

Editorial

The present edition of the *Journal* has been in some respects a joint production between myself and Peter Faulkner. I therefore have great pleasure in publishing the following appreciation of Peter's work for the *Journal* written by his friend and colleague Ray Watkinson.

Nicholas Salmon

In taking over the Editorship of our *Journal*, Nicholas Salmon asks me for a sort of valedictory to Peter Faulkner, who took it over from me: this I gladly write and would gladly do it better.

It is just short of twenty years since Peter and I first met, over the 25th–26th of March 1977, at a splendid Morris Study weekend arranged by Peter Lewis, then of the Department of English and Drama at Loughborough Technical University and Secretary of the Loughborough Victorian Studies Group. Vividly do I recall this occasion. John Fleming and Tom Drescher, both at the time resident at Kelmscott House, brought down from our Collection some choice fabrics, and I converged with other printed material for inclusion in the fine exhibition of Morris/Webb and other Arts and Crafts furniture set up by Bill Elloway. The weekend was chaired by Paul Thompson: I missed most of the Friday evening lecture by Jack Lindsay, busy as I was dovetailing our material into that exhibition: but first thing on Saturday we heard Peter Faulkner illuminate Morris's poems from Guenevere to Sigurd, followed by Elizabeth Strode on the Romances, myself on the life of the Designer, and Bill Elloway winding up with the Arts and Crafts Movement – and, of course, spirited discussions session by session.

It was in 1979 that I began to assist Geoffrey Bensusan in producing the *Journal*, with the Winter 1980–81 issue I became Editor. I soon saw that there was scope for a Reviews Editor: I also saw that Peter Faulkner, in post at Exeter University, winner of the Society's Peter Floud prize with his 'Morris & Eric Gill'; deliverer of our first Kelmscott Lecture, compiler of the Morris volume in the 'Critical Heritage' series, author of *William Morris: Against the Age*, and that rare bird, an English academic who regularly delivered courses on Morris – was the man who knew the field, intimately, kept abreast of world-wide Morris-lore, not only the longstanding in-print works, but who was studying, working on what, and what was to come of it all. So for two or three years he undertook this important job. What more natural than that when I gave up the Editorship in 1987 he should slip into the chair he has so well filled and which he now hands over to Nicholas Salmon.... Not that this is likely to end his services to the *Journal* or the Society.

Ray Watkinson