



Warner Textile Archive
Silks Way, Braintree
Essex, CM7 3GB
www.warnertextilearchive.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE

26th January 2015, for immediate release:

Morris & Co. Design and Manufacture at Warner & Sons

In 2015 the **Warner Textile Archive** is celebrating the relationship between celebrated designer William Morris and Warner & Sons, marking the 120th year since Warner & Sons came to Braintree, and exploring the Company's important role in developing and supporting British design and manufacture throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Gallery Display

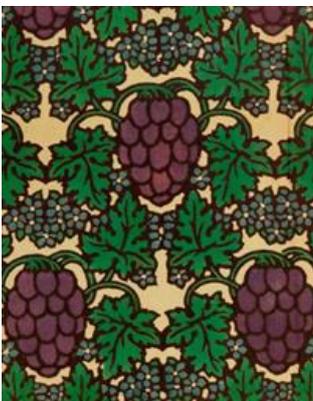
from Wednesday 4th February until Wednesday 16th December 2015

Carefully-selected items from the Archive's Collection of historic textiles and designs explore the creative relationship between Warner & Sons and Morris & Co., including their mutual appreciation for the natural world within design and craftsmanship.

Beautiful woven and block-printed textiles, as well as paper designs and photographs, come together to uncover a new dimension to Morris's celebrated legacy, demonstrating important developments in the dyeing industry, and changes in the way design was accessed by the population. Drawing upon recent research exploring the relationship between Morris and celebrated dyer Thomas Wardle, the display also highlights their reverence and mutual appreciation for the technical skills required for textile manufacture.



William Morris (1884)



C3280 (c.1900)
Block-printed cotton

Among the items on display is an important hand-woven velvet, *Acorn*, absent from the main national collections and on display for the very first time.

Gallery Display: Morris & Co.: Design and Manufacture at Warner & Sons

Dates: from 4th February until 16th December 2015

Venue: Warner Textile Archive, Silks Way, Braintree, Essex CM7 3GB

Opening times: every Wednesday and the first Saturday of the month, 10am – 4pm

Tickets: adults £4 / concessions £2 / children FREE



Talk & Light Luncheon

Saturday 20th June 2015 / 11am – 2pm

Join textile historian Mary Schoeser and Kate Wigley, Archivist at the Warner Textile Archive, for a special event exploring the Morris-Warner connection in greater detail, and the designers who influenced their work. A fascinating talk and study tour will look at examples of work by William Morris, his contemporaries and those in his circle. The event will focus on the relationship between design and manufacture, influential styles of the period, and how Morris's views on pattern sparked an appreciation by the public that continues today.



C2114 (1910)
Block-printed cotton

A colourful talk by Mary Schoeser, *From Ruskin to Morris*, will take visitors on a journey from the designs of Owen Jones, to the founding of the Art Workers' Guild in 1894, through to the rise of the Arts & Crafts movement. A Collection



Paper Design 311 (1870)
Hand-painted paper design

Study Tour with Archivist Kate Wigley will then explain Warner & Sons' arrival in Braintree, and the relationship between Warner, Wardle and Morris. Visitors will enjoy privileged access to the Archive Store, with a viewing of hand-woven silks, painted paper designs and dye notebooks spanning early 19th century designs, to the 20th century, when Warner & Sons was hand block printing some of Morris's most popular designs.

The talk and study tour will be followed by a delicious light luncheon, and guests will have an opportunity to browse the Archive Gallery and Shop.

Limited spaces are available. Please inform staff of any dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Event: Morris & Co.: Talk and Light Luncheon
Date: Saturday 20th June 2015
Time: 11am – 2pm
Venue: Warner Textile Archive, Silks Way, Braintree, Essex CM7 3GB
Tickets: £30 per person / please call 01376 557741 to book

For further information or high-res images, please contact:

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Note to editors:

The Warner Textile Archive is a unique design resource highlighting the successes and innovation of Warner & Sons, one of the nation's great textile companies, from the late 1800s. All events support the continued conservation of the Archive Collection.