

# Guide to the William Morris Collection

GEN MSS 45



by Beinecke Staff

2014

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 45

**CREATOR:** Morris, William, 1834-1896

**TITLE:** William Morris collection

**DATES:** 1870-1895

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of seven letters written by William Morris to friends and acquaintances, and a group of autograph manuscripts by Morris. One manuscript, "The Wood Beyond the World," is accompanied by a drawing made for the book by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones, and two impressions of the resulting engraving. Also present is a letter to the American collector Dean Sage regarding one of the manuscripts.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.morris>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.morris>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired from various sources, 1943-1975. Source information is recorded at the folder level in the contents list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The William Morris Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

William Morris Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Uncat MS Vault Morris, GEN MSS 45-45A.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Portions of the collection were microfilmed and appear on Beinecke Library Vault Film 524.

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## William Morris (1834-1896)

William Morris was an English designer, artist, writer, and socialist associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and the English Arts and Crafts Movement.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of seven letters written by William Morris to friends and acquaintances, and a group of autograph manuscripts by him. One manuscript, "The Wood Beyond the World," is accompanied by a drawing made for the book by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones, and two impressions of the resulting engraving.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Letters, 1870-1891. II. Writings, 1870-1895.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Letters, 1870-1891

7 Folders

Arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1	To "Dear Sir"; autograph letter, signed From the library of Bishop Charles A. Clough (Yale 1926); gift of Mrs. Clifton Clough.	1870 Feb 25
b. 1, f. 2	To "Mr. Craik"; autograph letter, signed Purchased from Arthur Rogers on the Phelps Fund, 1956.	1877 Jan 11
b. 1, f. 3	To "Dear Comrade"; autograph letter, signed Removed from J. W. Mackail, <i>The Life of William Morris</i> (London: 1899); purchased from Stonehill on the John Ewing Durand Memorial Fund, 1949.	1888 Apr 26
b. 1, f. 4	To Havelock Ellis; autograph letter, signed Purchased from Stonehill on the Hubert Amer McGuire Memorial Fund, 1961.	1890 Jun 2
b. 1, f. 5	To "Dear Sirs"; autograph letter, signed Gift of Elizabeth Wade White and Evelyn V. Holahan in memory of Carl Purlington Rollins, 1974.	1891 Feb 2
b. 1, f. 6	To "My dear Nichol"; autograph letter, signed Purchased from Charles Hamilton on the Francis O. Matthiesen Fund, 1957.	undated
b. 1, f. 7	To Charles Hazelwood Shannon; autograph letter, signed Purchased from Stonehill on the Starling W. Childs Library Fund, 1958.  Accompanied by two half-tone images of Morris, his calling card and his book stamp	undated

**Series II: Writings, 1870-1895**

5 Folders

Arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 8	<a href="#">"The Story of Harald the Hardredy"; autograph manuscript translation from the Icelandic by Eiríkr Magnússon</a>	circa 1870
	Purchased from Stonehill on the Frank Altschul Fund, 1946.	
	With autograph corrections and alterations by Morris, and autograph English translations of 89 verses of Icelandic poems.	
b. 1, f. 9	<a href="#">"Hopes and Fears for Art"; autograph manuscript</a>	1878-1893
	Purchased from Scribner on the John Ewing Durand Memorial Fund, 1943.	
	Four lectures delivered in Birmingham, London, and Nottingham: "The Art of the People" (23 p.); "The Beauty of Life" (31 p.); "Making the Best of It" (35 p.); "The Prospects of Architecture in Civilization" (38 p.).	
	Also bound in: "Westminster Abbey"; autograph manuscript (12 p.) accompanied by printed pamphlet <i>Concerning Westminster Abbey</i> (London: Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 1893)	
	Also bound in: "Arts and Crafts"; autograph manuscript, signed (4 p.), preface to <i>Arts and Crafts Essays by Members of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society</i> (London: Rivington, Percival & Co., 1893).	
b. 1, f. 10	"What is to Happen Next?"; autograph manuscript, signed	circa 1886
	Removed from J. W. Mackail, <i>The Life of William Morris</i> (London: 1899); purchased from Stonehill on the John Ewing Durand Memorial Fund, 1949.	
	Text of an article which appeared in <i>The Commonweal</i> , no. 28 (June 24, 1886), p. 129.	
	Accompanied by a typed letter from Dodd, Mead & Co., to Dean Sage (November 19, 1901).	
b. 1, f. 11-12	<a href="#">"The Wood Beyond the World"; autograph manuscript, signed</a>	1894-1895
	Bequest of Norman Holmes Pearson (Yale 1932), 1975.	
	With autograph corrections and additions (139 p.); published in 1894 by the Kelmscott Press.	
	Includes a graphite drawing by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones and two prints of the engraving after the drawing: a proof on paper and an impression on parchment. Also present is an autograph draft of a letter by Morris (July 16, 1895) to the editor of <i>The Spectator</i> regarding a review of <i>The Wood Beyond the World</i> published in that periodical.	

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Authors, English -- 19th century  
English literature -- 19th century

### **Genres / Formats**

Drawings (visual works) -- Great Britain -- 19th century  
Engravings (prints) -- Great Britain -- 19th century

### **Occupations**

Authors -- Great Britain -- 19th century

### **Names**

Burne-Jones, Edward Coley, 1833-1898  
Eiríkr Magnússon, 1833-1913  
Ellis, Havelock, 1859-1939  
Morris, William, 1834-1896  
Sage, Dean, 1841-1902  
Shannon, Charles, 1863-1937