

Dear Members:

A new treasurer:

Hartley Spatt (Department of Humanities, Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, the Bronx, N.Y. 10465) has agreed to serve as treasurer for the next three years (1984-86 inclusive). For the rest of 1983, he and Joseph Dunlap will cooperate in keeping U.S. accounts, and membership dues now collected in England will continue to be collected there by the U.K. treasurer, Leo Young.

1984 Directory and Membership Questionnaire:

We plan to compile an updated directory of U.S. members' addresses and special interests, the first since 1977. It is therefore important that you complete and return the attached questionnaire, in which we ask that you list your primary areas of interest in Morris's life and work, and that you suggest priorities for the next three years. A report on your responses will appear in a future newsletter.

Modern Language Association Convention Morris Session:

A session on "Morris and the Visual Arts: Medievalism or Modernism?" is scheduled for the Bryant Suite on the second floor of the New York Hilton on December 28th, 1983, from 8.30-9.45 a.m. Hartley Spatt will chair, and panelists will speak on "Art for Life's Sake: Morris' Defense of the Decorative Arts"; "The Kelmscott Wood Beyond the World: Lessons of a Title Page"; "'Als Ik Kan': William Morris and the American Arts and Crafts Movement," and "Aesthetics Politicized: From Morris to the Bauhaus." An informal party/dinner is also planned; details at the session.

Other News and Plans:

We submitted an application to the Modern Language Association for "Allied Organization Status"; if granted, this would enable us to hold two academic sessions and a business meeting each year without need for an annual petition. We might wish to combine the two sessions into a single longer one, followed by conversation and refreshments. The M.L.A. Program Committee should respond by November.

We also plan some systematic efforts to enlarge our membership in 1984, and hope to publish another collection of essays in 1985, on socialist aspects of Morris' literary works.

1983 Business Meeting in New York:

The Governing Committee will hold its 1983 Business Meeting in conjunction with the Modern Language Association Convention, to take place from December 27 to December 30 in New York at the New York Hilton Hotel, and all Society members are of course invited to attend. We will announce the time and place of the Business Meeting at the session for papers; if you won't be at the latter, but wish to know the location and time of the former, please send me a postcard (Florence Boos, Department of English, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, U.S.A. 52242).

In addition to the topics, hopes, and plans mentioned above, the agenda will include:  
topic for 1984 M.L.A. Morris session;  
proposed amendments to the U.S. Constitution;  
(re)allocation of duties within the Governing Committee for 1984-85;

present and future financial arrangements with the William Morris Society in Great Britain; and consideration of other prospective activities and publications.

If you cannot attend but have agenda you especially wish to be considered, please write me (as above) or another member of the Governing Committee (see addresses below).

We look forward to receiving your responses.

Sincerely,

Florence Boos

For the Governing Committee

Addresses of Other Committee Members:

Carole Silver, Department of English, Stern College, New York, New York 10016;

Gary Aho, Department of English, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01002;

Hartley Spatt, address under first announcement;

Joseph Dunlap, Honorary Secretary for the United States, 420 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10025.

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