

BULLETIN of
The MORRIS SOCIETY

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MAY, 1904

No. 7

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the Society occurred on the evening of May 4 at the "Restaurant Roma." Thirty members and guests were present. Mr. John H. Cameron served as chairman. After dinner the following program was carried out:

Remarks by the Chairman.

Reading: "The Message of the March Wind," by Mrs. Oscar L. Triggs.

Report of the Secretary.

Presentation of an amendment to the By-laws by Mr. Joseph Twyman.

Report of the Committee on Education by Mr. Edmund Buckley.

Reading from "The Story of Sigurd" by Mrs. Joseph Twyman.

Address: "A Visit to the Morris Homes," by Mrs. George M. Millard.

Address: "Morris Among the Immortals," by Mr. Richard G. Moulton.

Reading: "The Praise of My Lady," by Mrs. Oscar L. Triggs.

Discussion by Mr. H. Gaylord Wilshire.

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

Mrs. George Millard spoke entertainingly of her visit to the homes of Mr. Morris in England: the Kelmscott Manor and the Hammer-smith residence.

Professor Moulton called William Morris the most distinguished Englishman of the nineteenth century, noting that he occupied a pre-eminent place in three fields—literature, the practical arts, and social reform.

Mr. Wilshire gave humorously the confessions of a social reformer; he insisted that Morris's social philosophy should not be overlooked.

The Secretary gave a detailed report of the work of the Society for the year. The main items follow: The Society has 175 members. It has held two public meetings and sent out many individual lecturers. It has initiated an important Club movement. It has published (1) general circulars (5,000), (2) Bulletins (1,000 monthly), (3) Reprint of article in *The Philosopher*, written by William Ellis (1,000), (4) facsimile letter from Mr. Cockerell (1,000), (5) Study Program on the Life of William Morris by Dr. Martin Schütze (500), (6) by arrangement with the Crerar Library, "A List of Books on Industrial Art" (200). Money receipts for the year have amounted to \$523.10; disbursements to \$442.51. There is a balance in the treasury of \$80.59. Due from members, \$355.00.

The amendment as published in the April Bulletin was carried: The present article to stand as Section 1.

SECTION 2. *Local Circles.* Where a Morris Circle is formally organized in any locality (outside of Cook county, Illinois) and regularly affiliated with the Morris Society, the membership fee for each member of the circle shall be one dollar, provided that the total fees from such circle shall not be less than ten dollars.

SECTION 3. *Associate Membership.* Any teacher, artist, or craftsman may become an associate member of the Society by payment of an annual fee of one dollar and acceptance by the council. An associate member may not vote or hold office.

Mr. Buckley announced the educational work for the coming year. The Society offers to the public the following lectures (dates and fees to be arranged with Mr. Edmund Buckley, 301 East Fifty-sixth street, Chicago): "The Art of William Morris," illustrated by materials or by slides, by Mr. Joseph Twyman; "The Art of Walter Crane," illustrated by materials or by slides, by Mr. Joseph Twyman; "William Morris as Poet, Craftsman, and Reformer," by Mr. Oscar

WILLIAM MORRIS

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L. Triggs; "Historic Stages of Painting," illustrated by stereopticon slides, by Mr. Oscar L. Triggs; "Analysis of Decorative Art," illustrated by material, by Mr. Edmund Buckley; "Japanese Decorative Art," illustrated by material, by Mr. Edmund Buckley.

Study Programs are being prepared on the following subjects: "The Gothic Age," "History of the Guilds," "The Preraphaelites," "The Story of Sigurd," "The Art of William Morris," "Morris as an Educator," "On Color," and "Japanese Decorative Art."

On motion five councilors were elected to serve for three years: Charles Zueblin, Ralph Clarkson, Mrs. L. A. Walton, Mrs. W. D. MacClintock, and John Vance Cheney.

A letter of resignation was read from President James. On motion its consideration was referred to the Council. The letter of President James follows:

May 3, 1904

MEMBERS OF THE MORRIS SOCIETY

Friends:

I find it impossible to continue to serve you as president of your organization. I consented to take the position because your committee assured me that they were not able within the short time at their disposal to secure a really suitable person, and they asked me to serve ad interim.

I am very glad to have been able to serve the cause to this slight extent and only regret that my service has been so slight and unworthy.

I am convinced that this society can do a very useful work in arousing and educating public interest in the things for which it stands. Our American society is so commercial, so largely given up to the pursuit of the almighty dollar that the higher things of life tend to slip out of our attention. It is the function, I take it, of such organizations as this, even though they be voices crying in the wilderness, to continue to cry and cry aloud that men may hear and turn aside from this frightful struggle for mere material supremacy to the higher walks from which they may obtain the larger view.

I regret very much that I am not able to attend the annual meeting. I trust you will have a pleasant and fruitful time.

Faithfully yours,

EDMUND J. JAMES.

ANNUAL DUES

The membership fee of the charter members is now due. Make check payable to J. H. Cameron and send to the Secretary, 5634 Madison avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

NEWS OF THE FIELD

The South Park Workshop Association arranged an exhibition of the products of their workshop at the Del Prado Hotel on April 22 and 23. Nearly thirty large pieces of furniture were exhibited, made or designed by the members or by Mr. Karl Lindgaard, the head-craftsman. As an illustration of what may be done by unskilled workers in a neighborhood workshop the showing was most significant.

BOOK NOTES

The Boston Society of Arts and Crafts has issued its Annual Report in printed form. The most interesting item is concerning the Society's Exhibition and Salesroom. The publication of *Handicraft* has been discontinued.

The lover of William Morris who covets the poems dedicated to Dante Gabriel Rossetti, but was not so fortunate as to secure them in any of the earlier editions, or whose distaste for incomplete things has led him to reject unrevised pirated issues, or whose slender purse did not permit the acquisition of a Kelmscott Press copy of 1892 or of 1900, may now satisfy his longing at a reasonable price. ("The Defence of Guinevere and Other Poems," linen boards, paper label, pp. 248. New York, London, and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co. 75 cents.) The volume is printed in small but clean type on soft, light paper, and includes, among others, besides the title poem, "King Arthur's Tomb," "A Good Knight in Prison," "The Little Tower," "The Wind," "The Tune of Seven Towers," "Praise of My Lady," "Summer Dawn," and "In Prison." These poems were of course considered much more important when first published in defiance of the tenets of the classical school than they are now. They are still delightful reading, and in their varied languid movement and color and form come nearer to Chaucer than even Mr. Kipling's kindly meant parodies of that ancient bard.—*New York Times*.

Earlier in the season John Lane (New York) issued a new illustrated edition of "The Defence of Guinevere," with fifty drawings by Jessie King. Price \$1.25, net.