beautiful than even I imagine it. (It's the first time now on the wireless, so I'll go to bed. You don't like wireless - merely because nearly everyone raves over it, isn't it? - but there is lovely music on it sometimes. This is beautiful) Goodnight  
Amy, darling.





(66)

2. Tues. 12.45 p.m.

Your letter has just arrived - it was a lovely one. I specs you'll be getting mine about now - I wonder if you will wait till tomorrow to read it. - hope not, 'coz here's another for the same, & you'll want some time to read your paper.

What a pity it was wet in this yesterday. it was glorious here. To-day is rather dull tho', & it might probs rain this afternoon - hope not, 'coz Mrs. Addison & I are going "shop muddling" (as she calls it) & then to the Theatre to see some people. I hate being dragged through shops after shop examining cheap jugs, children's hats, etc. etc. & I hate reviews. But one must appear grateful in spite of all. Rather wearing, isn't it? However, I'm getting more or less resigned now. Have just finished ironing.

I had a wash-day yesterday. - heard cheaper than laundries. Can you imagine Irene washing her own stockings! She spends about 5/- per week on Laundry. There's one thing about being here - I'm spending far less money than I should have done in a Hydro, aren't I? My greatest extravagance so far is writing paper & stamped envelopes. I wonder if Irene would like to buy my evening frock - don't think so, 'coz she had green last year. - almost the same shade.

Mrs. Addison showed me the house of an American millionaire, who complains about not knowing what to do with all his money. He's got the most wonderful house. I think I'll go & see him. - ask him if he wants a secretary to show him how to spend his money. I'd ask him for enough for myself & friends (that's you) to travel all round

3.

(66)

the world. Wouldn't we have a wonderful time. I don't want to go by myself - am too fond of being looked after. You've spoiled me utterly in that way.

When you go to Liverpool look out for a top-hole job for me, & then I'll take it & you have an office there, & then I'll prob'ly not go to America. We'd have some fun together, wouldn't we, darling?

You're not to keep going without lunch as you're so fond of doing. It would be all right if you weren't doing so much brain-work. If my mother were your mother she'd say you were starving yourself to keep thin (isn't it a funny idea?), but I know better. If Mr. Williams doesn't offer enough attractions to induce you to come home



to lunch, it's time you had a move  
I don't like you being in that flat-  
never did, did I? I don't think  
it at all good for you to live  
so much on top of your work.  
It's a rotten neighborhood, & nothing  
pretty either outside or in. If  
you could only see the lovely  
views I have now from these  
windows & then compare it with  
your views. You are funny to  
have had such beauty as there is  
in Switzerland, & then placidly  
be able to do without it.

Have just had a top-hole  
lunch. I've actually enjoyed  
steamed fish, potatoes & parsley  
sauce. & came back over. - Simply  
delish at home. And the other  
day I came back for rice  
pudding! Mother would think I  
was being starved for such a  
thing to happen, but I really

(66)

4.  
enjoyed it. - Covered with thick  
cream, it was. Mrs. Addison is  
an awfully good cook - she  
realises how a whole meal can  
be spoiled by "bill-stickers" sauce,  
& it is these little things that she  
excels. She's going to show me  
how to make nice sauces, etc.  
I'm really interested when one is  
learning to cook nice things, but  
what pleasure is there in making  
things no one enjoys. I want to  
be able to cook nicely for somebody  
I love lots & lots. (if that somebody  
still wants me as much as before).

It's time now to get ready for  
"shop-muddling". - The sun is  
coming out. I hope you have a  
good time in Liverpool, but you  
mustn't forget about me. Am  
looking forward to the long letter  
tomorrow. Good luck, darling.  
Yours, May.





(67)

Bournemouth.

Wed. 1.45 p.m.

You'll be on your way to the station now, darling, & here am I in bed! Isn't it disgraceful! I've stopped in bed a whole morning so that I could have the afternoon to myself. They've been going out ever since first thing this morning, but have only just got off. Never saw a family who took so long getting ready. I'm a streak of lightning compared with them.

When I've written these few lines to you I'll get up & go & explore. Won't that be jolly! - I don't mean shops - they're all closed on Wednesdays.

We went to the Hippodrome last night - a vile show. Never mind, Mr. & Mrs. Addison are most awfully kind & Berty's a dear little thing now I can stand her

chattering better.

The long letter you promised me hasn't come yet. Perhaps you hadn't time after all. - But it's been nice of you to find time to write me so many already.

Mr. & Mrs. Addison have almost decided on a house, & they intended to spend the whole day there to-day - it's unfinished & they want to plan improvements. I pretended to fall asleep again, but they were such ages & ages getting off that I had to wake up. But I asked them not to wait for me as I'd like a quiet day resting, & tho' they didn't want to leave me by myself at last they've gone, & here I am! - in bed still!!

You won't get this till you come back from Liverpool, so I hope you've had a good time &

Private

(67)



Hans Arregger, Esq.,  
3, Hunter Place,  
HULL.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/67)

'You'll be on your way to the station now darling & here I am in bed! Isn't it disgraceful!'

14 Oct 1925



ever call me "insipid" - would be  
as bad as "vaine" - detestable  
epithet!!!)

When I'm lying in bed, starting,  
or leaning back in a chair, & I  
move my head round, when it gets  
in a certain position (left side of  
the back) everything swims just  
as tho' I were going to faint.  
It is a weird feeling & not at  
all nice. - makes me feel a bit  
frightened. Do you think it is any-  
thing? ~~It's~~ It's not fancy. I  
just turn my head round, &  
suddenly feel awfully giddy. Isn't  
it funny. I've experienced it lots  
of times. This morning I moved  
my head purposely to find the position  
in which I had the feeling, but  
it didn't come every time.

I must lie down now & get  
warm, 'cos my hands are frozen  
& I feel a wee bit giddy. Haven't

(67)

3.

got a "lovely natural flush" yet  
on my cheeks, but I don't feel so  
deadly tired as I always do in  
Hull. It will be dreadful to  
come back to that climate again.  
The sun's shining gloriously today.  
I must get up & go out.

Goodbye, darling, look after  
yourself. & don't go without your  
lunch any more. If only you  
were here, it would be gorgeous.

Write quickly, please, & tell  
me lots more nice things, in  
French. (like you did one night  
at home).

Lots & lots of love,

Amy.

Sorry this isn't a very nice letter, but  
I'm cold.







Bournemouth.  
Friday. 4.30pm.

It seems a long time since I wrote to you, darling, but it's not, is it? I think it's 'cos your letters take such a long time to come - of course, mine will as well, will they? When you post them late at night I get them first post two days later. It was lovely to get the one this morning that you posted on Dec. night. You do send me such nice ones. I'm not sorry how that I'm not in a hurry or having an "exciting" time, as you seem to like it better as things are now.

I've had even such a busy day - sewing. Had breakfast at 10 a.m., got up at 11, - did some shopping for Mrs. Johnson, & have since

been sewing the white blouse on my blue dress - (the brown one dyed). Am just going to press it. -

6 p.m.

My frock does look awfully smart. - I think you'll like it - hope so, 'cos when you don't like anything, it takes all the pleasure out of wearing it.

If I'd known you were going to stay at the Adelphi in Sept I'd have been thinking all night & when we <sup>were</sup> there together. As it is, I remember I had an awfully funny dream about you on Dec. night - can't remember what it was - what I could, 'cos I remember waking up & trying to read some significance into it. I really believe in an interpretation of dreams, do you? I don't know what in fortune-telling, - 'cos I

think there must be something rubbing them. The only thing I can remember about this one was that I had that horrible feeling of trying to run & being held back. Haven't dreamt that for ages. And I know you were in it. It's so very very seldom that I dream that the rare occurrences usually make an impression on me.

Do you remember the one I told you about our not being able to be married 'cos I couldn't find the white gloves? I still think it has its significance. Do you?

While I'm on that subject I really feel I ought to warn you. If you value your pocket, stay a bachelor. (I don't think you read such advice, really, - being well aware of the fact.) While looking

round for houses & furniture, I've realised how much I should need to furnish a house. - I don't know how much, but things are so awfully expensive, & especially all the nice things I'd want. I know it's awfully silly of me thinking about such things as furnishing houses, but as houses & so are so much to the fore, I've been indulging my love of furnishing in my imagination.

I'm beginning to feel lots & lots better. - am getting quite energetic. I still stick to my opinion that I need lots of sleep - more than most people. I never get up before 10 or 10.30 & it's often later. Last night I was in bed at 11, & got up this morning at 11, & was so full of

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/68)

'It seems a long time since I wrote to you, darling, but it's not is it?'

17 Oct 1925



(68)

3.

energy that I did some exercises - just because I felt I had to.

I've still plenty left although I've done lots of work & have been dancing with Binky to Wireless music.

I wish you were here, 'cos this is the mood you like me to be in.

But you know, darling, you do sometimes have weird effects on me.

I have realised one effect you have on me, which would sound utter nonsense to you so I won't risk your ridicule by telling you.

But I think if I can remember, it will save you quite a lot of irritation & annoyance.

(I don't irritate you purposely, you know - although sometimes I think you believe so - & perhaps you have reason).

Am awfully glad you're not

Am awfully glad you're not

sorry to lots of dances without me.

I hate to think you would go & have another girl for a partner.

You wouldn't, would you? But that's not fair, 'cos perhaps I would in the circumstances. I don't know.

Anyhow, opportunity's a fair thing. - And it's different with a girl. She is asked & must refuse. A man needn't ask if he doesn't want to.

It has been a miserable day today - raining nearly all the time. (We had lunch at 1 o'clock & haven't had tea yet - is 7.15).

Yesterday Mrs. Stinson, Binky & I spent the day in town looking at shops. We had lunch here.

There are heaps of lovely shops here. You'd be awfully surprised if you could see

Yesterday Mrs. Stinson, Binky & I spent the day in town looking at shops. We had lunch here.

There are heaps of lovely shops here. You'd be awfully surprised if you could see

(69)

4.

the size of Bournemouth. - Wish

you could come over for my last week - but I suppose it's too far, isn't it? - takes a whole day - & then you're

always busy. Am glad to hear you've got the time to

balancing your accounts - that will be a relief to you, won't it?

What would you say if I didn't come back from Bournemouth?

It undoubtedly agrees with me far better than Hull - a wicked place - & I'm getting very fond of Binky. (as you predicted).

I haven't heard from

Heather for quite a bit till I got a P.C. this morning from London.

She says the Rotary dinner was splendid, but doesn't mention a word about her hair. Perhaps

she wants to give me a surprise when I come back. If she doesn't tell me, I'll pretend I don't know.

I can't imagine how it is bobbed. Are you sure you mean bobbed & not shingled?

It's such a babyish style for a grown-up person. However I shall soon see for myself.

Do you realise that if I go back to Mrs. Hall's,

I'll be coming a fortnight tomorrow? The time has

crept glacially. Although I feel lots better, I still get tired awfully quickly.

Tell her I'm coming in the shop yesterday

later in the afternoon. Had to come home. But it's funny that the only times in my life I've ever fainted were from sheer weariness?





(68)

You do send me nice letters, darling, but even then I still want more & more. - That's very greedy, isn't it? But you've no idea how I gallop through the letters for all the nice things. When I read the one about getting fat. for instance, I skip the headline on the whole & therefore of fat. - You don't mind, do you? Please write & tell me what sort of things you think of about me, as well as just telling me you think of me. I want to know all the thoughts that go through your mind - even if they're not very complimentary. Please, darling, tell me.

You forget, didn't you, that I have to pay off my debts

before I can begin to save for Switzerland - & it's not fair for just you alone to save, - when I suggested it, especially. I'd forgotten myself when I thought those things that I shall get no salary this month - might have done if I'd only had the three weeks, but I shan't now. And Father says if I take pupils, I can't keep the money. I must hand it over to pay for my board at home. I'd work day & night if they actually needed the extra money at home. But I don't see much fun in it as things are. And it's Meme's 21st. next month. These things do worry me dreadfully. It means I've just driven to getting money by some means Father won't

(68)

know of, to pay my debts.

Oh well, I'm a beast to worry you like this.

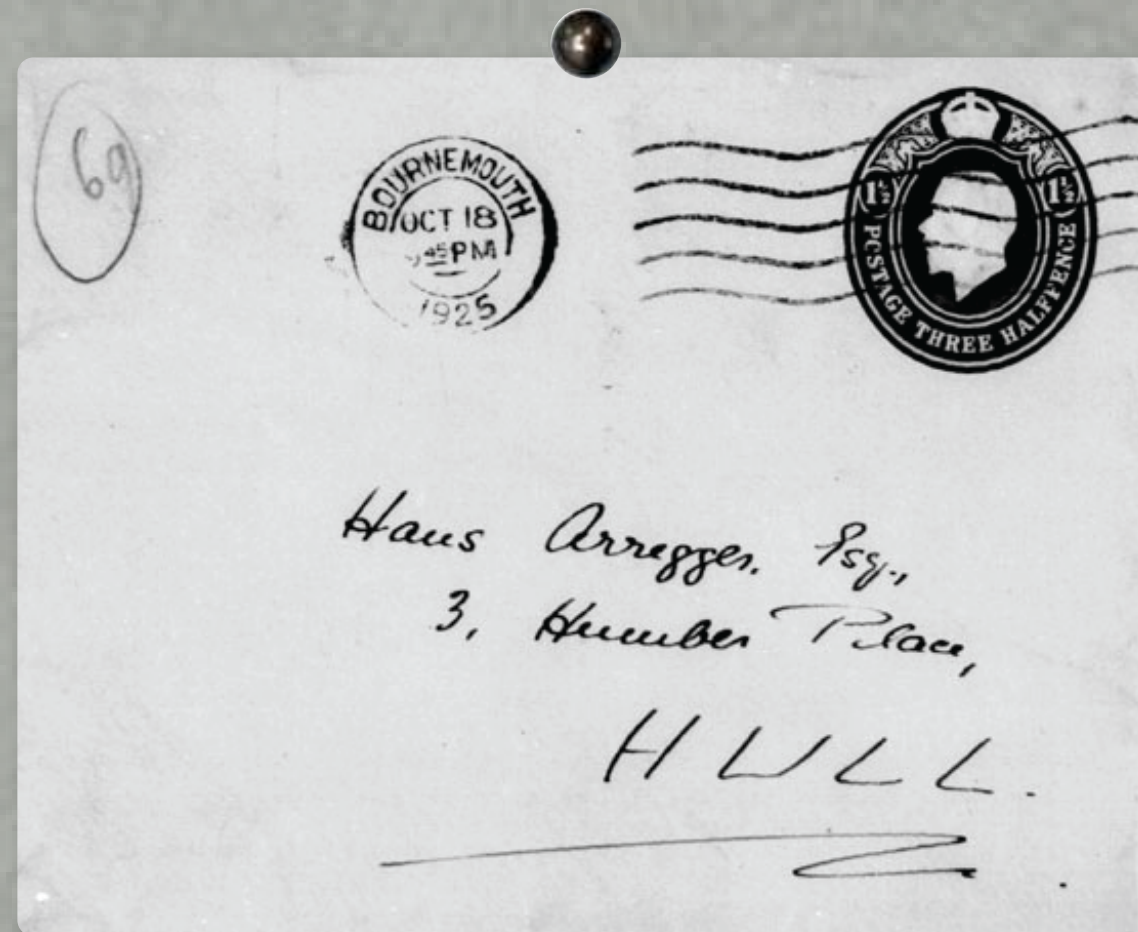
Thankyou so much for your letters & please write me some more quickly. (Dial it would stop raining whilst I go to the post.)

You have all my love, so long as you shall want it.

Yours,

Angie.





**Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger**  
(Reference L DIAJ/69)

Envelope only

18 Oct 1925





(69A)

Saturday.  
11.45 p.m.

Good morning, darling. Have just arrived down in time to see the sun get up at the same time. I hope you'll be disappointed at my laziness, but it seems to be doing me good all the same.

(P.S. I was so sorry I can't tell that letter last night. You would surely be expecting one today & I don't think for a minute you'll get it before Monday. I wrote it in bits - so I can't get any consecutive lines of peace - & finished it on the stroke of 7.45. - That's when the post goes, but the postman rarely comes before 8 to collect the letters. I just slipped my coat on & ran to the pillar-box (can see it from the gate) & dropped the letter in. Then I peered to see for sure that it hadn't gone, & I'm

almost certain it said "8 a.m." The postman must have hurried round more than usual 'cos of the rain. I was fed up, so I could easily have finished it earlier. I do hope you're not very disappointed. (Wouldn't dare to flatter myself you would be, only you do seem to get fed up when there isn't a letter when you expect one, don't you?)

Mrs. Addison remarked last night on whatever I found to put in such a lot of letters. She says there can't be anything in such an uneventful life as this to interest anyone. You're not bored with my letters, are you, darling?

Mrs. Addison is a funny man. He seems to have taken quite a fancy to me - doesn't usually like ladies, his wife says - always calls me "Amy dear" & I brought my breakfast

2.  
up to bed this morning. - He's about 80, darling, so you wouldn't be jealous (tho' I do love you specially when you're jealous) - has a loving wife & 4 children. He & she sleep in separate rooms. - I don't agree with that now, - not so much as before. Your room is nice - two beds in one room. Am I privileged to change my mind?

The rest of the family have gone shopping - as I wasn't up they left me in by myself. Hurrah! We're going to have an early lunch & go a run this afternoon (hope it's not too late - hunting).

Are you going to the Let. & Phil. dance? It's this Tuesday, isn't it? If you go, will you tell me all about it, please.

To like you to go & have a good time, but I do wish I could come with you. Do you?

I do hope you will write to me today or tomorrow even tho' you haven't got a letter from me.

If you get a chance, do read "Told by an Irish" by Rose Macanby. It's splendid, tho' she's apt to repeat herself too often. You might like it, but it's clever, even the less. Will post it to you if you like & then you could take it back to Brownie when you're finished it, or if you don't like it.

Must write to Mums now. I do wish you were here & that we needn't go back to Hull.

Lots of love, Amy.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/69A)

'Good morning darling. Have just arrived down in time to see the sun get up at the same time'

18 Oct 1925



69B

Saturday,  
3.30 p.m.

Darling, it's simply beautiful here. I've again cried off from house-hunting & been exploring. Through the centre of Bournemouth there are beautiful gardens running for four miles. They are full of gorgeous flowers, palms, huge swaying grasses, fountains & a tiny river runs down the centre. I've seen them several times of course but haven't been in them before to-day. I knew the river flowed down to the sea so I followed it & have arrived at the sea also. There's a long promenade lined with cars, bungalows galore, high red cliffs, bright yellow sands,

brilliant sunshine & turquoise blue sea & sky. The sky has bits of white clouds in it, & the sea is rather choppy & the waves edged with foamy white. There are cliffs in the distance & two long piers. I'm sitting in a deck chair (2d.) on the sea-front & admiring everything. It's awfully interesting watching the enormous number of cars & people passing. - It's almost like a motor parade. If only you were here, darling, I'd be perfectly happy. The weather's ideal - hot sunshine & cool fresh breeze. It's a wee bit lonely, (but I'd rather be by myself than display my legs like a girl near me is

doing to try & "pick up" someone. My shoes & stockings look awfully nice, but they're only for you. - This is the nicest pair of stockings I've ever had. Wish I'd got them all like this, but have only this pair.) You've no idea how much I want you here. Could you possibly come for my last week? - It's the train fare alone that is so frightfully expensive - £3/0/6 Tourist Ticket. Never mind, we'll have a perfect time in Switzerland, won't we? If anything prevented our going I'd be bitterly disappointed. You said once I'd never had a real disappointment - You're not planning to test me, are you?

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/69B)

'Darling it's simply beautiful here. I've again cried off from house hunting & been exploring.'

18 Oct 1925





It was a most pleasant surprise to get your letter this morning. Didn't dream for a minute there would be one for me. I simply devoured all the first part, but the bit you wrote last night when you were in a "different mood" made me feel most unaccountably depressed. Can't think why but it made me feel you were writing that bit in a mood where you felt sorry for letting yourself go before. That's not very clear, but I can't explain. I'll read it again.

I've read it again & have still the same feeling. There seems to be just a hint that you would have liked to have gone to the British Legion

3.  
Ball - that you would rather go than go to the lecture. But I can't think that's so; is it, darling? You're not feeling miserable or fed up or ill or anything, are you? You must tell me if you are. Your letters are all about me & mine are all about myself. - I do feel a selfish person when I read them through. Tell me more about yourself for a change. I'd love you to.

Please excuse this paper & pencil. - it's all I have with me, & as usual when I'm happy I'd rather write to you & tell you about it than do anything else.

Don't you think it's time I let Mr. Hall know about my

determination to take an escha week. I think I shall write & tell him the doctor has ordered me to stay here indefinitely, wouldn't you? Father hasn't given me any advice yet. I don't want to go back.

I still feel that sudden giddiness when I move my head into a certain position, but it's not worrying me particularly. It's the suddenness of the sensation that frightens me somewhat.

Haven't any more paper so must stop now. I do wish you were here, darling, & I wish we had a car to explore further. - Just we two. You don't usually make spelling mistakes. - Write some more in French. I love it. The English after it did sound so cold & formal. Write all friend darling.  
All my love, yours, Quinn.



(69C)

Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

Here's another Sunday for you to wonder what to do with yourself. Did poor Mrs. Williams get over the shock of having you in for tea last Sunday? Only one more, darling, or perhaps two (one if I go back to the office, two if I don't) then I shall stay the full month & come home on the Tuesday. Shall you really be awfully glad to have me back again? Do tell me how much you want me back. - You'll have to grow young again then so I'll be full of life & energy.

There are crowds of people here & more coming - what a blow - all old, I've been told. Haven't spoken to anyone my own age since I came to Bournemouth - male or female. Mrs. Addison's entertaining the ladies in the drawing room & I'm in the dining room till tea.

Addison's little friends come. - Don't know what I'll do then. -

After I'd finished writing to you yesterday I went to the Greaves Hotel for tea - there's a Palm Lounge open to non-residents & afternoon teas 1/6. It was even so nice. So select & dainty & the waiters were very attentive. There was a ladies' orchestra. - I think you'd like it. Wish you could take me. - It spoils everything being by myself. After tea I went to the pictures. - Splendid programme. 2/- is nothing here to pay for pictures - 3/6, 2/0, 1/6 & 1/0 are the usual prices. It was a 3 hours' programme. I walked home & went to bed about 11.30 after listening to the wireless - it was a birthday night or something.

2.

Please, darling, don't any more tell me the day after yours written something specially nice to me that you're undecided as to whether to send it or you're not in the same mood to-day. It's awfully disappointing. - If you don't feel in the mood for thinking nice things about me please don't tell me so. Do you feel like that often?

Am going to write to Father now to ask his advice about her. Hall.

Write soon, darling,  
Lots of love,

Amy.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/69C)

'Here's another Sunday for you to wonder what to do with yourself.'

18 Oct 1925





(70)

Monday, 7.30 p.m.

Darling, I've just changed my mind about writing to you to-day. Haven't had a chance before now, & wasn't going to bother, but I don't want you to have a rotten time tomorrow night at the L.L. & Phil. because you've not had a letter from me. I slept very badly last night & made it up this morning, not coming down till 1.30. Immediately after dinner I went to the pictures with Mr. Johnson. - Have only just now finished my tea-supper.

I was so sorry to know you were disappointed during the week-end, but it was rather nice to feel you look forward to my letters so much. - Haven't time to write any more else I'll miss the post like

before, so it's pouring with rain again - Has been all day.

I'll be thinking of you tomorrow night & wishing awfully that I was with you. - Don't like to think that all tomorrow night you'll have your arms round other girls, - & you might even be induced to kiss them like you did at Sheffield.

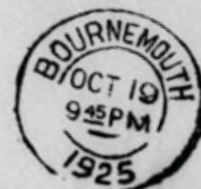
But I hope you have a good time, but not half such a good time as you'd have if I were there. Write & tell me who's your partner & whom you've danced with & everything about it.

Goodbye, dearest,

Don't forget me any of the time, will you, (especially in the taxi coming home).

Yours, Amy.

(70)



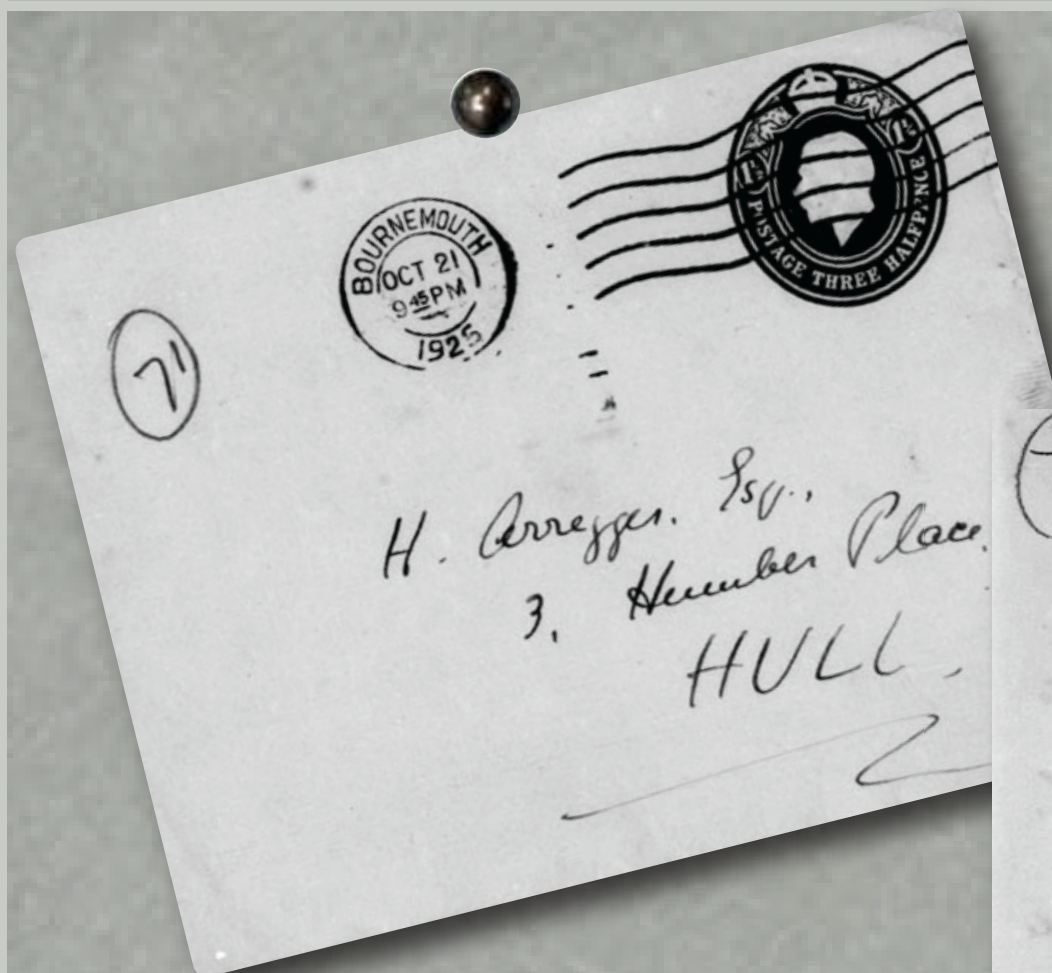
H. Arregger, Esq.,  
H. Chamber Place,  
HULL.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/70)

'Darling, I've just changed my mind about writing to you today.'

19 Oct 1925





Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/71)

'It's utterly impossible to write you a letter today as it was yesterday. I've written you three, but if I send them I shall be sorry tomorrow.'

21 Oct 1925

71

2 p.m.  
Wednesday.

It's utterly impossible to write you a letter to-day as it was yesterday. I've written you three, but if I send them I shall be sorry tomorrow.

Amy

6.30 p.m.

Your letter & cigarettes have just come - at least I've just got them. Have been out all the

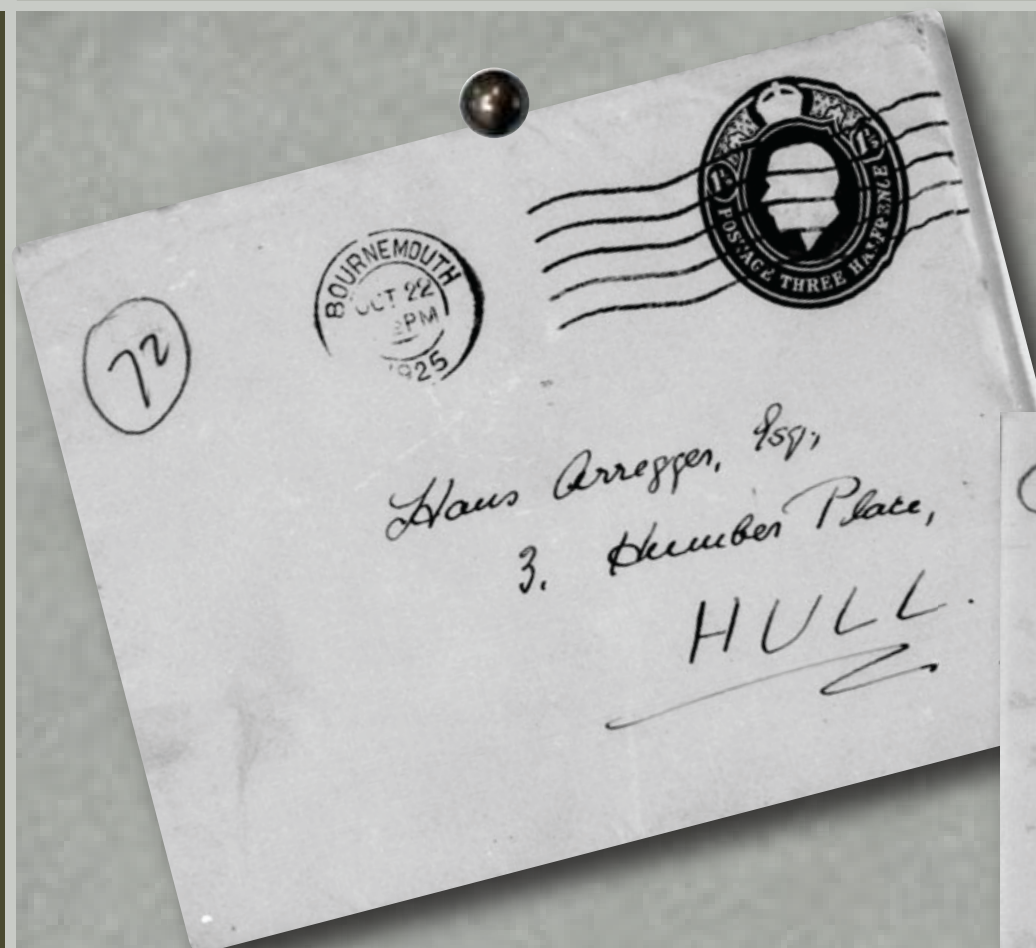
afternoon to try & get rid of this unaccountable black mood, but it's still there. Have been on the pier in the rain - it was lovely & fresh, but so lovely.

I don't know what the matter will be. Please excuse a letter till I feel different. Will write as soon as ever I feel I can. It's only a mood of depression.

Thanks so much for the cigarette & letter. - They should have made me feel better, but they've not.







72  
Thursday, 2.30 p.m.  
Darling, - I'm so sorry I've been in  
such a bad mood these last few  
days & haven't been able to write  
you a nice letter. When I was  
reading the ripping one I've got from  
you to-day I thought of the  
wretched thing you'd be reading from  
me, & I feel so ashamed of  
myself. I really don't know  
what was the matter with me -  
the mood's passed now & I feel  
almost all right. - You did  
understand that I wasn't being  
deliberately nasty, didn't you,  
darling? I couldn't help the  
silly mood, but I'm more &  
more & more glad that I didn't  
send you the letters I wrote, even  
if you did feel "cross" at  
not having any.

I've had very little sleep  
these last two or three nights,  
had awfully restless nights - &  
during the day I had headaches  
& pains in my body (on the  
lower ribs - do you remember  
when I had them before & you  
laughed?) - & I've been awfully  
bad-tempered & irritable. You  
couldn't have loved me a bit  
if you'd been anywhere near me.  
And all for nothing. - I can't  
think of anything to attribute  
it to, - except the vile weather.  
(It's coming down in sheets at  
present). - I'm so glad I  
feel different now. - You'll  
still keep on writing me just as  
nice letters, won't you, 'cos I  
really did want to write to you,  
but couldn't.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/72)

'I'm so sorry I've been in such a bad mood these  
last few days and haven't been able to write you a  
nice letter.'

22 Oct 1925



(72)

2.

Thanks ever so much for all the information about the Ld. & Phil. - You did take Mrs. Petrie then, after all. - But you must take Madeleine some time instead of me, darling.

I didn't think you were important enough to have your name in the paper amongst the guests, but it was very nice to see it then. - I looked for it, but didn't expect to see it. Your program was lovely, darling. - But I wonder how many times you actually thought of me during each dance. How that it's over, I don't very much mind having missed it.

A letter from Father arrived at the same time as yours. He advises me how to write to her.

Hall, & I've written as he advises, so it's very unlikely I shall be going back there. I've been so undecided about it, 'cos I'm not very optimistic about getting pupils, & I don't quite know when I shall get any money from. Anyway, it's settled now,

& perhaps if I help Mother at home, Father may give me something. I'm going to give her my new evening frock for her 21st. - Have discussed it with her & she'd as soon have that as anything else, so in my present straitened circumstances I've come to the conclusion that that's the best thing to do. - You won't understand how I love beautiful things like that. - Men seem to have such drab outlooks. Father never notices if I'm shabby or smart-

3.

(72)

He only gets sarcastic when I buy something new. - I shouldn't be surprised if you get like that. - You don't realise at all what things cost. - Oh, you know the brown coat I bought, - for £4, - have seen the same one here for £4/18/6.

It's very nice of you to take so much trouble over arrangements for Irene's dance - sorry to disappoint you, but it's quite useless. - In his letter this morning, Father says sarcastically that Mother tells him that Irene wants a dance with no friends present to drink her health in champagne, - & he says he can't agree. He is prepared to do as much for her as he did for me, that is, - £5. - One





can't have a dance on that. -

Mene told me about seeing you & talking it over before I heard from you, but I didn't get excited 'co I didn't think for a single minute it would materialise. -

Mother is full of good intentions, but she dare not take up a definite stand on our side, unless it turns out to be Father's side as well, & she always tries to find that out before committing herself. - Don't know whether you see what I mean. -

I think that's why Mene & I have never treated Mother as a friend & confidante. Although agreeing with Mene's ideas about the dance I can quite imagine the sort of letter she'd write to Father, - can't you?

(22)

Darling, I'm sorry to bring up the subject again, as you don't like it, but at last a letter has come from Boston. - Eric opened it & sent it on to Father in London, but it missed him, & he hasn't got it yet. But Eric says Mr. Wood sounds very favourable & invites me to stay with them in Boston & will help me to get a position. - So that I have only to wait till I get a permit. - Do you mind awfully about my going? You see, I must go, because I've such a longing to see more of the world, & I couldn't settle down with that longing unsatisfied. But I'll go for a little while &

then come back to you, shall I, darling? Shall you still want me? I shan't come back unless you want me.

So after I come back from Bournemouth - Father says I can stay down here if I can get a post - I shall keep Mother at home till I go to the U.S.A. - (that's what Father says, but you & I know we're going to Switzerland first. - We still are, aren't we? - Are you not going to begin to save till after I have paid off my debts? Oh well, I'll have to save in the only ways I can - we won't go to any dances, will we?)

Thanks ever so much for



(72)

5.

the matches. - I shall enjoy a cigarette when Baudy has gone to bed. - They don't openly object here but they don't approve.

I can make lovely sauces now. - Am just about to commence a nightdress sackel for mother - don't tell her. -

She told me about her hair the other day, but doesn't say if it suits her or not. - Does it?

On second thoughts I'm not sending you "Told by an idiot" to read. It has a nasty character in it with any names. - Have you ever noticed that "AMY" is often used to portray this nasty type of person? - That's one reason why

I dislike it so much.

Please write me some more nice letters. I'm so sorry about mine, but will try to make up for it now. Am so looking forward to seeing you again, are you, darling?

I'm getting very fond of Baudy. The other two children are home next week-end for the half-term. - Hope I shan't find ~~4~~ too many for me.

Goodbye for now, my own dearest dear,

Yours ever,

Amy





(73A)

Thursday, 12.30 a.m.

It's quite hopeless trying to get to sleep, darling. As I've been reading your letters again. - The wind is raging outside & sounds angry enough to lean the house down. - Don't feel exactly frightened, but I wish you were with me - (then there'd be no need for me to sleep, would there, darling?) I feel full of "evil forebodings" somehow. Last night I woke up suddenly with a terrific roar in my ears - couldn't make out what it was, but the idea took possession of me that the train, which passes within sight of my window on its way to & from London, had left the rails & was coming straight for me. Of course it was only a big gust of wind shaking the open window just as

Hans Arregger, Esq.,  
3, Summer Place,  
HULL.

a train was passing, but I didn't stop then to reason things out & buried my head under the covers. Have shut the windows tonight but the wind still howling & the train makes an awful noise as they pass.

Have had a very restless day today. - Sawing this morning & reading nearly all the afternoon & evening - only went out to post your letter. I'm reading Dickens "Tale of Two Cities" - it's splendid but not conducive to cheerfulness. Tonight Mrs. Peterson has been regaling me with a tale of some friends of his who wanted him to go fishing with them one day in a yacht. He wouldn't go because he had an appointment at the dentist. They were never seen or heard of again. - Probably

2.

the boat capsize & they were all drowned. Also about a man who was drowned near Swanage. The water was so clear that one day they saw his body, all green & decomposed & covered with lobsters, eating him. - That was to illustrate that lobsters are dirty fish. The former story was to illustrate the dangers of the sea & to emphasize his petition that I shouldn't go to America. It almost seemed he was begging me to stay at home. - "You've got a beautiful home" he said. "Stay there."

This afternoon when I was writing to you, Bessy got holes of your letter & asked if she could read it. I said "yes" & asked her what it said. She

thought a bit & then said very slowly as though she were reading it - "Don't go to America." - Of course, she's heard me talking to her & her. - Addition about America, but it seemed such a funny thing for her to say just then & in those circumstances.

Am cold now with sitting up in bed. The wind's still howling dreadfully, & I still don't feel any more like sleep altho' I was awfully tired before I came to bed. Will have mollen by. I'm here all by myself wanting you, & you're probably in bed now & probs wanting me. - Funny world, isn't it? Goodnight, darling. - I wonder how long one can go on wanting.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/73 & 73A)

'It's quite hopeless trying to get to sleep darling, so I've been reading your letters again.'

23 Oct 1925



73B

Friday, 3 p.m.

I was so glad & relieved to have your letter this morning, darling. - Didn't think somehow you wouldn't reply to my note - thought you would be impatient with it. I can't send you those other three letters as you ask, 'coz it would do no good & would only hurt you, or perhaps even make you very angry. - & I wouldn't do that deliberately for worlds, when I'm in my right senses. Have you not heard it said that often one has to hurt just those one loves best? - I think it was like that in this case. - I was so irritable & bad-tempered & had to vent it on someone. I

searched through my mind for things to find fault with, & in my imagination got more & more angry with you, till I made myself believe I almost hated you. Don't quite understand my own state of mind, & I'm sure you won't - or praps you might, I don't know. - Anyway, I'm ashamed of the mood now. So let's forget it. You probably wondered at the way I've addressed this envelope. - It's the one I addressed when I was in this queer mood, & perhaps illustrates how I was feeling. - Don't like sending it now, but I'd rather send it than the letters. You know how much I hate my own name, don't you, & somehow it irritates me awfully to see

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/73B)

'I was so glad and relieved to have your letter this morning darling. Didn't think somehow you would reply to my note - thought you would be impatient with it.'

23 Oct 1925





2.

it scrawled right across an envelope.  
I remember when Peter used to  
write to me he scrawled it in  
huge letters right across, & I told  
him off about it. Whereupon he  
wrote it so tiny I could hardly  
read it.

It irritated me again this time  
as I was in a bad mood, so  
that was why I wrote yours as  
I did. I'm sorry, darling.

Thanks ever so much for  
sending me the ballot tickets.

I'll fill them in & send them  
up, - but really, you know,  
if you'd wanted us to be lucky  
you should have sent them. -

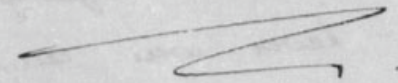
I'm an awfully unlucky person.  
- Never win anything. - But I'm

lucky to have your love, darling. -  
That's an exception to the rule.  
You are much too good to me,  
& I don't know what I shall do  
when I have to do without you.  
Am not thinking of that part of  
it.

It was such a nice letter  
you sent me this morning. -  
I hope you wouldn't be disappointed  
with mine that you'd probably  
get about the same time.

If I run to the post now  
I may catch the earliest one &  
then you'll get this sooner tomorrow.  
Will write during the week-end.

Lots of love, darling,  
Your cherie.





(74A)

Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

Dearest, - I am yielding to your insatiable curiosity & am sending you the 3 letters you want so much. When you read them & are angry, please remember that in the midst of my bad mood I resisted the temptation to send them to you, & have only done so now to satisfy you. The mood is quite gone now, & I couldn't write such letters now.

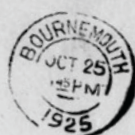
It was very nice to get your letter on Saturday. But I wish you wouldn't waste nearly 3 pages over my stomach. However, I'll get some of the stuff you recommend & tell you if it does me any good.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/74 & 74A)

'Dearest, I am yielding to your insatiable curiosity and am sending you the 3 letters you want so much.'

25 Oct 1925

(74)



H. Arregger, Esq.,  
3, Stumber Place,  
HILL

After reading your letter I'm more than ever sure that we shall not go to Switzerland together.

In another letter you said either Switzerland or America, & you have already postponed it from January to the summer. I suppose you'll keep on saying you're too busy to spare the time till after you've gone to America, & then you'll go to Switzerland by yourself & feel free to enjoy yourself. After all, your promise was to take me the next time you go, & it's so easy to put off that next time till it's too late. But I'll try & not think about it, & then I shall not be too dreadfully disappointed when I find that all the time you're too busy.

A letter came from Father

2.

on Saturday enclosing Mr. Woods' letters to himself & me. They are exceedingly kind & very encouraging. He thinks I should do well in the States, & invites me to stay at his home till I get settled. Father wanted the letter back straight away, together with my reply, so I'll show you it when I come home.

The sunshine is perfectly glorious to-day. - Wish it would be like this always.

I hope you enjoyed the dance at the Salisbury Hall. Whatever did you mean by saying - "I wouldn't like to think that I had my arms round you instead of my partner, would you?" - There are your exact





(74B)

Tuesday, 8.45 p.m.

Later, - 10.30 p.m.

Didn't get anything written at the last attempt. - Feel much too miserable to write. I 'spec you'll be going in to supper now, with your precious partner, whoever she is - you took good care not to tell me, didn't you? - And never one word of regret in any of your letters. The most you'll say is that you're not looking forward to the same very much but it might be different if I were going to be your partner.

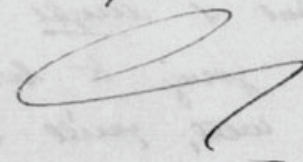
Oh well, you'll be enjoying yourself much more without me, 'co you always quarrel when I'm there. You'll probably be thanking your lucky stars I'm safely out of the way in Bourneville. - Yes?

Am listening to the Savoy Bands now.

Am not going to send this 'co it's awfully silly, but I did want to go to the L.S. & Phil. with you, & I like you best in evening dress. - You look much more boyish & charming than in a hat.

Am going to bed. Hope you're thoroughly enjoying yourself.

Goodbye,



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/74B)

'Didn't get anything written at the last attempt.  
Feel much too miserable to write.'

25 Oct 1925



(74C)

Wednesday, 1 p.m.

I had three attempts yesterday to write you a letter & then in the end only succeeded in writing a page which wasn't worth sending. I'm still in the same mood to-day - most unaccountably depressed. Yesterday I put it down to the dance, but that's over now. The rain's pouring down - hasn't stopped for days. - Everything's miserable.

And how dare you discuss me with Irene. - I'm furious about that. - Can you quite imagine the rotten things that would be said. I don't mean to say you'd deliberately say nasty things about me, but you'd probably pick me & discuss my latest delinquencies, etc. etc. Have just got a letter from Irene & she tells me she met you at our house & you

looked her down & she had to listen patiently whilst you talked about me all the way. How would you like it if I met your brother & discussed you with him!

I do feel miserable & irritable & fed up with life. It's as if I'm so beastly selfish, I suppose. - not trying to make anybody happy but myself, & it can't be done. Please tell me how I can begin to make somebody else happy. Am sick to death of this existence - that's all it is, - existence - there's no life in it. Of course, it's my own fault, you'll say, but that's all I expect from you, 'co everything you tell me is destructive & not constructive, as I told you once before, didn't I? What a silly letter! - unlike isn't it? But it's all I can write just now. - Amy.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/74C)

'I had three attempts yesterday to write you a letter and then in the end only succeeded in writing a page which wasn't worth sending.'

25 Oct 1925





2 p.m.

The Syllabus of lectures for the French Circle arrived this morning. - I s'pose you must have told them my address. - What's the use of my going to the French Circle when I can't speak a word of French. If I hadn't known you so well, I might by chance have taken lessons with you instead of Mlle. Izeli, & then I'd probably be able to speak French. As it is, you took advantage of my friendship to teach you English & then sent me a box of chocolates in payment of your "debt", & now you flatter yourself you speak English more correctly than I do. When I want to speak French you direct me to

Mademoiselle Izeli, forsooth. - Who doesn't know the first word about teaching. I never could understand a word she said, & we'd no subjects in common to talk about. I s'pose you thought your terms were too expensive for such a humble person as myself.

I don't know what's the matter with me this morning. - Hardly ~~at~~ slept at all last night - woke up suddenly at 1.30 - like you did in Zurich. - wonder what you were doing. I can't understand myself, but I think at this moment I almost hate you. - Why should I? I expect you'll be writing to-day to tell me about the dances. I don't want to know. Hate dances. - I've got headache & awful pains in my body. - I'll either have to

2.

send you this idiotic letter, or else leave you without one, & that annoys you, doesn't it? Can't imagine why you should be "cross" because you don't get a letter every day. - Perhaps my limited knowledge of English isn't sufficient to understand your deep statements. I would like to smash something.



(75)

Monday, 2.45 p.m.

It was an awfully nice letter you wrote to me yesterday, darling, - I wonder if you are very disappointed with mine to-day - the nasty ones, I mean. - I would rather have brought them home with me, as you suggest. But it's too late now, & they're not worth while bothering over, are they?

How perfectly topping it would have been to meet you in London, & have you to look after me all the rest of the way. Have you to go to London on business? Do you think they would change the day

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/75)

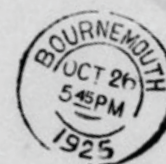
'It was an awfully nice letter you wrote to me yesterday, darling.'

26 Oct 1925

of my tourist Ticket for a single via London if I pay the extra? Shall I go to the station & enquire? It would be too lovely for words. - Or did you suggest it because you knew it was impossible? I don't know yet when I'm coming back. Mr. & Mrs. Addison say I needn't lie myself down to the day, so I shall come probably on Wednesday or Thursday. Which day would be the most convenient for you if you come to meet me somewhere?

Isn't the weather too beastly wretched for anything! There's a perfect gale raging. Mr. & Mrs. J.

(75)



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





2.  
say they have never seen so much  
consecutive rain in Bourneville  
all the time they've lived here. -  
Just my luck.

I do envy you being able  
to attend those lectures. Do you  
feel much wiser for them?

Do you join in the discussions?  
There is a course of 6 University  
Extension lectures here on famous  
men of letters of modern times.

I only found out about them  
yesterday, else I should have  
gone to hear the one on Bernard  
Shaw on Oct. 20th. - They are  
only once a fortnight. On Nov. 3rd  
is one on ~~the~~ Henrik Ibsen. -

I shall go if I'm still here. The

course of 6 is 7/6 but you can  
pay 1/6 for one lecture.

Who on earth is Colette  
O'Neill? And why had I  
better come back quickly? And  
why does Helen say I wouldn't  
bother, & what does she mean?  
It sounds very mysterious. Did  
you make it so on purpose?  
Please write & tell me at once  
who she is. - Perhaps she's an  
author, is she?

Am looking forward to seeing  
you again awfully, & my people  
& today, but not to coming  
to Hull.

Goodbye, darling,

All my love,  
Ethel Cherie.



(76)

Tuesday. 1.15p.m.

Darling, I was so glad to know that you weren't angry about those silly letters. - We'll forget all about them now, shall we? I didn't intend to be rude in not addressing them to you, - 'co it was more a matter of putting down all my nasty thoughts on paper than a letter to you.

Later.

It is an effort trying to get letters written here - there's not much peace. Mr. & Mrs. Addison talk for hours on end, & perhaps a worry sometimes. I do so want to get my letters written - have to write to Mother, Irene, Mollie, Betty, & Mrs. Pehie as well.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/76)

'Darling, I was so glad to know that you weren't angry about those silly letters.'

27 Oct 1925

As to your darling. My letter-writings a joke here. - Have used a whole writing pad already & spent nearly 5/- in stamps. I like writing to you, but it takes such a lot of time to write to so many people. You're very greedy indeed wanting one every day. Nothing would induce me to give way to you, except that I want one myself every day from you.

I couldn't answer yours properly yesterday - had only time to glance through it when it came, & I left it in the drawing-room when we had lunch. Mrs. Addison then went to lie down & I had to keep busy away, writing letters whilst I could, & I didn't want to disturb her to get your letter.

(76)



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





2.

First & foremost I hope you're feeling better. I don't mind you being ill when I'm there 'cos I adore looking after you, but you mustn't be ill when you're only Mrs. Williams to wait on you. Tell me if you get any worse, won't you?

I had a letter from Irene this morning & she tells me she is having a party. - She says it's going to be a big do, & she's going to have a cocktail drive at the same time in another room for the family - & so get rid of them, she explains. She says it will probably be at the Metropole, & there are to be no drinks. Of course, she pleases herself about the whole

affair, but I'm not keen on the idea as she states it. Couldn't she have the room at the Regresco club? It would be so much nicer, I think, tho' of course all the family couldn't be invited there. It seems

a queer idea to me that the 21st birthday of the "black sheep of the family turned out because of her wild ways" (as Irene delighted to describe herself - do you remember?) should be celebrated by a family affair.

However, she pleases herself. -

I'm afraid, my darling, that I shall have to invite anybody I have any pretence of knowing.

I have scarcely any friends in Hull & Irene would be

3.

awfully fed up if I didn't invite the one or two I do know. It's funny that even these have all been introduced by you - but I've had no opportunities of making friends in Hull. You won't be able to have me to yourself all the time, I'm afraid, darling. - Very much the reverse, I should imagine. It will be Irene's party & we must please her & be sociable.

Thank you for explaining about the holiday in Switzerland. I'll stop being so silly about it. If it all happens to fit in beautifully



so that you can manage to take  
a holiday at the same time  
as I can manage it, and  
that time is before I leave  
for America, - well, all  
well & good. If it doesn't  
arrange itself so nicely, I  
shan't be so disappointed as  
tho' I'd been building on  
it.

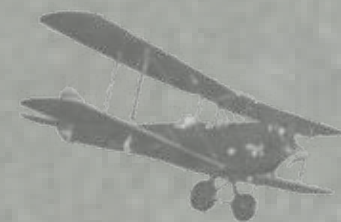
Helmi wrote me a nice  
letter the other day. Will reply  
tomorrow, for I'm not in the  
mood to write letters today.  
It's a glorious day, & I'm  
washing all the sunshin by  
staying indoors. Have had  
a busy morning washing, etc.  
& for the last 2 hours -  
it's now 4 o'clock, - have

4.  
been struggling to get this letter  
written.

Mrs. Addison says I'm  
worrying myself far too much  
over letters & wasting a big  
part of my holiday. I'll  
write to you in the evenings  
or when it's raining, darling,  
but I won't promise you  
one every day. Some days  
it's no effort, but it is  
to-day. - (Brendy insists  
on coming out with me. It  
is difficult to be polite & yet  
not take her - I nearly  
always hail her after me).

I've got some of that terrible  
Anagnesia.

Sorry I can't write a nicer  
letter, darling. Lots of love, Ann





(77)

Wednesday,  
7.15 p.m.

Darling, what a strange letter you sent me to-day. Are you keeping up an air of mystery on purpose, or is it to make me jealous, or what? We have been out house-keeping & mending all day, so have only just got your letter. - You are tired of writing me a letter every day - it's a nuisance when you're not in the mood, isn't it, darling - like yesterday. I can read it between the lines.

The reason I don't say much about what I'm doing is because there's so very

little to say. I very rarely get up before 11 o'clock, - then I write letters or take Bessie for a walk till dinner-time. Often there's only just time to make my bed & set the table. After lunch I nearly always write letters & then go out house-keeping or shop-gazing or occasionally a walk on the pier. It's usually 7 or 8 before we get our tea, & the evening is soon gone in reading & sewing & listening to the wireless. It's just a life of eating, sleeping, writing letters & wasting time. Hope it's doing me good. I'd be bored stiff except that Bournemouth agrees with me

(77)



Hans Arregger, Esq.,  
3, Number Place,  
HULL.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/77)

'Darling, what a strange letter you sent me today. Are you keeping up an air of mystery on purpose...'

28 Oct 1925



2.

splendidly. Perhaps you will stop wondering what exciting things I'm doing when I tell you that I never trouble to put powder on, am wearing out my oldest stockings, shell part my hair down the middle, have not yet worn my pretty frocks, & have had no temptation to vary my one hat & coat by buying any others. I don't know why I should bother about these things at home. There is not the slightest temptation here. Hasn't it ever struck you why I try to make the best of myself at home?

Mrs. Addison wants me to

stay longer, but I don't think Father will let me. She says it's a shame to leave now, just when I'm beginning to look better & eat more. -

That Meaglesia is horrible - it chokes me & leaves a horrible taste.

Have just written to Mrs. Pebie. She is a dear, really. Must drop mother a line now to thank her for sending my red evening frock - am going to alter it.

Please don't feel bound to write every day - I love to get your letters, but prefer them when you've written simply because you wanted to.

Lots of kisses,  
Your cherie.

P.S. Will you please keep a look out for pupils for me, darling. You might hear of some through yours, & I can teach French grammar & literature splendidly, if you care to pass any on. I must earn some money if I'm going to be able to save any. - And if Christmas is coming. - Hope it's not going to be a cold one. There was something else I wanted to ask you or tell you, but I can't remember just now.

The post goes now & I haven't had time to write to mother. - Oh dear.

Our revoir, darling.





78 A

7.10 p.m.

Darling, what a flutter of excitement your wire caused! It arrived whilst we were having tea at 7 p.m., & Mrs. Addison was sure it was from the children to say they'd caught the chicken-pox & couldn't come home for half-term. - (They're in quarantine for it till tomorrow at school.)

Your wire is not at all clear - or rather it's very vague. But I expect there'll be a letter in the morning. Have you left for London tonight? And when do you propose coming to Bournemouth? And are you coming in time to go back with me on Tuesday? - 'Cos I'm awfully sorry but I'm not

going for another 3 weeks now. We're going to Swansea for the day tomorrow to fetch the other two children for the week-end - till Monday night. There will be 6 of us here, but Mrs. Addison thinks we might be able to squash you in if you cared to stay a little while. - I don't know whether you'd like it, tho'.

I do hope there's a letter tomorrow with more detail. Want to see you even so much, & especially as I'm not coming home for so long. You'll try & come for a day or two or longer, won't you? Do try.

Am enclosing the letter I wrote this morning. - Don't take any notice of the crossed out bits. Do come if possible, darling, piles of love, ta cherie.

78



Hans Arregger, Esq.,  
Claridge Cross Hotel,  
London.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/78 & 78A)

'Darling, what a flutter of excitement your wire caused! It arrived whilst we were having tea at 7pm.'

29 Oct 1925



78B  
 Dec. 3.30 p.m.  
 Thurs.

Dearest Hans,

I am very disappointed in you indeed. Just because on one day it's a struggle to get a letter written to you and I tell you I do not like to feel tied to writing every day, you won't write. You're quite spoilt in the matter of letters. Instead of being thankful when there is one, you get cross when there isn't one every day.

Now I'm afraid I've got rather a disappointment for you - I'm not coming home for another 3 weeks. There was a topping letter from Father this morning - he says I can stay on ten till Irene's

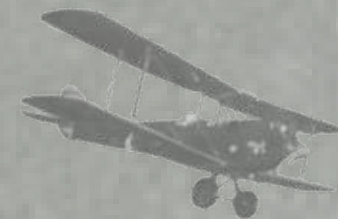
birthday & come home in time for that. If I could have you here I'd be ever so glad, but it's rather lonely without a companion of any sort - except Mrs. & Miss. Sadison & Bandy. I do wish I could meet some fresh people.

Have you heard the latest about Irene's dance? It's to be at Bowdoin's - in the upstairs room. I'm feeling a bit more excited about it than I was. Father's an absolute trump - he is treating me to a dance frock! Mother & Mother are having new ones - & Mother is giving Irene one for her birthday. So Father says he will treat me to one as I didn't have a dance on my birthday. Of course,

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
 (Reference L DIAJ/78B)

'I am very disappointed in you indeed. Just because on one day it's a struggle to get a letter written to you..'

29 Oct 1925





2.

I shall keep my green one now. -  
I needn't let out the already  
got it - don't you, will you?

Am awfully bucked about  
it. It doesn't by any means  
clear away my financial  
troubles (cos I can't go beyond  
£5/5/0 for the frock & it was  
£6/6/0), but it's a mighty  
good help. Father's an  
absolute buck. It's a great

pity you don't like my frock. -  
it takes away half the  
pleasure of wearing it. That  
was the only thing that made  
it more easy to give to Helen  
for her present. Am glad  
there's no need to now. I  
suggested it to her & she  
wants it, I think.

Mrs. Hall sent me a

very nice letter - tho' short,  
hoping I should soon be fully  
restored. - Miss Small also  
sent me an awfully nice  
letter this morning.

I have looked out for every  
post, but no letter from you.  
Were you so very much annoyed?  
Whether you are or not, I'm not  
going to be tied to writing at  
stated times. Shall write when  
I feel like it & have the time.

Yesterday we went to  
Christchurch Priory - am sending  
you a few views. The Americans  
have over the place. - Crowds  
visit it.

I sent the coupons off -  
but it's purely a matter of luck.  
Am not optimistic. - but it  
would be lovely to win  
something.

Dearest love, darling,  
Amy.



(79)

Tues. 6.15 p.m.

It was a surprise to get your letter to-day, darling. - Didn't think you would have time to write last night. - They were awfully nice "few lines."

Oh, by the way, I'm still alive after yesterday, it's its quite a wonder. There were 7 of us in the car going to Swavage - we took another girl back as well. I had to nurse Jilly all the way - 35 miles. - & told her stories every scrap of the time. My throat was sore by the time we arrived. It was fine going, but coming back it rained all the time. Mrs. Addison was dreadfully irritable

because of his finger, he could scarcely see through the windscreen because of the rain, & it was pitch dark soon after we started. There was a lot of traffic on the road, especially nearer home, & other cars' headlights nearly drove him frantic. I was cold & wet - the rain came right in. 'co we'd only a hood over us - no sides. It was an immense relief when we finally got back. Had a quiet night - there was a lovely Symphony Concert from the Winter Gardens. To-day has been miserable - rain & wind all day. - I didn't get up till 10.30 - spent the rest of the morning sewing & have been to the lecture this

(79)



H. Arregger Esq.  
3, Number Place,  
HULL.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/79)

'It was a surprise to get your letter today darling -  
Didn't think you would have time to write last night.'

3 Nov 1925





afternoon. - It was very good indeed and quite well attended, in spite of the weather. The lecturer was a good speaker & made it very interesting. -

But I did wish I had seen that play of Ibsen's at the

Little Theatre, or read some of his works. I very much want to now but can't get hold of any. I spent  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

after the lecture looking for a lending library, but there weren't any where you could pay so much per volume. Perhaps

his plays will be in the Central Library & then I can read them when I come home. -

But I want to read one now. I took some notes

at the lecture & will see what I can make out of them, & then send you a short account.

It was lonely yesterday after you'd gone. I walked through the town & did some Christmas shopping - things are cheaper & nicer than in Hull, & there's always an attraction in presents from "somewhere else", isn't there?

After the lecture to-day, I walked to the top of the cliffs & then ran down a zig-zag path right to the bottom & had a blow by the sea. It was lovely & fresh. I did wish you had been with me. You needn't have gone so soon,



need you, darling, as there wasn't anything important waiting for you.

What a pity that reception is on the 13th. - Things always seem to come when I'm not there. - There won't be anything when I come back, I don't suppose. Are you going by yourself? Write & tell me about it, would you. I'd like you to go, but I wish I could go with you.

Thanks ever so much for delivering my letters.

Bunny is very restless today - it's been too wet for her to go out. I gave her a sheet of note-paper to write a

letter to you, but when she'd written it she wouldn't give me it to send because she said she was afraid her mother would know! I said she'd get one back if she sent one, but she said "mummy might be cross." So there's no letter for you. - She's thrown them in the fire.

Am looking forward to your letter tomorrow, darling. Write me nice ones, would you? I wish I could have you with me, but somehow I like being in Bournemouth.

Dearest love, & kisses,  
Ta cherie

I'll be quite content for a long time now after the lovely week - and you have given me, darling.  
I do love you for it.





(80) Wed. 3 p.m.

Darling, - I feel absolutely rotten to-day. Wish I had you here to look after me. - no one else bothers. I ache all over, have a headache, feel dizzy & rotten generally. It started last night - too early, as usual, so I hadn't a chance to worry. 'Specs I'll have a bad do this time to make up for last.

It's Bournemouth races to-day. I said I'd never seen a sheep-dance race - fancy being 22 & never seen a horse jump a fence! - but I hadn't till this afternoon. I had a most - day first & they decided they would take

lunch with them. I was 10'clock before we got off, however. Went straight to the races (for a wonder) & had our grand-stand (the car) in a side street by the race-course. - We were quite near one of the jumps. - (Damnation - here's a winner!).

- 3 hours later.

She's staying to tea! - Dear, dear. I've forgotten all I was going to tell you. - (I keep all talking now).

- Later. 4 p.m.

We have had tea & now it is cleared away & the pots washed. Miss Smith (the one who likes me because I was "bright") has asked Miss Addison to go

2.

out with her for the evening - as it was last day, but they're discussing whether they will go out or stay in. - I do hope they go. - I have come into the dining room to write this, because it's impossible there.

I must try & remember how what I was telling you. - Somebody calling - - - - -

Dear, dear. - Miss Smith wanted to know if I knew whether Miss Addison really wanted to go out. I've told her 'Yes' emphatically. - how Ruby's come in & left the door open. - - - - - how someone's calling out for Ruby to be put to bed.

To return to the races. - We



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/80)

'Darling - I feel absolutely rotten today. Wish I had you here to look after me - no one else bothers.'

4 Nov 1925



had lunch whilst waiting for the first race. - Saw one at 2 o'clock & another at 2.30 & another at 2.45. Then I was quite satisfied & anyone could see it was going to pour with rain. It's not very entertaining sitting in a car behind a fence for  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour between each race, & then only see them do one jump. We couldn't see the far side of the course. But they wouldn't come, altho' Mrs. S. knew I felt rotten. It began to rain. - We waited  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. in the rain & saw the next race, - then waited another  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. in pouring rain for the next. Mrs. S. put the hood up & we missed it, after waiting all that time. We heard the horses racing past the fence but

3.

by the time we had put down the hood to stand on the seats, the horses were out of sight. Then at last we came. On the way they saw a house for sale, & that's as red as a bull. Of course they had to get out & see it. We finally got home after buying potatoes, cabbages, etc. en route. When we got in the fire wouldn't go because we had no paraffin, & as soon as it had burned up & I'd begun my letter, Miss Smith came.

(Bunt's screaming because Mrs. S.'s going out.)

Thanks awfully for your letter, darling. It wasn't a very

long one & there weren't many nice "special" things in it for me, but still it was from you, & told me what you were doing. Thanks awfully for taking the letters to mother & Irene. I had a long letter from Irene this morning, returning the envelope. She has written bits every day & alternates moods of pessimism & optimism about her party. She's awfully fed because so many family must be asked. Personally, I don't think it was at all necessary to ask any family at all, seeing there are such crowds of them. But if you ask one you must ask all.





4.

She says they all want to dance, & her vision of the ballroom floor covered with aged, frumpy couples trying to dance is most depressing.

If I don't feel any better Tomorrow I think I shall stay in bed. I wish they would hurry up & go out. - Dandy's still screaming. She is a quaint little thing, tho'. - This morning when I was leaving she wanted to know what it was, who for, etc., altho' - I've told her before. She said why was I making a night-dress case for my journey. - I said because she had lost hers in Norway so I promised to make

her another. - "Well, you are a nice old thing, aren't you?" - says Bunky.

Write soon, darling, lots  
of love & kisses,

Ta Cherie





(81)

1.30 a.m.

Darling, I can't get to sleep. I don't know what on earth induced me to balance my money up before I came to bed, but the result is so worrying I don't know what on earth to do. I wish you were here in your little room & I could come & tell you all my troubles. I'm longing for you to put your arms round me & kiss them away & tell me not to worry. - But I don't suppose you would do that even if you were here. - You'd be too disgusted with me. - But I'm most awfully miserable. I must talk to someone about it. Please be patient with me, darling. - I've

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/81)

'Darling, I can't get to sleep. I don't know what on earth induced me to balance my money up before I came to bed, but the result is so worrying.'

4 Nov 1925

Totalled up my book & then added up my debts, just for curiosity. Somehow or other, I seemed to think that £5" 5" 0 Faller gave me to pay for my frock would almost solve my difficulties, - but it appears to be only a drop in the ocean. Do you mind if I tell you about my debts, darling? - I must confide in someone. I owe Horton Varley's:-

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Cardigan jacket | 1 " 10 " 0 |
| Stockings       | 4 " 6 " 0  |
| Evening shoes   | 1 " 5 " 0  |
| House shoes     | 1 " 10 " 0 |

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Miss Levy's   |            |
| Evening frock | 6 " 6 " 0  |
| Afternoon "   | 4 " 15 " 0 |
| Hockey        | 1 " 10 " 0 |
| You           | 12 " 0 " 0 |

£33 " 2 " 0

(81)



BRITISH  
ARE



H. Arregger Esq.  
3. Newber Place,  
HULL.





2.

I don't know whatever I'm going to do about it. - I'm the biggest fool I ever came across. But that doesn't help matters. If I'd been at the office I'd have had £8 at the end of this month, but as it is there's no money coming in at all. - And I need birthday & Christmas yet. - I have exactly £11.6.9, including Father's £5.5.0. Out of this I must get a present for Irene. I have done quite a bit of Christmas shopping here - just little things.

Father promised to pay half my hockey fee & I've paid 1/10 of mine, that leaves 1/10 to pay. It seems a pity not to use the boots, pads, stockings, etc. I bought specially for hockey.

that ran away with a lot of my money.

It is such a shame to burden you with my troubles, but I feel too miserable to keep it to myself. Can you suggest anything I can possibly do? -

If only I'd some prospect of earning some money, - but I'm not very optimistic about pupils, & they won't bring in much anyhow. When I get to America it will be too late. I must pay bills before that. Oh

dear, dear. - I'd no idea I was so extravagant on stockings till I added the various 10/11 up. - But I needn't buy any more for ages. The £33 might as

3.

well be £3333, so far as it is within my means to find it. When you think of £33 it seems ridiculous to walk miles to town to save 1½d., doesn't it? - My pen's running out now, & I'm cold, but not a bit sleepy. I was tired before I added this wretched money up, but can't get to sleep now. I'm an awful coward & hate to face things out. If only I can get this paid off I'm determined to pay cash down for everything else I get.

Please have patience with me, darling, & don't be cross. I do wish I could come to you now. - I want you to hold me real tight & tell me nice things. - - - - -



Thursday. 4.30 p.m.

I've been in bed all day, darling,  
& have just come down. They're  
all gone out motoring & it's  
deliciously peaceful all by  
myself with a lovely fire &  
topping music on the wireless  
and my darling to write to.

I'd an awfully bad night -  
didn't get to sleep for ages  
& then kept waking up. I had  
my breakfast at 10 & slept from  
about 10.30 till 2, when I had  
my dinner. I feel lots better  
now, but I think it's the music  
& the warm fire.

Thanks awfully for your  
letter this morning. I always  
wish I could be with you  
really when you've had a  
"lonesome" day, - tho' indeed

you've often told me I make you  
feel worse. Do I still, darling?  
I don't try to know that I know  
for sure that you love me.

I am your sweetheart, am I  
not, darling? - I think I'd  
like your mother, but not the  
sister who was in London, if  
she's sarcastic.

As I've been in bed  
ever since I wrote last, there's  
nothing more important to tell  
you than that I still love  
you lots & lots. Don't get too  
fond of Colette, 'cos I'll be  
home soon, & I'll want you  
all for myself.

I've nearly finished  
mother's nightdress-case. It does  
look pretty - just like those  
you buy in the shops for about  
25/-.

- Your most anxious,  
To chérie -

Did you get the crabs of  
Christchurch?





82

Friday. 2.30 p.m.

Thanks awfully, darling, for your nice letter. I've only time to write you a few lines 'cos we're just going out. I did some ironing this morning & then took Bunt out.

Sometimes your letters come about 11 and sometimes about 12, but I think the difference is at this end, because it only came at 12 to-day & you say you posted it before 3.30.

What time do you get mine? I usually post them by the 7.45 & occasionally at 3.30. There's no post between.

I still feel awfully rotten, & have had a very bad head-ache for the last two days. It's making up for last time with a vengeance. It was far too

beautiful a day to-day to stay in bed. The sun's really hot, but it's cold in the shade. I took Bunt through the gardens to the pier - it's marvellous the difference the sunshine makes. Wish you could be here when the sun's shining.

When I see Mr. Scott I'll tell him to keep my visa back till he's been to Switzerland. Mr. Addison says I'm very silly to go to America & risk losing you. You've made a great hit here. Mrs. S. thinks you're very sensible & Mrs. S. bets me

4.30 p.m.

I had to leave this in the middle of a sentence 'cos they were going. Am now sitting in the car waiting till Mr. S.'s

82



BRITISH  
ARE B



H. Arregger, Esq.,  
3, Lumber Place,  
HULL.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/82)

'Thanks awfully darling, for your nice letter.'

6 Nov 1925



finished Talking. I've got one of those deadly fits of lassitude which annoy you so terribly. Have hardly the energy even to move my pen up & down. I think I must always keep away from you, darling, when I feel like this, because I'm frightened of the effect when you rouse me up as you always insist on doing. It's like waking up suddenly a person who's walking in their sleep. - I think something will snap sometime when you do it.

I was telling you about Mr. Paison, I think, but I don't feel in that playful mood now. He just said he'd bet me \$1000 you wouldn't still be a bachelor in another twelve

months. But you will, won't you, darling? 'Sides, you don't know anyone enough to get married, do you? He doesn't know what he's talking about. - Here he is.

10 mins. later.

Here we are at the house again - the one they've almost decided to buy. It's bitterly cold now the sun's gone in, but the air is fresh.

Am going to cut out my poem tonight. I've started on Ibsen, but it takes quite a long time to transcribe rough notes & make them into consecutive reading. - But I like doing it, especially when it's for you. Couldn't be bothered for myself.

I do want you, darling, to look after your cherie.

P.S.

Of course I've not forgotten about our lovely weekend. But the part I enjoyed most was when you were so pleased I came to you at 5 a.m. one morning. It was delicious to feel I could make you as happy as you seemed to be then. I'd come miles to you to make you feel like that again.





(83)

Sunday. 2p.m.

I must tell you that I've got one of Ibsen's plays, darling. I so very very much wanted to read one, because I felt somehow after the lecture that it would appeal to me very strongly. The rain stopped yesterday later on so I went out to get some fresh air. I passed a shop where they had lots of new & second-hand books so enquired if they had anything of Ibsen's. The boy searched & rummaged & at last brought quite a nice 2nd. hand edition of "Brand" for 3/- . After due consideration I bought it & brought it home to read instead of going to the pictures as I had thought of doing & which would have cost

nearly 3/- . Do you ever have a most glorious feeling of possession when you've bought a new book? I always have that feeling and more with books than anything else, even clothes. I was quite happy all the way home carrying my new possession.

I've read the first two acts last night - stayed up till nearly 12 - & it's absolutely entrancing. But I'd rather read it on a mountain side than in front of the fire. We'll read it again together, shall we, darling, & the others as well. I want to read them all. He's wonderful.

I wish to-day was last Sunday, & especially tonight, do you?

Lots of love, Amy.  
I do love you.

Will send you my synopsis of "Brand" tomorrow. Have nearly finished it but want to read it tonight.

(83)



BRITISH  
ARE E



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

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/83)

'I must tell you that I've got one of Ibsen's plays, darling.'

8 Nov 1925



Saturday. 3.45.

Your letter has cheered me up wonderfully, darling. You are much too good to me. I've just finished drinking a glass of port & smoking two cigarettes & wondering hard all the time why on earth you love me. Mrs. S. and Mundy went out early this morning for the day and I stayed in bed. I hoped Mrs. S. would go out as well, but it poured with rain about 2 o'clock so he stayed in. We had a "picnic lunch" & now I'm writing to you in front of the fire, & he's gone to the post. If only it were you, darling, wouldn't it be lovely. All by ourselves & just

do exactly as we like. I'd love you lots & lots & lots. 'Co you're such a darling to me. I do wish you were here - I'd be perfectly happy then.

Yesterday, on the way home in the car, Mrs. S. kept stopping & getting out to look at shops. & I was so fed up & cold & so disliked the idea of going back to the house & having to light the fire & wait till it burned up & get the tea ready, that at one stoppage I got out of the car, got in the hansom & went to the pictures. It was a very good programme, & in the main picture there were some views of the Swiss Alps, which thrilled me so that I forgot everything

2.

else. It's awfully funny how even the mere mention of Switzerland has the power to thrill me so much. I think I must have been a Swiss in a previous life. If I'd Switzerland, music and my darling, I think I'd be almost too happy to believe I was alive.

Every time I write I forget to tell you how delighted Mrs. S. was with her letter in French. - I had the privilege of reading it - you didn't mind of course, did you, darling? (I write that much more often than I say it - have you noticed? It's because I always think it, but with me it's much easier to express





my thoughts in writing than in conversation. You understand, don't you?)

I am sorry Dr. Bainbridge has asked you to spend Xmas with him. You'd have such a lovely time in a hydro. I can't forget what a rotten Xmas you had last year because you refused invitations because of me and

then had to spend it with Mrs. Williams. But you had a nice New Year's Eve, didn't you - at the party, drinking champagne, whilst I was waiting for you at Mrs. Petrie's. I don't want to prevent you having a good time, but I hate to think you're enjoying yourself without me. I shall of course spend Xmas at home as usual, - it might

3.

be my last one at home - who knows. - And if you don't make other arrangements I want you to spend Xmas with us, - but it's not very enticing for you. Wouldn't it be heavenly if I could go too, - to Harrogate, I mean.

(I am funny - I've just made myself actually cry - real tears - imagining seeing you off at the station to Harrogate. But you don't think I have much imagination, do you? - Anyway, I know where you're concerned).

You must go though, darling, with Dr. Bainbridge - you'd have a lovely time & I think it's

so much jollier for men to be together than bothering with girls, don't you? But there would be girls at the Hydro - lots of them - beautiful and gay with lovely clothes. You must go, darling. I want you to have a nice Xmas.

It is just like you to offer to help me pay my bills - you are the dearest darling there ever was. I don't need any more love, but thanks awfully for saying you'd send me some. I have plenty for Irene's present, and then we'll take over the rest when I come home, shall we, darling? I must pay Miss Levi as soon as possible, but I'll be home a week on Tuesday - not long now, is it? Are you glad?



4.

He remembered two more debts since I wrote to you - to mother - 11/6 for my frock & 5/6 for my watch. Mrs. Lee told her about it & she says she's paid him & I can give her it when I come back. I have to pay for every single little thing myself now - every reel of cotton & every pin. It's astounding how much money goes in little things - I'll show you my book & then you can see. What I'd kept one before. Yes, I absolutely mean that I shall always pay cash down for what I get in future - but I'm glad you don't want a promise to that effect, because one never knows what eventualities

may turn up. But I'll promise you that I won't run up debts so thoughtlessly. When I pay Thornton's I'll cancel my account, tho' it won't do much good practically, as I've lost one. You are a dear to help me out. I'll hand you over some War Savings Certificates, but don't change them till 1928, 'cos they'll work lots more then. And if I earn some money I can redeem them before that date.

Don't bother about sending me any of Ibsen's plays, darling. I didn't mean you to. But I just wanted to know if I could get them when I come back. It's as if we were joining the Municipal Library here for a week, & Mrs. & Mrs. aren't ratepayers so I'd have to ask someone else to sign the form.

This is an awfully long letter

5.

but I hope you don't mind.

I loved the letter you sent me To-day, & I want you ever so much. Shall be home soon - only one more Saturday & then we'll be together the next, won't we?

All my love & kisses,  
To chérie.





(84)

Monday. 1.30 p.m.

Darling, I was so pleased to have your lovely letter. By the same post was the letter from mother which has made me feel miserable. I can't forget it. And all because I told her I didn't think it was at all necessary to invade our much beloved relations to this wretched dance.

I don't want to go & I don't want to go home. I wish just we two could run away & live all by ourselves. Why can't we?

We're just going to an exhibition thing. Will write you a longer letter tomorrow.

Do you think Father & Mother would mind if I didn't go to their dance? I don't want to a bit. Let's spend the evening at home all by ourselves.

On enclosing the note on Ibsen. - I was a few minutes late for the lecture - couldn't find the right entrance - so had to pick up the thread. Hope they'll interest you.

I do love you still  
lots & lots.

All my kisses,  
'a chérie'



(84)



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

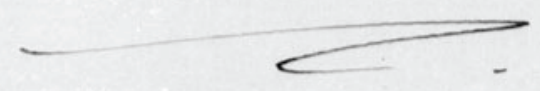
Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/84)

'Darling I was so pleased to have your lovely letter.'

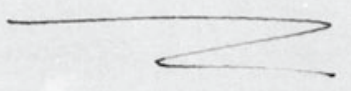
9 Nov 1925



P.S. Will you please send  
me the measurements of  
the frame my photo is  
in, 'co I want to have  
one done like it for Mother  
& Father for Xmas. They  
might like it as I'm  
going to America. If you  
don't want anyone else  
to have one like yours  
I'll have one of the other  
positions suited. Don't  
forget, please, 'co I want  
to get the frame done.  
They're cheaper & nicer.



P.S. I absolutely meant what  
I said on the last page  
of that letter, but please  
wait to be so happy till  
I'm sitting on your  
knee with your arms  
round me.





85  
 Tues. 7.0. p.m.  
 Darling, - Have only just got in from a whole day's motor tour in the New Forest. - It's been gorgeous, but the cold was biting. We set off early this morning - 10.30, took our lunch & went to see something of the Fox Hunt. We saw a few huntsmen in red & the dogs but no fox. The New Forest is glorious. I bet it's perfectly beautiful in the summer. (The worst of our ride here, however, is the coming home part. When we're cold & tired & it's dark, we do all the stopping on the way home. When we get in we

have the breakfast washing up to do, light the fire & get tea ready. However, the ride today has been lovely, & one soon forgets the nasty parts. Yesterday, we didn't go to the Exhibition, 'cos it was too beautiful a day to spend it indoors. In the morning I had a wash-day, & spent the rest of the time taking a doz. snapshots with a camera Mrs. J. borrowed. I hope they turn out all right, else I shall be blamed, & it's so difficult to get good ones with a box light. - The sun was shining, but not very strongly. In the afternoon we set out for the Exhibition, but we always

2.  
 have so many stoppages on roads, that it got very late. We motored along the sea-front promising to see a house in Boscombe, & I got out & walked back by myself. - 4 miles. It was glorious. The sun was setting across the sea & I was walking towards it all the way. It was bitingly cold but beautifully fresh & breezy. I was so energetic when I got back. Spent the evening dress-making. Thanks awfully for walking round in the pouring rain to find me one of Ibsen's books. I want to read "Ghosts" but will read it Tojala, shall we, darling? Did mother say anything

85  
 BOURNEMOUTH  
 10 NOV 1925  
 BRITISH GOVERNMENT  
 ARE B  
 H. Arregger Esq.  
 3, Humber Place  
 HULL.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/85)

'Darling, have only just got in from a whole day's motor tour in the New Forest.'

10 Nov 1925



about me when you went down.  
I appear to be in dire disgrace  
with both Mother & Father. Can't  
imagine why. - Must be because  
I'm in high favour. Oh well,  
if Mother will insist on being  
reated as a distant relation  
by her daughters - - - She  
won't need to complain any  
more about my letters. -  
I shall only tell you all  
my thoughts & doings. Mother  
never has & never will  
understand.

Shall I come home on  
the Wednesday, darling? It will  
be lovely to meet you in  
Sheffield. It doesn't matter to  
me which day I come - Thurs.  
if you prefer - but I would

like to come some part of the  
way with you.

By the way, whom do you  
mean by "prospective family"? -  
Teddy? It is immaterial to  
me whether Mother & Father have  
programs. at their party or  
not. I think it's an awfully  
silly "do", altogether. Glad I  
didn't have one. - But I  
couldn't have, even if I'd wanted  
it.

I don't know what I shall  
do when I come home -  
Mother has never mentioned  
whether she would like to have  
me at home or not. It's  
awfully discouraging.

I'm awfully glad you're  
not going to Harrogate for Xmas.

darling, but you really ought  
to go & have a good time.

I'm sure you can do with a  
holiday. If you stay in Hull,  
tho', you must spend Xmas  
day with us - if you'd care to,  
but probably you'd rather go to  
the Sissous.

You won't destroy those  
notes on Ibsen, will you? 'Cos  
I'd either like them back or  
make a copy of them.

You are funny, being  
surprised at the Little Theatre  
being full every night & the  
theatre all booked ahead for  
Bernard Shaw's play. You're  
not the only one, darling,  
who can appreciate good stuff.





H.

The little thanks has another reason after I was, hasn't it?

I've not been to one yet. You wouldn't let me go to Ibsen & we somehow didn't get to the others & I've been away ever since. Do you know if Mother has used her Tickets? Warm her it's the last week for them, won't you? - I shan't write for some time yet. Mother has a very funny way of writing nasty letters - she makes use of business terms copied from Father. It does seem funny, from a mother to her daughter. - "Your letter has safely come to hand. I note

your remarks re dance" - etc. etc. in the same strain. Then there are mottoes galore, & several underlinings, hints, etc. - Oh, I can't explain. But it does hurt.

If you still envy Teddy & prefer to worship Nene's gay spirits, you can do. I'll repeat Mother's motto "Live & learn." Nene's charming & adorable & I suppose I'm safely jealous of her - she always outshines me. But I thought you knew us better. A picture I've just seen - "The Golden Rule" illustrates Nene & I - tho' exaggeratedly. I shall never show up favourably against Nene. - but you don't know her.

Lots of love, Amy.



(86)

Armistice Day.  
12.30 p.m.

Darling,

Your letter has just come & it's such a nice one - as always & I've nothing particular to do at the moment so am answering it straight away. I'm ashamed of the wretched things I've said & thought about Mollie - but she was justified, as you say. But I do get so hatefully jealous of Irene - & yet I'm awfully fond of her. She's always breaking Mollie's & Father's hearts & bringing grey hair to their heads & she's only to over herself to be charming & they fall over each other to please her. Irene has been for ages the sole subject of conversation at home. I did my level best to make her see the point of one's that she could come home naturally, as she does now, & how everyone, including you, think

endured & surprised by her vivacity & charm, & I'm in dire despair all round because I dared to express my feelings about Irene's dances. But I know I shouldn't have said that letter if my own fault. When Father was at Lowestoft he wrote me Toffing letter. After he has been home with Mollie a couple of days he sends a curt message that as I've been having breakfast in bed for 5 weeks it's high time I bestowed myself to get up for it. And Mollie says she didn't show him that letter. Unwillingly, the power for mischief some people have.

Thanks for sending me the measurements of my plate, darling. Did you mean in your letter that you didn't think Mollie & Father would care for just a gift? I'm quite

sure they would, personally - but my plate is left lying round in drawers. But a little while ago I let out at home that I'd given you a photograph framed & framed, & they didn't seem as all pleased because I'd preferred to give it to you instead of to them. A few days ago it struck me that it might be rather a good idea to give them one for Xmas - especially as I'd soon be going away. They'd be expensive to show round whatnot at odd moments. What do you think? I've got a lovely reproduction case for Mollie's amples. It's a great success. I think, perhaps, by degrees I'll get a slightly higher opinion of my capabilities. You did like my Xmas notes at least, didn't you?

If you think Mollie & Father

(86)

BOURNEMOUTH  
NOV 11  
5.45 PM  
1925

BRITISH  
ARE  
AGE THREE HA. T. M.

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



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/86)

'Darling, your letter has just come and it's such a nice one - as always and I've nothing particular to do at the moment so am answering it straight away.

11 Nov 1925



would like a photo. I'll send up  
one of the other positions to be  
knitted, & I'll send yours at the  
same time - if you don't mind -  
for them to copy the colouring, &  
I'll ask them to make it right where  
it was smudged. Then when they  
come back you may have which you  
like best. Mother & Father won't  
be so particular & won't want to  
look at it so often as you might,  
darling.

I leave you to tell me not to be  
silly. - (when you say "cherie" after  
it). I shall go to Nene's dance, but  
I don't think I shall enjoy it. - Nene  
must have a good time, tho'.

She says she's short of girls, not  
boys. I'm coming home next Wed.,  
darling. Shall you be able to meet  
me in Sheffield. I've no idea  
how the hams will fit in, but will

3.

get a timetable & see what I can  
find out. Will you tell me what  
time you'll arrive in Sheff. from  
Lpl? I know there's a train from  
Sheff. to Hull at 6.37, but we  
should be able to catch an earlier one.

I'll have the good look for your  
hideous & Leadgear, but it doesn't  
seem to be on top of the bears.  
You see, not even the bears  
would tolerate it.

I must write to Nene now, & a  
letter to Mother will be rather  
difficult.

Wednesday isn't far off. - Are you  
glad? I'm glad & sorry.

All my love,

Ann.

P.S. Can you arrange for us to have  
a tango lesson on the Thursday,  
darling? I do want to learn it.

& Nene's having two Tangos at her  
dance. I'd hate it if she danced  
& I couldn't. So try & arrange,  
won't you? Then there'll be two  
Sara's Tango boys at the dance, &  
I know who'll be the nicest.



Friday. Afternoon.

My dear Hans,

You have made me so cross about two or three things, but that's not why I didn't write yesterday. I'm very sorry that you won't have a letter to-day, but I didn't mean you not to have one. I was awfully tired in the morning & didn't get up till about 10.30. When I came downstairs, Mrs. S. said she'd decided to spend the day out. I'd no time to write before I went, & we didn't get back till 8.30!! We had a sandwich before we went - Mrs. S., Maudy & I - looked round shops till about 4 o'clock - (Mrs. S. examines nearly every article in every window - it does bore me) - then went to the "Ideal Homes" Exhibition. She met someone outside & they

talked till 5. I enjoyed the Exhibition very much - everybody was so exceptionally nice - Sellers & buyers. I usually hate such things, but this was quite different, - & there really were some bargains. I'm looking for a husband now, darling, 'cos I've got enough to start a home on, viz: -  
3 aprons.

1 gorgeous afternoon tea cloth.

1 vegetable slicer.

1 shopping basket.

1 guest towel.

Don't you think we might run away now & get married?

Oh, but I'd forgotten - I have only to love you as much as Maudy does Teddy. It's rather difficult, but I'll try. I must think how much Maudy would love Teddy if he wasn't so dearly

beloved by everyone, if he were only tolerated at home for her sake, if her sisters ridiculed him and ran him down to her face, if he were not so good-looking, hadn't such charming manners, such a beautiful voice, and wasn't so skilled in pleasing and entertaining. Of course, Maudy loves Teddy, everyone does; I used to adore him in my youth. If Maudy couldn't have had her dance she had thought of a hare-brained scheme of going to London to spend the day with Ken or Cyril. I'm glad Maudy loves Teddy - it's made a marvellous difference in her - for the better. You wouldn't believe me if I told you how people regard my love for you. And you dare to imply I don't love you so much as





Heure looks Teddy. Oh well, pips I  
doubt. You know best, darling.  
Oh, by the way, in face of the  
overwhelming evidence given by the  
sentence out of the speech of the  
leading lady of "Saint Joan", I  
apologise for saying you were funny  
in thinking you are one of the  
very few who can appreciate  
Bernard Shaw. I myself do not  
profess to understand him because  
I have never studied him, but  
I think you're wonderful to be  
able to understand this great man  
more than the audiences at the  
Theatre who can only appreciate  
him. I should have imagined  
that to appreciate anyone it would  
be essential to understand him -  
but then I know nothing.

Yesterday I was awfully  
cross because you thought  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.

3.  
wasn't long to spend each day  
over writing to you. But I'm  
glad you have found out by  
experience how much can be  
written in that time. As a  
matter of fact, I spent more than  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. over that particular letter.  
It was before 7 when I started  
it, but I always put the nearest  
round number when I put on the  
time, & it was after 7.45 when  
I finished it. I flew to the  
post & was awfully thankful when  
I found it hadn't gone. So there!  
I'm not turning myself over this,  
but it's nearly 5, so the afternoon  
must have gone somewhere.

I feel marvellously energetic &  
fit. Went out this morning by  
myself - it was glorious on the  
cliffs. I ran down the zig-zag path  
again to the sea, starting the

people on seats at the corners.  
Then I walked along the promenade  
& through the gardens & brought  
some material for Rene's present.  
I'm making her an evening coat.  
You must let out I made  
it, else she wouldn't like to  
wear it. - But I think it will be  
nice. She says people are  
ruining her up all day asking  
her what she'd like for a present.  
I thought you had to  
understand me & then you think  
the reason I'm not keen to come  
home is because I can't have  
my breakfast in bed. I'm tired  
of leading an aimless existence  
like this & I want to be doing  
something. But when Mrs. Addison  
says she'll miss me very much,  
& my own mother tells me  
I'll only make one extra at



4.

home, that she doesn't want me interfering with her home arrangements & that it's better get a post as it will be so long before I go to America. - - - You've no idea how it hurts. And her one cry is to outsiders that none of her girls want to be at home & relieve her a bit. - I did so much want to have some pupils, & I feel I really could help them to pass exams. And now I shall have to start answering adverts. again for a shorthand-typist.

You think I'm jealous of Nene because I think you love her a bit. Again that shows how little you understand me. - or rather, how much you misunderstand. Mother thinks it's 'co Nene's having a dance & I didn't have anything. You should

know as well as I <sup>do</sup> that why I am jealous of her - & I am. Cair helps it.

I had a long letter from Nene this morning - an exceedingly humorous one - & she says she would like you & your Sursis Targo friend to come to our house on Wed. night so that he can teach us the Targo - Teddy will play. She says she's bagged Lini - the Sursis boy - for the Targo on Friday, so I can have you. But I must love you as much as she does Teddy - so I'll bag my dentist for the Targo. I want to learn it somehow, so will you see Nene?

I've got a timetable & have been looking up the trains to get to Sheffield in time to catch the 4.33 I'd have to leave here at 7.38, arriving Sheff. at 3.4.





5.

I've no desire to rise at 5.30 a.m. when there's no need, so I think I'll catch the next train, leaving here 11.13, arriving Sheffield 5.40, - leave Sheffield 6.35 (!), arrive Hull 7.49. Can you make your hair fit with that? I would get up early if it couldn't be managed any other way, but it's not necessary, is it?

I wish I could come to L'Al on the Tuesday & go back with you on Wednesday. Wouldn't it be fun? We'd have a lovely evening - Temp's lesson, State Café supper & dancing, & the rest of the night all to ourselves. It's feasible, but too expensive. What a pity.

Oh, those things I told you about on the first page are for Mother. But I shan't want to part with them & maybe she won't want

them. I think I could sell the cloth at a profit to anybody. It's beautiful. - All hand-done.

Isn't this a budget! - 7.15 to 5.30 approx. - Are you satisfied now, darling? There were so many things I had to be cross about that made it so long.

Goodbye, darling, - Just as much love as home gives Teddy.  
Ta cherie.

I don't want the photo here, but I did want the advice.



(88)

Sunday.

Darling,

I do feel so excited. - I'm making here an evening cloak & it's turning out lovely. - Got the material on Friday & have been making it up this afternoon. It's got so late, & I'm afraid I've not time to write you a long letter. The material for the cloak is black chiffon velvet with a pretty silvery lining that will go with any frock. Don't you think that's the most sensible? 'Saves my asking, but are you getting here a present? You wouldn't care to share in a portmanteau, would you? I shall get one in any case, 'coz she wants one awfully, but I can't afford a lined one as she wants. There's some Topping ones here 22/6, & the cheapest lined ones

are 30/-.

Thanks for your letter of yesterday. It wasn't a particularly nice one, but I was glad you wrote at all. It didn't come till the 6 o'clock post, & I'd decided you hadn't written 'coz I didn't. But I was glad you did.

I'm beginning to look forward to coming home & doing some work, but I shall miss the sea & these glorious pine-woods. - Also the loud speakers - (there's a Topping 'ho playing now. - You get lots of good stuff, as well as indifferent).

Yesterday afternoon I went to see Mrs. Paulova. Mrs. P. badly wanted to go, & she didn't seem to like it 'coz I said I wasn't keen on paying 2/4 for a bad seat. However we both enjoyed

(88)



BRITISH GOVERNMENT  
POSTAGE THREE HALFPENCE



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

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/88)

'The material for the cloak is black chiffon velvet with a pretty silvery lining that will go with any frock'

15 Nov 1925





it thoroughly. After that, we went to the Exhibition again. I didn't forget you, darling, & have got you some lovely shaving cream & a Gillette razor. - I'll save the razor for your Xmas present, as Mrs. S. suggests, if I'm stumped. (It was thrown in with the cream, but is a nice one).

I'm going to hear Dr. Jones preach tonight. Don't get out of it, & anyhow it will be a good thing to discourse on at home.

There doesn't seem anything else to tell you. I've finished my red velvet frock, - & don't you dare not to like it. - It's the extra  $\frac{1}{2}$ " long.

Am looking forward to seeing you on Wed., darling. Au revoir, heaps of love & kisses,  
 La chérie

Have you got me any pupils?



Monday.

Thanks very much, my dear,  
for your letter and advice.  
I've never liked to give away  
photographs, because I think  
it's conceited to think people  
will like them. That's why I  
didn't give you one for so  
long. I wouldn't dream of  
giving Mother & Father one if  
it hadn't been for Mother  
feeling hurt because I'd had  
one sent for you & not for her.  
But I really don't know  
now when I'm doing right.  
I wrote & asked Father if he

would like me to get any little presents  
I see how suitable for the  
children's Xmas stockings, because  
he always says what a big  
job it is for him to do all  
the shopping at Xmas, & he  
wishes we would take an  
interest & help. Now he writes  
& says he prefers to choose  
them himself.

Mother doesn't want me  
at home, after all the talk  
there's been about none of her  
girls wanting to stay at home  
& help her.

I really don't just know  
when I am. Anyway, love.

Edith can't like me a bit.  
So she said if it hadn't been  
for Nene's dance she'd have  
asked me to stay on over  
Xmas, & I could have coached  
her boy, Jack, in Latin &  
helped them to get into their  
new house, in return for  
my board.

This is my last letter to  
you from Bournemouth. Hope  
you get on all right in  
Lpt. Lots of love,

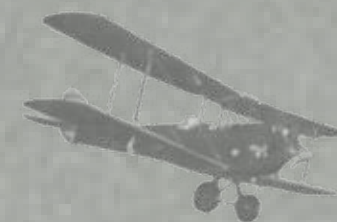
Amy.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/89)

'Thanks very much my dear for your letter and advice.'

16 Nov 1925





Darling,  
I'm so sorry but Father  
has asked me to go out with  
him, & I don't like to offend  
him.  
Please give me a ring  
tomorrow.  
Much love,  
Amy

89A  
Spring 1926  
N. A.

**Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger**  
(Reference L DIAJ/89A)

'Darling, I'm so sorry but father has asked me to go  
out with and I don't like to offend him.'

Spring 1926



(89B)

Monday, 12a.m.

Darling,

I had to write that note in such a hurry - Father was already waiting at the gate - so I hadn't time to think what to put. After I'd sealed it I remembered you might be going to London tomorrow morning & couldn't ring me up. - I hope you enjoyed your Club meeting (?). - You must have been awfully late coming to it, because it was after half past seven when we left here & I didn't meet you down the avenue or see you from the car.

I didn't very much want to go to the pictures because I'd a lot to do at home - but I wasn't sorry because I've seen some pictures of Loch Lomond!!! - It was lovely. I did wish you were there - the orchestra played some Scotch airs, & they were illustrated by Scotch pictures. - I'm sure one of the views was that bridge of several arches at Arrochar. - I thought of you drinking & smoking at your wretched Club & knew you'd wish you'd been with me just to see those fine views. Wouldn't you, darling?

You were such a dear all the time on our "honeymoon" & I don't think I ever was so thoroughly happy. I can remember every single detail, can't you?

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger  
(Reference L DIAJ/89B)

'Darling, I had to write that note in such a hurry - Father was already waiting at the gate - so I hadn't time to think what to put.'

Spring 1926

I've got the post-card views in front of me now, - & can see the windows of "our" bedroom - how I wish we were there together now! - I'll come to the Station in the morning to see if you go to London there. - I wish you hadn't to go away so often. - Hulls' so empty when you're gone.

Do love me always & always & more & more. I love you ever so much.

All my love for my darling,

Ta Sherie (once your wife).

(89B)

after Scotland Spring 1926?

H. Arregger.





89c

Sturtevant  
11.30 P.M.

Dear Hans,

I am writing what I want to say to you, because I seem to make such a muddle of putting my thoughts into spoken words.

The peculiar state of your nerves has been worrying me for some time now, & I have been thinking round for a reason, because there must be something behind it, whether you are conscious of it or not. I will try to explain clearly what I have been thinking for some time is an explanation of your "nerves". - Please excuse my speaking plainly, but I cannot. -

I think the whole thing turns on the question of marriage - our marriage. It seems to me that you want to have me, & yet you don't want to marry me. - in other words, you would accept me gladly as a mistress, but not as a wife. - This feeling has been growing on me for a long time - the other, when you have been specially nice or after one of our confidential talks, I have been ashamed of this feeling, & told myself it was all imagination. - I will try to tell you some of the things which have given rise to & strengthened this feeling. - Up to the time of that drive to Paris, on Easter Sunday 2 years ago you only felt a very slight interest in me, although I suppose you knew I

loved you. (or thought I did). After that came, when you pronounced yourself on my opinion, your interest gradually increased. You found yourself attracted towards me physically, & enjoyed dealing in the things I ought to have known. It seems that your interest gradually grew, until you loved me - but only physically. I have been very, practically always, that if I forced you to have me, & was strong enough to keep to my decision, you would gradually feel your love growing less - But I have never been strong enough to keep to it, & so I have had to. You have always been something to cause me to give up. - one time after we had had a talk & you assumed me you wanted to marry me, - but you insisted I should let you love me as you wanted to, - & I gave way because I persuaded myself it was all right when one really was going to be married & belong to each other properly. - Another time I gave up so that we could go to Scotland - I so very much wanted to go. - And I came at the moment when the other time.

For two whole years we have been almost constantly together, & yet you have never once of your own will mentioned the subject of marriage to me. I know I loved you, & I couldn't help but hear people's talk, & it got on my nerves to find on contact that I opened the subject. It has always been I who have first mentioned it. - After various discussions,

Personal  
After Scotland  
Before Switzerland - ? Early 1926  
89c

H.

Arregger, Esq.  
3, Humboldt Place,  
HULL.

89c

It was arranged that we should get married some time. (It has always been a deep secret to my friends that you have never asked me, - although I think it was my own fault for not wanting to see "long enough").

I have tried again & again to get to know your mind, but you can be as close as an ox when you choose - which is almost always.

Now I am so worried as to what kind of career to choose, you have perfectly well what was worrying me, & you told me quite plainly that I was not to be the question of marriage influences me in the slightest degree - it did not trouble you at all that I was considering going away for some length of time in a profession.

It has always seemed to me rather unusual that you should not, in the slightest degree, be proud of me. - You are not, on the whole, ashamed of me, but you have no wish to assume any proprietary right over me, although you are just to be angry if I assume there will any. - I have too with my doubts, for example. I know I have lots of faults - but I think most of them are through ignorance, & can quickly be righted. You have helped me a lot, & I am grateful. But you do still look on me as a mere inferior person, & not anyone you can be proud of. I admire your determination not to pay compliments, but on the top of your never telling me anything nice, it

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/89C)

'I am writing what I want to say to you, because I seem to make such a muddle of putting my thoughts into spoken words.'

Spring 1926



an awful blow to be told that you do pay compliments when there is anything you can compliment. It's as good as telling me straight out that you can't find a single good point about me. (You have told me one or two nice things - but, oh, such a long time ago).

Although you are taking me to Switzerland & have told me we shall go to live in Liverpool when we come back, you never mention either subject, unless I do first, & even then you rarely elaborate on them. One day you let drop that you wanted me to keep on in business, & that opened up an entirely new vein to me.

You have never even mentioned me to your mother, & you are purposely putting off telling her of my visit?

Suppose until we are just about going - presumably I should imagine, because you are not yet sure whether I really shall go, & you do not want to appear foolish before your people.

It is so strange to me that you do not seem to take any pleasure in looking forward to having me all for yourself. You say the spoils, but it's you who are - you know you have me anyhow, so why take on the risks & responsibilities of marriage, with no added benefits.

It is awfully late now & I seem to be rambling somewhat, but I hope you can gather the drift of what I've been trying

(89c)

to tell you.

To sum up the situation - it's obvious that your nerves are in a bad state, & that something must be the cause - you say you're not troubled with business, & you have no private worries that I know of. Physically, your health are pronounced all right & you say your eyes give you no trouble. Therefore it seems there must be something on your mind. - & the most likely explanation seems to be you are worried about me. You're going on fast & it isn't long before we should be going to Switzerland. You know you should live in Liverpool for business reasons, yet you daren't go because you know I'd expect to come too. And you're not prepared to shoulder that responsibility. You're not a marrying man - (I can see that in many little things, not worth detailing) - & although you love me & want me, you do not want to marry me.

I do not like to say this, - but whilst you're "waiting to see" as you are doing, you are utterly cutting out my opportunities & chances in any other direction.

Please think over what I have written & do please tell me if it hits or not. - only think it over thoroughly, because I'm sure you don't realise what

really is troubling you. - & it's something, that's obvious.

Do you think it would do you any good if we each went our own ways for a time. You take one anyone you fancy & I'll do as I like. - (You can trust me "to be good").

Yours,  
Clary.

