A. U. S. Society News:

Book Distribution:

We are very happy to announce that Philip Kelley of the Wedgestone Press in Winfield, Kansas will distribute Morris Society books in the United States. Mr. Kelley already handles distribution for the Browning Institute and prints their series, the Browning Institute Studies, along with other Victorian books. He will house our stock in his warehouse, and advertise the Society's publications free of charge in the catalogues which he mails periodically to several thousand libraries and other purchasers of Victorian books. In return, he will charge the Society 25% of the selling price for all catalogue orders, and will ship books ordered through the Society at $1 per paperback and $2 per hardcover. Mr. Kelley seems an energetic and helpful publisher, and we hope that his assistance will help us reduce our backlog of unsold books and enlarge our offerings.

An order form for Morris Society books appears on the following page. Members who wish to save us money may order directly from Hartley Spatt, Department of Humanities, Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, Bronx, New York 10465. Mr. Kelley's address is the Wedgestone Press, P. O. Box 175, Winfield, Kansas 67156 (telephone 316-221-2779).

Among our unsold books are 228 sets of a reprint of May Morris' introductions to the Collected Works in two volumes, with a preface by Joseph Dunlap, published in 1973 by Oriole Editions, a division of Russell and Russell. Mr. S. A. Russell, for many years a member of the Morris Society, has kindly agreed to donate to the Society one-half of the profits from any of the remaining sets we sell.

We wish to express our appreciation to Mrs. Julia Burton of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and to her son Bill Burton, of Moretus Press, for housing our books during the past several years.

Proposed Expansion of the Governing Committee:

For several reasons I believe we need to enlarge our Governing Committee. Hartley Spatt has become our permanent treasurer, and of the three remaining members-at-large, two are scheduled to rotate off the Committee after December 1986. The functions of the Committee have grown in the past eighteen months, and we will eventually need a new acting chair and editor of the newsletter, as well as someone willing to help arrange meetings. We will also need a couple persons to help manage our membership drive and compile a directory of U. S. members, and a corresponding secretary to welcome new members and answer the requests for information on the Society. (I'll be happy to continue working on our publications for the foreseeable future.)

I therefore propose a change in the sentence of the Constitution which now reads, "the membership will elect four members to the (continued on page three)
Book Order Form:

Kindly use the following form to order books for yourself or for any public or college or university libraries to which you have access (recall it will save us nearly 25% of the selling price of each book if you order through us).

I would like to order the following books through the Morris Society:

- Peter Stansky, introduction and commentary to *Four Letters from William Morris*, published on the 150th anniversary of his birth, by Arion Press, 1984, $7 plus $.50;


- Frederick Kirchhoff, ed., *Studies in the Late Romances of William Morris*, in soft cover, $5;


- the same, in soft cover, $6;


- the same in soft cover, $6;

- Florence Boos, *The Juvenilia of William Morris*, in hard cover, $6;

- the same in soft cover, $4.

Please ship to:

Name
Street Address
City State Zip

When not otherwise listed, postage is included. Please return the completed form to: Hartley Spatt, Department of Humanities Maritime College, Bronx, New York 10645 U. S. A.
Governing Committee," to read "the membership will elect four or more members to the Governing Committee." This will give future Governing Committees flexibility to expand or contract as needed. If this suggestion is ratified at the December 28th Morris Society annual business meeting, I will ask for authorization to include a formal ballot in the January 1st, 1985 Newsletter, with sufficient nominees to elect three new members for the Governing Committee.

I would welcome comments or suggestions on this matter any time before the meeting in December, and would be especially happy to receive nominations (including self-nominations) for prospective new members of the Governing Committee.

Annual Business Meeting of the Morris Society:

I tentatively plan to convene the annual business meeting of the U. S. William Morris Society at 7:30 p. m. in my room at the Sheraton Hotel in Washington, D. C. on December 28th, 1984, the evening after the Morris session to be chaired by Gary Aho. (Departmental obligations force me to pay Sheraton prices, so we might as well benefit from the central location.) If this informal arrangement is inconvenient or inadequate, we can shift to a larger venue or hold the meeting the 29th instead. If you are planning to attend, please let me know, or attend Gary's session, so I can inform you of any changes. All Morrisians and friends are most welcome. With luck, we may finish business quickly and have a chance to talk a bit about other matters. By the 28th, we should also know the fate of our third application for M. L. A. Allied Organization status, submitted September 1st.

Membership Drive:

Hartley Spatt and I have mailed out +1000 Morris Society leaflets to all libraries in the PMLA list of four-year colleges and universities in the U. S., and we are gradually working our way through the mailing lists of the Midwest Victorian Studies Association, Northeast Victorian Studies Association, Victorian Studies Bulletin, and Modern Language Association, Victorian Division. We need to reach non-literary Victorianists, of course, and would be very grateful for any access members might provide to other mailing lists of bibliophiles, makers of fine books, librarians, historians, art historians, and artists and artisans of all sorts.

Sessions and Conferences:

Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, Delaware 19806, October 13th, 1984, "The Complex Culture of the Pre-Raphaelites."

As announced in the last newsletter, the Delaware Art Museum will hold a one day conference, partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, on "The Complex Culture of the Pre-Raphaelites" on October 13th. Gert Schiff has been added to the list of speakers, and his talk is entitled "How True is the Bible? English Religious Painting and the Near East, 1850-1900."

The conference coincides with the return to the Delaware Art Museum of the "Samuel and Mary R. Bancroft, Jr. and Related Pre-Raphaelite Collections," which have been on tour in Worcester, Massachusetts and Columbus, Ohio. Rowland Elzea, the museum's curator, has published a new catalogue of "The Raphaelite Collections of the Delaware Art Museum," revised from a previous 1978 edition. The catalogue's only Morris artwork is his original cover-design for the first single-volume edition of The Earthly Paradise,
exhibited with a page of instructions to the binder ("But the edges of the book should not be trimmed as the margins are already small enough. . . "). On the design Morris wrote "1891" in clear letters, but the book actually appeared in 1890.

The catalogue includes some rather well-known Rossetti paintings and drawings such as "Found," "Water Willow," "Lady Lilith," and "Veronica Veronese," and some charming sketches of elephants Rossetti sent to Fanny Cornforth, as engaging as the well-known drawing in which he mourns his dead wombat. Besides Brown, Holman Hunt, and Burne-Jones (who is represented by "The Prioress' Tale," "Hymenaeus," and "The Council Chamber" from the Briar Rose series), the catalogue also includes lesser-known works by Aelred Tahey, Kate Greenaway, Elizabeth Houghton, Charles Fairfax Murray, Frederick and Winifred Sandys, Frederic Shields (including his drawing of "The Dead Rossetti"), Elizabeth Siddal (who painted a very Rossettian "Holy Family"), Simeon Solomon ("Leonora d'Este"), and seven paintings by Marie Spartali Stillman. This is one of the best catalogues of a U. S. Victorian collection I have ever seen.


"William Morris and the Literature of Social Revolution" is the subject of a special session on William Morris, to be chaired by Gary Aho of the University of Massachusetts, and held in the afternoon of the first full day of the Modern Language Association Convention. In "The Pastoral and Revolution," Eliza Campbell will discuss the affinities between Morris and Kropotkin; Lyman Sargeant will interpret News from Nowhere's anarchist antecedents; Darko Suvin's "William Morris and the Science-Fiction of the 1880's" will discuss four futurist utopias which may have anticipated Morris's work; and Florence Boos' "Orwell's Morris and 'Old Major's Dream," will consider the complex evolution of Orwell's indebtedness (at first quite grudging) to Morris' political ideals.

In the next newsletter we plan to include reports on Morris talks given at the Ninth Annual Conference on Utopian Studies in St. Louis on September 28th-30th; at the Victorians Institute Convention in Charleston, South Carolina on October 5th and 6th; and of course, at the Modern Language Association Convention.

C. Exhibitions:

William Morris: The 150th Anniversary of His Birth," September 1st-November 25th, 1985, Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36th Street, New York, New York, Tuesdays through Saturdays 10:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; Sundays 1:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m.

This exhibition of the Pierpont Morgan Library holdings of Morris materials includes autograph and illuminated manuscripts, drawings, photographs, pamphlets, and printed editions selected by Paul Needham, Astor Curator of Printed Books and Bindings. Among exhibits of particular interest are important medieval manuscripts from Morris's private library, a set of photographs of Kelmscott Manor, and the copy of the Kelmscott Chaucer given in 1896 by Morris to Sydney Cockerell.

As a supplement the exhibit will offer a thirty-minute recorded slide lecture by Duncan Robinson, director of the Yale
Center for British Art, to be presented in the library's Meeting Room, Tuesdays through Fridays at 12:15 p. m.; the last showing will take place Friday, November 23rd, 1984.


The Arts and Crafts Movement in New York State: 1890's-1920's, the catalogue prepared for this exhibition by Coy L. Ludwig (Tyler Art Gallery, SUNY/Oswego), begins with a few Morris exhibits and a brief discussion of the work and influence of Ruskin, Morris, and Charles Ashbee. It then illustrates in detail the work of many New York artists, schools, shops, and guilds: including pottery by Frederick Walrath; Roycroft copperware, furniture, and books; furniture from the Elverhøj Colony; house-plans, furniture, and other artifacts designed by Gustav Stickley of the Craftsman Workshops; products of the Henry Keck Stained Glass Studio; furniture by Charles Rohlfs; and of course glassware by Louis Tiffany.


Kindly remember to send notice of any forthcoming exhibitions or sessions in the United States on Morris or his associates, so that I may publicize them in future issues.

D. News of U. S. Members:

Mark Samuels Lasner and Margaret D. Stetz have issued a new journal, Turn-of-the-Century Women, to publish short works by, and articles on, British and American women writers from the period of its title. The journal will appear twice yearly, and subscriptions may be obtained for $10 in the U. S. and Canada ($12 other) from Margaret D. Stetz, Editor, Turn-of-the-Century Women, Department of English, Wilson Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

Richard Hampsten of the University of North Dakota has written to express his hope that the Society will undertake "further research into Morris' connection with the Craftsman movement," and adds that he will be teaching in China next year, where he hopes "to learn more of a connection (perhaps tenuous) between Morris and an earlier socialist movement in China: Lao She refers to one character as dabbling in aesthetic socialism and being an admirer of Morris."

E. Other Morris Items:

Morris Designs in the U. S.:

Sanderson's has opened its New York showroom at 979 Third Avenue, Suite 403, New York 10022, and it intends to offer Morris
design fabrics and wallpapers in five other U. S. cities by March, 1985. The following is taken from their advertising release:

Sanderson chintzes, linens and cottons retail from about $24 to $73 per roll, and the wallcoverings average $42 per European roll, which is 21" wide by 33' long. Although the William Morris collection of hand block wallpaper prints is in a high price range, the William Morris screen prints on fabric are more moderately priced.

The telephone number of the showroom in New York is 212/319-7220.

Tate Pre-Raphaelite Exhibition Slides:

Minature Gallery (60 Rushett Close, Long Ditton, Surrey K17 OUT, England; phone Oxshott 2448) offers for sale a collection of 127 slides from the Tate Pre-Raphaelite Exhibition. U. S. members may obtain the set for $99 plus 8%($7.92) for postage and handling.

Musical Settings to Morris' Writings:

A recent bibliography by Bryan N. S. Gooch and David S. Thatcher, *Musical Settings of Early and Mid-Victorian Literature: A Catalogue* (New York and London, Garland, 1979) lists both musical settings of Morrisian texts and music composed in his memory. For example, there are 24 musical settings of *The Defence of Guenevere*, including five for "Summer Dawn." Also included are musical settings of the early poem "The Hollow Land" (3), and of poems from *Jason* (1), *The Earthly Paradise* (4), *Love Is Enough* (3), and *Poems by the Way* (7), and of his socialist songs(8), and "The Message of the March Wind." Most of these settings date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, but Gooch and Thatcher also list eight compositions which were done after 1940.

F. Calls for Papers:

The journal *Studies in Medievalism* is planning a monograph of essays on all aspects of Victorian medievalism--literary, artistic, religious, historical, or political. Contributions, preferably 15 to 25 typed pages in length, should be sent to the editor, Florence Boos, Department of English, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242, by July 1st, 1985.

The Morris Society in the United States seeks essays for a volume on Morris' socialist writings, to appear in 1985, and bear the title, *Socialism and the Literary Artistry of William Morris*. Papers are welcome on political aspects of any of Morris' literary work--his poetry, essays, and romances, as well as his publications in *Commonweal*. Contributions should be 15-25 typed pages in length, and one copy each should be sent to the two prospective co-editors: Carole Silver, Department of English, Yeshiva University, New York, New York 10006, and Florence Boos, Department of English, University of Iowa, Iowa City 52242 by January 1st, 1985.

Until next year--

Florence Boos
For the U. S. Governing Committee