

**NATURE AND ORNAMENT.  
I. NATURE THE RAW  
MATERIAL OF DESIGN**

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Nature and Ornament. I. Nature the Raw Material of Design by Lewis F. Day

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**LEWIS F. DAY**

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# NATURE AND ORNAMENT

I

NATURE  
THE RAW MATERIAL OF  
DESIGN

BY

LEWIS F. DAY

AUTHOR OF PATTERN DESIGN  
ORNAMENT & ITS APPLICATION  
LETTERING IN ORNAMENT  
WINDOWS, ENAMELLING, &c.

B. T. BATSFORD, LONDON

1908

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## PREFACE.

THIS volume is one of two which, taken together, will more than cover the ground of my "Nature in Ornament," first published in 1891. When it came to the consideration of a fourth edition of the book, I determined to make good a deficiency I had always felt in it, and to treat more fully than before the ornamental aspect of nature generally, and especially of natural growth in plant form. Starting with that intention, I have ended in writing two entirely new volumes of which this is the first.

The general purpose of them is to show the development of ornament from natural form, and its constant relation to nature; and further to deduce from the practice of past masters something like guiding principles to help the student in making his own best use of natural form in ornament.

The special purpose of this volume is to illustrate as fully as possible the decorative and ornamental character of natural growth, and its infinite suggestiveness as the starting point in design.

There will be found among its illustrations many details of plant growth which can hardly fail to be of use to the designer in his work; but their aim is not to do for him what he can only do for himself. To make sure of studies that will serve his individual turn an artist must make his own drawings. No one else can do more than fill gaps in them. The studies Miss Foord has made at my dictation are only samples of what is easily to be discovered by those who

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look for it. Their object is (1) to indicate the fulness and variety of suggestion everywhere in nature; (2) to show the kind of nature study which is most helpful towards design; (3) to call attention to sources of inspiration which have not been drawn upon by the designer as they might be; and (4) by showing the use that has already been made of natural growth and detail, to point the way to new and personal forms of ornament equally derived from nature.

Miss Foord's drawings are so many plain and definite, although most sympathetic, statements of fact, carefully observed, and meant to set others observing. They should be all the more useful in that they are drawn not only with exact knowledge of plant form, but with constant reference to what is available for the purposes of ornamental design.

The question of "Ornament in Nature" thus disposed of in my first volume, the second will be devoted to "Nature in Ornament," to the discovery, that is to say, of the inevitable traces of natural form in ornament, even the most abstract, and to the consideration of the "treatment" natural form has from first to last undergone in conformity with the conditions of ornament.

My thanks are due to Miss Newill and to Mr Cross for the use of their drawings, and to Miss Agnes Robertson for reading the proofs and keeping me within the bounds of botanical accuracy.

LEWIS F. DAY.

15 TAVITON STREET,  
LONDON, W.C.,  
*October 1908.*

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