

a footnote to a footnote. . .

Six weeks before, on Thursday 7 May, her husband had dined at Kelmscott House, and been taken to see the press. His diary tells how Morris 'sold me across the dining table the first copy of the first volume ever printed at the Kelmscott Press, a very wonderful production'. William Peterson, in his *Bibliography of the Kelmscott Press* (reviewed in this issue) recounts how, though Morris's *Poems by the Way* had the whole long poem of Goldilocks and Goldilocks added on 20 May to bulk the book out, it was finished on 24 September: while Scawen Blunt's *Love Lyrics and Songs of Proteus* although begun before, did not appear until four months later: eighteen pages already set had to be cancelled at the instance of Margaret Talbot, with whom Blunt had been having a just-concluded affair. He had to substitute other poems.

Perhaps this had something to do with Lady Anne's curiosity and her reluctance to satisfy it: for both books were being set at the press, where on 11 May the long-delayed printing of Caxton's *Golden Legend* had begun as soon as *The Story of the Glittering Plain*—the book Blunt had bought—was finished. It was the designing of a border and initials for the *Golden Legend* that had busied Morris during his April convalescence at Folkestone.

R.W.

Publications of the William Morris Society in print:

Morris at First Hand

Published by the William Morris Society in celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth, this portfolio (12+'' × 8¾''—31 × 22 cm app.) is available to members at £3.00. It contains in facsimile, three important documents, with a fine portrait drawing by George Howard. These are: the text of Unjust War, of May 1877: the letter to Georgiana Burne-Jones of June 1884, on his position as a socialist employer: and that to Charles Faulkner of October 1886 on love, sex, and marriage: Morris's own hand, on three matters of abiding concern. Produced for the Society by Journeyman Press, 24th March 1984. ISBN 0 903283 09 3 from the Publications Secretary, 26 Upper Mall, London W6 9TA.

The Story of Kormak, the son of Ogmund

ed. GRACE CALDER and ALFRED FAIRBANK

132pp + plates, cloth bound 1970 £12.00

I CANNOT do better than quote the authoritative opinion of Professor Turville-Petre on the merits of this Saga and its translation. The Saga, he tells me, though not well constructed, is extremely important in the history of the literature, 'the work of a masterly poet using a form more difficult to handle (and certainly to translate) than any in Europe'; and he deems that no one has translated skaldic poetry into English better than Morris.

Many will be grateful for the loving care with which this edition has been prepared, and not less for Professor Calder's illuminating Introduction, and Mr Fairbank's masterly survey of the manuscript books.

BASIL BLACKWELL