

# Editorial

*Rosie Miles*

AS I WRITE, at the end of summer, the *Morris in the 21st Century* Conference held between 7–10 July 2005 is still a significant memory. Amidst the florid redbrick splendour of Royal Holloway College, Egham, over a hundred people came together for a few days to celebrate, explore and interrogate the numerous influences and legacies of William Morris in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The Conference started on what has now become a notorious date in London's calendar – 7/7 – and it was thus extraordinarily prescient that Regenia Gagnier's opening lecture on that slightly anxious evening should consider what Morris's ideas have to say to a 'globalised' world. I am delighted that Regenia's talk heads up this issue. In particular, her suggestion that Morris is the 'great writer of pilgrims, travellers and refugees' is richly thought-provoking, and reminds us of the need to remain generously open to the 'wanderers' amongst us in an era of heavily policed borders and fear-filled security.

Celebrating, exploring and interrogating Morris and his legacies has, of course, been what the William Morris Society has been doing so well for the last 50 years. There cannot be many Societies based around a nineteenth-century figure which are as vibrant and active as our own as we head into the twenty-first century. This *Journal* has played no small part over the years in encouraging and disseminating a wide range of Morris scholarship, and has thus been part of the Society's vibrancy and flourishing. In many ways this Anniversary Issue is no different from any other in that it contains articles which touch on a wide range of Morris's interests and influences. Several of the pieces were delivered as papers at last July's Conference, and I hope more will in due course also be published here. 2005 was also the year for revisiting the Arts and Crafts Movement, and this issue contains a substantial number of reviews on this topic.

**As the Society** looks to the future, there is no doubt that Morris still **matters** very much, to many diverse people scattered all over the world. **That's** how it should be, and the William Morris Society has much to **congratulate** itself over that this is indeed the case.