



William Morris and His Influence

May 16 – 24, 2020

The 160th anniversary of the start of the Arts and Crafts Movement is in 2020 and what better way to acknowledge that then with a tour which features the life and work and influence of William Morris. For a week, from May 16th to May 24th, we are going to do just that and do hope you'll come along. We'll be joined by Peter Cormack the leading Morris scholar who is our guide. And of course Peyton Skipwith our Associate Director and a past Master of the Art Workers Guild who has written extensively on the work of many of the artists we will see, and is a charming and knowledgeable traveling companion, will again accompany our tour again.

This tour begins on Saturday, May 16, 2020 in London with a visit to the V&A and lunch in the Green Room which Morris designed. Then to Kelmscott House his home in Hammersmith and nearby the home of Emery Walker. We'll visit Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square by J.D. Sedding which has the largest east window by Morris and Company as well as amazing works by members of the Art Workers Guild. Sandy Nairne, the former Director of the National Portrait Gallery, will join us for dinner and tell us about his experience punting from Oxford to Kelmscott Manor.

The next day we are off to see Standen and then the Red House both of which have close associations with Morris. And then we are back in London with a dinner at the Art Workers Guild across the square from where Morris had his early workshop.

Another day we go back to Morris' roots and visit Marlborough College and one of the most extraordinary private collections of work by Morris and his contemporaries before returning to London and dinner at a private club.

And then we head into the Cotswolds where we will see a wealth of his work and that of his contemporaries and followers. On the way we will stop at the Great Coxwell Barn and Buscot Park. Then it is on to Oxford where Morris met so many who changed his history and the future he had planned. It was here he met Edmund Burne-Jones with whom he decorated the Debating Union. It was also here that he met Jane Burden who became his wife. Dante Gabriel-Rossetti was also one of those he met and worked with on projects for some time.



Oxford University

We will visit several of the colleges that were significant to Morris – Exeter when he went to school, Manchester which has the largest set of Morris & Company windows in Oxford – seen below and St Michael’s where he and Jane were married.



While in the Cotswolds we will stay at Barnsley House a most glorious, luxurious and comfortable country house hotel nestled into the Cotswold Hills and formerly the home of Rosemary Verey the 20th century’s major landscape architect. We will go to Kelmscott Manor for it is here that he moved in 1879, at least for some of the year, from London. The Manor is undergoing a major restoration so we won’t be able to go inside but in the village we will be able to visit the two cottages designed by Philip Webb, who also designed the headstone at St George’s church where William and Jane and

their daughters are buried. In the picture below can be seen the carving by George Jack of Morris outside the Manor.

As the furnishings from the Manor will be in London at the Society of Antiquaries while the Manor is being restored, we are also planning a three-day tour to London in July to see those and to visit more of Morris’ London haunts.



Although Burne-Jones never actually lived in the Cotswolds, he often stayed with Morris at Kelmescott Manor. While he was there he was invited by Lord Farringdon to come to his nearby country home Buscot Park and supervise the hanging of four paintings of the Sleeping Beauty Suite Lord Farringdon had bought. Burne-Jones did, as seen below, and painted a continuous mural between the paintings' panels so it is one continuous story as we shall see when we visit and are taken around by the curator.

We will also visit the lovely, Thames-side church St Mary the Virgin where Lord Farringdon again commissioned Burne-Jones to design the "Good Shepherd" East Window.

Morris's first major stained glass commission was for the windows at All Saints Church in the village of Selsley. The church designed by G.F. Bodley is approached from above and has views over the entire valley as can be seen here.



Just on the other side of the hill is Owlpen Manor one of the most romantic early manor houses, immortalized by F.L. Griggs as seen in the etching below. In the 19th century it was bought by Norman Jewson and is now the home of Sir Nicholas and Lady Mander who are our hosts. After our tour of the house and grounds, which have some wonderful Cotswold Arts and Crafts furniture and furnishings, they have invited us to lunch.

This evening we have dinner at visit Hilles House the home designed by Detmar Blow for his family in the small aptly named Edge as it is sited 600 feet above sea level overlooking five counties with dramatic views to the west. We will be guests for dinner there where our host is his grandson, Detmar. The house is rich in furnishings by many of the Cotswold designers including an exquisite Burne-Jones tapestry of Botticelli's *Primavera*, a William Morris carpet, and chandeliers by Ernest Gimson. There are drawings by Ruskin and Blow as well as family portraits dating to the 14th century.



We then head north to Wightwick Manor (below) which has some of the most wonderful furnishings by Morris and members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. And then to Birmingham before heading back to Barnsley House where our dinner that evening is in the neighborhood pub.



Our final day our guide is Mary Greensted and with her we go first to Chipping Campden to see the work of C.R. Ashbee and his Guild of Handicraft. Then it is on to Bibury, seen below which Morris called “most beautiful village in England”. After lunch we spend time examining the work of Ernest Gimson and Ernest and Sidney Barnsley in two of the loveliest villages –Sapperton and Rodmarton.

In Sapperton they built the Village Hall on the site of a former wheelwright’s yard. Norman Jewson who was a resident of the village, also worked with them. As Ernest Barnsley was then working on Rodmarton Manor it is probable that the same workmen were employed at the Village Hall. And we will visit St. Kenelm’s Church which has been on the site since the 13th century and where Ernest and Sidney Barnsley are buried as is Emery Walker who lived at Daneway House in Sapperton as well as in Hammersmith.



In 1909 the Hon Claud Biddulph, a London banker, asked Ernest Barnsley to design a new country house for him, Rodmarton Manor. It was fully furnished throughout with furniture designed by Ernest and his brother Sidney. Below is a view from the back of the house overlooking the gardens. We are then guests of John Biddulph for our Farewell dinner at Rodmarton. There are many more treats in store for us and even if you have gone to the area before, as I have, I am sure you’ll find yourself falling in love with it again and being entranced by the power of its charm and the associations with the past while at the same time it constantly encourages new works and collaborations.



We are so pleased that this tour will enable us to visit, and re-visit, the homes and works of these special, influential, and accessible arts and craftworkers and enjoy time spent with our several hosts. We hope you will want to join us.

Let us know if you'd like us to reserve a place for you!

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