

A DECORATIVE ART: THE HISTORY OF WALLPAPER

Wallpaper is often regarded as the Cinderella of the Decorative Arts – the most ephemeral and least precious of the decorations produced for the home. Yet, the history of wallpaper is a long and fascinating subject that dates back to the 16th century and encompasses a huge range of beautiful patterns created both by anonymous hands and by some of the best-known designers of the 19th and 20th centuries. This lecture explores the history and development of this product from earliest times up to the present day. It includes a discussion of the changing ways in which wallpaper was made and a survey of designs from the first black and white patterns, the creation of elegant flock hangings, the fashion for Chinese hand-painted papers, the introduction of machine-printing, the designs of Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement, and the taste for Modernist and Contemporary designs in the 20th century. It also includes a discussion of the ways that wallpapers were used within grand and more ordinary homes and hopes to justify the claim that they were indeed a truly Decorative Art.



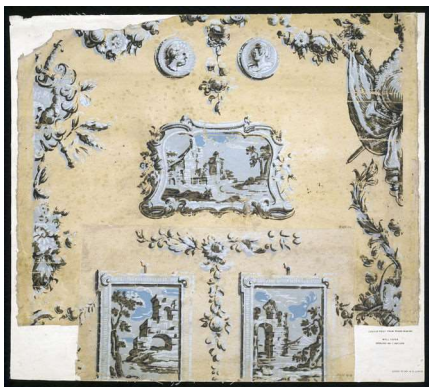
Wallpaper Poster, c.1890, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester



William Morris, Trellis, 1864, Victoria and Albert Museum



Walter Crane, Swan Dado, 1875, Victoria and Albert Museum



Print Room Style wallpaper, 1790, Victoria and Albert Museum



Temple Newsam wallpaper, 1790s, Temple Newsam Leeds