

Editorial

This issue of *The Journal* marks a number of important events. With regret we record the death of two distinguished Morris scholars, 'Dick' Dufty and Edward Thompson; nothing could better illustrate the breadth of Morris's appeal than this solemn coincidence, since the interests of these two men were so strikingly different. Each contributed substantially in his own way to the appreciation of Morris, and we are glad to be able to express our debt to them here.

By contrast we are also celebrating the living: Ray Watkinson decided to resign as our President on reaching the age of eighty, and it is altogether appropriate that we should make this an occasion for *The Journal* to which he has given so much over the years both in his printed contributions and in his ever-ready advice (from which as the present editor I have particularly profited). We hope that Ray will regard the contents of the present substantial issue as dedicated to him with the Society's good wishes for his future activities; we are grateful for permission to include two of his early works, which give further evidence of his remarkable – Morrisian – range of interests and abilities. We also welcome our new President, Fiona MacCarthy, with every confidence that her contribution to the Society in the future will be of the highest value. She is a respected historian of the Arts and Crafts, having published lives of C.R. Ashbee and Eric Gill. We all look forward to her forthcoming biography of Morris with some impatience. We are confident that it will help to spread interest in, and admiration of, Morris and his work at a time when his teachings and example are of crucial importance.

I am happy to include the second in our series of Interviews with William Morris, this time on the subject of Women and Work. I am grateful to Dr. David Rubinstein for suggesting it, and would welcome further recommendations for the series.

Finally I should report that our next issue, to be jointly edited by Stephen Coleman and myself, will be devoted to the theme of Morris and Education. We already have a number of promising contributions; but if any of our members has ideas for another article, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Peter Faulkner