Dear Member,

1. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

About fifty members gathered at the Wandle Industrial Museum for the Extraordinary General Meeting on 24 September. There were two items on the agenda – the future work of the Society and subscription rates from 1 January 1989.

The Chairperson began the meeting by outlining future plans for the Society's work. These include scholarships, exhibitions, conferences and publications. Specific items already in progress or under active discussion include: a 'starter pack' for new members which might also be for sale to the general public; a brief guide to Morris's life and work and to places associated with him; a pamphlet on News from Nowhere; the development of a sideline collection; a travelling exhibition; a conference on Morris and education in London; and further sales of books and cards.

Such activities may properly be paid for from our reserves, which now stand at an extremely satisfactory level, thanks to the skilful and tireless work of the Society's Treasurer, Lionel Young. To preserve this sum for furthering the aims of the Society, however, running costs must be paid from members' annual subscriptions. These costs are increasing all the time, partly because of inflation and partly because of an extension in our activities following on the appointment of a curator for Kelmscott House. Postal, telephone and printing charges have gone up, and we spend more on heating the basement at Kelmscott House, as well as on rates and insurance for the premises. The welcome participation of officers and committee members from outside the London area also increases our expenditure.

Subscriptions have been kept at the same level for 6 years, but it now seems clear that expenditure will outstrip income in the forthcoming financial year unless there is an increase. An increase of £1 on each subscription will raise about £1000 in total income.

After some discussion the following rates were agreed from 1 January 1989. Individual subscriptions will rise to £10.00, and family and corporate memberships to £15.00. The junior (under 23) membership, at present enjoyed by about 100 members, will remain at £5.00. The Treasurer at present has the power to reduce subscriptions on application from any member or would-be member in reduced circumstances. It was felt, however, that this arrangement might prevent some potential members from joining. A new reduced subscription of £5.00 will therefore be introduced, for those on state retirement pension;
in full time education; or in receipt of unemployment or invalidity benefit. Others who would experience financial hardship by paying the full rate may still apply to the Treasurer for a reduction. It must, however, be pointed out to those who apply under these categories that they are being subsidised by other members and should pay the full rate if at all possible. Finally, life membership was increased to $225.00, with actuarial reductions for age - these are still to be worked out. It was also suggested that those who took out life membership in more inflation-proof days might consider making a donation to Society funds.

A Bankers' Order Form is enclosed for the use of members with bank accounts in Great Britain, and members are requested to renew their subscriptions at the appropriate rate, using the information given in the previous paragraph.

Hans Brill, Chairperson
Peter Preston, Hon. Secretary

2. KELMSCOTT HOUSE TRUST

The report of the 1988 AGM in the July newsletter mentioned that recently the Society had appointed two new Trustees to fill vacancies in the panel of nine, established originally in 1970 to administer Kelmscott House, which had been given to the Society in that year. Members may like to know that their Trustees are now as follows: (with year of appointment)

Janet Barnes (1988)
Ronald Briggs (1970)
Hans Brill (1987)
Carol Johnson CBE (1970)
John Kay CBE (1981)

Stephen Tumin (1980)
Ray Watkinson (1988)
Sir Rowland Whitehead Bt (1970)
Martin Williams (1970)

The Trustees met on 19 May - their first meeting for two years. Three items of business will be of particular interest to members. It was agreed to put in hand a schedule of urgently-needed repairs to the coach-house at Kelmscott House. Second, steps were agreed which will help to resolve the long-running dispute over the goods and chattels held by the Society and the Trustees respectively. And, third, it was decided to make changes in the management of the Trust, with John Kay replacing Ronald Briggs as chairman and Stephen Tumin taking over Martin Williams' work as treasurer. A vote of thanks was recorded for the retiring officers' unremitting work on behalf of the Trust. The Trustees meet next on 10 October.

John Kay

3. SOCIETY NEWS

Our member Penelope Fitzgerald, who won the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1978 for her novel Offshore, is on the shortlist for the 1988 prize with her latest novel Beginning of Spring.

Hilary Morgan, a well-known member of the Society, has now become Assistant Curator of the Watts Gallery at Compton, near Guildford. We wish her well in her new post.

A piece of stop press news is that Mr Christopher Hampton, the playwright, and his wife have just bought the lease of the upper four floors of Kelmscott House from Mr Barrett. Mr and Mrs Hampton have joined the Society and propose to restore some Morris papers to the house.

We are grateful to our member Donald Davies of Beaconsfield, who has presented to the Society a fine framed photograph of William Morris, which will be put on display at Kelmscott House.

We were sorry to hear from Mrs Kitty Newark of the recent death of her husband. Mr and Mrs Newark were formerly members of the Society and Mrs Newark has kindly presented us with a box of Morris-related material which will be a most useful addition to our collection.

The Society owns some embroideries by May Morris, but there is no record of how they came into our possession. If anyone can throw any light on the provenance of these items we shall be most grateful.

The May 1988 issue of The Designer-Craftsman, journal of the Society of Designer-Craftsmen contains an account of a talk given to the Society by Lucinda Laeth, who designed the bookcase which is such a notable feature of the Library at Kelmscott House. She spoke about the beauty of Morris: 'simplicity of design, good proportions and good craftsmanship' and her choice of British timbers; the piece, she said, took 400 hours to complete.

Our members Mr and Mrs K. Langford are offering twenty copies of the Society's Journal from Winter 1962 to Autumn 1987. There is no direct charge for the journals, but the Langfords would like whoever takes the copies to give a donation to charity, preferably Greenpeace. Anyone interested should get in touch with Mr and Mrs Langford at 37 Tor Bryan, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9JZ.

A member has written to ask if anyone knows the identity of the James Davies to whom on 19 December 1872 Morris inscribed a copy of Love is Enough.

4. SITUATIONS VACANT

This item in the last Newsletter attracted a number of volunteers to assist Christine Poulson in her work at Kelmscott House. Christine and the Committee are most grateful to them for their help, which frees Christine to continue with the important curatorial work for which she was appointed. More help, however, is still needed and anyone able to spare some time on Thursday or Saturday afternoons should get in touch with Christine at Kelmscott House.

Leslie Paton has cleaned the steps and dug the garden outside the Library, thus improving the outlook for anyone working in or visiting the room. He has also presented the Society with two books on the history of West London, an area on which he is an expert. We are grateful to him for both his work and his donation.

Jack Press has volunteered to act as bookseller in the South Midlands area, another offer for which we are most grateful. There is, however, still an urgent need for someone to take on the job of bookseller at our meetings in London and the south of England. Book sales are not only an important source of income for the Society, they also help us to spread knowledge about the work of Morris, his associates and followers. A volunteer to sell books at meetings in the north would also be welcome.

One of the major points to emerge from the discussion at the AGM, reported above, was that for a Society like ours money can only do so much and the limits of our activities are set not only by the cash available but also by the human resources on which we can call. May I urge members to let me know as soon as possible of any ways in which they may be able to help.

Peter Preston
5. SOCIETY EVENTS

Wednesday 26 October, 6.30 pm THE KELMSCOTT LECTURE

This year's Kelmscott Lecture will be given by John Lloyd, lately editor of the New Statesman, who will reflect on questions of freedom of speech in Morris's time and our own. The lecture will be at the Art Workers Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1. Admission is £2.00 including coffee and biscuits available from 6 pm. A buffet supper will be served at the AWG after the lecture. Tickets for supper £4.50 from the Society.

Saturday 12 November, 11 am - 5 pm RUSKIN, MORRIS, MARK AND WORK

This one-day seminar, organised by the William Morris Society in conjunction with the Ruskin Gallery Collection of the Guild of St George, Sheffield, will be held in the Library Theatre, Central Library, Sheffield. Speakers will be Dido Smith, Ray Winstone and Brian Maidment. Further details from Janet Barnes, Keeper of the Ruskin Gallery, 101 Norfolk Street, Sheffield S1 2JR; tel: 0742 735299. Tickets are £3.00 (£2.00 concessions). Cheques should be made payable to the William Morris Society. Note: British members will find a leaflet enclosed with this mailing.

Saturday 10 December, 7.30 pm YULETIDE PARTY

Our annual Yuletide celebration will be held as usual at Kelmscott House and offers an evening of food, entertainment and fellowship. Tickets £5.00 from the Society. Please note that the correct date is that given above, and not as on the Society's programme card.

Wednesday 25 January 1989, 6 - 8 pm MAY MORRIS EXHIBITION

This private view of the May Morris exhibition at the William Morris Gallery will include a talk by Helen Sloan, organiser of the exhibition, on the life and work of May Morris. Tickets £3.00 (including refreshments) from the Society.

Thursday 16 February 1989, 6.30 pm MORRIS AND NORMANDY REVISITED

John Purkis will be the speaker at this joint meeting with the French Institute. It is hoped that the meeting can take place at the Institute, 17 Queenbury Place, London, SW7, but this has yet to be confirmed. If it proves not to be possible the event will be held at Kelmscott House. Full details will be in the next Newsletter.

Saturday 18 March 1989 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

We hope that next year's birthday celebration can be held at Old Battersea House, headquarters of the William de Morgan Foundation. Again, full details will be available in the next Newsletter.

The Programme Committee is at present working on plans for events in the later months of 1989. We hope to have a full programme for 1989 ready for circulation with the January Newsletter. Suggestions for meetings or visits are invited and should be sent to Hans Brilli at Kelmscott House. Volunteers to serve on the Programme Committee, and especially to become Hon. Programme Secretary, are urgently needed.

6. THE SOUTH MIDLANDS GROUP

We gathered on a damp April morning at Nightwicke for a tour of the manor led by Stephen Ponder, whose enthusiasm and expert knowledge made for a most enjoyable visit. In May we met at Alcester for a talk on weaving given by Roma Wreford-Clark which left most of us persuaded that the craft was a very difficult one.

We broke new ground in June with our first week-end visit. Fifteen members met at New Brighton on the Friday evening, venturing across the Mersey by ferry in spite of the heavy rain. However, a rainbow with both ends visible in the river proved a good omen and we were able to enjoy a walk round the new Albert Dock development in dry weather and to admire the fine riverside buildings silhouetted against a stormy sunset. A packed Saturday started with a drive in convoy through the tunnel and across Liverpool to the eastern suburb of Allerton, where All Hallows church has probably the finest set of middle-period Burne-Jones windows in the country, not only beautiful in themselves but significant in the development of his style towards a more pictorial approach, best seen in the 5-light east window showing the Rivers of Paradise. Most moving was the Resurrection, with the risen Christ still and calm in the centre, encircled by the rocky cave, whilst two soldiers, shielding their eyes, attempt to burst out of the scene to left and right. Near here is the little-known Sudley Art Gallery, housing the Ema Holt Bequest of 19th and 20th century paintings and statues. Very striking was the Symbolist statue 'More Janua Vitis' in metal and ivory by Harry Bates. Then it was back to the city centre for lunch in the refectory of the Anglican Cathedral and to admire the vistas created inside this largest of English churches. The afternoon was spent in the Museum, rapidly with a tour of St George's Hall, its magnificent floor of 20,000 Minton tiles on view until September while the City Council decides what to do with the building, and a too short visit to enjoy the Pre-Raphaelites in the Walker Art Gallery. In the evening some of us watched a decoration in the Arts and Crafts style of the Philharmonic Hotel before enjoying a spirited performance of Three Sisters at the Everyman Theatre; others returned to New Brighton for a spectacular fireworks display.

On Sunday morning we visited the Unitarian Memorial Church at Liscomb to see the intriguing painted decoration by Bernard Sleigh and the carving by Benjamin Creswick, both associated with the Birmingham Arts and Crafts movement at the turn of the century. We then drove down the M5 in bright sunshine to Port Sunlight for a walk round some of the village, enjoying the diversity of styles and decorations, from Gothic gablets to Art Nouveau chimney-pots. An excellent lunch at the Bridge Inn was followed by a visit to the Lady Lever Art Gallery, home to such paintings as Burne-Jones's 'The Beguiling of Merlin', Rossetti's 'The Blessed Damozel' and Malliat's 'Sir Imbros at the Ford'. After tea at the Gallery we dispersed, to reflect on the many splendid buildings and works of art we had seen, and to realize how much was left for another visit.

Our plans for the autumn include visits to Cambridge and Chipping Campden, and talks on the Society's Iceland tour and on Pre-Raphaelite poetry.

Malcolm Pollard
MORRIS AND CO. IN SOUTH LONDON - CARshalton AND BEDDINGTON 7 August 1988

More than forty members and friends met outside 40 Beeches Avenue, Carshalton, on a pleasant Sunday afternoon to look at and enjoy, under the guidance of Janet Semple, the many features of Little Holland House, the home of Frank Reginald Dickinson (1874-1961). It was built with his own hands, assisted by his brother and cousin, in 1902. When he married Florence Marriot in March, 1904, they spent their honeymoon at work on the house. All the furniture as well as all the fittings were designed and made by him with Florence’s help: the garden layout, the pond and the pond-side cottage, the driveway and the flowers. Even the arch for rambling roses was achieved by Dickinson himself. The beautiful gateposts of the unassuming entrance to Little Holland House are beautifully carved and still solidly in position, witnesses to his meticulous craftsmanship and a happy first keynote on entering this simple home, inspired by the ideas of Ruskin and Morris.

We were welcomed by a delightful couple who explained many details, answered all our queries and helped guide so large a group round a house which had changed hardly at all except in the gradual addition of carved panels, paintings – of which there are 36 main ones, forming an airy scheme of interior decoration – and objects, such as the silver tea service Dickinson made and gave as a present to Florence on their silver wedding. Even their books were there in an alcove in the living room and it was a pleasure to discover that the books were there in an alcove in the living room and it was a pleasure to discover that those he kept and those he had not finished, in his own words, were the most important.

The house is a delightful and peaceful place, and the inscription on the cream walls, “The house is a dream. It is not for everyone. It is for those who are ready to work for it.”

In the evening, we were entertained by a talk on “The Art of Morris and Co.” by David Coates, who is the Keeper of the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York. He clearly explained the history of the firm, its philosophy, and the different stages of its development.

Mr. Coates emphasized the importance of the Arts and Crafts Movement and the influence it had on later generations. He also showed us some of the most beautiful examples of Morris’s work, including the famous “Queen’s” bedspread and the “Queen’s” carpet, both of which were made for Queen Victoria.

Mr. Coates concluded his talk by saying that the Arts and Crafts Movement was not just about making beautiful objects, but also about creating a better society. He said that the movement was about “creating a new world” and that it was still relevant today.

Maurice Stephenson

8. OXFORD WILLIAM MORRIS SOCIETY

On 21 June Professor Norman Talbot gave a lecture on William Morris, J. R. R. Tolkien, Ursula Le Guin and the Heterocrom at Hertford College, Oxford. Four correspondents attended, expecting a lecture on an aspect of feminism, but Professor Talbot explained that he was not going to write a lecture on feminism. He was going to write about the relationship between the two writers and the influence of the Victorian age on their work.

Professor Talbot began his lecture by discussing the life and work of William Morris, who was a key figure in the Arts and Crafts Movement. He discussed Morris’s poetry, prose, and his influence on later writers, including J. R. R. Tolkien and Ursula Le Guin.

Then, he went on to discuss J. R. R. Tolkien, who was a key figure in the fantasy genre. He discussed Tolkien’s influence on the movement of the Middle-earth, and his influence on other fantasy writers.

Finally, he discussed Ursula Le Guin, who was a key figure in the science fiction genre. He discussed her influence on the movement of the science fiction genre, and her influence on other science fiction writers.

Professor Talbot concluded his lecture by saying that the relationship between Morris, Tolkien, and Le Guin was not just about writing, but also about creating a new world. He said that the writers were trying to create a new world that was different from the world we live in today.

John Purkis
9. WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY

The exhibition 'Owen Jones: Architect/Designer', announced in the last Newsletter, continues until 29 October. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 1 pm and 2 to 5 pm. Admission is free and the catalogue is £2.00.

The Gallery's annual William Morris Lecture will take place on Thursday 24 November at 7.30 pm. Dr Mark Swenarton will speak on 'William Morris: Marxism and Architecture'. Author of Homes Fit for Heroes (1981), Mark Swenarton has taught at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London and lectured extensively in Britain and the USA, and currently works for the architectural weekly Building Design. His book, Artisans and Architects: The Victorian Tradition in Architectural Thought will be published by Macmillan early in 1989. Tickets are £1.00 (including wine after the lecture) and may be obtained from the Gallery.

The exhibition 'May Morris, 1862-1938', which will run at the Gallery from 10 January to 11 March 1989, is the first to cover specifically the life and work of Morris's younger daughter. It will present all areas of May Morris's work and will include pieces which have not previously been on public display. Until recently the work of May Morris has been much neglected as she was regarded as having worked in her father's shadow. Current research and embroideries which have only come to light in the last few years show her to have an individual style and to have been an influential and innovative designer. Morris Society members will have an opportunity to attend a private view of the exhibition and hear a talk from its organiser, Helen Sloan, on 25 January - details are given above under the item 'Society Events'.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary in 1989 of the birth of Henry Holiday (1839-1927), the Gallery is organising an exhibition of his work, to include paintings and drawings, designs for stained glass and mosaic, book illustrations and material relating to his involvement with the Art Workers' Guild. A day conference on the stained glass of Henry Holiday and his contemporaries is also planned for the summer of 1989. Information is requested on the whereabouts of work by Holiday, more especially in media other than stained glass. If you would be most useful to hear from anyone interested in attending the conference so that a mailing list can be compiled when the date and details of speakers have been finalised. Please contact Peter Cormack, William Morris Gallery, Lloyd Park, Forest Road, London E17 4PP (Tel: 01-527 5444 extn. 4390).

10. VICTORIAN STAINED GLASS

Some fifty people attended this course, held at 'Bolly Royle', the University of Manchester Extra Mural Study Centre, 1-3 July. The course director was David O'Connor (University of Manchester), with lecturers, Martin Harrison (author of 'Victorian Stained Glass' and Peter Cormack (William Morris Gallery). Martin Harrison opened the course on Friday evening with an overview of the period, highlighting the various trends and developments which took place.

Saturday was given over to a coach tour, including a visit to the Whitworth Art Gallery to see a selection of drawings and cartoons of Morris windows, and Morris windows from Bradford Cathedral and Exeter. Owing to the tight schedule it was only possible to pay a fleeting visit to the 'Subversive Stitch' exhibition and the display of William Morris work. Churches representing a range of both architectural and stained glass styles were also visited, including St Chad, Ladyburn (W. Cecil Hardisty), St Augustine, Pendlebury (F. P. Bodley), St Mark, Worsley (George Gilbert Scott), St Peter, Swinton (G. E. Street), St John, Brookland (Alfred Waterhouse), St Martin, Marple (J. D. Sedding). Stained glass seen covered works by Burlison and Grylls, Clayton and Bell, Cottier and Co., Heaton, Butler, Bayne, Kempe, Morris and Co., Karl Parsons, Powells, Pugin, Shrigley and Hunt, Wadlow, Ward and Hughes, Christopher and Veronica Whall, Williment, as well as Arts and Crafts work by Henry Wilson. Saturday evening was rounded off with a lecture on Victorian memorial windows by David O'Connor.

Sunday was given over entirely to lectures - Martin Harrison on Gothic Revival Glass, David O'Connor on Pre-Raphaelite Stained Glass, and Peter Cormack on Stained Glass from 1870-1914, and Women stained glass artists of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

All the lectures were instructive, informative and entertaining. All the lecturers illustrated their lectures with an excellent selection of slides, adding to the effectiveness of the lectures. Some interesting debates took place after the lectures. The course closed (somewhat reluctantly) at about 4.30 in order to enable the participants to start on their journeys home in good time.

It was generally agreed that we could have spent a week on the subject, at least! Certainly those with cameras on the Saturday visits must have used up a goodly quantity of film.

A. W. Buish

11. MORRIS ON THE MARKET

Readers interested in the market for antiquarian books will like to know something of the prices being commanded by volumes from the Kelmscott Press. The prices given below are from a recent catalogue issued by Phillip J. Pirages of McMinville, Oregon USA:

John Keats: The Poems (1894) $1900 (Morris's own copy, with his bookplate) J. W. Mackail: Biblia Innocentum (1892) $500
William Morris: Child Christopher and Godlim: the Fair (1895) $650
William Morris: The Earthly Paradise, Books (1890) $1000
William Morris: Gothic Architecture (1893) $325
William Morris: Poems by the Way (1891) $750

A copy of the catalogue of the Kelmscott Press for 16 February 1897 is also on offer for $65. Morris's own copy of Sebastian Brant's The Ship of Foes (London 1570), containing his Kelmscott House bookplate, is priced at $8500.

Burgess, Browning, the London booksellers, were recently offering Morris's copy of John Speed's Atlas (London, 1611), again with the Kelmscott House bookplate, for $50,000.

12. EXHIBITIONS AND COURSES

The recent death of our member Robin Tanner was reported in the last issue of the Newsletter. A memorial exhibition of his work is now on view at Garton and Co. 39-42 New Bond Street, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm until 11 November. A limited edition catalogue raisonne of Tanner's work is available at £55.00, and there is also an illustrated catalogue of the exhibition.
Ludlow Guidelines is a tour company run by our member Julia Atkins. She offers two-day Arts and Crafts tours in the Ludlow area from £75.00. There are several examples of Morris windows in the area, as well as the interesting arts and crafts churches at Kempley and Lower Brockhampton. Further details from Julia Atkins at 83 Greensacre, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1LS; tel: 9584 4567.

15. WILLIAM MORRIS AT KELMSCOTT, AUGUST 1888

After a busy summer of political activity Morris spent some time at Kelmscott Manor in August 1888. Here are two extracts from letters he wrote while there, illustrating his love for and close observation of nature.

 Altogether a very pleasant river to travel on, the banks being still very beautiful with flowers: the long-purples & willow-herb and the strong-coloured yellow flower very close and buttony, are the great show but there is a very pretty dark blue flower: I think mug-wort, mixed with all that besides the purple blossoms of the horse mint & mouse ear here and there a bit of meadow-sweet belated . . .

We have all the birds here again. The herons have been stalking about the field in the gravest manner and I have seen the kingfishers very busy. One dived down into the water before me and came out again with a little fish. I saw an owl last night come sailing along, and suddenly turn head over heels and down in the grass; after a souse I suppose; such a queer action I never saw.

(Note: It has been suggested that each issue of the Newsletter should contain a brief quotation from William Morris's writings. This is the first of the series. Suggestions for future entries, of a similar length, should be sent to the Editor.)

16. TAILPIECE

Once again I find myself having to apologise for the late arrival of a Newsletter; this one might just get to British members by the end of October. The postal strike inevitably delayed work on the issue, and then the officers decided that it ought not to be issued until the outcome of the EGM on 24 September was known. This meant that the editing only began after the beginning of the University term, a very busy time for me. I hope to get back on course with the January issue. Contributions should reach me at 7 Bromley Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7AP by 31 December.

Good wishes to you all.

Peter Preston, Rec. Secretary.
WILLIAM MORRIS SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES
NEWSLETTER • October 1988

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORRIS IN THE CRESCENT CITY:

* "Morriss and Twentieth Century Social Thought" is the subject of the first session of papers, which will take place on 27 December. The speakers and their topics are: "Ananda Coomaraswamy and William Morris" by Larry Lutchmansingh (Bowdoin College), "Morriss and the Mob" by Nancy Jane Tyson (University of South Florida), and "William Morris and the Frankfurt School" by Jeffrey Skiblow (Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville). These talks will be followed by the Society's business meeting.
* A second panel, devoted to "The Arts and Crafts" (in honor of the centenarian of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society), is scheduled for 28 December. For this the speakers and papers are: "Yeats, the Cuala Press, and Morriss's Legacy" by David Faidley (College of Idaho), "William Morriss on the Americans" by Sandy Wiseberg (Art Institute of Chicago), "Bloombury and the Demise of Morriss" by Victor Luftig (Yale), and "One Hundred Years Later: the current state of the Arts and Crafts in America" by Charlotte Oberg (University of Richmond). A cash bar will follow this session. For further information, including precise times and the location of meetings, consult the MLA Convention Program, usually distributed at the end of October.

MIDWEST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

* "Victorian Anecdotes, Apocrypha, and Hallowed Clichés" is the theme of the Midwest Victorian Studies Association's annual conference, to be held in Chicago on 28-29 April 1989. Papers (8 to 10 pages in length) are sought on 'legends, mythmaking, gossip, and how they inform, or misinform, scholarly and popular views of the Victorian period.' Submissions should be sent no later than 15 November to Michael Clarke, MVSA Executive Secretary, Department of English, Loyola University of Chicago, 6525 N Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626.

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND BOOKS

* William S. Peterson's long-awaited A History of the Kelmscott Press, a companion volume to his detailed bibliography, will soon be in the hands of its publisher, Oxford University Press. Professor Peterson is now working on a bibliography of Sir John Betjeman, the poet laureate and admirer of all things Victorian (including Morris). He has also recently been named the new editor of Publications of the Bibliographical Society of America.
Society member Gay Daly's biography Pre-Raphaelites in Love will be published in January 1989 by Ticknor and Fields in the U.S. and by Collins in Great Britain in the spring. Her book looks at the marriages of Pre-Raphaelites as moving among the first of the intricate emotional and aesthetic linkages of paintings and romance, then going on to explore and consider what happened to artist and model as they attempted to make his painting last a lifetime within the confines of marriage. The artists are Rossetti, Millais, Holman Hunt, Burne-Jones, and Morris. The marriage of William and Jane Morris is the subject of her final chapter. A great deal has been written about the romances of the Pre-Raphaelites, but not much about the fate of, for instance, Effie Millais once she finally reached what she thought would be a safe harbor with Millais. This book was written to help fill this gap. The author finds that these marriages were never the simple recipes for disappointment one might imagine given the extraordinary weight of romantic expectation they had to bear. Instead, they were rich and complicated mixtures of tenderness, grief, anger, and hard-won understanding.

Margaret D. Stetz and Mark Samuels Lasner have collaborated on England in the 1880s: Old Guard and Avant-Garde to be published with an introduction by Jerome H. Buckley this winter by the University of Virginia Press. Based on a major exhibition held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1985, the book aims to give a picture of the literature, art, and thought of the decade. The topics dealt with include the Aesthetic movement, the impact of Empire, the "Woman Question," and the New Fiction. Particular attention is paid to Morris and his circle, especially the Pre-Raphaelite artists and writers who lived on into the 1880s. A number of works by Morris—textiles, ceramics, and books (both poetic and political) are described, highlighted by the autograph manuscript of A Dream of John Ball, the first page of which is illustrated.

If there is someone very special on your holiday list (perhaps even yourself?) you might consider giving them William Morris by Himself: Designs and Writings, edited by Gillian Naylor. Issued in the United States by the New York Graphic Society, this is a true rarity, a handsome "coffee table" book with content. It is well worth the $50.00 price tag for the splendid illustrations and the generous, well-chosen extracts from Morris's poems, socialist tracts, letters, translations, and romances. There is much that has not been reproduced before: the interiors of Red House, Staden, and Kelmscott working drawings for designs; stained glass windows—the majority shown in remarkably good color.

Norman Kelvin, the editor of Morris's Letters, has contributed Patterns in Time: The Decorative and the Narrative in William Morris to "Nineteenth Century Lives: A festschrift for Jerome H. Buckley edited by Laurence Lockridge, Donald Stone and John Maynard. To be published in early 1989 by Cambridge University Press, the volume contains essays by Victorian scholars such as Richard Altick, Morton Cohen, Robert Fiey, J. Hillis Miller, Phyllis Rose, John Rosenberg, Margaret D. Stetz, and Carl Woodring.

OTHER NEWS

TREASURES IN PHILADELPHIA

The work of William Morris figured prominently in Legacies of Genius: A show of great books and manuscripts sponsored by sixteen Philadelphia libraries, held jointly at the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania from 16 April to 23 September 1988. A section devoted to "The Art of the Book" contained two Kelmscott Press titles, the ubiquitous Chaucer and a copy of Poems Chosen Out of the Works of Robert Herrick both splendidly bound by the Deves Bindery after designs by Cobden-Sanderson. These were flanked by an original pencil drawing by Burne-Jones for the Chaucer, inscribed by Sydney Cockerell, "Discovered design for Chaucer's Knight's Tale" and by two of Morris's finished ink drawings for initial letters used in the Kelmscott Press. Morris—or rather his house—appeared in another form, as an original platinum photograph. "Kelsom Hall: In the Attics" by Frederick H. Evans. This was one of twenty-seven views of the Manor made by Evans in 1896. Very few complete sets are known: this one, now at Bryn Mawr, has an interesting history. It belonged first to the eccentric Boston photographer-collector F. Holland Day, whose publishing firm Copeland and Day issued several books of the Kelmscott Press. Later it was owned by the Philadelphia bibliophile Harold Peirs, owner at the turn of the century of the finest Morris collection in America.

"FRAILE FROGS OF FABRIC THAT RECALL AN ERA":

Paula Deitz, writing in the 4 September "Antiques" column of the Sunday New York Times, described the Victoria and Albert Museum's recent exhibition Textiles of the Arts and Crafts Movement organized by Linda Parry. The show "goes well beyond the familiar designs of the William Morris workshop to include the contributions of Morris associates such as his daughter May and Walter Crane, and commercial firms like G.P. and J. Baker and Liberty's. Deitz mentions two Morris works, the wool tapestry "The Forest," a "proper successor to medieval tapestries with wild and tame animals standing in a 'mille fleurs' border of individual plants and flowers." "Acanthus" embroidery, worked on by May Morris. Noting that "the great repositories of these period textiles are probably museums, particularly the V. A. and - Deitz pointed to a growing collecting interest in this area, paralleling the renewed vogue for the Arts and Crafts movement itself. While tapestries and curtains can be purchased—at quite staggering prices—from a number of London dealers, more modest examples of Morris & Co. productions can be found at a New York specialists textile dealer, Cora Ginsburg, 819 Madison Avenue had samples of the chintzes "Bird and Anemone" and "Rose and Thistle," each retaining its original Morris labels and priced "around $100."

THE DODHAN SALES AT CHRISTIES:

Even though the "William Morris and His Circle" portion of the Estelle Laurence Dohman library will not be sold until May 1989, a number of items connected with the "circle" have found their way into the continuing series of auctions. On 17-18 October Christie's New York branch will offer a number of books by D. G. Rossetti, Ruskin, and Swinburne. These include a set of The Germ in the original printed pamphlets (from H. Buxton Forman's collection) D. G. Rossetti's The Early Italian Poets (1861) inscribed to Frederic George Stephens, one of the Pre-Raphaelite brothers, and Ballads and Sonnets (1881) presented to William Bell Scott.

An "association" of particular significance is Rossetti's 1870 Poems, also inscribed to William Bell Scott. He was Scott (and Alice Boyd, chateaune of their Penkhill Castle menage) who suggested that Rossetti, fearing for his eyesight, return to the writing of poetry. This indirectly led to the 1869 exhumation of Rossetti's MS. book from his wife's grave and to the publication of Poems in April 1870. Cajoled by Rossetti, Morris wrote a favorable review of the book whose contents were, in part, inspired by Rossetti's love for Jane Morris.

Ruskin is represented by two autograph letters and a number of books—the Two Paths (1859) inscribed to Carlyle, and the copies of The Seven Lamps of Architecture and The Stones of Venice he presented to Dickens. The Swinburne includes The Queen Mother...
Ruskin (1853), the Pickering issue of his first book, and Atalanta in Calydon (1855) with its binding designed by Rossetti. There are also two autograph letters from Swinburne one of them a long response to criticism from a clergyman.

"Next May's sale will comprise a nearly complete set of Kelmscott Press publications, many of Morris's other books, The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine and, most important and spectacular of all, Morris's calligraphic manuscript of the Arabian Nights containing illuminations by Charles Fairfax Murray after Burne-Jones's designs.

MORRIS GLASS ON CARDS:

Society member Melinda Rosenzweig has brought to our attention a series of greeting cards reproducing Morris stained glass windows. These were advertised in the September 1988 issue of Professional Stained Glass, and may be ordered from that journal at 245 West 28th Street, New York, NY 10001. Some have the message 'With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year,' others are blank. The cost is $6.50 ($1.00 postage additional) for each set of 4 or 5 cards. Curiously, while the advertisement gives the locations of the glass—mostly Christ Church, Oxford—it nowhere mentions Morris or Burne-Jones.

"Please send announcements or newsworthy items to Mark Samuels Lasner, Apartment 101, 1870 Wyoming Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 (Tel. 202) 745-1927."

Dear Member

1. SOCIETY NEWS

We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Athene Hennan, the actress Athene Seyler, has accepted honorary membership of the Society. Now in her hundredth year, Mrs. Hennan lives in the Coach House and recently made a lively appearance on the Terry Wogan Show, delighting the audience with her recollections of theatrical life, culminating in a rendering of 'Oh, Mr. Porter'.

Two members have recently offered valuable help in Kelmscott House. Sonia Critchlow has been dealing with orders for greeting cards, whilst Alyson Barr has agreed to take responsibility for the sale of books at the Society's London meetings. We are grateful to them for this service.

The long list of small jobs needing to be done in Kelmscott House is gradually getting shorter, thanks to the House Committee under the energetic leadership of John Kay. A cleaning rota will soon be established and volunteers are needed for the first Saturday morning of each month.

The Society has now joined the London Area Museum Service, which will entitle us to apply for conservation advice and make us eligible for grants towards the cost of conservation. We are also taking advice from the Borough Archivist of Hammersmith and Fulham about the sorting and storage of our records. Our thanks, as always, are due to Christine Poulson, the Curator at Kelmscott House, for the leading part she has played in these significant developments.

Increased work brings with it the need for more help, and we are again appealing to members for their assistance. An Assistant Secretary/Office Manager for Kelmscott House would be invaluable in relieving Christine Poulson of routine administrative tasks and dealing with some matters on behalf of the Hon. Secretary. We also need an Assistant Publicity Officer to deal with the distribution of information about the Society—particularly our membership leaflets—to outlets in museums, houses, galleries and colleges.

Three members have recently donated books to the library at Kelmscott House: Michael Holroyd, Bernard Shaw: the Search for Love (from Ursula Bruck); The Art of William Morris (from Morris and Co., catalogue and Lewis P. Day); The Art of William Morris (from Mrs. Martin); J. Bruce Glaser: The Meaning of Socialism and R. Page Arnot: Unpublished Letters of William Morris (from Carol Johnson). We are very grateful for these donations.

Christine Poulson has asked that any members who still have review copies of books should return them to her so that they can be added to the library at Kelmscott House.