

A STUDY ON THE STRUCTURE OF WILLIAM MORRIS' S ESSAYS ON BOOKS

As an Origin of the Theory of Life in the Arts and Crafts Movement

The intention of this paper is to elucidate the structure of William Morris' s essays on books in 1890s and to evaluate it as an origin of the theory of life in the arts and crafts movement. This paper consists of three chapters. In Chapter 2, the position of Morris' s essays in his activities is described. The essays are rich in ideas about organic arts and they can be viewed as the fruition of Morris' s architectural thought. In Chapter 3, the concepts of "the epical" and "the ornamental" that lead Morris' s thought in 1890s are analyzed. The former is closely related with the life of the World which means an organism consisting of man and nature. The latter can be explained from three angles such as form, composition, and tradition. In Chapter 4, the meaning of the duality of books is dissertated through inquiring into Morris' s statements about "love of nature" and "the romantic quality" . These ethical qualities are needed not only for works by skilled artists or craftsmen but also for handiworks by ordinary people.