

Clouds Above The Grass

date: 2003-11-05T20:43:46+00:00 author: Sam Wilson layout: post guid: /?p=8
permalink: /2003/11/05/clouds-above-the-grass/ aktt_tweeted: - "1" views: -
"634" categories: - Woodworking tags: - decoration - quotations - William Morris
- woodwork — *An afternoon of a book, a cafe, a friend, much good talking and
only a little work done.*

William Morris' lectures on *Art and Socialism* from the last quarter of the 19th century kept me company in a juice bar in town this afternoon, but only for a short while before the noise got to me. Morris really does give me a lot to think about, almost all of it good or exciting; I find him attempting to answer many of the same questions that have come to me in recent years, and in a manner wholly fascinating and indeed often congruent with my way of thinking.

"To give people pleasure in the things they must perforce *use*, that is one great office of decoration; to give people pleasure in the things they must perforce *make*, that is the other use of it.
Does not our subject look important enough now? I say that without these arts, our rest would be vacant and uninteresting, our labour mere endurance, mere wearing away of body and mind." — William Morris, *The Lesser Arts*, 1877.

This 'decoration', could it not also include something that one could term 'decoration of activity'? Those non-functional things that one does when working such as enjoying the sound of a sharp handsaw as it cuts, or being in an attractive workshop. Or am I just a bit too tired to be thinking more about this?

The jamb that I picked up earlier I docked in two and would've started planing but had tea instead.