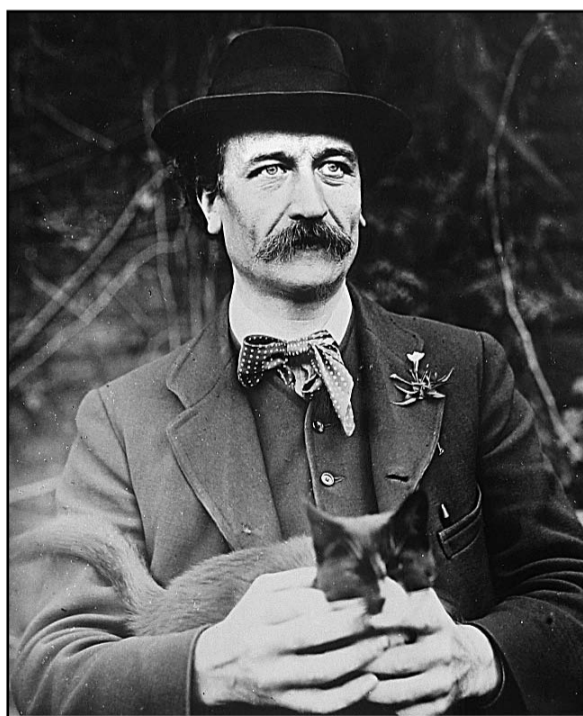


Emery Walker's house



The drawing room of 7 Hammersmith Terrace

One of Hammersmith and Fulham's Arts and Craft movement gems is open to the public. Emery Walker, friend of William Morris and founder of the Dove Press, lived at 7 Hammersmith Terrace. His home is now open to public tours.



Emery Walker moved to Hammersmith Terrace in 1879 and became a neighbour of Britain's leading light in the Arts and Crafts movement, William Morris. They became friends, sharing common political beliefs and a desire to push the boundaries of printing. A lecture given by Walker in 1888 at which he projected magic-lantern slides

of photographs he had taken of 16th-century typefaces gave Morris the idea for the last great project of his life, the Kelmscott Press. Described as peerless, 'far and away the most splendid of all private presses', Morris spent the five years between its setting up and his death in 1896 producing 52 hand-printed works, most with type and ornaments designed by

Morris. Walker acted as an unofficial advisor and by the time he died, Morris 'did not think the day complete without a sight' of Walker. In 1900 Walker set up his own fine-printing enterprise, the Doves Press, in partnership with the bookbinder T.J. Cobden-Sanderson. The Doves

Press books, with their clean typography and spacious setting inspired the revival of private-press printing in the 20th century. The Press itself came to an ignominious end when Cobden-Sanderson, by then a paranoid religious zealot, crept out at dead of night and tipped the Doves Press type into the Thames at Hammersmith Bridge to stop Walker from making use of the typeface.

Emery Walker was also a founder, or committee member of many of the key bodies that propagated the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, including the Art Workers' Guild, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society. He mixed with various artists and master craftsmen of the period, and as well as Morris, cited the likes of Rudyard Kipling and George Bernard Shaw as friends. Walker was knighted in 1930, and died three years later.

The house

The house at 7 Hammersmith Terrace is a fine example of an Arts and Crafts interior set in a

Georgian house. It was left to the Emery Walker Trust in 1999 and the style of the decoration is today very much as it was when Walker lived there. It is typical of the homes of many of the key figures in the Arts and Crafts movement. Photographs of the interiors of William Morris's own house, Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, show a similar combination of Morris & Co textiles, wallpapers and furniture, 17th and 18th-century furniture, middle eastern and North African textiles and ceramics.

Walker was a close friend of Philip Webb (1831-1915), the architect and designer who, with William Morris, was a leading member of the Arts and Crafts movement. When Webb died he left all his possessions to Emery Walker, and many of these, including important pieces of his own furniture, which he had designed for Morris and Co., as well as books and other personal items, survive in the house.

There are also a number of mementoes of William Morris himself, including a 17th-century chair from his library, given to Walker after Morris's death by his widow, Janey; woven Morris & Co. hangings from the library at Kelmscott House; and even several pairs of Morris's spectacles.

From the early years of the 20th century, Walker spent an increasing amount of his spare

time in the Cotswolds, and from 1922 until his death rented Daneway house near Cirencester. He developed friendships with many of the key figures of the Cotswolds Arts and Crafts movement, including the furniture makers and designers Ernest Gimson and Ernest Barnsley and the ceramic artists Alfred and Louise Powell and Grace Barnsley. Examples of their furniture and ceramics are in the house. These include a number of pieces made specially for Walker, such as a desk by Ernest Barnsley and Wedgwood plates, cups and jugs decorated by Alfred and Louise Powell.

A number of important Arts and Crafts interiors have been recreated in rural settings – Standen in Sussex, Kelmscott Manor in Oxfordshire, but 7 Hammersmith Terrace is a unique survival of an urban Arts and Crafts interior belonging to an important figure in the movement.

The opportunity

Tours of the house are available through to September. Because of the relatively small scale of the house all visits will be by guided tour and must be booked in advance. Tours are available on Thursdays and Fridays at 10.30am, 12.00noon and 2.00pm, for parties of up to eight people. Tours last



about one hour and tickets cost £10 each (full time student concession £5).

To book a tour visit www.emerywalker.org.uk and click on the 'Book a Visit' button. You can then easily book using the tour diary by following the simple instructions. Do not use the website contact form or email address to attempt to make a booking.

To book by telephone, call 020 8741 4104 and leave a message on the answering machine giving your name, a contact number and a choice of dates, and you will be called back to complete the booking process. To avoid disappointment, it is recommended that you have ready a second choice of date and time.