Antrio, Heath Avenue
Boyer Steele, Sussex
3 October 1934

Dear Anthony,

I would be only too happy to see you as soon as possible. I have been very much interested in your activities and the nice things you send us after your return from the country.

It was indeed a pleasure to see you again after so many years. I left you a child, I now find a capable teacher having a home of his own—nice home, well furnished and beautifully kept. This was on 23 September—Thursday, 1934.

Warmest love to you and Arthur. Those letters in my children’s books, all today, are rising much faster. I am sending you my love and good wishes, and hope you to be well through the summer. I am sure you exactly what it is, because you are in the French style. I am sure you are thinking of that situation in my journal. The whole town is dead on the 27th March 1934. I am sure in the 239, I shall never forget my last visit to the Palace. I was at an army military parade in the presence of the King.

Photos have been taken to me together with many other cards. It follows I am pleased to have them. I have them to the library—etc. and see none of them think that the memory of you is a success, it does not matter, really, does it?

What awaits us, the wonderful welcome, which is going to be given by the French? And those should be urgent to do their utmost to organise the memorial of your uncle, my husband, memory which is dear to me.

I am thinking of going early to France sometime next year. I arrived in this country on the 2nd September, and then return to France the 1st of October. I will be Paris for a few days, then on my return—through the United Kingdom.

With kindest regards,

Yours truly,

Josephine Arnold

Love from Anitra and from your uncle.

France
Mrs. Arnold Bennett’s Return to Potteries

Mrs. Arnold Bennett, widow of the Five Towns' novelist, to-day paid her first visit to the Potteries since she attended her husband's funeral in 1931.

She was welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Alderman Mrs. A. L. Barks) and the Lady Mayoress (Alderman Mrs. B. K. Neatkin) at a luncheon held at the North Stafford Hotel and later visited the Arnold Bennett Museum which is soon to be opened at the novelist's birthplace, 205, Waterloo-road, Caverswall.

Husband's Watch

During the afternoon she presented to the museum two photographs of herself and her husband taken shortly after her wedding day, and a gold watch, which was one of her husband's prizes, possessions.

She also visited her husband's grave in Burslem Cemetery. Mrs. Bennett has been living with her nephew, Mr. George Beardmore, in London, and with other relatives at St. Regis, France. It is the first time she has been to England for 23 years. She has been living for some time near Toulouse, France.

When she arrived at Stoke Station to-day Mrs. Bennett, who was 80 last week, told a Sentinel reporter: "I am so overcome with emotion that I feel like crying. I have wanted to return here for many years and now at last the time has arrived."

Society's Work

One of the reasons for Mrs. Bennett's visit is to encourage and foster the work of the Arnold Bennett Society.

Mrs. Bennett was escorted by Mr. Beardmore and others who were introduced to her included the Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. A. E. Bennett), Alderman H. Barks (Chairman of the Museums and Libraries Committee), Mr. G. J. V. Bemrose (City Curator) and Mr. J. R. Ford (City Reference Librarian).

Mrs. Bennett is returning to London this evening.

Grateful

At the luncheon the Lord Mayor said they were all grateful for the keen interest Mrs. Bennett had shown in the Arnold Bennett Museum, which they hoped would keep evergreen the memory of a great son of the Potteries.

Mr. Beardmore said he and Mrs. Bennett had been deeply touched by their welcome in the Potteries. Plans for the museum were going ahead and they would do their utmost to make a success of the project.

Alderman Barks thanked Mrs. Bennett on behalf of the museums of the city.
This photograph of Arnold Bennett, in his middle fifties, has been reproduced from an old, faded, sepia print taken by the novelist's brother, Septimus Bennett, who caught him unawares.

When Mrs. Arnold Bennett, who visited the Pottenes on Thursday, saw the original, she said it was the most like Arnold of all his photographs, and Mr. George and Miss Ruth Bennett, members of the family who were with her, agreed.

Below is Alderman H. Bark's pencil sketch of Mrs. Bennett. Her home is in France, and her visit here was her first since her husband's funeral in 1931. She was 80 last week.

Some Stories of Arnold Bennett—

ONE of the most distinguished and most welcome visitors to Stoke-on-Trent this week was Mrs. Arnold Bennett, widow of the famous Five Towns novelist. Unfortunately her visit was so short that she was able to make only three quick calls—to the North Stafford Hotel, where she lunched with the Lord Mayor (Alderman Mrs. A. L. Barker); to 205, Waterloo Road, Cobridge, which is being converted into the Arnold Bennett Museum; and to Burslem Cemetery, where she saw her husband's grave.

Looking surprisingly youthful for her 80 years—her birthday was last week—she delighted everyone with her Gallic charm. She has a keen sense of humour, as was shown in the series of anecdotes she told at the luncheon.

One concerned her husband's dislike of public speaking. At one function, she said, his speech consisted of six words: "I do not speak, I write.

Another told of the brusque way in which he introduced her to his mother. Apparently he pushed her through the door, saying "Here she is!" and left it at that!

According to Mrs. Bennett—who, incidentally, prefers to be known as Mrs. Arnold Bennett rather than Madame Marguerite Bennett—"The Old Wives' Tale" and other Bennett masterpieces are becoming increasingly popular in France these days. Many students find them a great help in learning English. In his own country the public does not care for him, and the book has never achieved the popularity he dreamed of when he wrote it. "The Grand Babylon Hotel" is at present a lively bedtime story for Light Programme listeners, and the radio "Helen With The High Hand" is to go on the air.

LUNCHEON PARTY

at The North Stafford Hotel...
"Grannie Bennett"
as I remember her.

Grandpa    Septimus
Emily      Sissie      Arnold
Grannie

Frank