

**WILLIAM  
MORRIS**



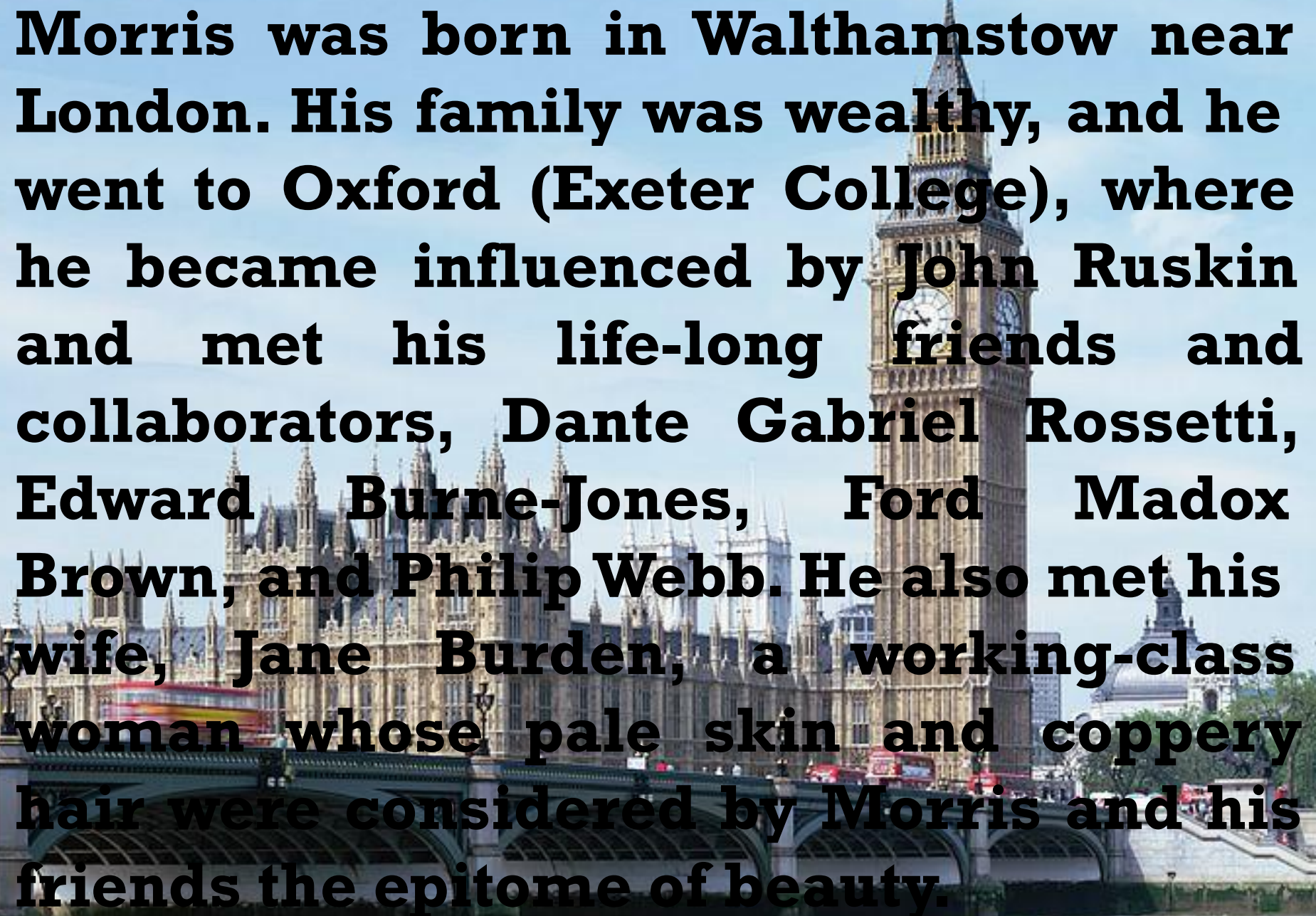


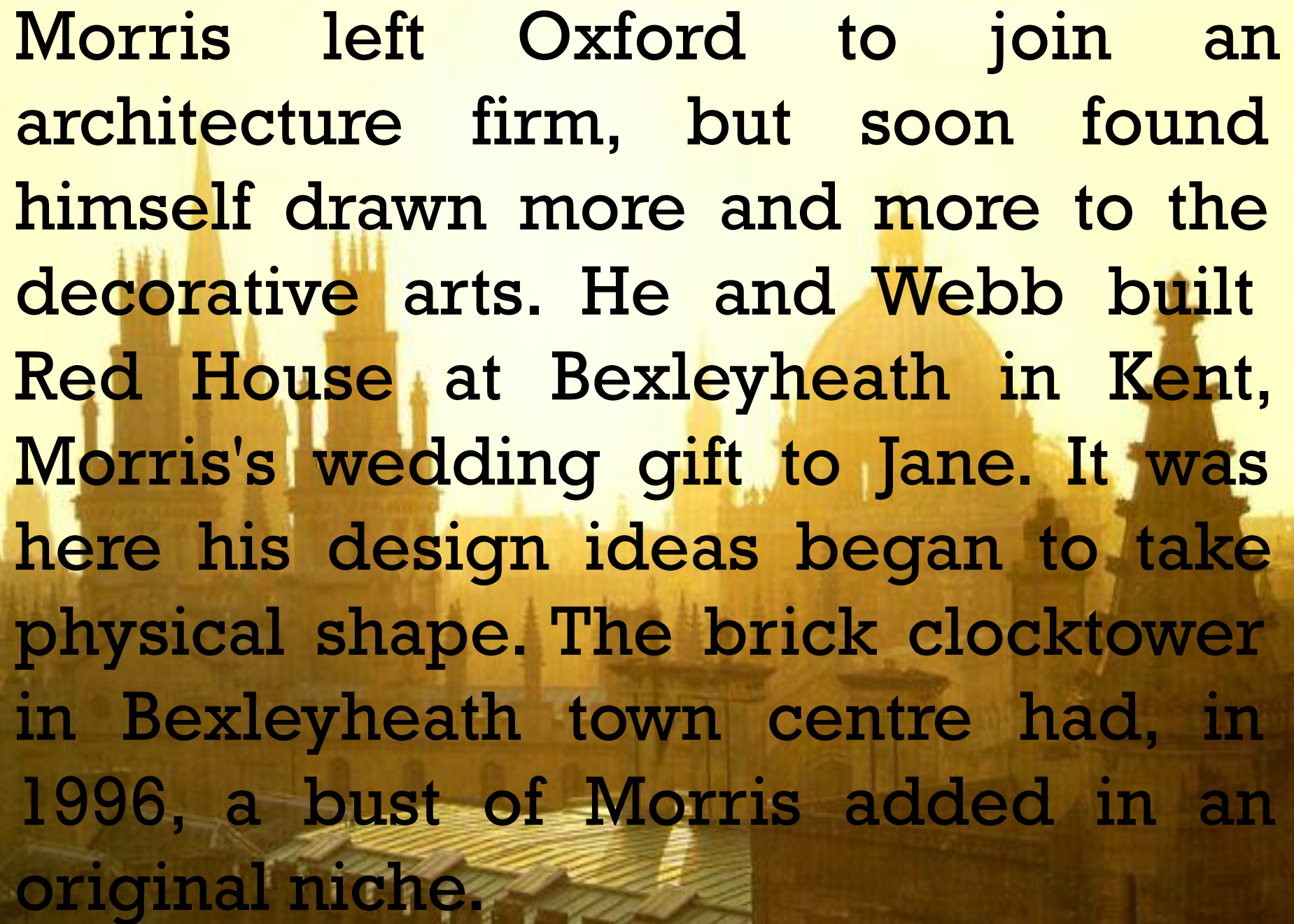
**William Morris (March 24, 1834 - October 3, 1896) was one of the principal founders of the British Arts and Crafts Movement and is best known as a designer of wallpaper and patterned fabrics, a writer of poetry and fiction, and an early founder of the socialist movement in Britain.**





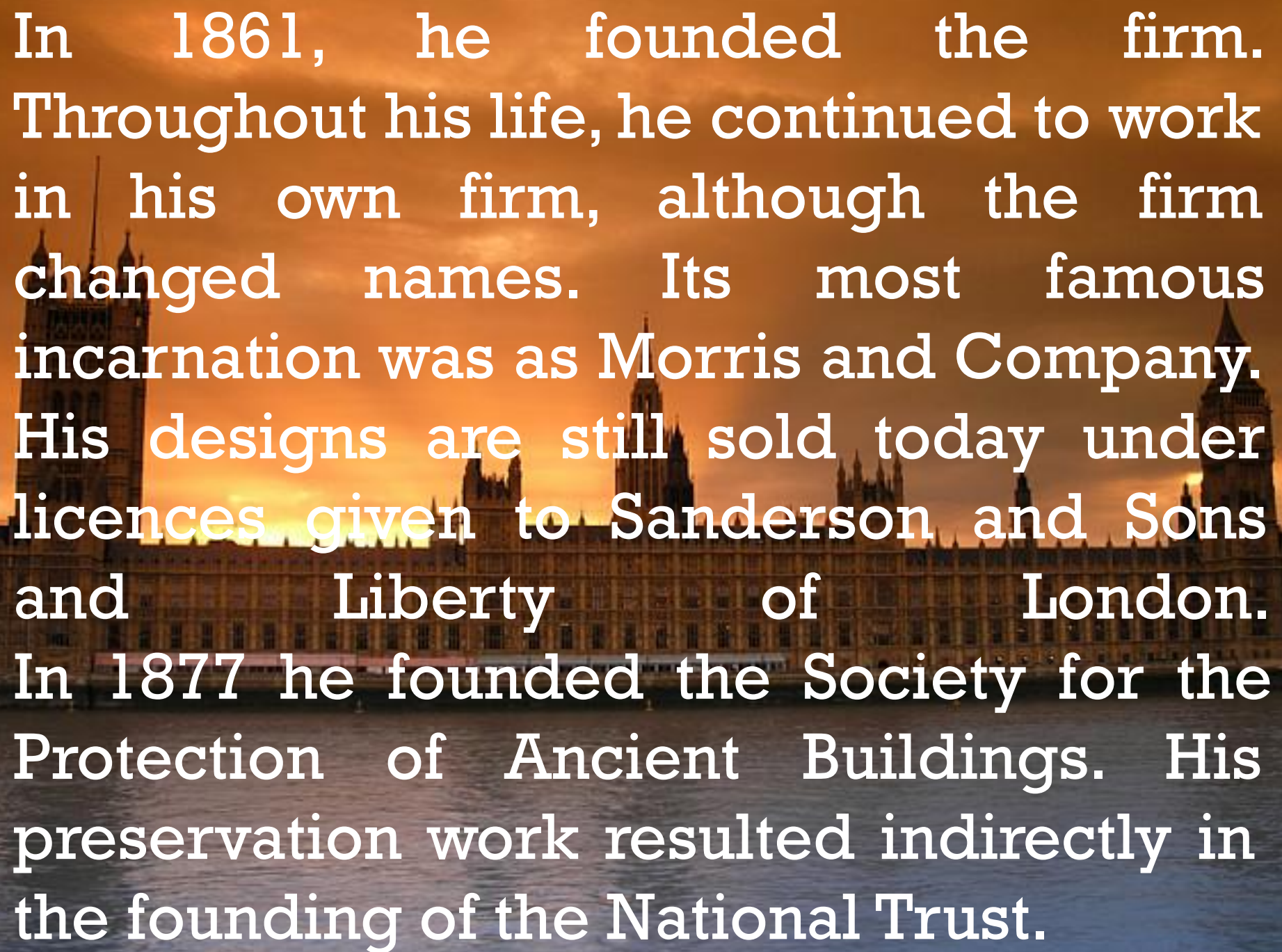
**Morris was born in Walthamstow near London. His family was wealthy, and he went to Oxford (Exeter College), where he became influenced by John Ruskin and met his life-long friends and collaborators, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, Ford Madox Brown, and Philip Webb. He also met his wife, Jane Burden, a working-class woman whose pale skin and coppery hair were considered by Morris and his friends the epitome of beauty.**

The background of the image is a photograph of the London skyline. The most prominent feature is the Elizabeth Tower, commonly known as Big Ben, which is a tall, ornate clock tower. To its left, the Houses of Parliament are visible, showing their intricate Gothic architecture. In the foreground, a bridge with multiple arches spans a body of water, likely the River Thames. The sky is a clear, pale blue.



Morris left Oxford to join an architecture firm, but soon found himself drawn more and more to the decorative arts. He and Webb built Red House at Bexleyheath in Kent, Morris's wedding gift to Jane. It was here his design ideas began to take physical shape. The brick clocktower in Bexleyheath town centre had, in 1996, a bust of Morris added in an original niche.



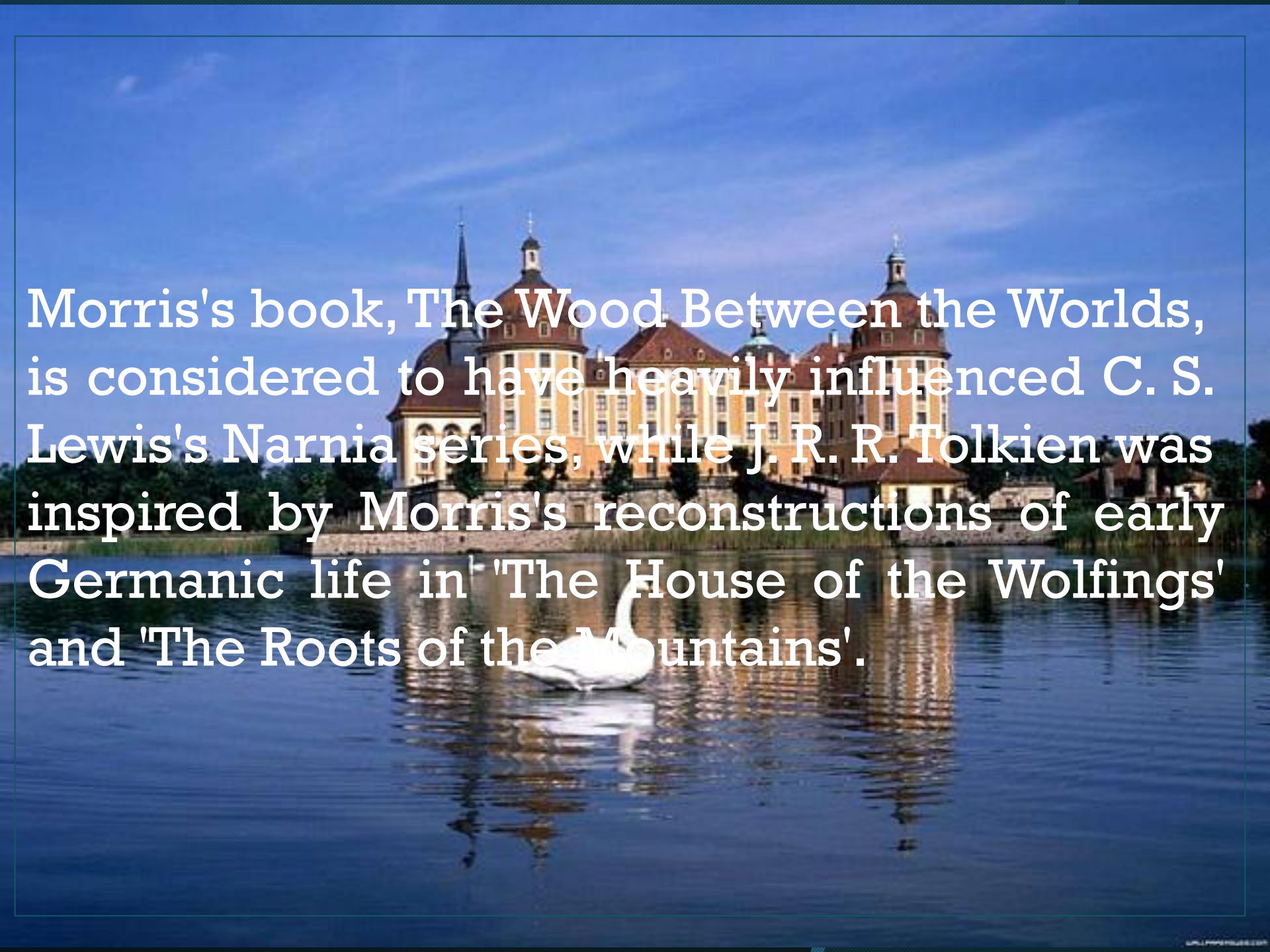
The background of the slide is a photograph of the Houses of Parliament in London, taken from across the River Thames. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, indicating sunset or sunrise. The building's intricate architecture, including the Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben), is silhouetted against the bright sky. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the light from the sky.

In 1861, he founded the firm. Throughout his life, he continued to work in his own firm, although the firm changed names. Its most famous incarnation was as Morris and Company. His designs are still sold today under licences given to Sanderson and Sons and Liberty of London. In 1877 he founded the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. His preservation work resulted indirectly in the founding of the National Trust.



In 1883 he joined the Social Democratic Federation, and in 1884 he organised the Socialist League. One of his best known works, *News from Nowhere*, is a utopian novel describing a socialist society. This side of Morris's work is well-discussed in the biography (subtitled 'Romantic to Revolutionary') by E. P. Thompson. Morris and Rossetti rented a country house, Kelmscott Manor near Lechlade, Gloucestershire, as a summer retreat, but it soon became a retreat for Rossetti and Jane Morris to have a long-lasting affair. To escape the discomfort, Morris often travelled to Iceland, where he researched Icelandic legends that later became the basis of poems and novels.





Morris's book, *The Wood Between the Worlds*, is considered to have heavily influenced C. S. Lewis's *Narnia* series, while J. R. R. Tolkien was inspired by Morris's reconstructions of early Germanic life in 'The House of the Wolfings' and 'The Roots of the Mountains'.



A photograph of a street in Oxford, England, showing red brick buildings and a clear blue sky with clouds. The street is lined with historic red brick buildings. On the left, a large building with a curved facade and arched windows is visible. On the right, a row of multi-story brick houses with white window frames and black railings along the sidewalk. The street is paved with asphalt and has yellow road markings. A red and white striped sign is visible on the left side of the street. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

**William Morris died in 1896  
and was interred in the  
churchyard at Kelmscott  
village in Oxfordshire.**



## Literary Works

The Defence of Guinevere, and other Poems (1858)

The Life and Death of Jason (1867)

The Earthly Paradise (1868-70)

The Story of Sigurd the Volsung and the Fall of the Nibelungs (1876)

Love is Enough, or The Freeing of Pharamond (1872)

A Dream of John Ball (1886)

The Roots of the Mountains (1889)

News from Nowhere (1890)

The Story of the Glittering Plain (1890)

The Well at the World's End (1892)

The Wood Beyond the World (1892)