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How are we to regard William Morris? As a brilliant designer who wasted time dabbling in other subjects? As first and foremost a poet? As a political thinker? Or as a successful blend of all these – the last ‘universal man’ in the Renaissance tradition?

Certainly no one label is adequate for Morris. This selection shows the full range and diversity of his interests – literary, artistic, social, and political. His vitality as a writer emerges throughout, whether he is discussing art or social reform. *News from Nowhere*, the clearest statement of Morris’s vision of the Good Life in Utopian terms, takes its place among more ephemeral letters and pamphlets. Morris’s poetry is also represented.

Finally, a fully illustrated supplement, prepared by Graeme Shankland, presents Morris the designer, with examples of his tapestries, carpets, wallpaper, and furniture.

The cover shows William Morris’s Honeysuckle chintz