

Morris and James Joyce

'He was at once captivated by the seeming eccentricities of the prose of Freeman and William Morris. He read them as one would read a thesaurus and made a garner of words. He read Skeat's *Etymological Dictionary* by the hour, and his mind, which had from the first been only too submissive to the infant sense of wonder, was often hypnotised by the most commonplace conversation. People seemed to him strangely ignorant of the value of the words they used so glibly.'

Stephen Hero, *James Joyce, Cape, London 1944, p 19*