

21 February 2017

Chère Madame Le Maire d'Avon,

Je vous écris pour vous transmettre mon soutien inconditionnel ainsi que le soutien du conseil municipal de Wellington concernant la proposition de l'association "Katherine Mansfield Birthplace" de rapatrier à Wellington les restes de Katherine Mansfield.

Katherine Mansfield et Wellington sont inextricablement liés. Elle est née à Wellington et y a vécu les dix-huit premières années de sa vie trop tôt écourtée. Elle avait émis le souhait de retourner à Wellington avant son décès mais son souhait ne fut jamais exaucé.

Durant notre courte histoire en tant que nation, en comparaison avec la vôtre, la France et la Nouvelle Zélande ont tissé des liens profonds. Notamment en nous tenant à vos côtés pendant les deux guerres mondiales. Récemment nos deux pays se sont unis pour commémorer les sacrifices de la grande guerre et les douloureuses pertes humaines que nous avons subies.

En tant que maires, nous représentons les citoyens de nos villes et comprenons les passions qui les inspirent et les forces qui les motivent.

La ville de Wellington, capitale de la Nouvelle Zélande considère Katherine Mansfield comme étant la plus importante de ses artistes. Au cours de sa vie itinérante et turbulente, Wellington a toujours été son port d'attache. Il n'y aucun endroit qui lui était aussi cher. Il n'y a aucun autre endroit où elle vécut assez longtemps dont elle aurait pu dire qu'elle se sentait chez elle.

Vous nous feriez le plus grand honneur si vous acceptiez de devenir notre partenaire pour ce projet. Ceci créerait un lien entre Avon et Wellington et pourrait être inscrit à l'endroit final où Katherine Mansfield reposera.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Madame le maire, l'expression de mes respectueux hommages.

Kind regards



Justin Lester
Mayor of Wellington



Avon, 21 March 2017

Dear Madame President

I paid particular attention when I read your letter of 27 February 2017 regarding the burial place of Katherine Mansfield.

I understand completely the reasons which inspired your letter, but despite all that I regret to inform you that I am not in a position to give a favourable response to the issue of the transfer of her remains to Wellington.

In simple terms, according to the French legislation relating to bodies, any exhumation must be authorised by the nearest relative of the deceased person.

On that point, I have received a letter from Madame Janine Renshaw-Bauchamp (sic), the nearest living relative of Katherine Mansfield, informing me that she categorically refuses to agree to any change in the burial place of her forebear. She wishes that Katherine remain at Avon, the place where those who wish to render homage to her can come freely, and where her burial place is maintained and honoured each year.

Please understand, however, that I am extremely favourable to any partnership arrangements with the City of Wellington in New Zealand which might lead to wider interest in the works of this writer and contribute to maintaining her memory.

I hope we can have further correspondence on this matter and I extend to you, Madame President, my best wishes.

Cordially, Marie-Charlotte Nouhaud (Mayor)

cc: Justin Lester
cc: Madame Janine Renshaw-Beauchamp
cc: Dr Gerri Kimber

Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society

Media Statement

24 March 2017

Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society No Longer Seeking Remains Repatriation to New Zealand

The Board of the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society has explored the repatriation of Katherine Mansfield's remains to Wellington, Katherine's birthplace.

The Society recently wrote to the Mayor of Avon asking her to consider the idea of the repatriation from France to New Zealand. This letter was supported by one from the Mayor of Wellington, Justin Lester.

The Society and the Mayor regard the idea as significant, not just to Wellington but to New Zealand as a country, and is an accepted cultural practice in New Zealand. This aspect was outlined clearly to the Mayor of Avon to assist her to understand the New Zealand cultural context and importance of the request.

The Society has now received a response from the Mayor of Avon who has declined to support the idea.

On this basis, the Society has decided this matter will not now proceed.

This Statement is issued by Nicola Saker, President, Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society, Inc
Contact: 0274 536 490
info@katherinemansfield.com