Twenty years of the Journal

With this issue, the Journal of the William Morris Society completes its twentieth year. If, beset with the difficulties of production of a small Society with limited resources and a widely scattered membership, it has not appeared as regularly as we have always meant that it should, it has carried in its fifteen issues from Winter 1961 many articles and reviews of varied interest, scholarly weight, and of a kind which in the nature of things will not be directly available in the future, by men and women who, from our first President Sir Sydney Cockerell on, had personal memories of Morris, his family and his friends. We offer in this issue an index of articles.

From the first issue, with its message of goodwill from S. C. Cockerell, to that of Winter 1978, it was edited by indefatigable Ronald Briggs: from then until the Summer 1981 issue, by Geoffrey Bensusan who had for some time been helping on the production side. This issue has been put together partly by Geoffrey Bensusan and partly by Ray Watkinson, advised by Norah Gillow and Richard Smith.

Vol. No. 1 Winter 1961
William Morris and Calligraphy
News from Iceland
William Morris and Bernard Shaw
By his works
Notes on Morris & Co.’s domestic stained glass
Trafalgar Square 1887

Author
Alfred Fairbank
Hugh Bushell
E.E. Stokes Jr.
Loyd Haberly
A.C. Sewter
R.C.H. Briggs

Vol. 1 No. 2 Winter 1962 - Cockerell memorial issue
Sydney Carlyle Cockerell
Notes on Warington Taylor and Philip Webb
Private Diaries - letter to The Spectator, 16 Jan ‘42
Visiting Sir Sydney
She and He: facsimile of Morris’ draft of a poem and Cockerell’s ms copy: note by
I am, Sir, your obedient servant:
Cockerell’s letters to the Press
Facsimile of letter from Morris supporting

Author
Stanley Morison
S.C. Cockerell
S.C. Cockerell
Philip Henderson
R.C.H. Briggs
R.C.H. Briggs
Cockerell’s application for Curatorship of Soane’s Museum
Tearing Johnston in pieces
The Published Writings of Sir Sydney Cockerell

Vol. 1 No. 3 Summer 1963
Morris' Reply to Whistler
L'Utopie de William Morris - aboutissement ou étape
Let us get clear of the fog
Morris and Yeats
The Morris Letters at Texas

Volume 1 No. 4 Summer 1964
Letters to Janey *
William Morris and his Circle: selective biography
Morris and Munthe
* Letters between Jane Morris and Rossetti newly accessible and here reviewed in detail.

Vol. 2 No. 1 Spring 1966
Introducing Morris: facsimile of a Ruskin letter
The Paintings of William Morris
William Morris and the Two Cultures
William Morris and his Circle: selective bibliography
William Morris’s Funeral

Vol 2 No. 2 Summer 1968
Morris at Oxford and Dublin
Morris to Louisa Baldwin: more letters at Texas
Memories of Kelmscott House
The Kelmscott Press: an Album from the ’90s
Ford Madox Brown’s stained glass (checklist)

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Memories of May Morris
Kelmscott to Kelmscott (by Violet Hunt)
Volsungasaga and Two Transformations
William Morris’s New and Lighter Design

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Senghor and Morris: Socialists
Brief Thoughts on ‘News from Nowhere’
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On the Binding of Kelmscott Press Books
1906 and all that

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E.H. New’s Diary of a Visit to Kelmscott Manor House
William Morris at St. James’s Palace
The Light of Holiness (C.S. Lewis on William Morris)
Morris and Cobden Sanderson
The Defence of Guenevere and contemporary critics
A Reviewer Reviewed

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Image and Motif in The Haystack in the Floods
The Revision of News from Nowhere
William Morris’ Incomplete Communism: a critique of Paul Meier’s thesis

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The Expedition of the Ark
Visions of Wild England (Morris and Richard Jefferies)
Red House and Ruskin

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A very fine and rare work of art
(Morris letter to H.H. Richardson)
Two unpublished letters of Dante Gabriel Rossetti
A Swedish-American translator of Morris
Morris and his Critics
The Symbolism of William Morris

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Morris to Swinburne
The Prettiness of Utopia
D.G. Rossetti and the poetry of W.B. Scott
The Death of Topsy

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Morris and the ‘Kingsley Movement’
A Visit to May Morris, 1925
William Morris and the Paris Préfecture
A Church without God

Colin Franklin
H.J. Stenning
David Cox
John Y. Le Bourgeois
Lionel Ady
John Randle
John Schofield
R.S. Smith
Robert Hoskins
J. Alex Macdonald
J.M. Baissus
J.R. Ebbatson
Jacques Migeon
Florence Boos
Michael Brook
Catherine Buckley
Ralph Berry
George P. Ladlow
John Helmer
Florence Boos
Philip Henderson
Elizabeth Brewer
Elfrida Manning
Jan Cohn
Helen Timo
The first issue of the *Journal*, in 1961, included a letter from John Purkis, clearly intended to start a debate, headed ‘What I expect from the William Morris Society’. It warned of ‘mere historiography’, fragmentation (‘the whole man disappears’) and concluded ‘Morris is in his grave but his ideas are marching on. Or do we leave his corpse for PhD students to devour?’.

His own recommendation was ‘more activity of a contemporary relevance’, for the Society to act as a ‘cultural pressure group’, and he listed some of the causes for concern at that time.

No response appeared in the second issue while the third carried a letter from the ‘despised class of PhD students’, defensive, but nonetheless hoping for ‘more of those “bigger issues” which Mr Purkiss hints at . . . ’; and a piece by Catherine Moody ‘Let us get clear of the fog’ showing more interest in what we now call the quality of life, and practice of the crafts, than the minutiae of scholarship. Later Peter Faulkner, following directly one of John Purkis’s leads, looked at the Snow/Leavis two cultures debate through Morris eyes. Apart from these, *Journal* contributors have hardly been seen outside the protection of the Victorian library. It has been left to others, like Schumacher, Illich, Papanek, to push Morris ideals forward.

When every new book about Morris contains an introduction referring to and often justifying its existence by the relevance of Morris’s thought to today’s problems, it is not right to ask if the Society itself is paying sufficient attention to social consequences; more particularly in relation to the inadequacies, not to say disasters, of our designed environment, or its *Journal* throwing the light of Morris’s wisdom, and drawing attention to his mostly unerring insights on these matters?

Geoffrey Bensusan