

**WILLIAM MORRIS:
MASTER OF MANY
CRAFTS: A STUDY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649497638

William Morris: Master of Many Crafts: A Study by James Leatham

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JAMES LEATHAM

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MASTER OF MANY
CRAFTS: A STUDY**

**WILLIAM MORRIS, MASTER
OF MANY CRAFTS.**

Imprinted and Sold by James Leatham at the
Office of the "Peterhead Sentinel," at 14 S.
Andrew Street, in the town of Peterhead.
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WILLIAM MORRIS
MASTER OF
MANY CRAFTS. A
STUDY.

BY
JAMES LEATHAM.

Second Edition.

Peterhead ; *Sentinel* Office.
London : Twentieth Century Press, Ltd.
Aberdeen : A. Brown & Co.

1903.

32464.69.15

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CONTENTS.

	Page
PREFATORY NOTE - - -	5
INTRODUCTORY - - -	7
MORRIS'S POETRY - - -	17
MORRIS'S PROSE - - -	44
MORRIS AS ART CRAFTSMAN -	65
MORRIS'S MESSAGE AS A SOCIALIST	85
MORRIS THE MAN - - -	106

3110
44-105
51

*NOTE TO THE
SECOND
EDITION.*

THE following pages were written shortly after Morris's death and before the "Life" of him by Mr Mackail appeared. Had the author written now instead of six years ago he would have had both less and more to say upon certain matters than is here said; but in essential particulars the little book still represents his views, and is republished without notable alteration.

Morris touched life at so many points that any notice of his work must also be many-sided; and it is hoped the glance at

vi WILLIAM MORRIS.

some of his activities here will not be found too hasty or cursory.

In a time of political reaction and self-seeking megalomania it is pleasant to find that the Morris cult, which is progressive and seeks its gratification in the making of life humane and beautiful for others, should wax rather than wane. Morris's work has found a steadily increasing body of admirers and imitators. He has taught the teachers of the public, and although those who receive the lesson do not in most cases know of him to whose influence they respond, that is a less matter than that they should get the lesson and respond to the influence.

PETERHEAD, April, 1903.



William Morris, Master of Many Crafts.

I.

BY the death of William Morris, in 1896, Civilization lost one of her truest friends, Art one of her most devoted servants, and the "world of men and life" one of its most versatile and original personalities. Poet, prose-writer, designer, art-craftsman, and Socialist, "he touched nothing that he did not adorn" and advance. Few men have won even in one department the success he achieved in all the great branches of the world's work to which he set his hand. If ever man