

## DR JESSIE KOCCMANOVÁ

One of our most distinguished Morris scholars died on 19 December last, in Brno, and we have received from her friend, colleague, and former student Dr Lidmila Pantuckova a copy of the full obituary which she wrote for the journal *Philologica Pragensia*: from this the notice below is condensed. We received at the same time a copy of the exhaustive Bibliography originally prepared by Professor Ian Milne for Dr Kocmanová's sixtieth birthday, and brought up to date by Dr Pantuckova.

Jessie Kocmanová was born in Edinburgh on 5 October 1914: studied Modern Languages and History there, receiving her MA in 1937. After working briefly as a librarian and teaching English in one of the City's grammar schools, she married in 1941 Vincenc Kocman, a former member of the International Brigade in Spain, then serving with the Czech Air Force in Britain. Until the end of the war she worked in London for the Red Cross, then went to live and work in Brno, where she spent the rest of her life, teaching in the English Department, becoming Associate Professor of English and American Literature in 1963. Her scholarly work was wide-ranging and influential, not least in respect of William Morris, whose work was among her dearest interests, and her most notable work was the monograph, 'The Poetic Maturing of William Morris'—Brno Studies in English No. 5, 1964. While most of her writing on English/American literature, especially of the nineteenth/twentieth centuries, was published in Czechoslovakia, a good deal is available in English, in the pages of such journals as: *Victorian Poetry : The Voice of Scotland* (edited by her friend Hugh MacDiarmid); *Modern Quarterly*; *Marxist Quarterly*; *The University of Edinburgh Journal*; the *Saltire Review*. Highly regarded by her colleagues and students in Brno, she was no less loved as a friend. A long-standing member of the William Morris Society, she was known to most of us by repute only, but we did sometimes have the pleasure of seeing—and hearing—her at meetings.

R. W.