

The William Morris Gallery Collection

The William Morris Gallery collection is uniquely placed to tell the story of the life and work of Morris and his artistic circle. It includes original designs, textiles, wallpapers, furniture, stained glass, ceramics, metalwork, books and archival materials as well as personal items, such as his coffee cup and satchel. They offer a comprehensive view of the varied aspects of Morris's career – as a poet, designer, craftsman, retailer and social activist. His closest collaborators, including Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Philip Webb are also well-represented.

In addition to the Morris holdings, the Gallery owns a wide-ranging collection of Arts and Crafts material. This includes significant works by Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo and the Century Guild, William De Morgan, Walter Crane, May Morris, George Jack and Christopher Whall to name but a few.

The artist Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956) is also well-represented. Brangwyn served a brief apprenticeship with Morris & Co as a young man and was one of the Gallery's major early benefactors. With the encouragement of local artist, Walter Spradbery, Brangwyn donated a wide selection of his own work, including prints, oils, furniture, ceramics and designs for interior decorative schemes. He also gifted a fine art collection of works by the Pre-Raphaelites and other 19th and early 20th century British and Continental artists.

The Gallery's reading room and archive contain a wide range of specialist publications, rare books and manuscript material relating to William Morris, the Arts and Crafts Movement and the artist Frank Brangwyn.

Highlights from the archive include letters to family and friends, Morris & Co publicity materials, May Morris's notes on embroidery, Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo's unpublished 'History of the Arts and Crafts Movement', JW Mackail's notebooks and a wide range of material relating to the designer-craftsman George Jack.

The Gallery holds a full set of Kelmscott Press books, which can be consulted if not on display. We also hold copies of historic journals including *The Studio* magazine and a complete set of the Century Guild's *Hobby Horse*. There is a comprehensive selection of books on Morris and a good range of more general publications on nineteenth-century decorative arts.