

*William Morris and John Ruskin: A New Road on Which the World Should Travel* edited by John Blewitt and the William Morris Society. Exeter: U of Exeter P, 2019. 230 pp. ISBN 9781905816347. £30.

This excellent collection brings together thirteen essays that consider the intersecting interests, influences, and relationships of John Ruskin and William Morris from a range of perspectives and disciplines. Eleven of the essays in the volume were published in the *Journal of William Morris Studies* between 1977 and 2012. The year 2019 was the bicentenary of Ruskin's birth, so the volume feels particularly timely in its exploration of two exceptional public figures whose lives and achievements shaped intellectual, aesthetic, and material theory and practice from their time to the present.

When Morris first read Ruskin's writings as an Oxford University student in the mid-1850s, he claimed that Ruskin offered a "new road upon which the world should travel." This collection lays out that road, mapping the often parallel and sharply divergent careers of Morris and Ruskin in order to demonstrate the prominence of each man individually and both men together as they worked to design and implement their visions of the interrelationship of art and social practice. Drawing from their writings and works, letters and conversations, scholarly interpretations and cultural theories, these essays help us to reconsider and reframe our understanding of these dynamic men who were propelled by their shared resistance to the dehumanizing aspects of their industrial era, and by their belief that the world could be changed.

The essays demonstrate the range and magnitude of Morris and Ruskin as thinkers, writers, and practitioners. The essays dissect their personal and professional divisions as well as detail and deepen the complex ways in which they influenced one another personally and professionally. As John Blewitt's introduction notes, the collection brings together some of the *Journal of William Morris Studies*' best scholarly writing across four decades by people with wide-ranging academic, personal, political, or professional interests in Morris and Ruskin. Several of the articles revise familiar interpretations of Morris or Ruskin; several show that their work is linked in previously unexplored ways. By reconsidering aspects of these great men's lives and work from different angles, the collection produces a kaleidoscopic overview of their multifaceted achievements that deepens the impact of their individual and shared accomplishments – and sometimes hints at the strangeness of the common language they used, the similar goals they articulated, and the paths they took. The inevitable repetitions of quotations, examples, anecdotes, and evidence across the collection serve to enhance its effectiveness: while each essay approaches a topic closely, in company the articles resonate and refract