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JOSEPH TWYMAN, 1842-1904.

Joseph Twyman, the founder of the Morris Society, died in Chicago, Monday, June 13, 1904. He was born October 8, 1842, in the old seaport town of Ramsgate, England. His early life was spent in London and other parts of England in the study of art. He came to Chicago in 1870, becoming the foremost decorative artist in the United States and the leading exponent of those ideals of art and life for which William Morris stood.

At the funeral service the Reverend Frederic E. Dewhurst spoke as follows:

"Only a day or two before Mr. Twyman was taken ill, I called upon him on a matter of common interest, and lingered for a moment before leaving to admire the fragment of a frieze by Walter Crane which hangs above the fire-place. It needed only this word of appreciation on my part to call him forth, and with the enthusiasm of a true lover of the beautiful he described the symbolism of the frieze, and explained how the common and homely virtues of life, such as Love, Hospitality, Prudence, and Diligence, are all employed in holding up the roof of the house.

"Since our friend has left us, it has come back to me as a fitting description of his own enthusiastic devotion to life. We can say of

new accent and a fresh interpretation, when we think of the contribution which our comrades in the field of art are making with real devotion and patience: 'Establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it.' This seems a fitting prayer to offer for the departed spirit of our friend—'Establish Thou the work of his hands.' He would wish no ampler reward than to have the things he loved enter into and modify the life of the community, and to contribute to the welfare and happiness of those who are to live after us, or to quote from his own inscription under a picture of the figure of Mercy, surrounded by a group of joyous children—'The children rejoice with the mothers for the spirit of Christ in the land.'

"Mr. Twyman has left a tangible monument in the beautiful Morris-room, which has already proved a stimulus and inspiration to a great number of people. He has left his imprint in the development of the community and the neighborhood which have profited from his excellent judgment and taste—and all these things are contributions to the common life—to the elevation of the domestic and neighborly life. Therefore, like the noble figures in the fresco, he will live in our memory and our affection as one 'who helped to hold up the roof-tree of the home.'

"The community will be the poorer for the loss of him, but it is already the richer because he gave to it his ideals and himself.

"There are many factors and forces which enter into the making of a great city such as ours. Some of them are conspicuous, and stand out by the very power of their self assertion. Others are like the violet and the arbutus. So modest and unassertive are they that they must be searched for, but so fragrant and beautiful that they will be remembered and loved. It is perhaps among these hidden and fragrant things that the work of our friend is chiefly to be found, and there that it will abide."

Dr. Martin Schütze in the Chicago *Evening Post*, paid tribute to Mr. Twyman's work and character in the following terms:

"Joseph Twyman was not a mere skilled worker. Work and art were to him the expression of the entire personality, the ideals and

inspirations of the craftsman. Art to him was one with life and religion. This idea of the unity of life, this conviction that all the work of our hands, all our surroundings must be one with what is most beautiful in our being, accounts for the influence of his work and presence on the lives and characters of his clients. Truly he is a good man that draws forth what is good in others. He was an enthusiastic adherent of Morris. He worked in Morris's spirit. He was not a mere imitator, however, but an originator. He was an original designer for all applied crafts, and, besides, a worker in wood, metals, and mural decorations.

“As a very fitting tribute to his services in revolutionizing household art in America the Tobey Furniture Company has decided to dedicate the Morris room designed by him to the memory of Joseph Twyman. The chandeliers, curtain clasps, andirons, all in copper, and the carved mantel were designed by Joseph Twyman; the panels in the cupboard and over the mantel, painted by Miss Louise Twyman, his daughter, were under his direction. The hangings and wall paper are original Morris materials.

“As could not be otherwise, he had a strong community spirit. He was the originator and Chicago vice-president of the Morris Society, the purpose of which is the cultivation of the social ideals, craftsmanship, art, and poetry of William Morris; one of the originators of the South Park Workshop, a neighborhood association for the purpose of cultivating, by actual work and lectures, the spirit of sincere and beautiful workmanship in articles of domestic use; and also a charter member of the South Park Improvement Association. In all his work he was not satisfied with mere cleanliness and order, but he strove for beautifying everything he touched.

“In his own crafts, in encouraging the planting of trees and shrubs in cities, in conversation, and on the lecture platform, his enthusiasm, and yet almost childlike gentleness, made him very forceful and persuasive. He fought the unending battle against ugliness and sordidness in any form.”

An editorial in the Chicago *Record-Herald* noted Mr. Twyman's peculiar service:

“The death of Joseph Twyman, of Chicago, originator and vice-president of the Morris Society, will not evoke the eulogies that commonly mark the demise of a celebrity of local renown. And yet the influence of such a man as Twyman upon our artistic ideals and upon our notions of the work that is done with the hands could not be measured in the compass of any ordinary tribute.

“Twyman did not write poems or sermons in words, nor did he set jingles to music. And yet he was poet, preacher, and composer. It was his mission to carve poems into household art, to write sermons with tools deftly wielded by skilled fingers—in a word, to fill with beauty the common life of the people. His sermons, being graven in wood and metal, were tangible and real. His poems, wrought in the things we use in the commonplace duties of life, were set to the music that never dies. His ministry was consecrated to the noble cause of cultivating beautiful workmanship in articles of domestic use.

“And in doing this Joseph Twyman ennobled and exalted work. He gave to tools a new beauty. He loved his tools as a naturalist loves flowers. Through his work the hands of a master craftsman become the most wonderful creation of the great Artificer of us all. Through his work the things that are made in joy by skilled hands become our most precious possessions.

“The influence of such men as William Morris and Joseph Twyman upon their times means an increasing eagerness of the people to possess the things that are beautiful and artistic. It means that the things we have in our homes that represent individuality and originality, into which has gone the thought and ideals of a patient craftsman, will be more highly prized as the years go by.”

It will be fitting at this time to recall the sentence in one of Mr. Twyman's lectures that called the Morris Society into being:

“It seems to me that the day is nearer to the Morris Society period than that of the Shakespeare or the Browning; for William Morris wrote of life and work, of beauty and love, and lived all besides. We of today would couple the activities of life with its realities, in their most ideal forms and to their mutual advantage; we of today

would combine the practical with the esthetic, having in mind the one endeavor for happiness. We are seeking a luxury of beauty and durability more than a luxury of show and extravagance; we are looking, hoping, working for that brotherhood which makes men considerate of their neighbor, all occupations pleasurable as well as useful, and each one willing to do his part towards making the world cleaner in spirit, more lovely, and more just altogether. In this endeavor surely we can turn to no fellowship more profitably than to that of William Morris."

It has been suggested that the most appropriate memorial for Mr. Twyman is the Morris Society which he founded. To this end the Council requests an active co-operation of all the members in increasing the membership and in furthering the aims of the Society in every way possible. Suggestions for improvement and expansion may be sent to the Secretary at the office of publication.

LECTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Society offers to the public a number of lectures as named below. For information as to dates and fees address Mr. Edmund Buckley, 301 East Fifty-sixth street, Chicago.

Edmund Buckley: "Analysis of Decorative Art," illustrated by material; "Japanese Decorative Art," illustrated by material; "The Art of Walter Crane," illustrated by material or by slides.

Oscar L. Triggs: "William Morris as Poet, Craftsman and Reformer;" "The Art of William Morris," illustrated by material or by slides; "Historic Stages of Painting," illustrated by slides.