

The Amy Johnson Letters (Part V)



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

Part V covers the period between
30 May 1927 and 5 September 1927

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Description of the collection:

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

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

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

Related material:

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

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



(160)

Monday, 12.4.5.p.m.

I am feeling rather worried about you, darling, and the absence of a letter this morning has troubled me more than I can say, as I had a nasty dream last night. I dreamt that I came to your office to give you a surprise - I was all in white & it was hot summer weather. I found you all alone at your desk in your shirt sleeves, with your head down upon your hands. I thought how pleased you would be to see me and I was excited about waking you & surprising you. I put my hands on your forehead & then I don't know what happened, but I woke up with an awful shock & sat up in bed wide awake, & I knew it was the coldness of your forehead that had woken me up. I couldn't sleep again for a long time. If there had been a letter this morning I probably shouldn't have thought anything more about it, but I can't understand why you haven't

written. Please write & reassure me, darling. I am afraid of your business worries overwhelming you.

These few flowers are to cheer you up, darling, not because I'm any faith in my dream. Do please write.

All my love, & kisses,

A.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/160)

'I am feeling rather worried about you darling and the absence of a letter this morning has troubled me more than I can say..'

30 May 1927



161
1.30. p.m.
Thank you, darling, so very much for your nice letter this morning. It's practically impossible to write you this week, so I hope you won't mind too much. You'd laugh if you could see me now. I'm learning this on the bridge over the Thames - if I go back to the office I shall only be given more work, and there's nowhere near here to sit & sit down. I'm getting the fresh air as well for a few minutes, which is a treat. The room with artificial light & no ventilation where I'm working this week makes my head ache, and I'm afraid the job as Mrs. Wood's secretary is little more than slave-driving. I was at the office yesterday at 9.15, left at 7. was late for my class & was absolutely "done up" when I got in at nearly 10. This morning I was at the office before 9 to try to get cleared up & it is sure to be late again tonight. I have everybody's sympathy in the office 'cos they all know what it's like. I

wouldn't do it for anyone I didn't like. I've just been to Cook's to try to learn some particulars about excursions. I don't know what is the best to do, and I don't know yet whether I'll be here Sat. morning or not, and I don't like to ask, because I'd rather leave Tuesday morning. (I'll type the train out when I get back if you don't mind. 'Cos I'm writing under difficulties here & am afraid my papers blow over.) If we get Sat. morning off I'll come by the Sat. morning train, otherwise will come in the afternoon. I'll let you know as soon as I can, but I'm sure booking I should book from Sat. night onwards. I hope you're lucky in the Derby. I put a 1/- each in 2 offra scraps, but have drawn blanks. Are the roses just to-day? I wonder. I went a long way to fetch them & get them just. - which was why I didn't get any on Monday after I'd written & sealed your letter.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/161)

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

1 Jun 1927

161
2.
how it is time to go back so I must hurry. If I come to Matlock Bath on Sat. afternoon, would it be too late for you to meet me there & take me to N'sage? I can't get to N'sage direct from here. Matlock, Matlock Bath, Bakewell & Sheffield are the nearest direct points. If it be too late perhaps my best plan would be to go to Sheffield & take the train fr. there to N'sage the that is my most expensive way. I'm afraid I'm short up. Will explain why, etc. when I see you. I must run all the way back now.
Much love,
A.
Tomorrow night I'm going to the pictures, you remember, to see the story in the Swiss lakes. Can look forward to it. (But not so much as I'm longing to have you at what.)



6.45 p.m. -

I'm just a little bit earlier tonight, darling, & am having mine for a cup of tea. I hadn't really finished, but Mrs. Wood said the rest would be tomorrow so I must go early again in the morning.

Robert moved with rather startling swiftness tonight. About 6.15 Mrs. Wood came in our room & asked Miss Sexton (Mrs. Crocker's secretary) & I what we were doing at what & if we wanted Sat. morning off. I said I would prefer to have Tues. morning & he said at once oh I could have that anytime. He wanted to know where I was going & I told him the usual job, I was campy with a friend near Boston. He knows the neighborhood well, it appears, & at once told me the best way to get there, which is by the 6.25. on Friday night (he insists on my going on Friday night) arriving Bakewell (near Boston) at 10.11. He looked up the train & then told me to

so I must do without. And how. Let me know at once, won't you.

Take down a letter. This was to the Passenger Superintendent, St. Pancras & said "Please reserve for my secretary, Miss Johnson, a single 3rd Class seat in the 6.25 down to Manchester."

So that's that. It has taken a long time to write but it all happened in a couple of minutes. On thinking it over, I believe it is a good idea if you can manage to get off on Friday. Can you? Then will you meet me in Bakewell. (I'll send you a map of Sheffield tomorrow to show you the roads) at 10.11 & I think it's best to stay the night there. It's fairly large & there should be plenty of places to stay. Then on Sat. we'll have the whole day! - Can you manage it, darling? Then we'll have an extra night & 3 whole days. I needn't leave till Tues.

You wouldn't need to leave Sheffield on Friday till half past 4 or 5, 'cos the light till after 9.30 & it shouldn't take you more than 4 hrs. with no accidents.

How I must go. Have been here a bit & am home & haven't got served yet

	Return Fare	from St. Pancras.	Arrival.
BAKEWELL.	25/3	10.25 a.m.	2.24 p.m.
		3.0. p.m.	8.23 p.m.
MATLOCK.	24/-	10.30 a.m.	2.10 p.m.
		3.0. p.m.	8.1. p.m.
MATLOCK BATH	24/-	10.25 a.m.	1.57 p.m.
		3.0. p.m.	7.57 p.m.
SHEFFIELD.	26/3	10.40 a.m.	3.0. p.m.
		2.30 p.m.	6.52 p.m.

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118, HOPE STREET, GLASGOW,
522, FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

Thursday, 12.45 p.m.

I'm writing this at the office, darling, & haven't any of my own paper here. Thanks awfully for your nice letter this morning. Am so glad you like the flowers & I hope they keep fresh till you have to leave them to see me instead. It is worth anything to please you so much.

There isn't anything to add to our little arrangements - I hope what I wrote last night will be all right for you. It isn't long now, darling, is it!

Am awfully busy as well. I had a rather disturbing letter from Father this morning but will tell you about everything when I see you. He says I can't write more now because I must write Father a few lines as they're setting off for Oxford tomorrow & I shan't have another chance. After that he is going to Germany & then the Mediterranean. Mother's sent me a large piece of cake this morning. Will tell you what I hear about the wedding when I see you. Your suggestion at the end of your letter spoils the other recipient but perhaps you didn't mean it that way. I'll say it will be a well-told tale & so on.

Will see you at 10-11 at Redwell tomorrow night. Much love & lots more tomorrow night.

2nd June 1927
(162)

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

Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger(Reference L DIAJ/162)

'I'm writing this at the office darling and haven't any of my own paper here.'

2 Jun 1927



163

Tuesday. 8.10 p.m.

I'm wondering if you have got back safely, darling. It kept free for you, didn't it? The sun was shining brightly all the way to London & I did so well. I was on the back of the bike going with you wherever you were going. I wonder if you had a lot of worries waiting for you when you returned. I don't mind the coming back to work so much as having to leave you. If you come back with me it's never so sorry as this that a holiday is over. Can you give me the name & address of that man I've to write to for a ticket on June 19th (is it? - that's the Sunday & the only day I could come), and then perhaps if I can manage it, I'll come, shall I? - But what a long way for such a few hours! Would you be specially nice to me?

Thank you so much, darling, for giving me such a good time this time. - I do love you for it. I am very ashamed that after saying I would be able to help you with the expenses, I had no money.

At Dorset Ave. Llewellyn (the partner who had travelled down with Mr. Wood) was on the train & he said he was looking out for me. He had lunch with me, so I again saved, tho' I didn't care for him to pay for my lunch. He is an M.A. & the only 'bachelor' in the establishment but if you had seen his face you wouldn't be jealous. He's terribly fat & ugly but is quite pleasant to talk to, tho' he does irritate me sometimes.

I have had a busy afternoon & have lots of work to go to in the morning. Are you busy, darling? The looking forward to your letters again and shall always be looking out for good news. Will it ever come, I wonder. Please tell me all about your business - the bad bits as well as the good ones.

Here were letters from Mother & Father waiting for me to make me fed up, but I'm trying hard not to let such trifling things worry me so unreasonably. They are still trying to direct my life even now I've left home. All my love, darling, & lots of thanks for your kindness to me. I do want you badly.

163

KILBURN N.W.9
JUN 7
1130 PM
1927



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

Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/163)

'I'm wondering if you have got back safely
darling.'

7 Jun 1927

165

Friday. 9 p.m.

Thank you, darling, for your letter this morning. I think that's the first time I've had one in a morning after one the night before. I was glad to have it and to know that you have already made use of my little gift. I don't know whether they're what you want because I'm not an expert in such things, but I want to bustle round, which is a good step, isn't it? I meant to ask for "suspenders" but changed my mind when I saw "Trowsers" on the box in the window. Inside I was greeted by about 8 men with nothing to do, but my friend's request for "garden" was met with a gentle surprise and "Oh, yes, suspenders, Madam." It needs some courage to stop for gentlemen!

I've been to the baths after the office - it was awfully nice and I feel so fresh now & energetic. It has done me a lot of good. I know its exercise that I need so badly, but it's a problem how to get it. I'm sure that that is what is the matter with me. You are lucky being able to get some tennis. I'd give anything to have some good strenuous games. I am hungry - haven't had my dinner yet & I've been in over half an hour. Mrs. Green

has crowds of people coming from Sweden on Monday & the whole house is being cleaned. She's busy making soup & my supper isn't in evidence anywhere. However, I must be patient.

Since I've been with you this week, darling, I understand your letters better. You see, you've changed quite a bit & I could see the change in your letters lately but couldn't understand it. But now I can understand them better and I'm glad that I can because it doesn't worry me now. - the making fun I mean. But don't stop it if it works to your advantage. 10.5 p.m.

Oh, darling, I'm so sorry. Mrs. Green called me to supper & we've been talking & I've only just noticed the time. But, anyhow, there is no time to tell you. I'm glad you're getting some news on the bike. I do envy your clients.

What a disappointment for Friday. - But perhaps she wouldn't have liked it over. When she'd it would have been an experience for her. She written a note to Emily to-day for her birthday & sent her a tiny needle-case. I hadn't time to write anything.

I would much prefer you to come to London, darling, but that of course is selfish. For me it's the return to London that's the stumbling-block. But I must find out about the house. I hope you have a nice week-end - and - will write me a longer letter for Monday. - All my love, A.

165

FILBURN N.W.6
JUN 10
11.30 PM
1927



H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Chamber Place,
St. Paul's.

Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/165)

'Thank you darling, for your letter this morning.'

10 Jun 1927

(166)

Saturday. 6 p.m.

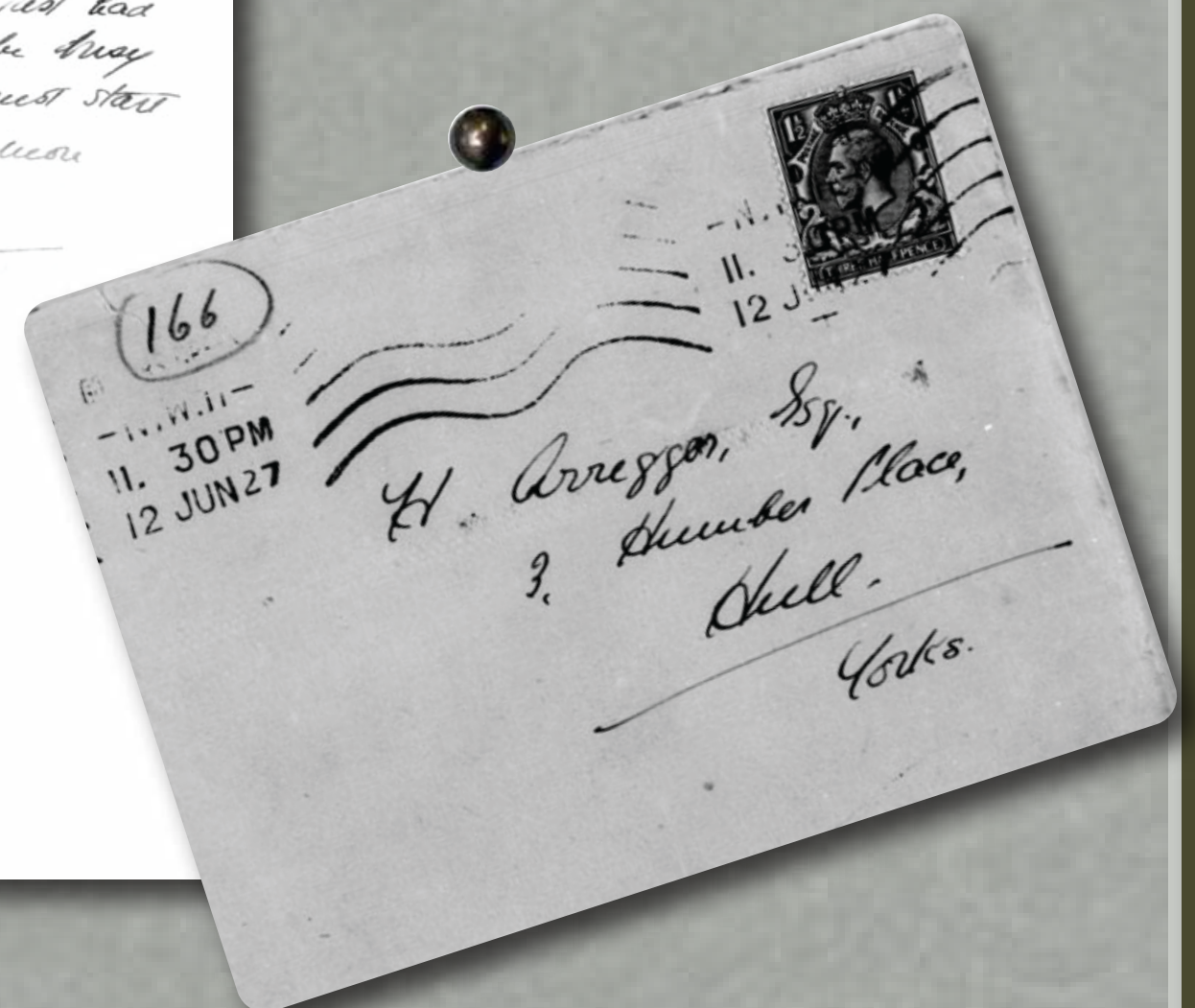
Just a line before we wash the tea things up. —

You are very naughty, darling, to be so careless on peacy roads that you have a skid. It is my turn now to say I have a sympathy with you and that you bring such silly things on yourself. (But I don't mean that, and you always do). Are you really not hurt much? — You really oughtn't to be allowed on the bike without me on the back so that you will be careful. — & you are even careless sometimes when I'm there. I expect you were in the hospital or else put on your brakes too quickly. — Yes? —

And what happened about your appearance at the Police Court? You never told me anything about it & I forgot to ask. Did you go, & what happened? — Please tell me the next time you write.

This afternoon I set off from the office to go to the Royal Academy,

but I walked such a long way that I was tired out when I got there & thought it wasn't worth while paying the money when I was really too tired to appreciate anything. There is also a "Daily Express" exhibition of modern artists, I would like to see. So I had a cup of coffee & then came home. He just had my tea & am going to be busy tonight washing, etc. I must start now. Will write some more tomorrow.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/166A)

'Just a line before we wash the tea things up.'

12 Jun 1927

Sunday. 2.20 p.m.

It is such a lovely day, darling, and I'm feeling rather lonely 'cos I'd love to go out somewhere but have no one to go with and I'm getting a wee bit tired of my own society. If I had Mrs. Fitzell's address I think I'd go to see his landlady and play with the kiddies, but I don't even know her name.

I suppose you're getting ready to go a run on the bike with one of your clerks. Do you ever feel really lonely, darling? I only feel it when the sun is shining and I want to get out, because I can always find plenty to do in the house, but don't care always to go out by myself. As it now so very indefinite as to when, or whether, you're coming, I'm now looking forward instead to Wainie's coming, which will be at the beginning of July. I shall be glad to have her here. I often wish that your stay here coincided with mine. Wouldn't that have been nice? - For me, I mean.

Thank you, darling, so much for

your nice long letter yesterday. I hope you weren't too disappointed with my short one. It would be absolutely lovely if you could come for my birthday and stay the week-end. I wouldn't let the Treas know you were coming and I'd pretend to visit Guppy again for the weekend. - Yes? - It would be by far the nicest birthday present I could have. Will you, darling? I don't think anywhere that next week-end would be the best time for me to come to see you as I believe it's my "off" week, tho' I've really lost count. Anyway, I've already begun to take my medicine to make absolutely sure of it this time. If you can't possibly come for July 1st, there is another 2 day trip from here on July 2nd (or 3rd, I forget if one starts on the Sat. or Sunday). You are a darling to think of coming then and I'll try to be ever so nice to you. It will be a fortnight on Friday, isn't it, and I believe weekend tickets last from Friday to Tuesday. They are for 28/-, aren't they? -

(2).

It is a nuisance to-day that just when I have a lot of letters to write (Mum, Mollie, Guppy & Wainie) my wrist is hurting rather. I worked very hard last night and had a real proper washing day - did ever send a lot and it took me hours. I also washed my green suit and my cardigan jacket. I put all my white knickers aside to go to the laundry to get boiled properly, but when I packed up I'd sent for them I changed my mind & did them myself. If I sent all my knickers to the laundry it would cost me 5/- to 6/- per week! My wrist hurts from all the rubbing & wringing out. I have it all to use to-day and then there's a lot of mending to do. My classes start again tomorrow so I shall have much to do. I don't like writing as it's obvious they've been meaning to write as usual. I know you don't believe much of what I say, but I've seen more of them than you have. - & you're only seen the best side - the "charming boy" side!!

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/166B)

'It is such a lovely day darling and I'm feeling rather lonely 'cos I'd love to go out somewhere but have no one to go with..'

12 Jun 1927

The other day at the office Mr. Wood gave me 2 rather difficult jobs to do, and one of them was to draft a letter, which I was afraid would be beyond me. However I read through the case & studied the law on the points and wrote the letter, which I took to Mr. Wood yesterday. To my great surprise he didn't alter any of it, except to add 2 paragraphs on points he hadn't mentioned to me. I thought he would be pleased, but he didn't say anything - I suppose he's so used to writing letters he doesn't think there's anything there in it. - But it is for me. Never mind, I'm still pleased with my achievement. One day he was asking me how I managed on £3.10.0. a week & he told me that Miss Roberts (his present secretary) gets nearly £7 per week and that he saw no reason why I shouldn't also, - but not all at once! I was telling him once about Winnie & that she was coming to London to live & wanted me to share a flat with her. He advised me to & said we'd have some

(3).
fun "pizzing it." - I didn't tell him I wasn't keen on the pip smoke of life! I had a purpose in telling him this, because I thought if you wanted to keep our flat a secret I could always pretend to be living with Winnie. It is for this purpose that the one or two people who know think I go to Cookery classes.

Mum has sent me 3 awfully sweet snaps of herself & Teddy taken when she stayed near Torquay. She has got some beautiful new clothes & looks sweet. I'm trying hard to save up to get a 2 piece suit to wear when you come. - He seen an awfully sweet one yesterday for £3.3.0. which is very cheap and I do so want a change from that brown coat I've worn every day since I came to London. And I'm afraid if I don't look nice you'll soon be getting out of love with me. Cos clothes do make a difference in spite of all our emphatic assertions to the contrary. However, I'm trying not to be serious about this because I haven't forgotten that dreams aren't dreams.

It is rather a coincidence that only the other day I saw a shop selling ladies' travelling slippers, because I have never before seen them for ladies. I will certainly get a pair for Mary if they are nice ones & I can find out the equivalent of 37 in English. About what price do you want to give for an umbrella for Emily? I suppose you want silk, don't you? I'll keep a look out & if I see anything very nice & reasonable, will get it.

I am still very stiff from the snow on Friday.

Yes, wasn't I excited last year about this time! I do wish we were going this summer. You're no idea how I long for everybody & everything there. But the next time we go, will have a nice time in Paris if we go that way, won't we? - I'm not really looking forward yet to the winter because it's so far off & I see heaps of things might happen before we go. Do you remember our touring plans for this summer? How it's time for a trip of tea. Mrs. Mum always gets one for Mrs. J. when she writes up from her sleep. Had a most husband.

Winnie's writing. All my love, A.



(167)
13 June 1927
H. Arregger, Esq.

7.15 p.m.

I'm so sorry, darling, I haven't
time to write. Am just rushing
off to Folders. Then Leppoldhouse
will have. Then to see "The Post."

Thank you for your unexpected
letter - it was nice. Here is
a small present for you as
a mark of appreciation.

Will write tomorrow.

All my love, darling,

A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/167)

'I'm so sorry darling I haven't time to write.'

13 Jun 1927

169A

Monday. 1.40. p.m.

Thank you so much for your letter this morning, darling. It was such a nice one & I love every word of it. You do know how to say charming things when you like.

I am sorry I haven't time to write you more than a few lines to-day. It's such a glorious day that I've just been out for a few minutes. How delightful it would be to go for a picnic on the bike.

It's nice of you to think about my throat and about me getting thin. My throat, or neck, isn't it, hasn't really hurt me since I came back, but I always have that funny feeling, which may be simply misquiescence. You forgotten how it ought to feel so I really don't know whether it's all right or all wrong. If it begins to hurt again then I will see a doctor.

Wasn't it a coincidence about Nannie & Eric being in it? They didn't see us, did they? Please remember me to them when you go to see them, will you?

My green jumper suit has shrunk a little tho' I washed it so carefully. It is almost unrecognisable with these fine wadded things. I am disappointed because it was the nicest thing I had to wear.

6.15. p.m.

Just a few more lines before I go to my class & then I can post this so that you will get it first thing in the morning to make up for the shortness. I've been awfully busy all day on a very tedious job of copying out revised drafts for this House of Lords case - shall be glad when it's over.

My classes will soon be finished, darling, and then I can get my meals regularly again. I don't mind so much the irregularity as the monotony. Last Tues. night we had hot, mint and cold with salad every day since. I wonder if there's any left for my supper tonight. It is very difficult to approach Mrs. G. on the subject. Yesterday we had stewed apricots - the first change from rhubarb since the peaches I told you of - & again I

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/169A)

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

15 Jun 1927



2.
Remarked emphatically on the nice change, but Mrs. G. said he preferred rhubarb, so I know what there will be tonight. It can't be helped, so I must just stick it, but I wish I had another prospect to look forward to.

Am relieved to hear you're not much worse for your skin. - You must be more careful, darling. The good Mrs. Leech hasn't been fussing over you. I hate the idea and I don't care for you to compare me in your mind with her, ^{most} often, no doubt, to her advantage.

I must go now because I'd like a cup of tea first. So far, the train going a long way round to my classes because I save it. by using my pass - but per week. But the quickest way is from the Bank to Bond Street Station & costs 2s. Taking less than half the time. When I'm hungry or late I'll go the short way so that the time for tea. It's about vegetable tonight & roasting a joint. - It was such a lovely night!! Goodbye, darling, all my love & lots of kisses. A.

Postmarked June 16 1927 Tuesday. 1.40 p.m.
 169
 Thank you for your letter, darling. - I
 always wonder if I can hope for one on
 Tuesday morning because I know
 Monday is your busy day, and am so
 glad when there is one as usual. It
 is not a very nice day to-day so I don't
 suppose you'll be wanting to be off on
 your bike again. I hope you get
 some good games of tennis. - I don't
 play, but I'm absolutely longing to play.
 Of course I would get up to play in a
 morning with you if I were in the U.S.
 When I was looking forward to your
 being here this summer I used to hope
 we might get some tennis together here
 before the season finishes.

This morning I was up very
 early because I went to Peter Jones
 before the office to get my hair cut. I
 didn't want to spend the money 'cos it
 made me break into my 2 nice new
 £1 notes, but I was really ashamed
 of the bad state it was in. It gets
 awfully greasy a day or two after its
 washed & is in very bad condition
 so I've had to buy some stuff to
 counteract the grease. I knew it was
 because my hairbrush was worn out &
 it isn't getting brushed properly, & they

told me this morning that that was the
 reason. I think I'll bestow a few
 gentle hints on the folks at home just
 before my birthday, but I did so last
 year & also at Xmas & all in vain.

I am busy again with another
 interesting job for Mr. Wood. I don't
 like what you say about when I get £4
 I shall want to share with Winnie. It
 will be about 5 years probably before
 I'm getting that (tho' I hope less), & if
 you're still in the U.S. then - well, I suppose
 I shall be sharing with someone long
 before that. I haven't an inimitable
 patience like you. 6.30 p.m.

My hair looks even so neat but
 you afraid it will be long again by
 the time you come for my birthday.
 I'm sorry, darling. I can't comb
 more now as I wanted to. I've been
 kept late at the office & am only just
 leaving, so that it will be a rush to
 get to my class. And there's really
 nothing of interest to tell you.

All my love, darling,
 La Cherie

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
 (Reference L DIAJ/169B)

'Thank you for your letter darling I always
 wonder if I can hope for one on Tuesday
 mornings ...'

16 Jun 1927



170

12.45. p.m.

You usually write to me about this time, don't you, darling? It's nice to think that you may also be busy writing to me now.

This morning I found one of my letters to you unposted in the box of my bag - I'm so sorry, darling, & it does seem a pity I forgot to post it when I had so hard to get one written on the 3 days I have so little time. I don't know which one it was because it was sealed & stamped. I put it in the box first thing this morning but I don't suppose you'll get it till tomorrow.

Thank you for your letter - I really don't know what must be the matter with you just now. You mustn't get so fed up that you don't care about anything. I'm glad your office didn't get burnt down 'coz I'm sure you'll make lots of money out of that business some day - when you get one or two good seasons & some more capital. Are you sure your eyes are all right? Please do be more careful. I'm glad you're able to get some tennis. If you practise hard you may soon be a good player as you say,

or as good as any others in the Park, but I wish you would try to cultivate a good style. Your service doesn't look a bit nice and you don't try to vary your game & play interestingly. Do come to London, darling, and play with me. - If only you would come, we wouldn't have a flat until we can afford it. Will find some cheap digs & save money. I need you so much and am tired of my own society - And I don't want anybody's, because Tupp has injured me for the weekend & I don't a bit want to go. It is so expensive & I'm not greatly enthusiastic with Leyton B. Besides, I haven't to bribe myself this weekend, have I? And I've got nasty pains to-day in my inside. I'm sure my stomach is also losing all interest in the food it gets & isn't working enthusiastically. I've had to get a bottle of castor oil & I never, or hardly ever, used to need such things at home.

12. 6.30 again - late as usual. I'm just having a glass of

milk at the Express next door.

Tuppy sent me a P.C. last night. She says she has taken a flat & wants me to make it my weekend home. She says I can easily come back on Monday mornings. (That gives us 2 nights at my birthday weekend, darling).

It's time to go now. We did worry last night. I don't know what it is tonight.

All my love & kisses.

J.

170

LONDON
JUN 15
8.15 PM
1927 H



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

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/170)

'You usually write to me about this time, don't you darling?'

15 Jun 1927

(171) Thursday, 8 p.m.
8 o'clock & I've only just finished dinner & haven't helped with the pots because I'm so very, very tired. There's no dinner that I can't do today & you're no idea how hard I work at the office, the travelling in the tube is boring as well. Mrs. Green has her sister & daughter (an awfully pretty sweet girl of about 18) & a lady friend. The women are downstairs in putting them up but they are often up here. They have been here since Monday but I've been out all the time so I haven't seen much of them. They're here till about the end of July I think.
We're still on the beef & salad course - I left half an hour tonight - & the guests, I'm sure, were going. I've just replaced a visit to a house & I've been with the visitors because I'm too tired. I have decided to accept the invitation but I shall tell her & and rest & don't want to go cycling & do anything strenuous.
Thank you for your letter this morning, darling. You must have been without a letter all morning so it is

very nice of you not to have forgotten & to let me hear from you all the time.
How I'm longing for a nice bit of the country on the lake - I'd love some cool fresh air & I think the lake feel better at once. I wonder if you're gone.
I'm sorry I'm in a funny mood, darling. I feel disappointed and irritable, and I've felt for the past which is worrying me. I often think how little worth the minute's pleasure is the worry of it afterwards, when I get a pain or anything of the sort. One year when I'm with you I forget all about the consequences and just live for the minute. I am sure that we shall not be lonely always and I can't help but think of the trouble & disgrace which would follow. I tell myself repeatedly I don't care what people think, but I know inside myself that I do care a lot what some people think. In spite of your kindness & my "advanced" reading I'm afraid I am all the same a bit prejudiced & old-fashioned.
I feel disappointed with myself tonight because I feel so close to you but I've not got from London with

(171) 2.
looks so pretty & fresh in a pale blue ribbon frock without sleeves. If there were a machine here I'd make myself a cool summer frock. But I couldn't find the time to do it by hand, the perhaps I could take it with me to Tripoli. But to go to Brighton B. will cost me 6/6 so I don't think I can afford frock material as well. We're both in the same boat, darling, aren't we? We ought to stick together & keep each other. Somehow, since you dashed my hopes with the extreme vagueness of your plans, or lack of plans, I've lost all interest in the future. I no longer dream nice things, and without my dreams, my own society does me much more quickly than it used to.
Don't you think you'll be off to Switzerland long before Christmas? - I shouldn't be a bit surprised. I think you, like me, will be badly in need of a holiday by the end of August - altho' if you're going to Portugal that will make a change for you - tho' it will be pretty hot. I should imagine, in August.
If the season before that you

were so uncertain about coming here this summer I might be in Switzerland now instead of Mrs. Wood! Of course, Mrs. Wood's is much the best job with excellent prospects, but how glorious to be in Switzerland. Mrs. Wood was pleased with me to-day over another job I've done for him. I like working for him and he isn't always fault-finding like you are. I wouldn't like to work for you.
I am looking in & the music is nice here. Mrs. Green's face & the black but Mrs. Green & her children are doing crossword puzzles as usual.
Yesterday I had to shaven the electric at the worst of my skin. - It was awfully bright. If you were here, that's wrong, I think.
I've been asked to go to the bank again tomorrow - maybe I'll go because I feel so happy & fresh last week after the exercise. I'd love that feeling again.
What is your eye now? This does. Last night cold under cloths on it? She ought to have done, & someone ought to have looked after it. Please take care.
At 9 o'clock now & I've sent both & lots of love to you. I feel very old tonight. All my love, darling.
A.

(171) 3.
Mrs. & Mrs. S. are always teasing me about writing letters every day. - They somehow guess they must love you. They call it my "daily task". I do take it. Wish people would leave me alone. I want to sit on your knee & forget about everything, but you're getting too old for that. And you're never content to feel like this you're never content to love me so I want to be loved.
I wish I knew what the weather is going to be like - the forecast is unrelieved & I don't want to go to L.A. if it's wet. Nothing would be more depressing. Last night I went to bed & fell deeply & definitely tonight.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/171)

'8 o'clock and I've only just finished dinner and haven't helped with the pots because I'm so very, very tired.'

16 Jun 1927



Friday, 10. p.m.

I'm ever so sorry, darling, there's so little time to write to you. I went straight from the office to the bank but they were so crowded we had to wait a long time before we could get a bank. It was late when I got in & after supper I've washed my hair because it was already so wet. I enjoyed the swim awfully & feel great & energetic again. It's a lovely feeling. I was hungry & ate a lot of cold beef & salad. There was neither rhubarb or spinach bought for a change. - no sweet at all. We finished the beef tonight but there's a big new joint in the larder ready for tomorrow & next week.

Thank you, darling, so much for your letter. Before it came I had already almost overcome my disappointment last week, & when I read your letter I felt nearly happy again. It was funny that just when I was being impatient with you, you were thinking of the same thing, wasn't it? I hope you have

to go to Lisbon soon & get the business you mention but have never told me about. What is it? I am afraid to hope too much because I do get disappointed a lot when things don't happen, tho' I'm getting much more sensible & philosophical lately. I don't, except for occasional perhaps as last night.

Don't is always asking me if I'm happy & comfortable & when my friend (Auntie) is coming & I've decided yet to get a flat. He was talking about it to-day & says there are plenty of places to get & he says we'd better get our furniture from London on the usual plan, and when I talk over Miss Roberts' job I shall get more money.

That's in September. I wonder how much I'll get then - I don't it will be more than a 10/- raise. Maybe I'll get 15/- but I mustn't be too optimistic. I'm a bit disappointed instead of pleased with the reality when it arrives. What a lot of talking & arranging & planning we shall have to do

when you find out if you can come soon. I'm looking forward to it so much. Aren't you at all? I don't think of course quarrel at all but maybe we shall quite agree on everything. Sometimes you'll win & have your own way & sometimes I shall. What I'm on my own I go on a fairly calm way, not often almost quite happy and sometimes a bit depressed, but when you come I suppose I'll be again all ups & downs of violent happiness & violent depression, but it's much more real life.

I'm not going to Peggy's tomorrow. I wrote last night to ask her to leave it indefinite - I'd come if it was fine & stay in town if wet.

Tonight there is a letter from her asking me if I mind postponing it until next week as I am so undecided, as she's heard from someone else who wants to come & can only come this weekend.

I'm looking forward so much to my birthday - There's a flying

invitation at London on July 1st, maybe we can go. The day's short with the short - prices 10/- of 8/- - not so outrageous, are they?

How I must run to the post - I've had an extra 10 mins. in the clock was tomorrow.

Will write you a long letter this weekend.

All my love & lots of kisses.

172



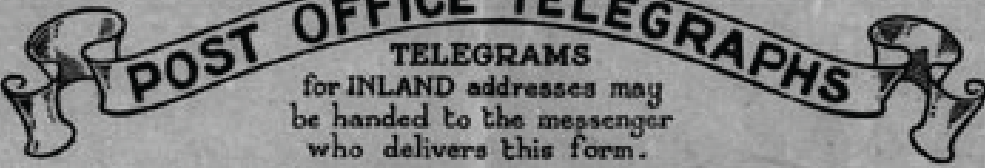
H. Arregger Esq.
3, Leinster Place,
Dublin.

Yr's.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/172)

'I'm ever so sorry darling, there's so little time to write to you.'

17 Jun 1927

B or C Charges to pay a. d.	 <p>POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS TELEGRAMS for INLAND addresses may be handed to the messenger who delivers this form.</p> <p>The Post Office accepts telegrams by telephone.</p>		No. <i>1072</i>
			Office of Origin <i>18 JU</i>
This form, and if possible the envelope, should accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.	Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin & Service Instructions. Words.		SENT At.....M To..... By.....
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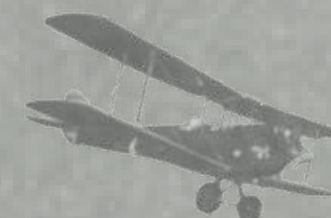
REYMOND HULL =

PLEASE COME EXPECTING YOU TOMORROW MUCH LOVE = AMY +

Amy Johnson telegram (Reference L DIAJ/172A)

'Please come expecting you tomorrow much love Amy.'

18 Jun 1927



(173)

Monday. 6.30.p.m.

I'm sorry, darling. I can't write you more than a few lines. It's 6.30. as usual when I've left the office.

Are you feeling very tired to-day? I wonder, - but you ought to have got quite a nice sleep in the train as you had a carriage to yourself. Oh was it too hard & cold. I feel quite all right to-day & as energetic as these last 2 days. Hope it lasts.

Thank you, darling, so much for coming yesterday - altho' it was such a short time it was worth while to me, was it to you? - But of course I had all the nice part of it whilst you had the travelling & loss of sleep part. I hope you haven't been tired & regretted coming. I am now looking forward very much to the next visit & hope it won't be long, - but it won't at any rate be more than 10 days, will it?

I am very very sorry indeed, darling, to have to ask you if you can send me one of the £1 notes I gave you last Friday. -

I don't like asking you after I was so emphatic that I could manage, but I haven't then thought of my railway pass which I suddenly realised this morning runs out on Wednesday the 22nd. It is 14/10½ for another one & of course I haven't that amount of money & it seems a shame to spend 1/2 per day to wait till Saturday when I shall have my money + besides I haven't enough for that. Do you mind very much, darling? I daresay I could borrow it then but I'd hate to do that. I'm sorry I didn't remember about my pass. If you haven't spent them do you mind sending me one tomorrow & then it will be in time for Wednesday. Thank you so much.

You were awfully nice to me yesterday & I do love you specially for it. Tell me the minute you know anything definite about Lisbon, won't you?
All my love, darling, & lots of kisses, A.

(173)

LONDON
JUN 20 1927
8.5 PM

H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Chamber Place,
St. Paul.

Yours.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/173)

'I'm so sorry darling. I can't write you more than a few lines.'

20 Jun 1927

(174)

Tuesday, 6.15.p.m.

Thank you, darling, so much for sending me some cherries. - I hope they're waiting for me when I get in tonight. Am looking forward so much to them as I have only had a few tuppys yet when I went to L.B. I wish I could share with you tho'. Everything tastes so much nicer when I have someone nice to share with.

I'm glad you had a peaceful journey on Sunday & didn't pay extra fare - that would have been a disappointing ending, wouldn't it.

Last night I was very unlucky. I enjoyed my class very much & was interested in making macaroni cheese. I worked by myself & was hungry so made & ate a whole portion, so that when I got to W.H. I didn't want any supper. So as I had a little extra time before bed I thought I'd press my green skirt & had to wash again because I got some ink spots on. - Mrs. Neen was in so I just heated the electric iron & did it on the end of the

table. As luck would have it, the iron slipped over the edge (I did it at the narrow end) & brought down the whole light etc. - Mrs. Neen was in & she fetched Mrs. P. from the flat downstairs & she was rather unfair about it. - she said I used it too often. - I use it for about 1/2 an hour or less once a fortnight & for that I pay her 4/- per week. Anyway Mrs. Korraby (the woman who is a very useful woman) wanted it all right & I shall just have a new bulb to pay for which is getting at 1/- per piece for me. I don't feel like asking her again if I can use it. I shall ask Mother if I can send my laundry home for a bit. - that will be cheaper for me. I feel so vexed that it happened just that time I used it without asking her. - I always do, of course, but it seemed a pity to waste the opportunity last night as I wanted to wear my frock & don't usually have any time till the end of the week. I wonder how much bulbs are.

(174)

LONDON W.1
JUN 21
7.15 PM
1927

49. Arregger, Esq.
3, Skinner Place,
Hull.
Yorks.

(2).

There was a P.C. from Mother last night to say Father may fly back from Germany & if so will come to see me next Sunday. It is very unlikely & I am hoping it won't check if your visit falls this weekend. But it's no good worrying till we know for sure. I'll let you know as soon as I hear myself.

There's no need for me to worry now about my pains, darling. - The usual relief or better (as the case may be) is as punctual as usual, tho' a few hours later instead of earlier as generally happens.

What a disappointing birthday day it has been.

You mustn't smoke too much, darling. I gave you the lighter so that you could save by being able to smoke the cigarettes right to the end. My pen's run out now so I must stop.

Thanks for the cherries.
All my love & devotion for
Hans when you see. A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/174)

'Thank you, darling so much for sending me some cherries...'

21 Jun 1927



(175)

Wednesday. 6.30 p.m.

What a splendid basket of cherries, darling. You do spoil me. I was surprised to see such a beautiful large basket waiting for me when I got in last night. Some of them were bad but I sorted them all out before going to bed & rubbed & polished the good ones. - It was a long job because there were so many. - I have tried, of course, to share them, but I didn't share the awfully nice thought you gave me this morning about them. Only those I ate are less than you, aren't they. It was nice of you to say that, darling. - I gave the French some & their visitors & took a lot to the office to-day, where I was extra popular. I have about half left for tomorrow, but I don't keep them because I'm afraid they would go. They're a most delicious flavour & I'm enjoying them so much - but I prefer to share with my darling. Thank you very very much. They have given me a lot of pleasure ever since you told me they were coming.

Thank you also for sending me the £1 note this morning. I have got another month's pass & am hoping so much it will be the last from W. Instead, but I'm afraid I'm too optimistic. - yes? - But of course you don't know anything yet, do you?

I have not had a very busy day. Mrs. Wood hasn't been giving me any work. On Saturday I shall have to be her. Loes' (the one I worked for before) secretary for a fortnight, whilst the next one is away on holiday. I like him, tho' it's difficult to understand as he has a weird accent of some sort.

Last night at chess we made bread & rolls - I made some French rolls & they are nice. Do you like them? - They're soft & I only would like them for a change.

Tomorrow night I have to go with Mrs. de Hopton - it's a nuisance but I can't get out of it. Haven't heard anything from Father yet.

Now I must go, darling.
All my love & lots of real
father kisses for the cherries.
The cherries

(175)



H. Arregger, Esq.
7, Stumber Place,
Sheff.

Yours.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/175)

'What a splendid basket of cherries darling.
You do spoil me'

22 Jun 1927

(176)

Thursday, 1.40. p.m.

Thank you for your letter this morning, darling. It is nice of you always to let me have one, even tho' you haven't much news.

You still enjoying the cherries & to-day we are having the "Shrubbery Tea" I told you of at the office. There are 28 lbs. of shrubberries, 3 big bottles of cream & 2 lbs. of sugar. But there are a lot of people for them (Did I tell you there really are more than 50 people in the establishment?). So we're all looking forward to our tea this afternoon. But I love my cherries best & I hope all kisses which make them ten times as nice.

Mrs. de Kofston has made arrangements for me to have a "snaps meal" at her place & then go on to a lady friend of hers for coffee & biscuits, & then she wants us to do a cheap gallery. I have suggested the opera, but I don't know we shall go or not. - The gallery there is 3/- but I'd love to go. Weren't I an optimist to think I could manage on 6/-! - I'm a little

low I always keep 6/- worth of silver, so that I am never without anything. I often have to draw on it, as this time again, & then I make it up on Fridays. I ought to have a larger stock, but can't manage to let any more than that lie idle. The lamp is 2/6 & I have still the shades to get. - What an expensive week!

Altho' I want to see you awfully I am rather glad it isn't this week-end, as it is proving rather a bad week for me & will probably last till Monday. I like to be quite fresh & have nothing wrong with me when you're here, darling. - But you will come before you go away, won't you, or is it possible that I won't see you till you come back? - That's such a long time if you're away 3 weeks.

Hope you're still enjoying Ben James of tennis. - I shall miss my swimming this week. I don't know yet about Father, but I expect I shall know till the last minute. What lovely weather it is. All my love, darling.
G.

(176)

June 23 1927

H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Gumber Place,
Chell.

Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/176)

'Thank you for your letter this morning darling.'

23 Jun 1927



(177)

52, RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Thursday, 7.15 p.m.

I've just made the discovery, darling, that I've
left at the office the letter I stayed in specially
at lunch time to write to you. I'm so sorry.
I'm at home as Hopley's flat now & she has
lent me this sheet of paper so that I can
let you know I really haven't forgotten
you to-day. There isn't time to write
more as we've to go now, but I'll send
you the other letter tomorrow.

Lots of love & kisses,
A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/177)

'I've just made the discovery darling that I've
left at the office the letter I stayed in specially
at lunch time to write to you.'

23 Jun 1927

(177)

LONDON
JUN 23
10.15 PM
1927 G



H. Arregger, Esq.
3, Gower Place,
Russell
Yorks.

178

Friday. 1.45 p.m.

The postman forgot me this morning - I listened for his knock as usual but it never came. There were no letters for anyone. But I ought to be so greedy and it has been awfully nice of you to write me every day so far.

I did feel cross with myself for forgetting your letter yesterday. Wrote it at lunchtime & put it in my bag to post at night & then when I left the office at 6 o'clock my bag was so full of papers & so bulky that I took them all out & left them in my case. & I forgot the letter I had to post was amongst them. It's only a short one & I'm sending it to-day.

It was quite a nice evening I spent after all. - Had something to eat with Mrs. de H. at her little restaurant & then we went to her friend's, who is the owner of a very pleasant ladies' shop & cafe. It is in a nice district but the shop is most interesting & she has some lovely things. I think when

I've any money to spare I'll be wandering into her shop to buy little things for our flat. - (but I never have any to spare. - Summer sales are starting everywhere now - that, of course, means nothing to a man, but to a woman it's a happy to have no money at such a time).

After we'd had a cup of coffee there we went to the Russian Ballet. I enjoyed it thoroughly - have never been to one before except Paderewski's Ballet in Hull. We went in the gallery 2/- but the view is very fine from there. The music was glorious. It was nearly 12 when I got in.

I don't know anything yet about Father; so I expect I'll spend my weekend quietly at Mrs. J's after all.

I'm sorry I haven't time to write you a longer letter, but I'm going out tonight to see Lillian Dalton. I don't want to go, but I'm very busy about visiting friends. Will write you more this weekend. When are you coming?

All my love, darling.
To Chris.

178

LONDON
JUN 24
7 15 PM
1927.E



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

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/178)

'The postman forgot me this morning, I listened for his knock as ever but it never came.'

24 Jun 1927



Sunday, 4.15.1927.

I am feeling very, very tired & lazy to-day, darling, & can hardly even summon up the energy to write you a letter. - You must be cross, 'cos I hardly ever feel like that nowadays, & I don't think I would now if you were here. It has been a very heavy work with lots of late nights & I am thoroughly worn out & have got a cold, which I don't think will get really bad, however, you see, on Thursday night I was at the Russian Ballet & it was after 12 before I got to bed. On Friday night I went to see Lillian - it was late when I got home as I came in for dinner first. We walked to the Corner Store for a cup of coffee & a chat & the time passed awfully quickly. It was just after half past 10 when we left, but after seeing Lillian in, it was after 11.30 before I got home - after 12 again before I was in bed. Last night Lillian & I went to see "The Lover" - we had discovered we both wanted to see it & so did write, & so made any arrangements for last night we decided to go. I enjoyed it very much, but when we came out it

was pouring with rain & as I was unprepared I was very wet by the time I got in. When I arrived about 12 o'clock, I expected to get straight to bed, but I found everyone up, & Mrs. Green was having a bath, whilst the water was on the gas for Lennie. (Mrs. P. won't bother to light a fire & we have an awful boiler heating the water on the gas stove). I had to wait till then. I had finished & until my water was hot & poured in the bath & then the Swedish visitor had to get washed first, & Mrs. P. brushed her teeth, etc. I thought I was never going to get in the bathroom & was thoroughly cold & fed up. The water was nearly cold & it was about 1.15 before I got into bed finally. I've stayed in bed all this morning but was wakened up by the awful noise. There were 4 of us for lunch, & another girl has come this afternoon. We have got a fire as it is so cold & wet, so that is making me sleepier still. But I have come near the window to write to you. Lillian has improved even so

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/179)

'I am feeling very, very tired and lazy today darling and can hardly even summon up the energy to write you a letter.'

26 Jun 1927



much. She talks much more nicely than I do, & is quite good-looking & smart now. They have a 'tipping' hotel - just like a first-class hotel - in Tower Street. She's at home & Hollingsworth, you know. She was very excited when I saw her because her grandson has just died & left her £160. She's planning what to do with it. She's going to save £100 & spend the £60 on clothes etc. & get herself well stocked up.

Altho' we had so many people to-day & a great fuss about dinner we still had cold beef & salad. - & there was such a lot of washing-up. Mrs. P's Swedish niece is awfully sweet. The Swedish boy who was here is the brother, but he only stayed 2 or 3 days & has been gone a long time.

On Saturday morning I had a surprise birthday present. Fudy has sent me another little toy-like the one she sent me

for V. was & she says she's going to
send me one on each such occasion
& also to you until I have a set
for our room. (Don't be cross, -
I didn't say that, she did.). But
it was awfully nice of her & remember
my birthday was about this time,
wasn't it? She has got another
much better job, she says, where she
is very happy. They are going to
Diering for the summer & St.
Moritz for winter sports & she hopes
she will manage to get home for a
while then. If we go for winter sports
we may see her, mayn't we?
She says it is an awfully job as she only
has a little boy of 9 to look after.
I have to give you the best of Jan.
Seeing you. I love the little
dog dogs & am looking forward to
having a set of them, aren't you
talking? or don't you like your
people to jump to such conclusions?
I'm sorry my writing is so bad.
Don't quite know why it is, but I
am working on my writing case & it

3.
isn't a very good support.

Yesterday, Mrs. Wood & her
Crocker set off for their horse ride to
the north of England. Don't you
wish you were with them?

I wonder if you will be here
on Tuesday, darling. - I'm very
much afraid that I shan't be able
to manage to come to Kings' X at
lunch time. - You see, for the
next fortnight I'm taking the place
of one of the secretaries who is on
holiday & I must go for my lunch
at 12.45 & be back at 1.45.
But what time does your train get
in? - I do want to come if I
can. I have not said anything
yet to the news about staying
away Tuesday evening until I know
definitely. Because I don't know
the best excuse to make. They know
my classes are on Monday, Tuesday
& Wednesday & that nothing
ordinary would make me miss
them. So I shall have to think of
something out of the ordinary.
But I won't start thinking till?

They say you will love it & wait
a little while for your reply.
Do you remember this Sunday
last year? - We were up the Rhine.
We are coming to the Rhine now & we
are great & wonderful.

Know definitely, as you are so
doubtful yourself. I'm looking
forward so much to you coming,
darling, but it is a short time, isn't
it? But I'm not undecided, as you
be here for good all the sooner, isn't
you?

Thank you for your letter yesterday
morning. - it was longer than
mine, wasn't it, but I love you
for putting the time to tell me so
much. I do hope your trip to
Munich will be a success - I am
relying on it a lot.

Am looking forward to your nice
letter tomorrow, & such a lot to
you coming some time next week.
I do want you lot.

With very love & lots of kisses
when you come,
To Charlie

The cherries have all gone, for
which I am most sorry.

I don't feel very well
to-day, darling, as I feel
a bad headache.



180

WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER

21, BUCKLESBURY,
LONDON, E.C.4.

TELEPHONES: CITY 9266 (FIVE LINES)
CABLES & TELEGRAMS:
WILCHARCRO, LONDON.
CODE A.B.C. 6TH EDITION.

WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER
VERNON S. WOOD
WALTER A. CROCKER
THEODORE LORD
STANLEY J. LOE
R. A. LEWELLYN, M.A.

AND AT
42, KING ST. WEST, MANCHESTER
LOWTHER STREET, WHITEHAVEN,
116, HOPE STREET, GLASGOW,
522, FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

Monday, 5.30 p.m.

I am wondering what your wire means, darling. Have you been unsuccessful in getting a berth on that ship, or have you had bad news from Portugal? - But I shall probably know in the morning, as you say you're writing.

What a hurry to go away to Glasgow! I hope you have had good luck with your business there. I am dying not to be disappointed at the postponement of your visit as I'm hoping you'll be able to come just soon all the same. How disappointing tho' if you have to go through Sept.

Thank you for your letter this morning. You say at the beginning you have a lot of things to tell me, but you really don't tell me anything except that you're to go to Glasgow & that you won't manage to be there tomorrow lunchtime. Did you forget all the other things? - It is

just all right to ring me at the office or send letters or wires, etc.; but I found that my wire to-day was opened - that is only because the man at the office is almost blind & wouldn't see it was a private wire.

I am writing this now in the Express Dairy - I only had time to start it at the office. I don't know why I have so little energy this weekend - I've a bag full of laundry & can't summon the energy to do it, & I don't even feel much like going to my class tonight. No, I'll be all right when I get there.

One of the girls at the office has been telling me of a tennis club she knows at Hendon where I can join for a month if I like at 25/- & when she says I shall find plenty of people to play with. I'm longing to play & may join. - you won't be here for a month, will you, darling? - I wish the dear people at home would remember my birthday & ask me what I want - I don't like to say anything first & I want them to pay

180
LONDON W1
JUN 27
12 PM
1927
H. Arregger, Esq.,
3, Chamber Place,
Hull.
Yorks.

2.
My tennis feet & buy me another frock & some white stockings.

I went to Selfridge's sat this morning before the office & have bought a decent pair of stockings for the office for 2/6. I'm going to wear cheap ones for everyday & keep the silk ones for best.

Now I must go to my class & I've some stamps to buy. A 3/- book soon goes.

Am looking forward so much to seeing you tho' I'd rather it was Wednesday night as we'd have chicken at chess! Please do come, darling.

All my love,
Q.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/180)

'I am wondering what your wire means darling.'

27 Jun 1927

(181)

Tuesday. 11.30. a.m.

I'm not a bit busy so far this morning, darling, but we're not supposed to write private letters all the same! - Thank you so much for your letter - I'm already looking forward to the weekend & if you're there then I shall be sorry you couldn't come to-day. I hope I'll be feeling better later on in the week - it's only the weather tho'. I think, which is affecting me. I have a cold, & slight headache & toothache & a stiff neck, etc. Nothing important, but I want to be perfectly well when you come. - I'm also working in this awfully depressing inside room with no windows & electric light, & it doesn't tend to help one to feel more cheerful. I do so want you to come this week-end, darling, tho' I know it must be a big expense for you, & I don't like to think of you spending money in this way when you're saving Mrs. Leach money. We must try to be as economical as possible, & just celebrate one night for my birthday. - yes? - For you to be here is the nicest birthday present I could possibly have, darling, and if you come you

must promise not to think of any other birthday presents. - yes? -

This morning I had another little box of wedding cake, from Oliver this time. What a lot of wedding this year - it's mother's & Father's Silver Wedding in September, for which I shall have to save up, & Mrs & Mrs. Green in August, & I shall have to give them something if I'm still there then, which seems likely, doesn't it?

My cooking lessons won't be long now before they are finished. I shall be sorry because I like cooking. I hope I shall forget everything if it goes to be a long time before I can make use of what I've learnt.

Mother has got a bad pattered finger on her right hand & can't write, so Betty writes me every so often. It's most amusing.

Every day I'll be looking for a letter to say you're coming & I do hope you'll be able to manage it. I was glad you sent the wire yesterday because I was going to tell her last night I wouldn't be in tonight & I'd



H. Arregger, Esq.,
3, Dumber Place,
Wells.

Yorks.

(181)

2.

Have made arrangements to see you tonight. Thank you for sending it: darling.

5 p.m.

It is a rotten day - I've hardly anything to do & the time drags terribly. It's far rather late too much than too little. Mrs. Lee is so busy with appointments etc. that he hasn't had any time to give me letters. - As soon as he's less busy I'll get all the accumulated work.

Are you getting up to watch the eclipse in the morning? I don't think I shall - I would if you were here & wanted to see it but it's too early to get up & walk out to the Heath all by myself. & I don't suppose the sky will be clear. It's not very promising.

There is really nothing to tell you, darling, so I won't waste your time. You might have been here tonight & I should be feeling much happier now, but I hope you'll come for the weekend instead. Do be.

All my love & lots of kisses,
Q.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/181)

"I'm not a bit busy so far this morning darling, but we're not supposed to write private letters all the same!"

28 Jun 1927



182

Thursday. 5. 30p.m.

Thank you for your letter, darling. I'm
sorry you're not feeling cheerful, but
I'm glad you didn't exert yourself to
write when you didn't feel like it.
We must have an awfully nice week-
end & then perhaps you'll feel better.
I'm looking forward to it so much.
You didn't give any indication as to
when I should try to book, so I rang
up the Regent Palace first - they were
full up. So was the Strand Palace.
Then I thought of those we'd been to
& remembered the Waverley was quite
nice, so I rang up the headwaiter of
the same firm & managed to book
there. Is that all right, darling?
I've heard it is very nice. It is a very
busy season now for hotels, I suppose,
- Holiday time & there'll be crowds
of provincials & Americans coming to
see the great City! I've booked
in the name of Raymond & had to
confirm by letter, but I signed that
in another name. Will have a
lovely time, darling. Please try to
come early else I won't know
what to do with myself till you

come. I shall tell Mrs. Neen I'm
going to Leighton S. & will only be
back on Monday. She's wondering
if you'll be staying. Sunday night also
I shall go back on Saturday after the
office else she'd wonder why I hadn't
caught a train right away.

I've been busy at the office all day
with work left over from last night
& have just finished. Mrs. Lohr been
out all day but he's back now & I'll
probably get today's work done & be
late again.

Mrs. de Nozdon very much
wanted me to go out with her again
tonight but she persistently refused.
She can't take "no". At last, I think
she realises I mean it. I have a
lot of laundry & mending to do.
Tomorrow I want to go to the Parks
to celebrate my birthday! I shall
be surprised if they remember it
at home.

Please excuse a longer letter,
darling. I want to leave tonight
free for work.

Hope you're feeling better &
that nothing will turn up to spoil
our weekend. All my love
A.

182



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

Yots

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/182)

'Thank you for your letter darling. I'm sorry
you're not feeling cheerful...'

30 Jun 1927

183

Friday.
4 p.m.

I'm glad I had such a lovely birthday last year, darling, because the memory of that makes up for all those I haven't enjoyed. - And your people this year also have made all the difference to what would otherwise have been a rather lonely day, because there's no fun in a birthday to oneself, is there? There was a big fat envelope and a large flat one for me last night from Lucerne. I opened the large one & it is a pretty sketch of Lucerne, but I kept the letters to read this morning, in case no one else had remembered me. Wasn't it nice of them to remember the exact day? There was a letter from each one of them, and your mother also wrote to me a letter which most strangely echoes my own thoughts of some time past. But I will let you share them all when you come. Mary also is wondering something I've been wondering for some years. They do write me such nice letters and I love them all so much that when I think long about them I find myself almost in that state I was at my party at the Wilder Mann, when

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/183)

'I'm glad I had such a lovely birthday last year darling, because the memory makes up for all those I haven't enjoyed.'

Jul 1927

everyone was so kind & sweet to me I could not keep from crying. - Awfully silly, I know, but there it is. It's all those little kindnesses & thoughtfulness that make me love them so very much & I wish I could do something in return to show them how much I appreciate everything. Truly seems pleased I wrote to her for her birthday, but I am thinking I must have missed some of the others. Will you tell me, sometime, darling, when they are? I won't give you the news in their letters as I'll let you read them for yourself tomorrow. How I am looking forward to your coming. Please don't disappoint me unless you absolutely have to, will you?

Thank you very much for your letter and good wishes. I certainly should have felt very forlorn if you had forgotten me, altho' I certainly did get a separate card from everyone at home. Irene sent me a silk skirt and a letter. - She says she's the busiest person in the world. But I'll let you read her letter tomorrow also, if you care to.

I'm going to the baths tonight. Last night I worked till 12.30 washing & ironing. All tomorrow, darling. All my love, Q.

183



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



184

M. Hans Arregger,
% le Consulat général de Suisse,
à Lisbon.
Portugal.

Received by: A. Johnson, 32, West End Mansions, London, N.W. 6.

14 JUL 1927

184

Leighton Buzzard.
Sunday 3. p.m.

Dearest darling, I do miss you & want you such a lot. - I felt I simply couldn't stick the weekend at home. Here so on Friday night I decided to come to see Tuppy. It was a particularly convenient weekend for her, but she doesn't mind. Yesterday afternoon & evening she was on duty at the school & to-day the French maids & mistress are coming to tea. - It's a nuisance is I don't feel like being polite to people & talking small talk - that's what I've come from London to escape. How are you, I wonder, darling? - I'm in Lisbon now & feeling very hot. I should imagine. It's hot enough here - a gorgeous day. We set off this morning for a picnic but the flies were such a fearful pest we came back at 2 o'clock. We went to some beautiful woods & I would have enjoyed it so much except for the

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probably be in London soon on their way to the Mediterranean & it will be nice to see them. I have decided that I must fix a definite limit to staying on at West H'shead else I think I shall only get to hate it more & more. I wish I knew what it is I don't like there because there's nothing concrete I can fix my dislike on. I have decided to stick it till Sept. & if I'm still on my own in London then I shall try to find a small flat - a service flat, if necessary. I believe there are plenty to be had now. I can't do anything with my present salary but as soon as I get the raise in Sept. - if it comes up to my expectations - I think I ought to be able to afford something modest. But I'll be so difficult to please. You afraid I couldn't be happy in Tuppy's flat. - It's certainly the happiest furnished place, nicer than most furnished places, but there are many things I don't like.

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Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/184)

'Dearest darling, I do miss you and want you such a lot.'

Jul 1927

(185)

LONDON E.C.
JUL 12
4:30 PM
1927

Mr. Hans Arregger,
c/o le Consulat général de
Russie,
à Lisbon.

Portugal

(185) Tuesday, 10.15. Am.

There is nothing to do so far this morning, darling. I am back in the copying dept; worse luck, & am specially fed up because I'm now in Mrs. de H's room. We have 2 rooms with 3 in each & the girl who was with Mrs. de H. so takes her that one day she moved her desk into my room, so I have had to take her place. There are always drawbacks everywhere & with everything. Aren't there, darling? I'm beginning to realize I ought to expect them & not be so surprised & disappointed when I find things aren't so perfect & as satisfactory as the imaginary.

Have you read anything about the terrible storm we had here yesterday? - Oh perhaps you had one as bad - I haven't read the papers. - Tubes were flooded & no train could run, except on the Metro. - which Mr. Green says is the best source & doesn't get held up by such small things! In some places there are whole pieces of pavement up & almost everywhere there are floods.

2.

At W. H. Street Mrs. F. said it was awfully exciting. - There's a slight tilt with the Fire Station at the bottom, where the 53 bus starts. - & I suppose the water was knee deep & the firemen were carrying people across & pumping the water away. - & whole blocks of wood roadway were floating about - there's a great piece of road up. The dustbins were floating about in our yard. It was an absolute cloud burst. The day was terribly hot & oppressive & I felt rotten all day - I feel better now it's over, but to-day is cold & dull & miserable. It was an effort to go to class last night but I'm glad I was in & I'm sure we feel better. - I made some lovely chocolate cakes which I've brought to the office to-day to sell. I could do with a little of the pudding in everyone likes them so much.

I just enjoyed my weekend but I have noticed both Lennie when I've come back that I've felt tired

3.

out. Lipton is very encouraging.

There was a letter from Father yesterday to say he is coming either on Wednesday or Thursday on his way to the Mediterranean. I hope it's Thursday. - My classes finish next week & I'll be awfully sorry. - They start in Sept. again & I think I'll join just for Wed. evenings & of course there's plenty of time to decide yet.

There was also a letter from Winnie to say she's in London. She doesn't say much but the address looks as tho' it's after - it's in Marylebone Rd. Tuppy is coming to stay with her next weekend so we shall be having a reunion. It will be nice to be together again, with just Goya missing. Tho' perhaps I still feel I don't fit" as I felt before when I saw Winnie.

I'm awfully looking forward to a

letter from you, darling. I do want to hear how you're getting on & when I'll see you again. I'm feeling depressed lately & can't altogether explain it & I know I'll feel all right when you're here again.

I've wrote her last night - she seems to be perfectly happy & has everything she wants. She's lucky to have awfully easy hours at the office - 9.30 to 5 or 5.30 with 2 hrs. for lunch & she need only "look in" on Sat. mornings. She has a beautiful house, lot of nice new clothes, she can do much Lennie as she wants & lots of fun & good times. I'm ashamed to confess I find myself enjoying her tho' I try not to, but I do often feel lonely & grumpy. I wish I could be contented & not want things I can't have, tho' that wouldn't be usual of me, would it? Have you read Shaw's "Back to Methuselah"? - I'm enjoying it immensely. I wonder if Shaw is happy & contented.

I hope you're having a good time, darling? Are you spent up yet? All my love & a big kiss. A

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/185)

'There is nothing to do so far this morning, darling.'

12 Jul 1927



(186)

Wednesday 11.30 p.m.

I'm writing this in bed, darling, 'cos Mrs Green's been talking to me & I feel I must tell you at once. - She wants me to give her 35/- a week now, & I have refused. What I get there isn't worth 30/- never mind 35/- & as I'm already so fed up with being there I don't see why I should pay more. She asked me outright how much I was getting, which I considered a cheat, so I didn't tell her it was £3.10.0. I feel guilty at having told a direct fib, but I felt fed up & answered on the spur of the moment. You see, she sounded as tho' she knew for sure I was getting £3.10.0. & I thought the only way she could possibly be sure would be if she had opened my Account Book & seen £3.10.0. entered. - & I thought if this done that, there was no need for me to satisfy her curiosity about my income. (I know that's all wrong & bad logic but please don't tell me off. I tell lots of fibs to people asking personal questions.

(186)

LONDON E.C.
JUL 14
11.25 AM
1927 F

Mr. Hans Arregger,
c/o Le Consulat général de
Suisse,
à Lisbon.
Portugal.

2.

When I don't consider them any right to). Anyway, I told her I couldn't possibly afford it, which I can't - it's a shaggy dog is. She says there's a girl who wants to come who will pay her 35/- & I've told her it will be best for her to take this one. The going to see Winnie & see if I can share with her until you come. If only I'd known for sure you would be coming just soon I'd have given her 35/- & stayed her, because it seems such a waste of time & money knowing if you're coming. I wish you were here for me to talk to, or even in sleep, but by the time you get this & I have your reply everything will probably be arranged.

It's just struck me that Olive must have told Mrs. S. about my getting more money. - That's the most probable solution. Mrs. Houbbs from Leeds!! Mrs. S. had a letter from Olive a few days ago. I wish people would mind their own business.

3.

I wish I knew what you are thinking about this. I've been wanting you awfully badly tonight - have had a specially lively day at the office & I was even too tired to go to my class, so you can see I must have felt very tired indeed to miss my class - especially the Wed. one. I wanted to get to bed early, but the discussion has made me late & I had to wash & get up for tomorrow as I got them splashed to-day & as Father hasn't come to-day I expect he'll come tomorrow. I don't feel tired now - it was purely physical, & I'm more or less rested by now - & I don't think I shall sleep quickly - have to keep to think about. I've asked her to leave it over till the weekend. My pass runs out July 22nd, so if I move it will be next weekend. If it's not possible to share with Winnie I think I'd better offer her 32/6 with the promise of more in Sept. when I get my raise. I've told her I expect a rise then.

I've been saying all tonight - "I want

you. I want you. I want you" - but it doesn't buy you any nearer. I miss your letters awfully & it's wonderful it was only last Wednesday you left London. It seems seconds since I saw you. Do my hand, darling, to get some business - I do need you such a lot & my life away from you seems such a waste of time. Don't you ever feel a wee bit like that about me, darling? - I sometimes think it is foolish of you me to tell you my feelings so plainly because you seem to take it so much as a matter of course, & don't seem to realise I'm giving you as much as it's possible for me to give. - & you're not satisfied with that. I wish I could get rid of the nasty little thought I sometimes get that it's "practical" love you want from me. (I don't know whether you will know what that means, but such things as downys, etc. are 'practical' love). Don't be cross, darling. I'm longing to have you. All my love & a kiss.
To Chérie

I saw every pair of travelling slippers to-day because they were just the same as the ones I had once & I was very sorry to see them.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/186)

"I'm writing this in bed darling, 'cos Mrs Green's been talking to me and I feel I must tell you at once."

14 Jul 1927

187

HARSTED N.W.
JUL 17
1927

Mr. Hans Arregger,
% le Consulat général de
Suisse,
à Lisbon.
Portugal.

3.

nuisance because I wanted to stay on here till September. Wui. pays 25/- for the present room, but there's a nice one vacant in August for £2.2.0. It's furnished & we get attention; but see to our own meat, so that all food is extra. I wonder how long you'll be before you're back. If only I knew something definite, but everything about you is so indefinite. However, if I share with Wui. it's on the distinct understanding that we can give up the arrangement at any moment without giving offence.

In the evening we went to "Le Dîner français" for dinner & then to the Russian ballet. We spent a lot of money & it worried me, tho' we did everything as cheaply as possible. - the gallery at the Ballet, etc.

They are coming down to have tea with me this afternoon. - I don't know what we can do then.

When Father came I had an awfully good time - he & I've arrived on Thursday morning. We had dinner together & then went on to the Strand Palace.

4.

see "The Desert Song" at Drury Lane. I enjoyed it awfully. They went at 9 o'clock on Friday morning - to Paris - then heading, etc. - they are going as far as Palestine & Cairo. - & to Naples, Rome, Athens, etc. etc. Father says it will be hard work but I think I'm looking forward to it.

It's Father's Silver Wedding on Sept. 11th & I'll have to rush back to be in time. I'll go home for the weekend. Will you be in Shell then, I wonder.

I'm so cold, darling - I would love to see the Semskine. It was very nice of you to think of me for a few moments, & even to write I was with you. I hope you enjoyed the bull fight - am not surprised the prospect would attract you. Are you doing any work, & managing to enjoy your holiday without doing anything too strenuous.

All my love,
A.

I'm wondering whether to send this to the address on your letter or to the Consulate. But perhaps you're not staying on there.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/187)

'I only got up at 12.30 today darling and have just had my lunch.'

17 Jul 1927



187

London.
Sunday, 26.7.

I only got up at 12.30 to-day, darling, & have just had my lunch. - I was asleep even at 12.30 when Mrs. Green knocked me up. 'co she wanted lunch early. Thank you for your letter - I'd been calculating as to when it could arrive & thought it would be Friday, so I wasn't disappointed. - I'd been looking forward to it such a lot, but it didn't give me even a little bit of the sunshin you're enjoying so much.

I'm finding it difficult to write to you - you're so cold & the weather's so cold that I feel chilled through & through. But I must get on with the news, because Pup & Wui will be here soon & I have other letters I ought to write. Pup is staying the weekend with us. - we met yesterday & went out. In the afternoon to the Royal Academy, which I enjoyed very much, but we couldn't stay long 'co Pup was bored stiff. I felt very annoyed with her, 'co it's 1/6 to go in & I loved being there. There was one

picture which stood out well from the wall & which I at once recognised as the Palace in Shell, but the others laughed at the idea. However, when I saw it was by Mrs. Howell, I was quite sure. It is beautiful - the colouring is wonderful, isn't it! Have you seen it? - There was also another by him which was beautiful too. - Then might have been more but we didn't go all round. I felt very proud of being a native of the same county.

After the R.A. we had tea & then went to Wui's dip. - she has a snug best-sitting-room in a very nice flat. I don't particularly care for her room, but there are other nice ones. We talked it over about sharing, because unless I go in & pay Mrs. P. the 5/- more I must leave as soon as possible.

Especially as my pass expires on Friday. I do wish I knew your ideas on the subject. It will cost me a lot of money to live with Wui, & then there are removal expenses, but I feel I can't just neatly give in & give Mrs. P. everything she asks for. It's an awful

188

pm
22 July 1927

M. Hans Arregger,
46 le Consulat Général de
Suisse,
à Lisbon.
Portugal.

188

21 Bucklebury, P.C.H.

Friday, 3 p.m.

Thank you, darling, so much for all your nice letters - they have arrived most irregularly, but I suppose I must be grateful. I had 2 on Monday, one in the morning - the awfully nice long one I loved so much that I wanted to reply to it that very minute - & another in the evening to say you would probably be leaving at the end of the week & that there wouldn't be time for me to write again. - But I could have done quite easily if only I'd known you weren't leaving till Monday, and then so much wanted to write to you - especially when I couldn't! Then yesterday just when I was feeling so far up & so you hadn't written for so long, I came together at 10 o'clock last night. There was only one at 6 p.m. last Monday, & it came quite quickly, didn't it. I've not seen yet if this one will reach you, but am writing it on the off-chance & will

take it to the P.O. & say if I can send it by Air Mail to Paris, in order to reach you before you sail on Monday.

I'm writing this at the office & haven't time to say much. - I thank you so much, darling, for your letters - I have enjoyed reading them & I really know them by heart, especially the nice bits I always look for. It is good of you to spare me so much of your time & write such long letters. I'm glad you're thinking of me and wanting me. How much I'd love to see all you are enjoying so much, but only if you are then will me.

I'm leaving Mrs. Neen's next Friday - am pretty well disguised with the monocle. - I told her last Sunday night that I had arranged elsewhere & that I would be leaving the next week, meaning the following Friday, i.e. to-day. I made all arrangements to go to-day, but on Wednesday when I mentioned it Mrs. Neen that my things were being

packed this morning & would be done. She was most surprised it was this week & we had quite an argument about it. She said I should give her a week's notice & that she expected I mustn't leave Friday & if I left to-day she would claim a week's money. I would have shut it out & left to-day, but it turned out to be very convenient in every way if I waited a week, so I'm staying. She is the limit the really thing is. I'm glad I'm leaving, it is a better thing so much changing about. I've been thinking about you

coming on Thursday - & darling coming on Thursday - & I have forwarded to it, at so much. - I have thought of the best thing to do yet. This Thursday night at any rate I think you can stay with me at W. & N. & then we'll leave together on Friday (it's the best time just the weekend you're leaving, but I don't think it will make much difference). - Then

Friday night will perhaps be extravagant & spend all together & the rest of the weekend you'll probably be able to stay with me. I think I don't know how to say him up, but I will do better on & also call on Sunday morning.

I must work now, darling, in case I'm short-staffed & I've a lot to do. I want to be at the club's first thing this morning - had rather a hard time but it's over now & my feet are all right. Am feeling very glad & relieved.

Am looking for Thursday - you'll be there, & how I shall enjoy you. I am quite white, because we have no room & what we have I can't get the benefit of. I'm sure you'll find the place for your sake & your enjoying yourself so much. I hope you'll be in to see when you come back. All my love & kisses, A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/188)

'Thank you darling so much for all your nice letters..'

22 Jul 1927

188A

Tues. 11.15 p.m.

It seems silly to write you a letter to give to you when I see you, but I want to reply to the one I received last night, & I know from experience that when we see each other we never manage to say the things we'd thought of saying. As I shall be with you the first night you're back I'll give you this instead.

I have loved all your letters & you've been a darling to let me have so many & such long ones. I really didn't think I could hope for so many. But they have arrived very irregularly, and I was such a long time without any at all that I got rather depressed - You see, I was spoilt through having one every day. I know I didn't write you often, but I had very little time, darling, & I had nothing to tell you. Then on Monday last (a week yesterday) I had a splendid long letter in the morning which I was longing to answer, and another in the evening to say you were probably leaving at the end of the week & there wouldn't be time for me to reply. So I didn't. And I didn't get another letter till the Thursday night, when I arrived together. Then I found I could have written after all, but it was too late then, because there was no time on Thursday - Your letters only arriving about 10 o'clock.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/188A)

'It seems silly to write to you a letter to give to you when I see you, but I want to reply to the one I received last night...'

27 Jul 1927

So, you see darling, it wasn't because I didn't want to write. I did very much.

Then the next thing I want to reassure you about is that I am really & truly glad you have had such a splendid time. I am not in the least jealous of Litcham. Indeed I'm glad you have had some congenial company, which I think you needed. You must believe, darling, that I am glad for your sake that you have been so happy, and I am satisfied that you have thought of me a lot & sometimes wished me with you. - No, I'm afraid I'm rather cynical as to the times of day - or night - when you wanted me most. You must be cross at that, darling. - This mood will pass again.

It was awfully nice to have again a really personal letter to myself, where I could see you really were thinking of me as I am, & not just as someone to whom you were describing scenery. I sometimes long for you to tell me off like you used to, because you really did think of me then, & how your thoughts about me seem too general. (That doesn't explain what I mean, but I can't express my feelings properly. I wish I could then you might understand me better).

188A

27 July 1927

H. Arregger, Esq.

The other thing I must talk to you about is a sentence in your letter which has already made a big difference in me. I do not know whether you intended me to attach to it the significance I am doing, but I do not see what else it can mean. - The sentence I mean is: - "I don't want you to wait & see any longer."

I suppose it is silly of me to write about this because I shall probably have talked to you about it before you read this letter, because I shall have to ask you what you mean. - I can't feel happy again until I know. I wish you would speak straight out to me, darling, instead of hinting at things in obscure phrases & expect me to understand what you dare's express. You're a coward in some things. (how you want examples, don't you, but I can't give them, because you've made me afraid of the things you're afraid of, & I dare's mention them either).

You're not happy nor even satisfied & contented, & I am trying hard to find the reason why. I don't blame you. - I blame myself, & I know the remedy is in myself.

I'm sorry I'm so silly, darling. Please don't mind what I say. Love, A.

(189)

Tuesday, 11.20 p.m.

You will be hard at work, I think, darling. But I have nothing to do. It is a pity because I would so much rather be working hard. Did you have a very hot journey and are you tired to-day? - I feel so lonely again now you're gone and rather sad, in spite of a beautiful day. But I shall not tell you the first day has passed. I miss you 'cos it makes you think I only miss you just as first. You gave me an awfully nice letter, darling, and I do love you for it.

It didn't take me long to get back last night. Winnie has just got in & has been staying in Loughlin Heights. As Winnie & I were by ourselves. We must try to get straight now & put some method into things. - I'm in here for Wednesday night in the way to period. It appears Jack has asked her if she can go over to see him. So she is spending a little time in Paris & then on to Southampton where she says she will stay as long as she can away from home. It seems to be

a quite serious affair, doesn't it? I'll be very glad to see her again. Winnie says Tuppy is awfully fed up in the way a sort of understanding that all 3 were to spend their holidays together. Waiting in the City. Then Winnie had to drop out 'cos she can't get a holiday & Tuppy expects she & Jack would be together. But Jack, of course, doesn't want her & is going by himself. So poor Tuppy is left all alone in Loughlin B.

Winnie has seen Topsy clearly before schoolmaster & she is just as pessimistic about her as I am. Winnie is quite convinced that Topsy is clearly in earnest & that he is sincerely enjoying a flirtation. At least she is afraid she'll have to manage her own affairs of the heart.

There was a letter from Jean this morning. She seems very pleased with the summer frock & has sent me a P.O. for it. She says that their visit to London is off & they don't think it worth while to pay hotel bills when they'll all be seeing me so soon. I'll be very glad when Sept. comes - when

I'll get a holiday & see you & change my quarters & job. But it breaks the article in really a big way, isn't it? I'm sure I can stay with her, but I'll be a long way from you, darling. If I can.

I hope Winnie's ring is up & then I can perhaps take her out for lunch. I don't like to think of her going back without being seen by her at all. Winnie wasn't in when she rang up & it's possible she may not have got my message.

There was also a nice letter from Uncle Willie. He seems glad I wrote to him. He says they had to give Auntie Ray lots of sympathy during the last week, & that she never seemed to say any farewell to any of them.

I had also a P.C. from Mother - she is on the way to Winnie. I hope she'll be a little from you tomorrow darling & tell me how you're getting along in that. I do hope - I hope it's not too bad & that

you'll be able to do some good things. You do deserve to have a bit of luck.

The good I arranged to play tennis tonight. Winnie will be out & I would have felt lonely. The affair will nothing to stop her skating. I haven't any tennis racket but the going to borrow Mrs. Wood's which is in the room. He'll be in when I first come to town. I can't borrow it, so I don't see why I shouldn't do you? - But he's not out to-day. I'd rather ask him first.

You got a deputation railway from the morning - 1916 - against 1913 & 1914. I don't so there's a bit more.

I'm glad I can write to you as so often as I like & that I'll get more letters from you. Please send me some nice ones. You're been most awfully nice to me this week, darling - & I'm not going to think of you much now. I'll just think of you as you are when you're nice & hot & forward to seeing you quite soon. Regards to Aunt. Love & the Countess. All my love, darling, & Bob & Louise. La Chérie.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/189)

'You will be hard at work I think darling but I have nothing to do.'

2 Aug 1927

190

1st Oxford & Cambridge
University,
N. W. 1.
Wed. 10 p.m.

I thought I couldn't really expect a letter from you to-day, darling, 'cos I know how busy you'll be settling down. But I do hope there's one in the morning. Tonight I am rather tired somehow - physically tired, not sleepy. I've been re-arranging my things so that I have everything I want in one portmanteau when I can get to them easily. I'll be very glad indeed when we move & can really settle down. This job "managing" is not at all to my liking, 'cos I seem to be awfully particular about things. I can't bear them any more. All my money now will go into things for the flat, & as far as possible I shall get as nice as I can afford so that they will last. I've told Winnie it's best to buy things separately & then share the use of them so that if we separate any time there won't be any question as to who should be entitled to the things. Don't you think that's best? Every one else

afternoon & we went shopping when I came in & had tea here as we're all so hot up. I had a letter from Judith this morning in which she didn't seem at all pleased that I was keeping herself, so I sent her down this afternoon. The sun shined up & play tennis with you in a dream if you ever want anyone. I'm sure she's getting quite good & I'm sure she's love to play. I'm asked how you were in her last letter. She said she hadn't seen you about & wondered how you were getting on. I had an awfully good game of tennis last night. Miss Blacklock is not at all a bad player. She beat me almost every game but that is not to be wondered at. My play was pretty awful. There is a mixture of just raw shots & awful "pat balls." Her raw shots forward show enough to return (I mean sufficiently in practice - it doesn't really need just thought). & her pat balls I had to stand at & drop into the net on the spot. It was a jolly evening & I really did enjoy it. She says she'll ring me sometime & I'll hope she does. I'm getting quite to like

H. Arregger Esq.,
3, St. James Place,
Chelmsford.

Yorks.

LONDON N.W.1
12 15 AM
4 AUG
1927



for in spite of Mrs. Warriner's opinion, she's I may be prejudiced in the favour of all her people, who must surely be nice. Tomorrow night I am going swimming with the girl I usually go with. Roger is going tomorrow morning. She looks much older & tired & a change will do her good. But she hasn't too much money for her holiday & I'm afraid she's a bit worried about the expense. She'll have hotel expenses in spirit as Jack is only in the flat there. The post has gone at 11 p.m. so I have a little extra time to write my letters of which I am very glad. I have a P.C. to-day from Mary & thank me for the slipper & the my letter. She says she is having a good time. - You know that she is in Middlesbrough, don't you? - The picture on the P.C. is beautiful. Mr. Wood is back to-day & Mrs. Robert & I are doing his work together. He has been in Torquay & looks awfully fit. He is going on Friday for another long weekend. He deserves every bit of holiday he gets in & works awfully hard & never spares himself.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/190)

I thought I couldn't really expect a letter from you today darling 'cos I know how busy you'll be settling down.'

4 Aug 1927

I wonder how you are feeling to-day, darling. I hope your tan doesn't wear off 'cos I do love it. You must go some motor rides whilst the weather's fine & have some sun baths. I will take the sunbaths tomorrow & will let you have them as soon as I have the money to pay for them. - That will be Friday. Winnie & Fanny have gone a walk in the Park whilst I write my letters & arrange my things. I don't mind much when she's gone. She's a nice kiddie. She left me a beautiful pair of garden on the dressing table with a little note "just to keep your socks up till Friday." - Not bad for a child. - You understand the expression "keep your socks up" don't you? - It's slang for "keep on pushing & keeping it." - Friday, of course, is pay-day. I'm looking forward so much to a nice letter in the morning. I do miss you terribly, darling. I sometimes feel a different person when you're not with me. I'm more independent & alone in the world perhaps - but I prefer to feel dependent on you. - I should like to, darling? When are you coming again to choose my birthday present? Good luck & get over your



191

London.
Thursday. 10.30p.m.

I feel rather disappointed this morning, darling, because there was no letter for me, but I didn't mind when I found your nice one at the office. What made you say so many nice things to me, darling? It isn't often you let me see that you really do love me & much. Thank you for the letter even so much & also for the money you sent me for my birthday present. You're a darling to be so generous to me and the little things I can do for you seem such a poor return for all your kindness. I have thought that it will be a good idea to get my case through Mrs. de Hoghton. You remember I told you she worked for this firm (when I bought Betty's pen) & can get special privileges. It is an excellent bookshop & I think I'd get something awfully good there. Shall I wait till you come so that you can help me choose. The worst of it is that she of course would come too & I'm not awfully keen for her to meet you. I don't like her & she's the type I'd loathe to confide in or let her share secrets (they wouldn't of course be secrets once she knew them) etc. Do you

understand what I mean? It's difficult to explain. She's pick you to pieces & praise you to the skies to me & pull you down to other people. - She's an unusual gossip & mischief maker.

I'm longing to have my case & if you're not coming to London before I come to Hull I'll get it myself, shall I? & bring it to Hull to show you. You are a darling, but I don't want to be extravagant over my birthday present & I think I should get something awfully nice with the money you have sent me. I'll keep a look out & not get it yet a bit.

It was topping at the Balls tonight. I only got in about 9.45 & Winnie had given a nice supper for me, which I was ready for. We're only just finished washing the pots & putting things straight. There is a letter from Mother tonight (posted in Hull this morning) to say that Mother could have stayed & that she didn't mind at all. Of course that was what I expected she'd say once Mother was back, but still it was for the best I think, as she'd have had to look after herself whilst I was at the office.

I'll write again tomorrow, darling, & let you have a letter for the weekend. Thanks so much for the special effort to let me have one to-day.
All my love. Amy.

191

LONDON N. 1
12 15 AM
5 AUG
1927



H. Arregger Esq.
3. Stumber Place.
Hull.
Yorks.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/191)

'I feel rather disappointed this morning, darling because there was no letter for me.'

5 Aug 1927

*'Thank you for your letter this morning darling.
I didn't know whether to hope for one or not...'*

6 Aug 1927

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

Friday. I. P. M.

Your letter from Portugal has
never arrived, or at any rate, Mrs
Green has not forwarded it to me.
She perhaps she has lost my address
I would have liked to have had it,
even if there was nothing much
in it, as you say. That's 2 lbs
not half of yours - do you remember
the one with the pattern pencil? -
You've never done anything about
that invitation, have you?

clerk? - Is L still perfectly sound?

2.
Sister than nothing to you at all.

Mr. Wood has gone away again today for Oregon. He is taking his holiday in life. He won't be back till Wednesday, so that means I'll have to go back to my old quarters. I like his Secretary, Miss Roberts, very much indeed.

the new room look cozy in the winter -
Now there is no hurry & I wouldn't
like to take one if you want them
yourself. I do love them so, & wouldn't
be awfully disappointed if you sold
them. Please don't darling, will
you? - I believe you only love
me about it & have never really
enjoyed it. The girls quite sure
we'll want them some time between
us, & you ought to have enough faith
to keep them for that haven't you,
darling? - But if I have one here,
that is just the same - you haven't
sell them. Maybe the boys' one
back will see in September yes? -
And maybe my clock & a picture?
I do long for them, but I don't like to
take them from you. It is a pity
that what one has the other must
do without, isn't it?

Tomorrow morning I'll get
the film back & I'll send you the
prints & keep the negatives of the
good ones to get some prints for
myself. I don't mind seeing to
it for you, darling.

I hope you have a nice weather
for the Counsel still in shell. - Please
remember me to him & your mother
& I'll be to see him again.
All my love & kisses to all.
Your affectionate daughter,
Mary



193

Sunday. 12 p.m.

Good morning, darling. I've just finished & am about to set off for Mrs. Harmer's. The sun is shining but there are some great black clouds, & I'm wondering if it's fine enough in Hull for you to go your ride. I hope so & that you'll have a nice time.

I was up about 9.30 this morning - had 2 baths, hot & cold, & then did all my ironing before breakfast. Wasn't that energetic! But real work doesn't make me half so tired as having nothing to do. I thoroughly enjoyed my breakfast & ate a big one.

The coffee (Lepus) was a great success. They give you a tip on the sun not to let the milk boil, & I think that must be the secret of their nice coffee. Mine was just like we get it in the large Lepus places. I think you would have liked it.

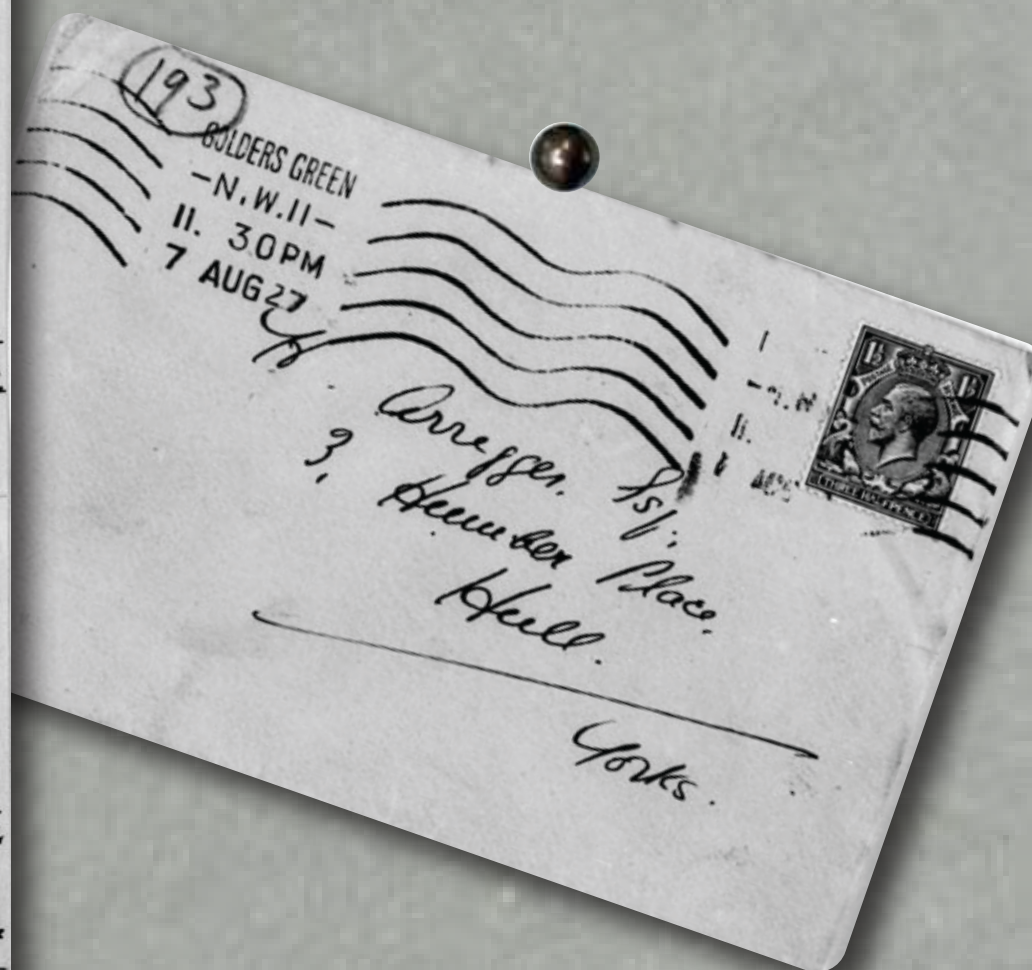
It's awfully satisfying somehow to have done some work & then

look round & see how neat & tidy everything is & to feel that one has done that oneself. I wasn't quite, quite sure how far it was my real nature to be tidy, or how much of it was just because I knew I ought to be tidy & clean. But I know now that I couldn't do with cheap slipshod & I don't mind work so long as there's something to show for it.

The electric iron I bought is a great success - it heats ever so quickly & irons beautifully. I attached it to my own electric light & soon had my ironing done. I must mend your socks somehow, darling & let you have them back again. I'm afraid I'd forgotten them until I came across them last night in my hunt.

Now I must go as it's quite a long way to Golders Green.

I wish I was behind you on the bike going for a picnic. I'm much happier this since you've been here & am cured for the time being of my "fluency" & morbid state of mind. You see how much good you do me! You should never leave me alone. All my love & kisses. A.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/193A)

'I've jusy finished and am about to set off for
Mrs Harmer's.'

7 Aug 1927

London.
Saturday, 11.30 p.m.

Dearest darling,

I've been looking forward all the evening to writing to you, but have only just finished working. I intended to go to Hans Scheideberg, I have thought but couldn't manage to get off. You're no idea how busy I've been! I was in about 2.15 & ever since then I've been working hard. All the afternoon I spent shopping - the shops are open on Sat. in this district, too. It's not select at one side of us - (the other side of course is Marble Arch & Hyde Park). I had to come back short of things the things I'd got in I couldn't carry any more. I've spent about 30/- just on ornaments we need very badly & on the coat - and shopping. I feel much happier now I've begun to get things as I want them - but it's only just the

beginning & it will be a very slow process. Sometimes I wish I had enough money to go over & buy everything we need at once, & then I think that wouldn't be half so much fun as getting things gradually & I shall appreciate them a great deal more as well. Shall I?

Thank you for your letter, darling. It's quite given up hopes of next day as I didn't think there would be such a late post on a Saturday & I was disappointed to be without a letter for the weekend. It came about 9 o'clock. He seems to have a good postal service in this neighbourhood, don't we?

I'm writing this in bed, darling. Winnie is out till tomorrow. I'm not sorry to have a night to myself once in a while. And the room does look quite nice just now. I have turned the wardrobe cupboard over, put clean papers in & arranged

as many things as I could in there. Then I've got the rose-bowl full of mauve sweet peas & that white lacy stuff standing on my little table & it looks awfully nice. I suppose it's extravagant to buy flowers, but I couldn't feel at home without them. I was sorry the carnations you bought me didn't last longer - they were beautiful & you were a dear to think of my wanting flowers. The Portuguese vase I have succeeded in buying & it looks awfully nice on the mantelpiece filled with the "wink-belle" flowers.

When I'm at last done as much shopping as I could - the shops are cheap here but they're no use for things like tablecloths (I want a coloured one for outside - there's a terrible blue one on at present) or clothes. - I came in & had my tea & then washed the new things

I've bought - jam-dial butter-dish, hot water jug (mainly for coffee), kumblers, etc. & then I washed my hair & then all my laundry. I wanted to iron it also but it was too dark by that time. - There's only one connection so I can't have the light & the iron on together.

Tomorrow I am spending the day with Mrs. Warner. I hope you have a nice weekend, darling. Am glad you're not being bothered by the bank manager. I'm sure you're only to smile at him & talk to him nicely & let's give you anything. How do you like the enclosed charming picture of yourself? - I think it's topping. You're laughing even more than on the Sun's one I love so much. All the snaps are very good & I have ordered another one of each. If you think Mr. Fitch would like one of the three of our hip I'll order some more.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/193B)

'I've been looking forward all the evening to writing to you but have only just finished working.'

7 Aug 1927



5.
That building in Loober (is it?) is
wonderful. - Of course, the light is so
good there & that makes all the
difference in getting such marvellous
charcut detail. It would make an
excellent outangement & postcard
size & framed, don't you think?
You must explain them all to me,
write you? - The I can almost
imagine what they are.

I must be up early in the morning
so I must wear a frock before I
can go to Mrs. Harrison's. The last
to buy a pair of stockings to-day
after all, darling. You had so long
to manage without, so I must look
as respectable as possible when I
go out, else I'll disgrace you, won't
I?

I am glad you don't mind if I get
my case without you being there
to help me. Why I wanted you
particularly was that you're giving it

6.
to me & therefore you should have a say
in the choice of it. But there is no
hurry as yet & I'll think about it.
Am still hoping you'll come to town
before I come home in September.
I think this next 5 weeks will go
quickly because we'll soon be
having another change of quarters
& that will make a lot more
work & I'll have to do a lot of hard
thinking as to the best way to
manage, & I'm already for
much more quickly since I left
Mrs. Green's. It isn't going quickly
now at the office 'cos there's very
little to do. He been reading
Stew's "Pygmalion" - or rather,
the introduction (no "Androcles")
the Lion, it was). It is a religious
subject & he says some frightfully
damning things. Have you read
it? There's just a wee lump of

7.
an idea that he's only saying the things
to shock people. - I wonder if that's
really so. Was there a time when
it was published, do you remember?
If you have a chance, darling, you
would like to read these Walpole's
books. You just finished "The
Cathedral" & it's wonderful. I very
much want to get his "Fortitude"
now. It's one of his most famous.
Have I to expect your letters
in the evenings now, darling? - I
won't be so disappointed in a morning
now if I know there may be one
when I come in from the office. It is
certainly much easier for you to write
them in the evenings at leisure.

About your idea to use 1st Oxford
& Cambridge Mansions as a "typical"
business address - it's quite feasible,
darling, & I don't mind at all.
You can adopt this as your business

address & give me all necessary
instructions & I'll comply with them.
I'll tell Mrs. Harrison that all
such letters are for me to forward to
a friend of mine of uncertain
address. Oh, it's quite easy & it
seems a good idea.

I don't so much mind that thought
isn't last week at this time, except
that you'd be here, 'cos I didn't have
an awfully comfy night. If it had
you it would have been different. For
often thought of you coming to me
in the Colchester Hotel. That was awfully
nice of you to do such a risky thing.

I'm writing you a long letter
tonight as I won't have tomorrow at
Peters' View. Am looking forward
to a letter on Monday morning.
Thank you for the "real" kisses, darling.
I wish they were "realer" still. But
we'll make up again when I'm in
bed - or you're here. - Yes?

All my love & a goodnight kiss.
To Cherie.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/194)

'I'm writing this at the office darling 'cos we're not a bit busy.'

8 Aug 1927



194
London.
Monday. 12.15 p.m.
I'm writing this at the office, darling, 'cos we're not a bit busy. Thanks for your letter this morning. It wasn't an awfully nice special one, was it - but perhaps I'm too particular. I was glad to have it though. There was also one from Irene & one from Mother - even such a funny one which made me laugh. She couldn't have rung for us so far so I haven't written to ask her to. Someone's not privileged to receive a letter every day, & it was her turn to write. However, she answered right away & told her to give you a Meg if she'd like some rides or some tennis. She's quite good company, but all the same it was of you to bother with her. She may beat you at tennis! No tell me the result.

2.
You would perhaps wonder this morning that there were only 5 photos, but I took them to Gollers & then to show Mrs. Fitzsch; if he was there, & I gave him the one of himself & his 3 children. I'll send you one when I get the others.
I had quite a nice day with Mrs. Harmer & the kiddies are not now a bit shy of me. She evidently likes you very much. I'm glad you're fond of children. Mrs. Harmer came home about 6 o'clock yesterday & I was very unfavourably impressed. I didn't enjoy myself after he came but felt rather uncomfortable. He had a bad headache & was in an awful temper. He'd been away 3 days & didn't even kiss Mrs. H. when he came in. I made myself scarce, but I don't think I need have bothered. He seems quite with everything & looked like a thunder-storm, except that I like thunder.

3.
storm better. I shouldn't be surprised if there's a lot of friction there, tho' Mrs. Harmer was quite nice, & perfectly polite, of course. I couldn't live with a man like that. Perhaps he was mad I was there, but he didn't shake me as wanting to be alone with Mrs. H. I gave them plenty of opportunity & went & played with the kiddies outside. The whole atmosphere was changed when he came in.
2.30 p.m.
I've just come back from lunch. I went with Mrs. de H. to an Italian place near her apt. It isn't at all bad, but with a 2d. fare each way it comes rather expensive.
On Friday we move into our other rooms. I'll be glad to have things more settled. Mrs. Behr & Mimi are probably in London now & I've written to Mrs. Maybey to try & get into touch with them. Mimi invited me to stay with her in Sept. but I didn't really take it seriously 'cos I thought they'd want me at

home (& to hear you as well). But Mimi tells me she thinks I'll have to come to her as they're putting up various relations at home. I don't mind at all, except that it's so far away from you. It's awful nice of you to say you'll take a holiday when I'm there. I hope the weather's fine & that we can play tennis & go picnics, etc. Only 5 weeks now. It won't be so very long.
I'm wondering how you enjoyed your ride yesterday. As you didn't add any more to it I expect it kept fine & you enjoyed yourself. It was glorious here the whole day - hot sunshine & no clouds at all. The evening also was splendid. Nearly full moon & lots of stars & deep blue sky. Mrs. Harmer will be remembered to you. Also Mrs. Fitzsch.
I've spoken to Mrs. de H. about my case & we're going one day to choose it. I think it's the best as I have an opportunity to get it wholesale, don't you? I'll write & tell you all about it when I get it. You are a generous darling love, A.
All my love, A.

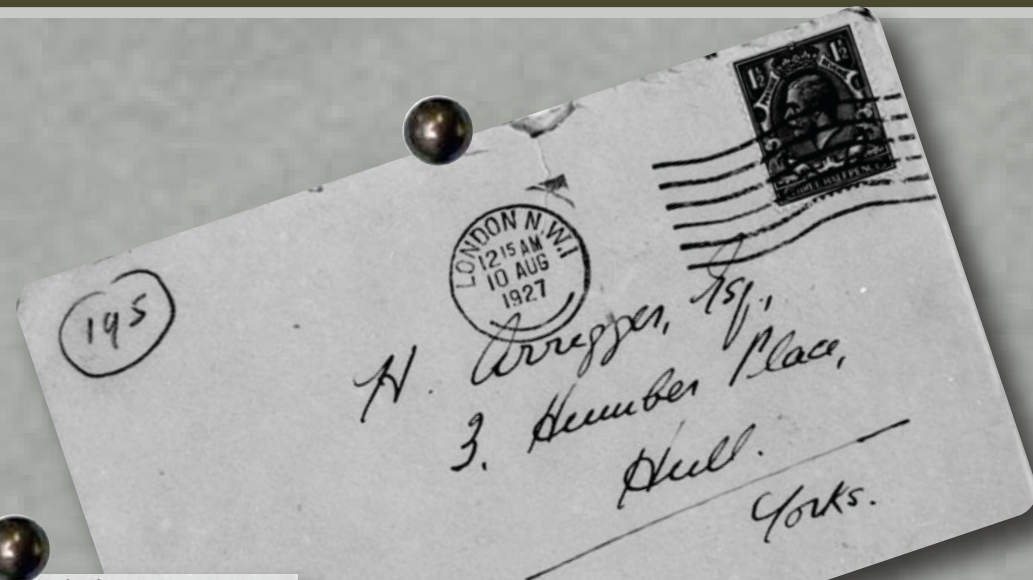
Please enclose the money - colour envelope.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/195)

'Thank you for your letter darling - it was waiting for me when I came in at 6.45pm.'

10 Aug 1927



195
London.
Tuesday. 4p.m.

Thank you for your letter, darling. - I was waiting for me when I came in at 6.45 p.m. Don't you think that's good service!

First of all I must tell you about my beautiful case which I've got to day. - I decided to get it wholesale from this place Mrs. de H. knows. She asked if I would mind going to-day as she had another errand to do there. So we went at lunch-time. I think you'll like it - it's dark brown crocodile leather, but very plain & good-looking & it has a pale grey lining with tiny rosebuds on. All this sounds rather fancy, but it's not. The lining just has one initial on it "A" in black, & it is being delivered at the end of the week. It was 48/- ~~the~~ retail (the price they quoted me), but Mrs. de H. refunded me

the balance later - wholesale price was 35/- with 6/- for the initial = 38/-. That's very good, don't you think? - Because that is of course really getting a thing so much cheaper. I'm glad I got one under £2, because I didn't want to write & tell you it was more. You've been a darling to be so generous. Shall I send you a P.O. for the 4/- change, or will you wait till I come? - Thank you ever so much indeed, darling, for my beautiful present. I do want you to see it, & I hope you'll like it as well. It would be disappointing if you didn't. I'll bring it home with me in Sept. if you don't come to town before that. I hope you will, as 5 weeks is still an awfully long time. If you were in Portugal it would seem much worse than it is, so there must be something in distance.

3.
Is there any hope yet of an excuse to come? I wrote to Mother yesterday so she's be giving you a ring some time. I mentioned it to Mother as I thought it was best. I hope you'll have some nice rides & some games of tennis. Am glad you're pleased with the swaps. They certainly are a success. It's a good idea to send one of the "Laughing Cavalier" to Mrs. G. Will you give me her address, & then I'll write a short note in French (English would be useless, wouldn't it?) & send it to you to correct. Will you? Or would you rather send it? I think I would like to if you don't mind. I'll have some extra ones done of you for you to distribute, on condition you don't give any of them away without telling me. Will you? You see, I caught that nice mood of yours & it belongs to me. You can't give it away to whomever you so you want's. You may send one to

4.
your brother & any of your sisters. - I'll send one to Muriel as I'm writing to her next. (I write to them in French, & Muriel comes last.)

You must send me the money for the swaps, darling. If you want me to have it I'll take it out of that 4/- - yes? - But I shall owe you so much money that I feel awfully mean to want those few odd shillings. But they do mean a lot of difference to me. And I have now to make an active attempt to save up for the Silver Wedding. Am getting 10/- away per week & even then I'll only have £2.10.0. I have an awful lot of expenses for the flat. - & there will be for some time until we get things together we need. When do you hope to taste my coffee, darling? I would like you to enjoy (if that's possible) things I've made, but don't see much prospect of that, do you?

Thank you for your offer of your electric cooker, dear. Until we're

I would read any more of Shaw when the friends this one - have just read "Androcles & the Lion" & "Overrules" & am reading "Pygmalion" - until you say I may. I've just bought 3 of Walpole's books - 1/6 ones for 1/2 each. It's almost impossible to get his masterpieces out of the library. I'll bring them in Sept. for you - "Fanny Hill" - "The Dark Forest" - "The Duchess of Wrex" -

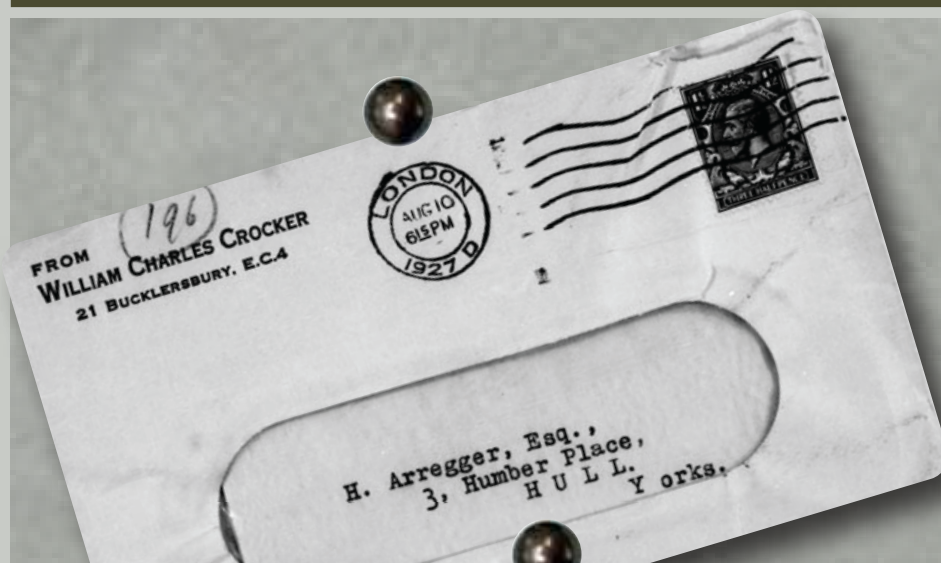
5.
in our new quarters I can't really say what we'll need or exactly what facilities we shall have. Cooking I'll do as the kitchen gas-stove, & I have a splendid electric roaster (I told you about it, didn't I?) which I attach to the electric light. It is very nice of you to let me have it & to offer to get the plug changed, and I'll be able to tell you a little later if I think it will be useful. What I do want to bring back with me in Sept. darling, is a very long way? -

Am glad you enjoyed your ride on Sunday but sorry you had punctures.

Have you been reading about the Cornhill House? The building that collapsed is just round the corner from our office.

I'm bedridden now. Thank you, darling, again for my birthday present. I'll give you lots of special kisses when I see you.

All my love, A.



(96)

London.

Wednesday. 2.30 p.m.

This will only be a line, darling, written at the office, because I'm unexpectedly out tonight & won't have a chance later. So when I'm up this morning & tonight was the only time I could fix. I'm meeting her & Summie after the office. Don't know what we'll do, but I don't want to spend any money. I suppose it's bound to mean that. I'm trying to save for the Silver Wedding present, but it's an awful struggle. I've just written to Meme & suggested that we all put together, which I think is best.

Your - my - case has come this morning & it really is beautiful. The part I like best about it is the lining, & I never am keen on greys & browns mixed.

The case is brown & the lining grey. But as one can't always have exactly what one wants I thought it best to concentrate on the outside rather than the inside. The leather will last a lifetime & the lining will wear out much sooner. So then I can choose what I would like. It's all wrapped up in paper to keep it clean till I can show it to you. Of course, I'll always keep it clean, but I mean I want you to see it just as I got it.

There was no letter this morning & if there is one tonight I shan't get it till late. I'm glad tho' that you're not going to make a habit of writing after post-time. Tomorrow I think I'm going to play tennis at Winnie's factory after the office. Lots of love, A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/196)

'This will only be a line darling written at the office because I'm unexpectedly out tonight and won't have a chance later.'

10 Aug 1927

P.S. Enclosed are duplicate snaps of Portugal, except the building which I want to keep as it makes a lovely picture for Luickau. I'll have another done of the building if you want one for him. They haven't printed this lot so well, they charge an awful lot. 1/3 for 6 prints! There is also the one of Mrs. Futschik & her's Backtots. I couldn't help laughing at it, tho' it is a good one. She's so happy gazing at him & Leo's so absorbed in trying to look sweet & unconcerned.

I've ordered half a dozen of you and I'll let you have some if you tell me what you want. Regards to Mrs. Leech. (You haven't sent her a snap). Much love. A.



197

London.

Friday. 9.30.p.m.

Your letter has only just arrived, darling, as I was taking out the notepaper to write to you. - Tho' I'm only writing to tell you I don't feel like writing a real letter, if you don't mind. Yesterday I was too busy to get a letter off - was working all day at the office, then went right away to play tennis & was only in about 10 o'clock - we looked over the factory after tennis - & then went to have tea. We had been moved into the front room & it was quite a job to get a meal ready when we had our things to find. It was after 12 when we got to bed.

I'm awfully tired to-day & have been taken by surprise again a full week too soon. It is too bad really - every month is bad enough but every 3 weeks is a shame. - & I always seem to feel worse when it's irregular. I haven't a single spark of energy.

9th journey with Nani. Will make up this weekend darling. Please don't mind too much. Thanks for your letter. All my love, A.

197

LONDON N.W.2
12.15 AM
13 AUG
1927

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

Yours.

Amy Johnson letter to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/197)

'Your letter has only just arrived darling as I was taking out the notepaper to write to you.'

13 Aug 1927

Amy Johnson letter to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/198)

'I'm afraid you'll be fed up again darling,
but I haven't time to write a letter.'

15 Aug 1927

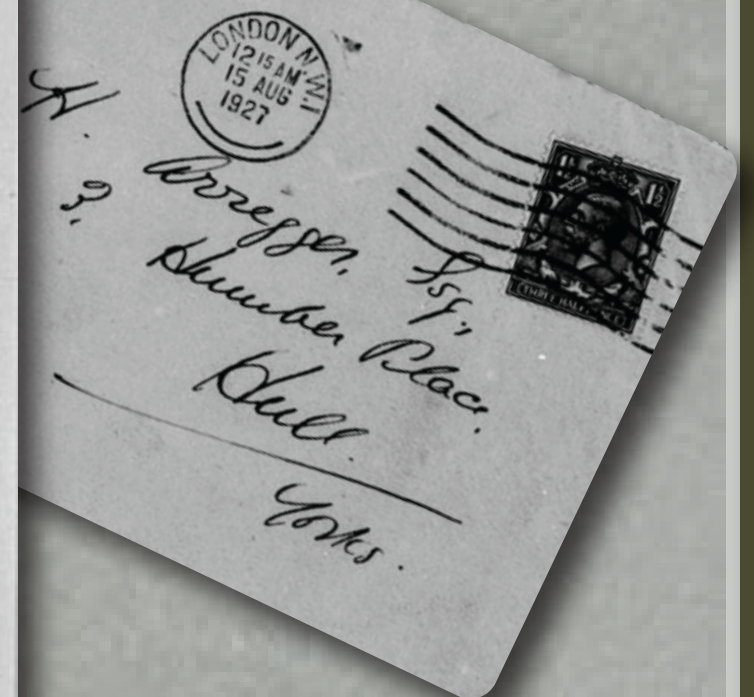
(198)

11 p.m. Sunday.

I'm afraid you'll ^{be} fed up again,
darling, but I haven't time to
write a letter. Have been so
awfully busy all the weekend &
now it's 4 mins. to 11 & the
post goes at 11. & I really
wanted to write you a long
letter. I must really get one
off tomorrow.

Don't be cross - I ~~really~~
can't help it & I do want to write.
You've no idea how hard the day
to work.

Will tell you more tomorrow.
All my love, darling, - I do
love you & think of you just
as much even if I can't write
& I don't like to disappoint you.
Ta cherie



199

Monday, 2.30 p.m.

We are a bit slack at the office just now so I'm seizing the opportunity to write to you. I've found it fatal to leave it for "later on". I'm sorry I've not been able to write a proper letter for such a long time. I've wasn't one from you on Saturday & I thought that was it I hadn't written, but I was sorry for thinking that when 2 letters arrived this morning. I've obviously isn't a late delivery on Sat. night.

Now that I am writing I'm sorry not to be able to send a nice letter. I don't know what the weather will be to-day. - I'm in an awfully bad temper & your letter this morning didn't help matters. You write me pages & pages all about her.

I feel & know in great surprise you realise you've written me a lot. - Your subject must have been most

absorbing. I don't think you know how often you talk about her & how she manages without a maid & how you're always wondering how she keeps her spirits up. I'm fed up with the subject & I wish you could give it a rest for a while. You must be getting frightfully narrow to find so much interest in the subject of dips & your landlady. I wish you'd remember it doesn't matter to me a scrap whether your landlady has a maid or not, or whether she does your laundry for love or money. You've chosen your way of living - you're only yourself to think of & work for & plan for. I suppose if you're not happy you can always make other arrangements.

I'm afraid I seem to be in a nasty mood as well & I have an

199

LONDON
AUG 15
7 15 PM
1927.H



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

Yaks.

3.

irresistible desire to vent myself on you. I could overcome that by not writing at all, but you'd be wad not to have a letter again. So please put up with me, darling. I haven't headache or any pains & I don't feel ill. I've told I look it. I'm not exactly discouraged, or fed-up, except with hugging & the holiday that. I have an almost overwhelming desire to run away to Switzerland. I long for the lake & the mountains & to go shopping with Henry & to do all the delightful things I did last year. Whenever I think of it I get a lump in my throat & if I weren't at the office I think a good cry would do me good. I want to have a sun-bath on the lake & I want to climb the hills again & I want to get away from everyone except the people I learnt to love in Switzerland last year.

4.

If it weren't for you & if I wasn't in Mr. Wood's office I don't think anything would stop me from going. - This woman is driving me mad. I hate her, hate, hate her. I've no control over myself to-day. There's only she & I in the room.

You will be thinking I'm quite mad. I'm sorry.

I've not been able to tell you anything yet about our new quarters. We moved on ~~Thursday~~ Thursday night - we did something first which made us late but I can't remember what it was. - We - oh yes, it was tennis. We got in late & even since then I've not had any time. On Friday Mrs. de H. sent me home about 5 o'clock so I did some shopping. I had heaps to do. I don't remember what I did after that but I know I hadn't time to

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/199)

'We are a bit slack at the office just now so I'm seizing the opportunity to write to you ..'

15 Aug 1927

199
write to you. Sat. afternoon I was too
bored to do anything at all - I just
sat on the sofa & didn't read or do
anything at all for about 2 hrs. I
had a lot more shopping to do but
then it rained. - I did it later. I
ought to have written to you on Sat.
as I wasted heaps of time, but I
hadn't the energy. - I didn't capture
the 'I' cleared a shelf in the garden
& a cupboard in the kitchen etc.
Yesterday I worked hard. - we were
late with breakfast & then I turned
out my trunk 'cos I wanted my
German books from the bottom. It
was a jolly day but we didn't get
out before lunch. Mrs. Hopkinson
cooked lunch for us & I & her &
Mrs. Rowe, the parents of a friend
of Wip's who are staying in the flat
for a fortnight. We only pay 16 each
for lunch & have a popping over. Then

6.
Wip. & I went a walk in Hyde Park.
Her friends me & Winnie got tea ready
while I rested. Another friend of
hers had come to stay the night - she'd
been in Lincoln. She wasn't well
after the summer crossing & went to
bed. After tea I baked Scott's
for supper & prepared salad & fruit
etc. & I also made some chocolate
cakes. The bees feeding rather
proud of what the dove sent Winnie
but I have no interest in it
to-day. - & I can imagine you smiling
over my childish (to you) efforts.
Winnie says if I leave her shell for
into dip. 'cos she couldn't stick being
on her own again. I want to make
some cushions & we want a bookcase
& Winnie has a low trunk which
will make an admirable screen
will cushions & one of your up-
if I may have one? - We only
have blue distressed walls so

7.
we need some pictures. I do long for
my crew of the lake - & also for
your watercolor. But don't you
properly.

We're gradually getting the things we
need & in the winter I'll enjoy to
stay in & sew. We've decided (as I have,
at any rate) to make all our Xmas
presents as we won't be able to afford
to buy them. Are you joining the
Set. & Phil. this winter? - It's
curious, but I am looking forward
to the winter. There is interest in
this summer. - And the quicker the
summer goes, the nearer Xmas is
coming. I am determined to go to
Switzerland for my holiday whether you
come or not. That seems to be all
I'm looking for. Did I tell you
that I saw someone at the Regent
Palace last Wed. who looked awfully
like Hans Vetter? He was coming
for the life so I hadn't time to tell

8
properly. - & I couldn't remember his
name at all. It wouldn't be him,
would it? It would be nice to see
him again.

I haven't written to Mrs. G. yet
but will do soon. Am enclosing some
more snaps of yourself for you to distribute
of the 2 doz. I'll keep 3 & send you
3 - tell me if you want more.

It is perhaps as well I haven't
written to you lately because you might
have had another nasty letter - one
day I was in a mood similar to
to-day's & I was irritated with you
because of the way you work. - You
seem to have no idea of discipline or
self-control with regard to work. You seem
to think you deserve a pat on the back
if you do an ordinary (to us poor people)
day's work. When it's fine you feel
you ought to go out on your bike.
Very nice. The sun. Wouldn't business
be jolly all over the world if everyone
only worked when they were in the mood



199
I wonder if you've begun to have the little holiday you've been promising yourself ever since you came back from Portugal.

Don't take any notice of me. - I'm only jealous 'cos you're your own master & free lot - but you do rub it in a lot. & I really do think you ought to exert more self-discipline. I wonder you wouldn't like to work in Switzerland again. But I wouldn't. Here's some work now. Write again later.

5 p.m.
Am free again for a while. I simply loathe waiting for work like this, with so much harder to do the little work that comes in when one is slack than it is to work hard all the time. Don't you find that so?

I will be quite all right about any letters coming to the flat. The little Mrs. Hodgkinson stays for me. Will they be addressed to Corrygar?

Reynolds or just Reynolds? Do the Mills of Loding simply wait enclosing in an envelope without any covering letter? I can take them to the office & type the envelopes there, which will be more businesslike than hand-writing, which wouldn't do at all, so I could send a covering letter also if necessary & if I had the notepaper. I ought to have some of your envelopes anyhow. I will try to carry out all instructions properly. It's rather fun playing at business, isn't it?

I don't want to come home for the Silver Wedding. - Just coming for those few days revives all the trouble & difficulties which made me run away to London. And the worst of it is I mustn't spoil the festivities at home by bringing trouble in. It would be as well if you were away. I know so perfectly well that I shall come & see you often & that Mother

will be mad. "The realist's latest idea was Mother who caused all the trouble & I don't think Father would ever have acted as he did if it hadn't been for Mother." If I could get out of it I wouldn't go. But I don't see how I can. I've always blamed Father most but now I know, & rather realize, a little more of Mother's ideas & feelings in the matter. I really & honestly believe that given the opportunity & an excuse Mother could kill you. She's one of that sort. I feel quite helpless in the face of this - I can't help it. However, much I determine to be strong. On Saturday morning I felt in the mood to write a letter telling her exactly what I thought of her narrow mind & then a parcel came from her with candles & sennetos etc. & a very nice letter. It's been like that always. I can't be nasty to people when they're doing things for me.

2.
I didn't intend to tell you all this - it's not nice for you, but I have no one to talk to about such things & sometimes I feel I must have an outlet. Please don't mind.

I don't think it's at all likely that I'll be changing my address, 'cos we're very comfortable & happy where we are. In a few years' time we'll have collected some furniture, etc. of our own & so we get more things we shall probably feel less like moving. I shall bring my books back with me in September & we're going to get a bookcase on the instalment system.

It's pouring with rain & I've no umbrella or mac with me. The weather doesn't matter an awful lot to me - I've no games of tennis or motor rides to spoil.

Of course I'm & Teddy are happy. They've got some seeds. They'll probably have their cubs & pups but I think they'll be happy on the whole.

All my love, A.

(200)

London.

Tuesday. 11.45 p.m.

There is no letter from you this morning. But I suppose I ought not to be surprised after my neglect of you. Maybe there'll be one tonight. I do like one in the morning tho', 'cos my door is next to the front door & I hear the postman put the letters through. I always sort them out & get my own & then save them to read when I'm having my breakfast. It's much nicer to read my letter then when I'm by myself & not in a hurry than it is at night when it comes any time between 7 & 10 & there are lots of people here when I want to read it.

I've often been sorry I told you a letter can get here the same day. I'd rather have a few lines specially for myself in the morning than a long letter full of news. Read at night. I don't think I'd have minded

so much about the news. Read one if it had come at night, but I did want a nice one this morning.

On Friday I am going to Mrs. Mabey's. Tonight we'll probably have a friend of Winnie's here again - tomorrow & Thursday Popsy will be here. & next weekend Winnie's sister is coming. It does make a lot of work having so many visitors but I can't very well stop it.

Last night I was visiting Nell & Maudie. I did all my own & Winnie's as well, 'cos she had washed the pot up & had then gone to bed 'cos she was so tired. She got up at 6.

Mama has got mumps, Maudie tells me in a letter this morning. And it's her birthday this week - isn't it disappointing!

I didn't enclose your swaps yesterday 'cos I hadn't them at the office & I posted the letter before I went home, so that you should get it first thing. I'll send them sometime.

All my love, darling.
Ta chérie

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

Yours.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/200)

'There is no letter from you this morning but suppose I ought not to be surprised after my neglect of you.'

16 Aug 1927

(201)

London.
Thursday. 3p.m.

No letter again from you to day - I'm beginning to think you're perhaps too cross with me to write. Is that it, darling? I'm sorry now for the nasty thing I wrote in my letter on Monday & I do hope they haven't made you feel fed up. It is such a relief that my unexplainable nasty mood has entirely disappeared, & now I am awfully wanting a nice letter from you to say you're not angry with me. Maybe there will be one for me tonight, but I shall get it till very late because Poppy is here for a couple of days & the three of us are going out to dinner & to a show. - Only a cheap dinner & then the job! - Poppy came last night on her way back from Jersey & is going back to her job tomorrow. She has thoroughly enjoyed herself in

Surferland & she says Jack is greatly improved through being in the military service. He says he is much more of a man & braver & stronger. He lives in a chateau in Jersey - the most wonderful place, Poppy says. He seems to be very serious about Poppy but Poppy says she only loves him like a brother! She says there isn't enough in him to satisfy her for all ways, but that he is a charming boy nevertheless. - That's what I think, too.

I had a nice meal ready when they came in from the station last night - we took our time over it & then cleared away & washed up. Then I washed my hair & had a hot bath, & we had the fire lit & sat round it & sang songs till nearly midnight. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Tonight we're having dinner at "Le Diner" in ^{Paris} Soho & then going to see "The Garden of Eden."

Letter from Amy Johnson
to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/201)

'No letter again from you to day.
I'm beginning to think you're
perhaps too cross with me to write.'

18 Aug 1927

(201)

LONDON
AUG 18
7 15 PM
1927



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

Yorks

4.

You do sometimes seem to be getting farther away from me, darling, somehow. I don't believe that "absence makes the heart grow fonder" - at least, not continued absences. One has to adjust oneself & get used to them. Whilst you're away from me I sometimes think I could gradually get used to doing without you, but when I see you again I realize I am only really happy when you're here. That's why seeing you & not seeing you seems to be just one long series of getting more or less used to doing without you & then being extremely happy & then you & then violently upset & unhappy when you're gone again till I once more adjust myself to doing without you, & so on. Are you odd again?

Please write me a nice letter, darling & make me happy when I get up one morning instead of being disappointed as I usually am.
All my love, A.

3.

Tomorrow night I am going to Mrs. Mayne's to dinner. She is needing me after the office at Victoria will her car. It will be nice to see her again. This weekend I want to spend pretty fast.

As for our flat is an immense success & we manage awfully well. We want Poppy to come & join us & then we can have a flat all of our own, but she says she must stay in Roxas at least a year. We're trying to persuade her to get a teaching job in town in a year's time. They are well-paid in London. It would be lovely for the 3 of us to be together. Poppy's a topping girl & I really think 3 girls get on together better than 2. We're anxious that Poppy is gradually dropping out of our little "quartet." Some of us seem to wait for very much & she certainly hasn't improved since she's been in L'Auffard. - She's a regular teacher now.

(202)

London.

Friday 10.30 a.m.

Darling. why don't you write to me? - Are you really too cross? - You don't know how sorry I am if I've really hurt you. I am ashamed of myself now, but I did really try hard to get rid of that nasty mood. I wouldn't have written you that day at all if it hadn't been that I'd been so busy the few days before & hadn't written you a proper letter. You have been so awfully good to me and the lovely birthday present you have given me is here at the office reminding me of you all the time (I am afraid it may get scratched if I take it home 'cos they're not too careful there with our things. So I'm keeping it here wrapped up in paper until you've seen it). - & I really don't know how I could be so nasty to you, - but I was, wasn't I, darling? Have you ever felt in that detestable mood when you feel you must hurt someone you

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/202)

'Darling why don't you write to me? Are you really too cross?'

19 Aug 1927

Pith 19 August 1927

(202)

H. Arregger, Esq.

2.
Love awfully in order to make one's self feel better? - I believe you have, because sometimes you seem to want to make me unhappy just for the mere pleasure of it - not lately, - but many years ago! It isn't often I feel like that - hardly ever, and I'm glad, 'cos it's not the sort of feeling rational human beings ought to have, and I do feel sorry afterwards. Please, darling, do write to me, even if it's a nasty cross letter telling me off. I listen for the postman in the morning & sort out the letters & feel so awfully disappointed when there isn't one from you. This tie is to go with your new suit. - If it doesn't match please send it back. I wanted to show you 'practically' that I'm sorry & that I do really love you so very very much. Do write. All my love, darling.
A.



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/203)

'I've been looking forward to writing you a long letter this weekend darling and now I have a chance.'

22 Aug 1927



203
Sunday. 2.45 p.m.
I've been looking forward to writing you a long letter this weekend. Darling, & now I have a chance - tho' I would prefer to do by myself. I am sitting at the writing desk in our room and it is really very pleasant with the French windows wide open, tho' it is raining slightly still. Roy & only went yesterday morning & Winnie's Sister Belle, an absolutely topping girl, came last night & is here till the morning. Winnie & I have our little house & were really ever so happy together. We haven't had time yet to get bored with each other 'co we've had so many different people staying with us and it seems as tho' we shall always have plenty of variation. For the winter our plans are for Wyn to join a hockey club & I shall join for winter swimming. Then we're going to belong to London.

School of Domestic Science (it's not too expensive). Wyn for Welfare work & Factory Organization. etc. & I for Company Law. And I'll continue with German lessons & then I'll be busy making cushions, etc. for the flat. So it doesn't look as tho' either of us will get bored. What plans have you for the winter, darling. Of course, you haven't thought of it yet, have you? Are you going to join the L.L. & Phil? I shall think of you specially on Tuesday night if you do. Mr. Wood came back on Friday and ever since then I have been busy. Yesterday I had a full morning & then I went swimming with a girl from the office. We thoroughly enjoyed it & I felt so fresh & energetic tho' it was a bit sleepy when I got in. I'm getting to do the "crawl" & shall persist till I can do it well. Am also trying to improve my diving because I like to do a thing better than

most people & not only as well, don't you? When I came in from the bath we had afternoon tea & then I did the shopping & prepared supper. (I smoked black & white in milk, & fresh fruit salad & cream, & coffee - it was a success & everyone ate lots.) While Wyn went to meet Belle. He spent the whole evening (what then was left of it) eating & smoking & talking. This morning I made some Scotch egg & fruit jelly for supper & then we went out to lunch. - Belle treated us all that is Wyn & I and Wyn's other Sister, Icie (there are 4 of them, all girls. Belle, the eldest, managers of the Vickers factory in Paris & very clever - she's about 30, then come Icie & Mace, the twins. Both very stupid & uninteresting & then Wyn is the youngest & very odd & uninteresting).

I suppose you won't be interested in all these details of what we eat, etc. So tell me if they bore you, would you? Thank you for your letter, darling. I was immensely pleased to have it. But it didn't make me awfully happy somehow, tho' I can't exactly think why. I don't think I like you to "swallow" everything I say. It's somehow like hitting someone & they turn the other cheek in the proper Christian manner, and I can't help not liking that spirit. I do realize and have realized for some time that you're not the immediate cause of my black moods, tho' in many cases & especially when I was at home, you were the primary cause. These moods come from inside myself & have nothing to do with outside circumstances & influences, except so far as they are either aggravated or softened

203 by the "petty worries" which you seem to think drag on the mood. For instance I'll get up one morning & for no reason at all I'll feel depressed & miserable. Then I'll get up & find it pouring with rain which doesn't have the effect of filling my soul with sunshine. Then I'll wait for the post and catch soon the letter out & find not a single one for myself which would disappoint me a bit at any time, tho' normally I quickly recover. Then I go to the office & find no work to do and then that wicked woman starts mistaking me & so on & so on. But it isn't these things that make me have a black mood. - They just accentuate and make more difficult to dispel the black mood in which I woke up. It's raining nearly every morning &

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There are leaps of reasoning when there are no letters & no work & little writing. I keep at the office etc., but it's only once in a couple of months or more when I get these nasty moods. And yet you like insist on putting them down to "petty worries" - tho' in one sentence you ascribe them to "petty worries" & in the next call them "unaccountable" which isn't according to your usual sense of logic. At times when I have these moods you invariably heated them the wrong way & simply aggravated them. I couldn't see then that you weren't responsible for them. - Tho' you were for some. There are some things which irritate me whenever I think of them, whether I'm in good mood or bad, & if I'm feeling depressed & let myself

dwell on them I work myself up into rather a morbid state of mind, as for example, the first day you were here last June. But I'm gradually getting out of that & it doesn't do any good & I must try to be sensible.

It was the last thing you could do not to write to me for some days, but really you do treat me like an errand clerk or typist in your office. As you always said, in the margin of your letters, if you cut out the word "darling" they would quite as well be letters to a wayward daughter or a niece or even as I say to an employee. I can't help it, but I don't consider myself awfully inferior to you, and don't that I'm away from you I find I'm gradually regaining that confidence in myself which you took

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away from me. - Tho' for my own good, I'll admit. Do you really think I'm so unfit to face the struggle of life? You see life for me isn't a struggle - not so far. Sometimes it's pretty interesting and worth while. And often times it's just "one damn thing after another." The only real enemy I have to fight is in myself, and the only struggle I have on those with my own mind and ideas. I don't worry given way to circumstances & if I don't like a thing I do my best to alter it instead of "grinning & bearing it" as I suppose you think I ought to. You found I generally get my own way in the end if I'm sufficiently keen on getting it. I don't think there's anything that one can't change for the better if one only wants to sufficiently. I'm not so level-

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9
headed & balanced as you are, and I sometimes find your calmness & balance & content awfully interesting, but in spite of my bad moods, I don't think I'd like to change my mind for an equal, solid one of everlasting happiness & content. it would be far too boring.

I'm sorry I can't keep to the point to-day, darling - please excuse all these little reflections etc. I only want to help you to understand me better, because I know perfectly well that you don't understand me as I really am. I can guess that from lots of little things you say in your letters.

You say I'll have a lot of things to throw back at you, & that you always listen to what I say & that you won't we could discuss

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& argue things without getting nasty. First of all I have nothing to throw back at you - I just want to make you understand me & my moods, tho' all. And then you say you always listen to what I say - yes, you certainly listen but you don't take it in. You take the words at their surface value, but I don't think it ever occurs to you to work backwards from those words & find the real thought behind them & the process of mind I must have gone through to arrive at the thought which made me say those same words. Do you ever do that, darling? I don't write you things for the mere sake of putting words on paper, and if you could only see it, there is usually quite a long haul of thought behind the things (serious things, I don't mean here) I say.



I wish you would try to get below the surface sometimes. It would be worth it for you if you love me at all. Really do want me more than any other girl.

The next thing you say is that you wish we could argue & discuss things without getting nasty. Here again I'm sure your attitude on the wrong track. The only things we argue & discuss are silly little unimportant things. The really serious things which matter we don't discuss at all - they're "taboo" subjects with you. We only get nasty about the little things. Can you remember any really big thing we've ever discussed & got nasty about, - except the question of your bad manners, which I'm realistic? -

We never discuss the question of religion. The only time you have

mentioned it is when once, ^{you} said that your children would be brought up Catholics. Why can't we talk about this vital question? - Why are you afraid of it?

Another taboo subject (you don't know how much things are taken just to mention the word) - is that of marriage. - Why can't we ever talk of that? -

Surely it's important. - And I don't mean so much personally as generally. Yours got an entirely wrong idea of my feelings about it because you're so afraid of the subject you don't talk to me about it.

I have very decided views when it pleases you to take the trouble to discover them - if it does interest you enough. When I first knew you I was a stupid ordinary girl who regarded every presentable man as a potential husband, & any one interested in her as a

probable one. That's how I regarded you & you knew it. (I often wonder if I could begin again with my present knowledge & experience I would do all the same things over again. Sometimes I think I should & other times I emphatically deny it.) - But the worst of it is, you still think that my views now. I would awfully like a man & I'd like some children to bring up & have and I think that's the difference as a housewife than as a dyest. But that's not my ambition and sole object in life. I wish you could get rid of all these ideas about me, but I suppose the responsibility for your holding them. - But you don't seem to notice when I alter my ideas & you don't seem to take any interest in them. I can foresee lots of trouble ahead just because you've got these set

opinions about me & won't change them. Suppressing at any time in the future you expected me to marry you & I wouldn't. You'd think I was just being awkward & wanted you to insist, wouldn't you? You see I know so well how you think on this subject & how you think I think, and I never have an opportunity of dispelling your ideas, because you so resolutely avoid the topic. You think it's too far fetched up with it, but it's because you don't want to face it. You have an awful lot of false pride - all sorts of your ideas are distorted because of it.

But I'm afraid I'm saying too many things, darling, & have almost got to the stage of "throwing things back at you." Please don't take too much notice if you don't want to - nothing has been said in a

nasty spirit. To-day I am wanting you rather badly and I'd go any way to see you if it were only possible. Do please read this in the spirit in which I write it & try to understand me a little better. And until we can be companions "mentally" as well as physically I don't think we can thoroughly satisfy each other. With some other people I can talk & discuss all sorts of problems & questions but you never have the effect of stimulating my mind - or I think yours evidently. And I'm sure it's only because we don't try. Do take more notice of what I say please, darling, & don't be so assured beforehand that my opinions are not worth listening to. You could never

bring yourself to believe that you could learn anything from me, could you? But we can never be in any other position: intellectually than master & pupil unless you can believe that we can mutually help each other. At present it is a case of "master & pupil" & it can never be permanently satisfactory - what are your ideas? Do please for once think of what I say & give me your ideas, or if you think it's not worth it, then tell me so, & I must try & adjust myself to a permanent "master & pupil" position & decide if I can be happy that way. All my love, darling, Q.

I'm sorry for not mentioning how glad I am of your frequent successes & wish you good luck would continue.

(204)

London
Monday. 21.8.

Thank you for your letter, darling, and for all the news. I hope the weather continued fine enough for you to go for a run on your bike yesterday. It was beautiful here most of the day, tho' very windy, and we had some violent showers between 2 and 4 o'clock. After afternoon tea Winnie & I went a topping walk through Hyde Park & the Green Park to Buckingham Palace & then down the Mall etc. to Piccadilly Circus & then we came back by bus. It was gloriously fresh & breezy & it really did us good. We had a nice supper when we came in and then we smoked cigarettes & Winnie read me poetry (she reads very sympathetically & understandingly)

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until her sister came in. She had supper & then we cleared away & washed up & I set breakfast & put up the camp bed & got to sleep about 12.30. I should think we've had several late nights & I'm awfully sleepy to-day, tho' not at all physically tired.

There is very little work at the office to-day. It is cold in spite of the bursts of sunshine. I am wearing my woollen suit, & we have our fire lit.

I'm glad you went to see Melle & Zeli as she is ill. What is she ill with? - Just old age? -

There is no news to give you as nothing has happened since I wrote yesterday. Melle left this morning. We shall see her again on her way back. I like her

3

(204)

extremely.

I come home a fortnight on Thursday. That's not very long now, is it? Mollie is at Nid. now - they all went on the 20th & are there for a fortnight. Father is expected home about Sept. 4th or 5th & I hope to see him in town before he goes on to Hull.

Lots of love,

A.

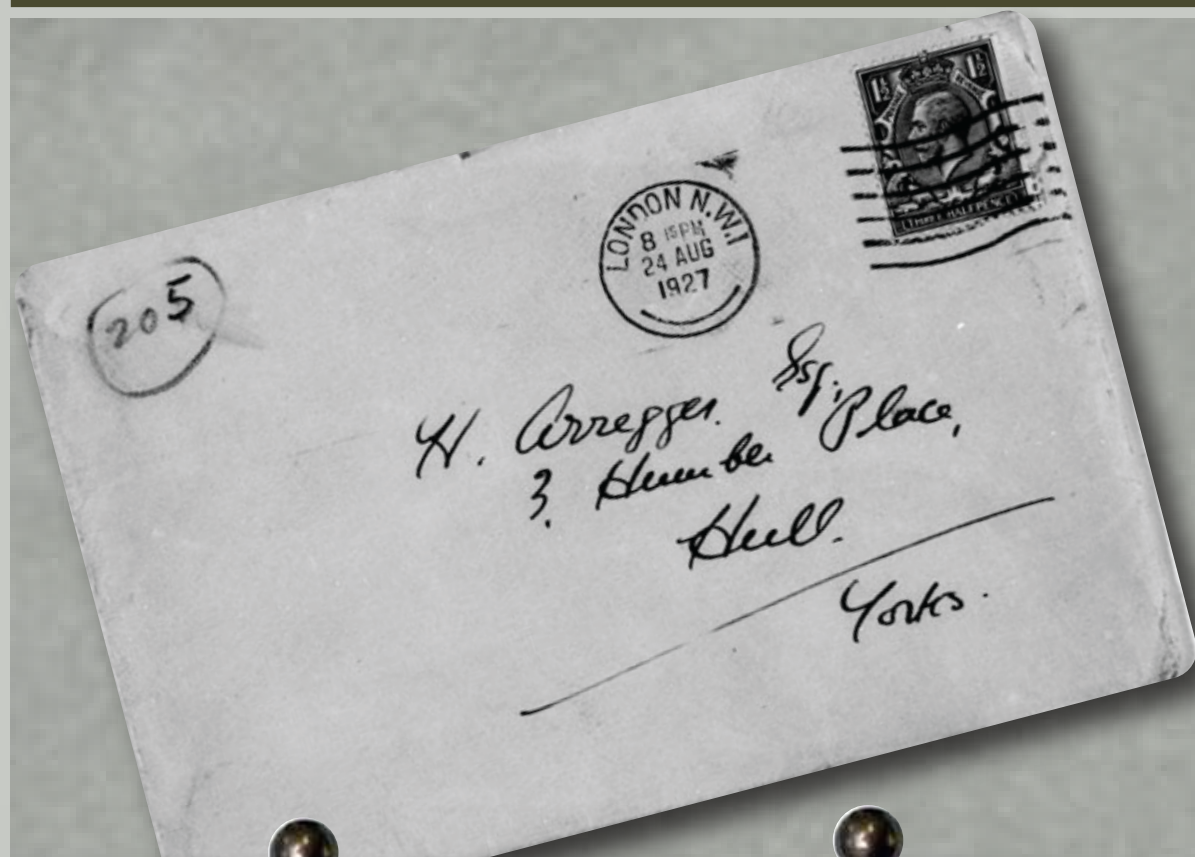
But this an enjoyable letter? - It's just like yours. Are you satisfied?

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/204)

'Thank you for your letter darling and for all the news.'

23 Aug 1927





Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/205)

'I was so glad to have your two long letters this morning darling and I feel much happier about you now.'

24 Aug 1927

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London.
Wednesday 11 a.m.
I was so glad to have your two long letters this morning, darling, and I feel much happier about you now. You have become real again and I no longer feel you're such a big distance away as I did before. You really did give me something to think about and I had that feeling of being satisfied which has been so remarkably lacking lately on reading your letters. I didn't write to you as I did because I wanted to be careful - it was because my bad mood almost forced me to give vent to a lot of thoughts and ideas which had been almost unconsciously accumulating for some time. I have noticed many times lately that I don't seem able to give expression to my feelings unless I am forced to by a bad mood or fit of temper or indignation, etc. I know it's the wrong way to do it and you are quite right to point it out to me. Our good

example of this is at the office with Mrs. de H. I am always wanting to ask her to moderate her language and to cease gossiping when she tries and to stop asking me over for lunch and discussing the other girls, etc., but I don't seem able to do so unless I am specially provoked. Then of course one doesn't do it in the nicest way. Several times she has tried to talk to you on certain subjects, but I have found myself utterly unable to do so. I wonder why it is. I seem to be afraid. I only get the courage when in a bad mood. But please don't be cross, darling. I say this just to show to you as I did - I am, because I have made you make me satisfied. (That doesn't express very well what I mean, but I don't know how to put it). I looked for a letter yesterday to see if I knew that if I wanted a real reply I must give you time. I was glad not to have to wait again to-day, and your letter has

made me feel better really, darling. Unless you specially want me to I don't want to trouble you with your letter and comment on what you answer on each of my points - I could make many retorts but I don't want to. I have some concrete examples of what I think is false pride before my mind, but I don't want to go into them, please, darling. I know if you were here & we were talking instead of writing you would insist that you had your own way and I'd have to give you them, probably all jumbled up & unconvincing, because I know only too well as you say, that I can't talk nearly so well as I can write. When I talk I speak before I think thoroughly, but when I write I've time to get my mind well in order first. I don't write lately & sometimes I spend 10 mins. or more thinking of the best way to put a sentence, or if I ought to put it at all.

4.
I agree with you that it's not fair for me only to tell you things when I have time. So in a hasty way in a fit of temper. I'll try again, darling, but it doesn't seem to be my nature.
About religion, we'll have a little something. Shall we, if you'll give me another opportunity. You see, the first opportunity you gave me I realised as such, but my ideas were so utterly unformed & I understood so little of my own mind that I felt bound to let it slip. Moreover, I was entirely in sympathy with your wish to bring up any children of yours in the Catholic religion, so that there really wasn't much for me to say then. And when we went to Westminster Cathedral, the opportunity was really spoiled by the sermon I heard. You see, I've been thinking about it for some time and my ideas were gradually becoming a little more

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in shape. I was awfully keen to go to a Catholic Church with you and it was rather unfortunate that the sermon just emphasised those very points which I had found so very difficult to face in that religion. When we came out I very badly wanted to blurt things out & adjust my ideas a bit and then someone told me, as it seemed to me, superficial remarks on the excellent quality of the sermon, poured on me awfully. Instead of finding in you someone to whom I could confide my difficulties and get help I suddenly discovered that our minds were absolutely antagonistic and out of harmony and sympathy with each other. Instead of sending my difficulties and helpfully helping me you were so busy to me as you could be. Don't you feel strong enough in your religion, darling, to help me solve my doubts & difficulties? Your mother is absolutely

6.
right when she says that two people can't
be really happy together unless they are
of the same faith. I have been
extremely sceptical lately and there
are so many things I've decided I
don't believe in that it's difficult
for me to discover anything I do
sincerely believe in. I know that I
can't stay at this stage believing in
nothing, and I know that I must
go on pursuing these thoughts until
I have thought out my own creed. I
can't just say I'm of a certain
faith and I believe so & so
without ever having thought about
it. You can help me a lot if
you only write, darling. Otherwise
I must go on fighting it out myself
until I have decided things for
myself. There is something on
this subject, darling, which I
have never told you, because I
don't know whether I did the
right thing. I wrote to your mother

7
and told her I entirely agreed with what
she said on the subject of my faith,
and that she had not to worry because
I would promise her not to "set a bad
example" in the family. Should I
not have told her that, darling? I
knew what a big thing it was in her
eyes & I didn't want her to be unhappy
thinking about it.

8
The 2 sentences you rubbed out,
darling, did arouse my curiosity, but
when I read your last letter & saw
they might have contained a thing
which would offend, I didn't mind
at all. You say one or two nasty
things which I don't mind, and when
you tell me off you do so quite rightly.
You must never put up with any bad
words - it wouldn't be good for me,
& it would be such a shame for you
that as soon as I felt better I'd
give way myself, as has happened
before now. I want you still to

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continue to tell me off whenever you
feel I need it. I want you to, darling.
There's one thing, darling, I must
put you right about. You say we differ
on a very vital point - that I want
excitement whilst you only want a
quiet happiness. You do me a great
injustice here. What makes you think
I want excitement? Have I ever
lamented the fact that I don't get the
excitement I used to in my party
days? You know very well that I
am content with just having you. How
could I be happy in any present life
if I wanted excitement? I come in
from the office, do the shopping, prepare
tea, clear away & wash up & then
I settle down reading or writing or
ironing or preparing food for the next
day or if you too find to do
anything I just sit and croak or
read. That's a wretched exciting
life, isn't it. And yet I'm perfectly

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content - or as much as I can be so
far away from you. You must tell
me you didn't really mean that,
darling, because you must realise
it's untrue. Don't you?
I don't understand what you mean
when you say your heart opens to
open yourself out to me but have
always failed. And that it must be
obstinacy which makes you refuse
to give it up. But you say you're
fed up with the subject, so I won't
worry you, tho' I would like to know
what you mean & what it is you don't
give up, & what fault it is you can't
be frank with me.
I'll always keep your letters by
me & read them when I'm in a
similar mood to the last. You
mustn't think I'm not interested in
what you're doing & how you're doing,
darling. Why go so awfully far
up was that I badly needed a

11
which I prepare things for tomorrow
night's supper. We're all going to the
Halls tonight from the office - a picnic
in the office as well when I'll ask
Honey all the shopping & preparing
things. Sometime I get things
ready the night before, sometime
in the morning before I leave.
Last night I was for the first time
morning I made a banana
mould before I came to the office
& dumped my clothes ready for
ironing, etc. I really do do a
lot of work. I had a letter from
Mother this morning again on the
topic of what a host it is to have
children. She's sure you don't
get proper food & that I haven't
enough money, etc. etc. If only
she would let us fight things out
ourselves! But perhaps I am

12
real personal letter from you will
someday in it to satisfy me & make
me think. - whilst instead I kept
saying your softness on the weather &
Mrs. Leach. The no more jealousy of
Mrs. Leach than I am of the weather
subject & I don't want you to stop
telling me all these little things.
But can't you also tell me something
of how your mind's working, &
what you're thinking and discuss how
ideas you may have and such
things as that.

13
Here isn't much news to tell you.
I didn't write yesterday because I
hadn't a spare minute. I was
awfully busy at the office & when I
got in I had to go shopping & then get
tea ready. I told Winnie to clear
away whilst I did my laundry.
It took me from 8.15 to 11 o'clock
because I had such an awful
lot. Winnie's doing her tonight

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learning all this so that I can teach my
children (if I have any) differently.
This afternoon I have to work for her.
Wood as Mrs. Roberts has the afternoon
off. He has been in a very bad
temper since he came back from
his holiday.

15
Are we quite "friends" again,
darling? If you were here I'd put
my arm round your neck & give
you lots of kisses. Tell you loved
me again. You must forgive
it instead & tell me in a very
nice letter that you're looking
forward to seeing me a fortnight
hence & any other nice things
you can think of.

16
All my love, darling,
(lots of kisses,
La Chérie.

206
London.
Friday. 11.30 a.m.
Thank you ever so much for your letter darling. It surprised me a lot to learn that you'd expected an "indignant" one from me. Your letter didn't make me feel a bit that way - I was too glad to have at last a really long one with something in it. I do hope you don't really think mine wasn't a genuine reply. I read it through when it came & which I very seldom do, and felt quite pleased that it seemed to express all right what I wanted to say. I don't think I could write you differently from how I feel - sometimes I think I ought to when I'm in a bad mood but I never seem able to.
You must must have been in a funny chaotic state to have seriously thought of going away the weekend I'm home & leaving my things

2.
packed up ready for me to take away, how that really is a weird state of affairs and I think you must have ~~been~~ a certain amount of morbid pleasure in the thought. Just as you accuse me of doing sometimes. You once or twice thought matters might be simplified if you were away when I come home, because I'll want to see you all the time and that would please them at home, I know. But I'd be awfully disappointed not to see you. I wonder which is worse - to be disappointed at not seeing you or to be unhappy & unsettled at leaving you again. Which do you think, darling?

You are quite wrong to say it makes me miserable not to have my things there with me. Such a thing as that couldn't make me unhappy - it's too negative. Only

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when I look round our perfectly bare blue dishevelled walls I think what an immense difference it would make to have my table over on one wall, & the new from Paris on another, & the blue vase on the mantelpiece, & the dear little clock near the bureau, & a light rug & cushions on Winnie's seat. I tell Winnie about them all & plan to put them just where I'd like to put them & I somehow always imagine the room will then be better than it actually is without them. I didn't think you would keep them always. Two other pictures I have which I lent to Helen when she was at college. She has kept, & the last time I saw them they were put away because the glass in each was smashed. I seem to be a bit

4.
unlucky. How you'll probably think I'm unhappy because I can't have these things, but you're mistaken. Maybe, I'm a bit disappointed, that's all. ~~But Winnie & I will gradually collect other things & make the place homelike. I'll get another clock when I go to Switzerland again and maybe Hans Vetter will give me another picture sometime. You didn't tell me if that could have been seen in London, or perhaps you never saw anything of them?~~
What would you have done if your "resigned" darling? - Popped me? Does it really need so little a thing as a nasty letter to make you "resign"?
I'm glad you explained about the "excitement" point. I

5.
understand now what you meant. You are not altogether wrong as exactly right when you say that outbursts of temper seem essential to my happiness. When I am quite happy I don't have outbursts of temper - it is when I am not happy, and little things accumulate to which sooner or later I have to give vent, and then when the storm's over I usually feel calmer & happier than for some time past. Do you see the difference? We don't differ on a vital point, as I see it. It is just that you usually control your moods & feelings more thoroughly than I do. Where we do differ a bit is that I think it usually worse to give vent to one's feelings than to repress them, whereas you seem to favour the repressing habit. Is that so?
You know just as much as I do,



Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/206)
'Thank you ever so much for your letter darling.'
26 Aug 1927

6.
darling, about what has passed between
your brother & I on the religion
question. I gave you her letter to
read, and that is the one & only
time she has spoken to me about it.

I had a beautiful postcard
this morning from Hedy - she is in
the Saas. Lee and says she is
wanting some more settled weather
so that they can go to Gerolstein
via the Adelpass. The card is a
view of the glacier & it wonderful,
with the tiny village at the foot.

Last night from the office Miss
Hanus & I went to the Balls. We
had a nice dinner & then I took her
in to see our flat. She wouldn't
stay for a meal because she
wanted to catch her train home.
Miss came also to the Balls
but she was too late to go in. I
cooked a meal when we got in &

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we thoroughly enjoyed our supper.
Most people seem to think they don't
or shouldn't enjoy the things they
make themselves, but I enjoy my
cooking immensely. & I'm sure it's
not so much that it's good as
because I've done it myself.

We were both of us so awfully
tired that we went to bed straight
away - i.e. about 10 o'clock.
& I got up at 7 o'clock this morning
to make a chocolate blancmange
(it is a problem using milk up, etc.)
& do some ironing. I feel far less
like work in the morning than
at night. We have no plans for
the weekend, & no visitors, so we'll
just have as happy & restful a
time as possible. I wish you
could walk in sometime. I often
imagine it, but don't suppose it will

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ever happen.

I'd almost forgotten to tell you - the
night before last when I got in there
was an unexpected letter from you.
"Dear Prue". It was a nice one &
I was glad to have it tho' it did
seem funny reading it when you
were already back. Thank you
for it, darling.

Miss Hanus the girl I go
swimming with - is a good singer &
she is teaching me how to breathe
properly. I am trying to get into
training for the winter, in the looking
forward to my holiday so much
& to learning ski-ing. Your
day is on a Sunday, & that makes
an awfully short holiday. It is
a shame, isn't it?

Write me some more nice
letters, darling - not in a hurry.
All my love & kisses,
D.

Please excuse writing - I've got a bad thumb.



(207)

London.
9.30 p.m.

Don't you think you might have been kind enough to let me have a letter for the weekend, darling? I have looked for one every post to-day & have the last one that just been & there is nothing for me. I wonder what you are doing now. I am in all by myself, lying on the sofa in my nightdress in front of the fire. I have just had a hot bath & washed my hair & it isn't worth while dressing again. Winnie has gone to a show.

She felt restless & wanted to go out, so she went. I felt content & wanted to stay in so I have done. Last night it was I who was restless, so I went to the pictures (a terrible programme!) whilst Winnie went to bed. I am glad that Winnie thoroughly agrees with my view that two people living together ought to be free to go

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out any time without each other without giving any offence. I wonder why you never would see any sense in that, darling. To me it is so obvious that people living together occasionally need a change from each other & I don't think Winnie & I could live happily together if we didn't feel free to leave each other alone whenever we felt that way inclined. I'm quite glad of this evening to myself. It has been a glorious day but we haven't taken advantage of it. I am sorry to say. We came in to lunch, so that it was quite late when we'd finished cooking & eating & washing pots, etc. Then Winnie went to sleep whilst I did the shopping & by then it was tea-time, so she got tea ready whilst I made a dish for supper. I held

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/207)

'Don't you think you might have been kind enough to let me have a letter for the weekend darling?'

29 Aug 1927

(207)

LONDON N.W.11
12.15 AM
29 AUG
1927



H. Arregger Esq.
3, Summer Place.
Sheff.
York.

3
the pan out & asked Winnie to add some water & she put too much, so the dish isn't altogether a success. After tea Winnie went out whilst I read for a bit & then washed my hair, etc. It's marvellous how quickly the time goes. I had a very interesting job at the office this morning for the Owner, & it isn't lost some time. I told you to & her. Wood was home - riding from Surrey to Derbyshire - Mr. Crocker has written a charming account of the trip & he has given me the job of arranging the text & inserting the photographs ready for photostating. It's most interesting. When he finished that I'm going over to be with Miss Roberts until she leaves so that I can get thoroughly into the work. It won't be long now before I take over the new job. A

(207)
A few days after I come back from Sheff. Then time will absolutely fly because I'll never know what it is to have an idle moment. I'm sure I'll be ready for my holiday at Ruas. Tomorrow I'm spending the day in the country with this friend of mine from the office. She has invited Winnie as well which is awfully decent of her because she's only met her once. I'm hoping to have a nice time. If it's fine I expect you will be off on your bike. I hope you enjoy yourself.

All my love, darling, &
many, many kisses,
Ta Cherie

Are you quite sure you don't want to see me in my last letter but one? as you said you

(208)

London.
Monday. 9 p.m.

Thank you for your letter, darling. It got stuck in the letter-box & I thought at first they weren't one from you, when it wasn't amongst those on the mat. It was quite by chance I found it. I'm not feeling well tonight, darling. You got a chill & you a headache & sore throat. - I'm not ill, but I'm not exactly full of the joy of living. I must have caught cold coming back in a car last night from Potter's Box, which I didn't feel cold at the time. Minnie & I had an awfully nice time with this friend of mine - her people are topping & they've a very pretty house & lovely open garden. It's practically in the country on the way to St. Albans. We came home early because this boy

with the car said he'd give us a lift. We enjoyed the ride & it was a wonderful night. I worked very hard in the morning, dusting our rooms (they were in rather a bad state & I can't bear dust) & cleaning silver, etc. (that sounds as tho' we had a lot!) - but we have a few dressing table ornaments & cutlery etc. & the spoons & forks really look some fine. They were very dirty. Miss Harris gave us a big bunch of flowers & our room looks very gay. I have worked hard at the office to-day & I'll always have a lot of work from now onwards, because my desk has been moved tonight into Miss Robert's room. I'll be with her till she leaves, then I'll start my new duties. My thumb is awfully painful & it makes typing difficult as I

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

Yr's.

use my thumb for tapping the space bar. I can't write properly as it is throbbing. I shall have to pencil it but I haven't the energy tonight.

A p.c. has just arrived from Mother to say that Father is due in at Paragon tomorrow at 2 p.m. which means I shall see him in town. He been looking forward to having a night out again.

I do want you a lot tonight & I darling. You are so far away & I so badly want holding & petting. I'm sorry your troubles are beginning, but the sooner they begin the sooner they will be over. Won't they? - I hope they won't be so bad as you anticipate.

Please tell me all about them & how you get on. I want to know

all about your business troubles, etc. I don't mind now that you didn't let me have a letter for the week - and as you were so worried.

Your illustration helped me to understand the effect my hasty letters etc. have on you in the long run. But you see your reserve builds a wall round you, through which even I can't see, & it is only by throwing stones till I make a weak place & finally a hole that I can see through to the other side. I'll admit I sometimes see further by being very nice & let drop that method if I could be with you but what can I do when you're away from me all the time. It will be about 6 weeks when I see you again & after that, I don't suppose there's any prospect till then. But I'm making myself hot & angry. I'll be late sometimes. All my love, darling. A.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger (Reference L DIAJ/208)

'Thank you for your letter darling. It got stuck in the letter box...'

30 Aug 1927



209
London.
Wednesday.
12.30 p.m.

Thank you for your letter, darling. I know you're worried, so as long as you send me one every other day I'll not grumble if it isn't nice or long enough. You must make up for them when I see you. I haven't yet thought about Maria, but I must find one I can catch after the office on Thursday. I have no idea whether they will meet me in or not from home, but I can't say well not them so I suppose I'll have to leave it. I'll come down & see you at the office on Friday morning. - Yes? I shall only leave Friday & Monday free as Saturday & Sunday will both be taken up - & probably Friday in preparation - I'll have to come back on Tues.

2.
It will be most awfully short. I expect I'll stay at home Thurs. & Fri. night & at Irene's for the next - but as Mother is pulling Grandpa & Grandpa up.

9.10. p.m.

I do feel rotten, darling. I know I oughtn't to grumble like this. & I won't say anything more about it but my cold is a specially bad one. My throat's sore & my head so full of cold I can scarcely breathe sometimes. I'm glad that that my little's don't ache, so I don't suppose I'm in for flu' like last time.

How are your business holidays to-day, I wonder? - Please tell me everything about them. I wish you were coming to town but I'm not good company like this. I

209
LONDON N.W.1
12.15 AM
1 SEP
1927

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

Yours.

3
Hope to improve by next Thursday. Mr. Wood has been quite charming to-day, but he said he felt lousy & we haven't done much work. He can be very nice when he chooses, & just the reverse.

He is giving Miss Roberts a wonderful canceen for a wedding present - in the form of a table with 2 long drawers containing a dozen of everything - it's in oak. Mr. Crocker has given her 2 beautiful pictures - wonderful paintings of Scotch moors - a slightly different scene & colourings in each picture. They are very large & have most handsome gilt frames. I don't know what the girls are getting for her, but we had the last round some time ago.

4.
This lunch time I went with Miss Harris to hospital to price standard lamps. Irene & Lucille & Betty & I went to see in Mother's & Father's parlour. But they are awfully expensive. I don't know what else to get. They seem to have everything which is within our reach. I'm getting a bit worried about it & I don't want to miss time now, & I can't get time for shopping. It is difficult. I wish there could be a letter from you tomorrow. But I don't suppose there will be one till Friday. Winnie & Miss Harris & I are going to a Queen's Hall Symposium concert tomorrow if I feel well enough. It's doing nothing less well on tonight but be lazy. He's so awfully. I want to start writing, Lucille's etc. In Liverpool today I saw some wonderful spian cover similar to your pup for only 15p. They were marvellous value. I wish I had more money & I'd have seen her thing. But I must be patient. I had a letter from Irene this

Winnie did the shopping for tea & made the food because I couldn't bother to do anything. I wanted some new pair of shoes. She also bought in a bunch of grapes & some oranges & lemons for my cold because she says she loves me & is sorry I don't feel well. Winnie seems to love me a lot, although she's not at all demonstrative - & I really can't see how I attract her. She says she can't never go back to living alone again & that if I ever leave her she'll go into a nunnery. I really believe she would. I don't always agree with her, but I don't say so. I'd do the one left. I don't know what I'd do in such a case. But I'd be glad to see her & love it. I'll write her as nice a letter as you can please, darling. All my love & kisses.

5.
Morning & she says her nannies are better. She's been playing games as it were with Lucille, my request when I come. It's like some games if it possible, but I'll have to bring my evening frock coat, shoes etc. for the dinner, which will make quite a lot of luggage to begin with - & I want to be able to get my things into my new case so that I can show it to you.

I would like to see the Council when you're in Hull. Let's run over to London on the Sunday morning if it's fine, shall we?

Lucille mentioned she had seen you at the Grand at "Paddy's" the next best thing. I think it was, as in a letter I had from her a few days after your written saying you hadn't been to a show. Maybe Lucille was mistaken - it's so unimportant anyway.

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/209)

'Thank you for your letter darling.'

1 Sep 1927

(210)

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

(210)

London.
Friday. 2 p.m.

If I didn't feel so rotten darling, I'd be quite happy - if I had you. The sitting in Hyde Park in glorious sunshine with grass & green trees all round me & the lake in front. Except for leaps of little dog scampering round it is peaceful. Winnie & I had arranged to go to a Terence Hall concert last night with Miss Harms, but I didn't feel well enough. Winnie sent me straight off to bed after tea (about 8.30) where I read for a while so that I should be tired enough to sleep. But it was hopeless. I had a dose of pain because I couldn't feel my cold - spreading to my limbs - & I was terribly hot. I'd an awfully miserable night. Winnie had told me not to get up this morning & that she would ring them at the office later on to say I wasn't going. But I woke up at 7.30 - as

usual & was far too hot to sleep again. The sun was shining gloriously & I thought I'd feel better when I got outside. I took my temperature which was about normal this morning. The last night it was 99.5. I went to the office, but felt so rotten - & looked it, I suppose - that everyone advised me to come home again, which I did, as I felt myself I was no good. I thought the sunshine would do me some good then, but so I came straight to Hyde Park. It's a glorious morning & I have just been into Oxford St. for lunch. If only you were here beside me, darling. I'll have a good rest & go back to the office on Monday. If I have time coming home next week I shall I'd have come this morning. I wanted you so badly, & I could have stayed till Sunday night.

Wouldn't I? I'd have put me up! I am on the opposite side of the lake from Rotten Row but leaps of horses & carriages have passed here. I love to watch them, but I don't seem to me that many of them ride well. They stick their legs forward & sit & flap about as tho' if the horse gave a jump they'd flap off. They are of course very smartly dressed, except one man who had a pipe in his mouth & looked very slowly.

Thank you for your letter, darling. I was so glad to have it this morning. Yes, I must feel well when I see you - but not as a preparation for an "exciting" weekend if by exciting you mean the same tedious activities. I'm dreading those - (as I expect everyone is secretly, but doesn't say so - what a tyrant nature is!).

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/210)

'If I didn't feel so rotten darling, I'd be quite happy if I had you.'

2 Sep 1927



It is immensely interesting here to watch the boats on the lake & the ducks & swans. & the dogs chasing sticks into the water, & the hundreds of tame pigeons & sparrows & the different types of people who pass by & go - some rise hastily from their green chairs when the ticket collector approaches & choose a fresh seat when he's safely passed on. - often sprawl on the grass & take a sun-bath - & there is an idle type of man who lounges round & gives you an uncomfortable feeling that on the slightest provocation he will strike up an acquaintance. I prefer the disreputable sun-bathing hangers to this type. It is very noticeable that all the hangers & loungers at - looks idlers are men - all the girls & women one sees are nicely dressed & not obviously out of work. I wonder why it is, when there are so many more women than men? -

I am glad to hear that little Felix is at last free from his pains & troubles. Don't you think one should be glad?

5.
A band has just started - I can hear it in the distance when the wind blows this way.

Have you read Wells' 'Two Sinners' darling? It's awfully good. I'll bring it for you if you've not read it. - & also 'Horrida' - Walpole's masterpiece. How are your Spanish lessons going? - You haven't told me anything more about it since you mentioned you were going - how much progress have you made?

There are lots more people in the park this afternoon - all the children seem to be out for an airing.

The letter when you told me you hadn't been to a show was the one written the week after I'd sent you the nasty letter. So if you went to the theatre the night you received my letter you quickly forgot about it. You were lucky to be stopped by a couple of shavers & given a ticket for the dress circle. Were you given a companion as well? If anyone else

2.
had told me such a story I wouldn't have believed them, but I've never had occasion to doubt your veracity, darling.

There's a dear little baby here - she can scarcely walk & she's trying to catch the pigeons. And 2 boys have just gone past on the road on a tandem at a furious speed. - About 30 a.p.m. I should think. The sun has gone in & I'm glad it's a bit cooler. As soon as I feel cold I'll go in but it's lovely just now.

Winnie has been ever so good to me - she did everything last night, & filled me a hot-water bottle (I didn't want it but it was good of her all the same) & got me some hot lemon & borrowed some quinine, etc. As she says, tho', I'd do the same for her if she had a cold or were not well.

I'm longing to see you again, darling, tho' I'll probably not be half so kind of you as I'll want to be. I hope your business troubles won't distract your attention from me.

All my love, darling,
To Chérie



(211)

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



Yours

(211)

London.

Saturday 10 p.m.

Darling, I'm wanting you most dreadfully tonight, but I'm feeling much better now than I did 3 hours ago. I was tired & miserable & horribly lonely & I had to work hard to make myself feel better. You see Bella, Winnie's favourite sister, came at 7 o'clock & she is going again in the morning first thing & Winnie is awfully fed up so she won't see her again till Lucia (Winnie almost worships her) - so I thought it best to let me be by themselves this evening.

They've gone out to dinner & although they expected me to go with them I knew I was no help as Winnie would be if I only had you for one evening. I felt dreadfully lonely when they had gone & so tired. I'd just come in from shopping - you're no idea what a nightmare that is in this neighborhood & one is forced to use these shops, or all the select districts are closed on

2

Sat. afternoon. Winnie had an afternoon sleep whilst I was shopping & when I came in later I had to go a long way back again because we decided to have beer this even the oval. I'd got for tomorrow's supper. I was also very hungry so I had nothing to eat since lunch - Winnie's always lived out & asleep & it is a bit irritating sometimes. It's I think it isn't usual for her to be so. It would make a difference if she were energetic & helped - it's I think I prefer doing things myself all the same. As soon as they've gone out I've assumed to myself I just had a good cry, but I soon pulled myself together (after deciding I'd wouldn't be so hard to kill so late in the evening) & got myself a meal ready. I cleared away & washed up & cleaned the knives & polished the kettle (as easy job!) & then cleaned all the silver. Things look rather nice now & I feel better for the work.

3

I sit it remarkable what a difference hard work makes.

One thing which made my attempt at cheerfulness a little harder was your letter darling. It was most a surprise to get one & I was so awfully glad. I think if you could have watched me with my ups & downs from the time Winnie & Bella went out to your letter coming & then seen my intense happiness to have your letter, the love & peace I bestowed on the envelope before long I opened it - you would have wanted badly to have substituted a different letter inside the envelope - one that would cheer me up & not depress me. But still you couldn't know I'd be feeling as I was when your letter arrived & you were obviously deeply hurt in the sentimentalities of Bella. I felt general - & I was glad to have a little of any sort whatever. You can rest assured that when you die you will be buried in your family vault, because you're plenty of friends to be

Letter from Amy Johnson to Hans Arregger
(Reference L DIAJ/211)

'Darling, I'm wanting you most dreadfully tonight, but I'm feeling much better than I did 3 hours ago.'

5 Sep 1927



to that being done. To myself if I can't
be with you I want to be cremated.
I have no more fear of death than
have you, but I don't like the thought
of the worms. You see, I've seen them.
I used to think of them as clean little
worms & I didn't mind them at all,
but I know differently now, - & I could
sincerely dispense with that piece of
knowledge. I'll never forget that sight
(I told you, I believe - if I haven't,
please don't remind me of it again) -
it was terrible. But see what goodness
subject your set me thinking of, darling.
The mood seems to be an infectious
one. If only you'd written me a different
letter. I've been wanting you so much.
I'm getting miserable again, darling. -
my cold's still very bad & I've a
headache & I'm so lonely. - I haven't
felt so utterly alone for a long, long
time. When I'm well I can overcome
it, but I've no strength now & it's too
late to start more work. I have to
sleep on the camp bed tonight.

5. This morning I was busy making
a big braided apple tart for lunch &
getting the lunch ready. She leaves
at 12 usually on Sat. & every Sat. so
far she's had to wait a long time for
me coming in. But to-day just as I
had a nice hot lunch all ready for
12.45 she didn't arrive till nearly 2.
This afternoon I arranged flowers in
2 new vases I got yesterday, & I made
a curtain to cover the recess where
the gas-meter is & then I did the shopping
that's all my day. Yesterday I bought
also 2 very cheap cushions which I
am going to recover to match the
room. We haven't any cushions at
all & they do make such a lot of
difference. We have 3 vases full of
orange & white chrysanthemums & you
vase of feather flowers on the mantel-
piece - so we look quite gay. There'll
be a party for breakfast tomorrow -
Winnie's sister, Alice (one of the twins
- there are 4 girls) is coming for breakfast.

as in the only chance to see Belle before she
goes back to Paris. Alice is rather
stupid & Winnie doesn't like her much
except as a matter of family duty.
(I'm fazed for worms tonight - have just
opened an orange & see a large long
thing rearing itself into the dark -
that's the first time I've seen one in an
orange). I haven't been out anywhere this
last week - Winnie hasn't either & she
was longing to go out tonight. She can't
understand why I'm not bored stiff, &
she thinks we need excitement. But I
don't know about needing it, but I
know I don't want it. Friday evening
to see you is the only moment I'm
looking forward to & wanting. But
always the thought of seeing you is
half spoiled by knowing I'm only
to leave you again so quickly. I wish
I didn't think of that so much. I wonder
if you know what it's like to want anyone
or anything like this. Have you wanted
any of your sweethearts an awful lot?
It's 11 o'clock now.
All my love, darling.
To Elsie.

*I'll write this to the
post office & send it to
you by the next post.
I'll be home
now.*