

BULLETIN

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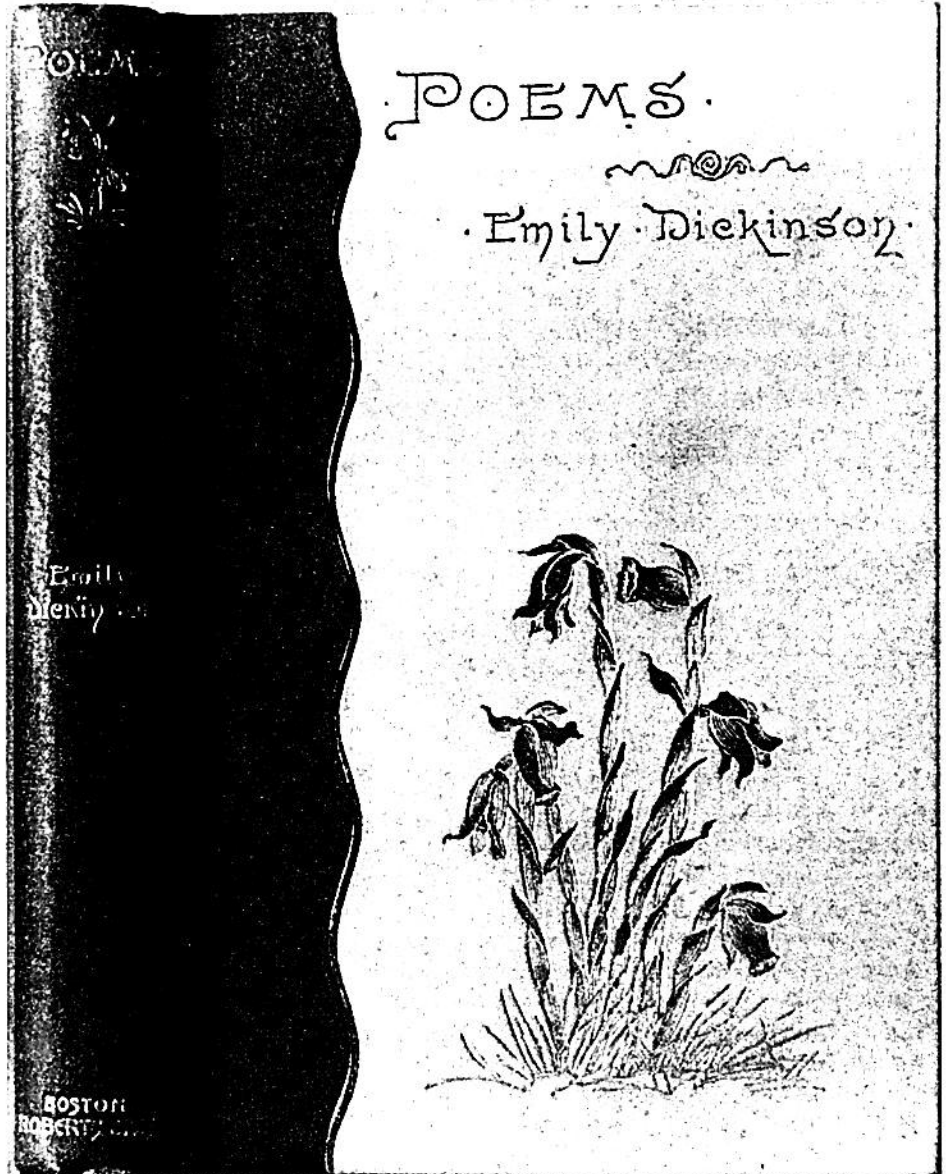
Nov./Dec. 1989

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

1990, the first membership year of EDIS, marks also the centenary of the first publication of Emily Dickinson's poems. In the one hundred years the general public has enjoyed Dickinson's poetry, first in edited form and then in the Johnson edition, which tried to represent as closely as possible the poet's own text, Emily Dickinson's reputation has risen steadily. No longer considered "a minor poet," Dickinson is now firmly established in the American Parnassus of literary figures.

From the start, Dickinson's influence was felt beyond the narrow bounds of scholarly activity. Writers like William Dean Howells, Amy Lowell, and Hart Crane felt the power of her language; in 1893, only three years after *Poems* by Emily Dickinson first appeared, Howells was quoting her poems to encourage young Stephen Crane to write. Novels and drama about her life began to appear. In 1941, Martha Graham transformed Dickinson's "Letter to the World" in ballet. By the 1950's, many of her poems had been set to music. Ideas and images from her poems and letters have been 'translated' into many different art forms, from lithographs to comic strips. Several talented writers and actresses are recreating Dickinson's persona and poetry in performances that teach as they delight.

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EDIS RECEPTION AT MLA

There will be an Emily Dickinson International Society reception at the 1989 MLA in Washington, D.C. The reception is being hosted by the National Portrait Gallery, December

28, from 6:00-7:30. Refreshments will be served. Please join us to celebrate our first year of incorporation, to enjoy the special and standing collections of the National Portrait Gallery, and to raise a glass to Emily Dickinson. Invitations for the

reception may be obtained at the University of Wisconsin Press booth, from EDIS board members at the MLA, or by writing to EDIS President, 1300 Greenleaf Canyon Road, Topanga, CA 90240.

MESSAGE *Continued*

This general interest in and admiration of Dickinson's poetry has extended beyond the English-speaking world. By 1988, four of her poems had been translated into German; today new translations and editions are regularly appearing in many languages throughout the world. The strength of Dickinson's international reputation may be seen in the existence of Dickinson societies in Denmark and Japan.

It is therefore appropriate, as we enter a second century of reading Dickinson's work, that we join together in an international network of scholars, artists, admirers alike, to share our understanding and our creations, and to develop a greater knowledge and appreciation of this remarkable American poet. I am happy to inform the membership that the Emily Dickinson Society of Japan and Emily Dickinson Society, Inc. have joined us as local chapters of EDIS (see Members' News for more information on these societies). As an American Author Society, we have recently affiliated with the Council of American Authors in the newly formed American Literature Association.

EDIS founding members decided at the outset the importance of recognizing that Emily Dickinson belonged to a world-wide community of readers. It is appropriate that our first international conference, scheduled for October 1991 in Washington, D.C., is based on the theme of "Translating Dickinson" in both languages and cultures. We plan to sponsor a journal in Dickinson studies that will enable us more easily to share and exchange ideas by bringing new research into one format. As many of you know, the history of Dickinson publication has been fraught with feuds which have resulted in the fragmentation of the archives. The Dickinson world owes a debt of gratitude to Amherst College for rescuing the Homestead from private obliquity and more recently to the late Mrs. Mary Leete Hampson for a similar effort on the part of the Evergreens. As a Society, we are dedicated to the goal of developing a Dickinson Foundation that will contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of the Dickinson-Bianchi

houses, as well as contribute to the already strong collections at The Jones and the Frost Libraries in Amherst. We should like to develop a Center for Dickinson Studies that will benefit scholars and researchers and will support visiting professorships and guest lectures on Dickinson throughout the world.

We know our goals are ambitious. We know, too, that many of you share them. We are convinced that the Dickinson world community can together accomplish what individuals cannot. And so we invite you to work with us to make these goals a reality. I am, therefore, pleased to welcome you as a charter member of our newly formed society. I hope that you will find our Bulletins informative and useful, and that you will share with us your projects and activities.

Margaret H. Freeman

Fame is a bee.

It has a song —

It has a sting —

Ah, too, it has a wing.

DUES AND GIFTS
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Emily Dickinson International Society, Inc. is registered as a public corporation under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 180, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The official registered agent of the corporation is Barry White, Foley, Hoag & Eliot, One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

The corporation is filed under sections 509 (a) (1) and 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
SCHEDULED FOR 1991

EDIS's first international conference has been tentatively scheduled for October 1991 in Washington, D.C. We think it appropriate that our first theme, "Translating Emily Dickinson," unites the many different cultural and artistic approaches to Dickinson's poetry as well as concerning itself with how Dickinson's poetry is understood through translations into various languages. Foreign scholars will have the opportunity to discuss problems of text and interpretation with their American counterparts.

Currently in early planning stages, the conference will feature public events, including readings and performances, daily plenary sessions, major addresses, panels, and translation workshops. Watch for further information on location, registration information, and program details in future issues of the Bulletin.

For further information on the conference, contact:

Dr. Barbara Mossberg
Vice-President, EDIS
1658 29 Street
Washington, D.C. 20007

EMILY DICKINSON
BOOKSTORE COLLECTION

Members might be interested to know that the Jeffery Amherst Bookshop, 55 South Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002, has the most comprehensive collection of Dickinson publications in print and maintains a mailing list for dissemination of new publication information. Members interested in having their names added to the mailing list should contact Mr. H. Gersten at the above address.

PUBLICATIONS

NEW DICKINSON CRITICISM

★ Boswell, Jeanetta. *Emily Dickinson: A Bibliography of Secondary Sources with Selective Annotations 1890 - 1987*. Jefferson, North Carolina: MacFarland, 1989.

★ Buckingham, Willis J. *Emily Dickinson's Reception in the 1890s*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1989.

★ Dobson, Joanne. *Dickinson and the Strategies of Reticence: The Woman Writer in Nineteenth Century America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989.

★ Kjaer, Niels. *Soren Kierkegaard og Emily Dickinson: Wn sammenlignende studie*. Faaborg, 1989. A comparison of the lives and writings of the two nineteenth-century authors. In Danish, with an English summary. Available by sending \$10.00 to:
Rev. Niels Kjaer
Lyo Praestegaard
5600 Faaborg
Denmark

★ Stonum, Gary Lee. *The Dickinson Sublime*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989.



SPECIAL DICKINSON PUBLICATIONS

Please send us information about ongoing or single publications of Dickinson journals, pamphlets, or other material pertaining to this poet - especially the kind of material not easily located in bookstores or libraries. This might include musical settings for Dickinson poems, collections of poems on Dickinson, or plays published or performed on this poet.

★ Carlisle, Thomas John. *Invisible Harvest*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1987. This volume of Carlisle's 110 best poems includes a selection of poems inspired by Emily Dickinson under the title, "The Woman with the Perfect Word." Available by sending \$7.95 to T. J. Carlisle, 437 Lachenauer Drive, Watertown, NY 13606.

★ Leibs, Andrew, ed. *The Single Hound: The Poetry and Image of Emily Dickinson*. The Single Hound is published by Andrew Leibs twice a year, in December and May. A third issue, published in September, will begin in 1990. Volume 1, number 1 contains the following articles:

An Interview with Richard B. Sewall

"Emily Dickinson in Japan," by Masako Takeda

"Emily Dickinson's Refined Ingenuities," by Thornton H. Parsons

"Emily Dickinson's Green Experiment," by James Hafley

"Dickinson Out Loud," by Robert Bly.

Yearly subscriptions: \$12 per year for individuals, \$20 per year for institutions in the United States and Canada. Foreign subscribers add \$3 per year. Single copies are \$7.

Articles submitted must be brief, fewer than 10 pages, typed, double spaced, and deal with the poetry or life of Emily Dickinson. Articles that discuss separate poems, preferably ones that have

REVIEWS

This will be a regular section of future Bulletins. Please send brief (250 words or less), informational reviews of recently published books that are on Dickinson or contain major sections on Dickinson. We are especially interested in reviews and notices of work appearing outside the United States.

Emily Dickinson, by Bettina L. Knapp. New York: Continuum, 1989. \$18.95.

Bettina L. Knapp, a frequent Frederick Ungar biographer, has added a volume on Emily Dickinson to that publisher's Life and Literature of American Writers series. The book is divided into three sections: the first concisely summarizes the major events of Dickinson's life, and the remaining two present an essentially Jungian reading and interpretation of selected poems.

In the biographical section, both the material presented and the supporting references indicate that Knapp has relied heavily on Cynthia Griffin Wolff's recent study of Dickinson. Perhaps as a consequence, she draws a rather ponderous and gloomy picture of a cruelly overbearing father and entirely effaced mother as the key factors in Dickinson's "nonconformist" life. Knapp posits that Dickinson, disappointed by her father, her mother, and her God, needed to find alternatives in order to survive. Thus, she wrote her poetry to "carve out her own myth." Further, Knapp believes that "the disparate nature of [Dickinson's] mental circuits, enmeshed in her potent anguish, (was) temporarily assuaged via the ruthless energy of the poetic principal" which led her to an "immersion into the limitless waters of the collective unconscious." Knapp maps this immersion through an analysis of the "coded signs," Jungian symbols, that she finds in many of the poems.

Though I was not entirely convinced by the theory of Dickinson's psychological development and organization which drives this study, I did

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find the discussion of the symbols to be useful. For example, in her discussion of poem #520, "I started Early—Took my Dog," Knapp examines the significance of Pearl ("—Then my Shoes / Would overflow with Pearl—") and argues convincingly that it is the key image of the poem. Pearls, through their association with water, Aphrodite, transformation, creativity, and beauty can be seen to "stand for spiritual values, the sublimation of instincts and matter, and the transfiguration of the elements," and thus, by extension, the core of Dickinson's life, her existence and, perhaps, her poetry. Such meticulous and thorough analyses of the traditional mythopoetic patterns underlying many of Dickinson's frequently used images can, at times, be quite illuminating.

Blythe Forcey,
University of Colorado

Phillips, Elizabeth. *Emily Dickinson: Personae and Performance*.
Pennsylvania State University Press,
1988. \$24.95

In *Emily Dickinson: Personae and Performance*, Elizabeth Phillips argues for revising the images of Dickinson as "mad woman in the attic," victim of a hapless love affair and of the "tyrannies of man." Criticism of Dickinson's poetry, Phillips asserts, has been shaped by a vision of the poet as "solitaire," limited to observations of herself and to lyricism. In place of Higginson's "partially cracked poetess," Phillips constructs a poet who was a "skilled impersonator," who "soliloquized," "pontificated," and "entertained" both on the page and in person. Dickinson was, Phillips contends, a social critic, an astute observer of the literary marketplace, a dramatic—as well as lyric—poet; the poems she characterizes as "self-conscious—but not self-enclosed—literary performances," "disparate parts of a world." "The practice of reading from the poet's life to the poetry and from the poems should," Phillip argues, "be extended beyond that closed circle to include the evidence that

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RECENT AND FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Watch this section for announcements of a variety of upcoming events. Because EDIS is an international organization, and because many scholars travel, it is appropriate to list events occurring both outside and inside the U.S. For the next (May/June) Bulletin, send information to Margaret Freeman by March 31, 1990. Reports on conferences or other major events that have already occurred will be printed in the "Conference Report" section; please keep us informed about these events as well.

★ **NEH Summer Seminar:** "The Poetry of Emily Dickinson." Douglas Leonard, Director. Seminar runs June 25 - July 26, 1990. Participant stipend: \$2,375. For more information, write:

Douglas Leonard
Gustavus Adolphus College
St. Peter, MN 56082.

★ **NEH Summer Institute for Secondary Teachers:** "Myths of Amherst: Emily Dickinson and the Nineteenth-Century New England Village." Wendy Kohler, Director. Institute runs July 9 - August 3, 1990. For more information, contact:

Wendy Kohler
Amherst College
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 549-3975

★ The first annual conference of the newly formed **American Literature Association** is tentatively scheduled for May 31 - June 3, 1990 at the Bahia Resort (on the beach at Mission Bay) in San Diego. EDIS hopes to sponsor another session or sessions at next year's meeting. For more information, contact:

Vivian Pollak
Dept. of English GN-30
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195.

EDIS Board Members and Committees

President: Margaret H. Freeman

Vice-President: Barbara Mossberg

Treasurer: Martha Nell Smith

Secretary: Cristanne Miller

Board Members: Joanne Dobson, Jane Eberwein, Suzanne Juhasz, Christer Mossberg, Marc Pachter, Vivian Pollak, Gary Lee Stonum

Standing Committees:

Fundraising: Mark Pachter (chair);
Harriet Bergmann.

Membership: Jane Eberwein (chair);
Karen Dandurand, Gary Leonard,
Stephen Tanner.

Publications: Suzanne Juhasz (chair);
Joanne Dobson, Cristanne Miller, Vivian Pollak.

Conference and Programs: Barbara Mossberg (chair).

Library: Vivian Pollak (chair); Daniel Lombardo, John Lancaster.

Members interested in serving on any of the standing committees should contact the chair directly.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Cal State Symposium on American Literature

EDIS sponsored a session at the Cal State Symposium on American Literature, a conference on American Writers and an organizing meeting for a coalition of the societies devoted to the study of American Authors. The conference was held on June 1-3 at the Grosvenor Inn in San Diego, and was sponsored by the Department of English, California State University, Los Angeles, under the able leadership of the conference director, Alfred Bendixen. Our session was held on Friday afternoon, June 2, and was chaired by Vivian R. Pollak of the University of Washington. The papers were as follows:

"Dickinson, Women Writers, and the Marketplace," by Betsy Erkkila, University of Pennsylvania.

"Letter 912 to Susan Huntington Dickinson: The Encoding of Desire," by Ellen Louise Hart, University of California, Santa Cruz.

"Dickinson: Charisma, Set Piece, Reputation, and Reading," by Jonathan Morse, University of Hawaii.

"The Victorian Origins of Emily Dickinson's Art," by Gary Lee Stonum, Case Western Reserve University.

Vivian R. Pollak

Remember
EDIS Reception

at MLA

December 28, 1989

6:00 - 7:30

National Portrait
Gallery

Amherst Conference: "Emily Dickinson in Public"

Well over a hundred Dickinsonians from six countries assembled in Amherst October 27-28, 1989 to commemorate the 1890 publications of poems and letters. Sponsored by Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, the University of Massachusetts, Five Colleges Incorporated, the Jeffrey Amherst Bookshop, The Dickinson Homestead, and Edythe Goellner, the conference made good use of local resources to focus interest on the poet's cultural context. Carol Birtwistle of the Homestead and David Porter of the University of Massachusetts, administrator and director of the events, scheduled a welcoming reception at the Homestead, concluding hospitality amid special displays at the Robert Frost Library, after a full day of sessions at the Johnson Chapel on the Amherst College campus.

Much attention focused on Dickinson's early audiences, both those she knew and those whom her poems reached posthumously. Richard Sewall's keynote address featured Helen Hunt Jackson as the only ideal respondent Dickinson reached in her lifetime, while Willis Buckingham demonstrated a more appreciative reception of the 1890 books than has previously been suspected. A panel on "Emily Dickinson and the Publishing Marketplace," moderated by Dorothea Steiner of Austria, (participants Karen Dandurand, David Reynolds, William Shurr, and R. Jackson Wilson), grappled with issues related to Dickinson's own attitude toward publication, her awareness of the literary market in her time, and the place of writing in her life. Another panel, "The Reclusive Poet in her Cultural Context," was jointly moderated by Tamaaki Yamakawa of the Emily Dickinson Society of Japan (see Members' News) and David Porter (participants: Martha Ackmann, Mary Elizabeth Kromer Bernhard, Robert Gross, Polly Longworth, Barton Levi St. Armand, and Cynthia Griffin Wolff).

The conference demonstrated some interesting shifts in Dickinson scholarship—away from biographical focus and away from interpretation of

poems toward documentation of cultural context and toward awareness of reading experience under various historical circumstances. Dorothea Steiner called attention to the divergent experiences of English-speaking readers, who may grow up with Dickinson, and those from other language backgrounds, who come to her initially as scholars. Barton St. Armand opened realms for exploration by urging application of "history of the book" methods, combined with gender study, to compare the experience of those who first met Dickinson through what he called the "user friendly," artistic, somewhat feminine 1890 Poems that were presented to appeal to the high aesthetic taste of that decade with those who have encountered the harder, modernist, even masculine form of Johnson's scholarly variorum. He suggested that someone should investigate who actually read the early volumes, how they were used (as gifts from women to women, men to women, men to men, women to men?), and what responses they evoked from ordinary readers (evidence of marginalia, tear-stains, dried flowers and other markers).

With plans already in progress for the 1991 EDIS conference on translation of Dickinson poems, the Amherst sessions opened perspectives on work yet to be done. Barely considered was the translating role assumed by Mabel Loomis Todd and Thomas Wentworth Higginson in the editorial decisions they made to present the poet to her first public audience. Touched upon briefly was the issue of literal translation from language to language, with Masako Takeda offering a brief but fascinating statement on her experiences translating Dickinson's poems into the Japanese language with its three genders. Translations of poetry into other arts was hinted at in the conference's use of Todd's Indian pipe drawing on the program cover, but there is much more to be done. Ellen Donkin's superb interpretive reading of passages from the poems and letters as arranged by David Porter called attention to the translational aspects of moving poetry from the printed page to the spoken word.

Jane Donahue Eberwein

MEMBERS' NEWS

This will be a regular section of future Bulletins, in which we will print interesting responses to our society and information about individual members or local chapters of EDIS. We are particularly interested in hearing about and helping to publicize the activities of local chapters. Send news on local chapters or events to the editor, and we will print at least a selection of what you send. Individuals interested in establishing a local chapter in their city, state, or country might contact EDIS President Margaret Freeman or Membership Committee Chair Jane Eberwein (Department of English, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48063) to receive names and addresses of EDIS members in your area.

EDIS is pleased to report that it now has 213 members in eleven different countries. We have 140 from the United States; 19 from Japan; and at least one member from Switzerland, Denmark, Poland, England, Austria, Israel, and Canada. Local chapters in Japan and Washington, D.C. have already been formed and are meeting regularly.

Most Japanese members are also members of the Emily Dickinson Society of Japan, presently headquartered at the Sacred Heart of Women's University in Tokyo. The Japanese Society has been active for some time, and we are especially pleased to welcome them to our membership rolls. One of our Japanese members, Mr. Naoki Onishi, just completed a year as a visiting scholar at Harvard.

*This is my letter to the World
That never wrote to Me —*

Also recently joining us as a local chapter is the Emily Dickinson Society headquartered in Washington, D.C. Meeting regularly four to six times a year at the Stone Ridge Country Day School in Bethesda, Maryland, for the past three years (usually on the first Sunday afternoon of October, November, December, February, March, and April), the Society has sponsored various programs. One of their first projects was a workshop for high school teachers in the Washington area. Almost 100 teachers

attended a full day of talks and seminars designed to help develop strategies for teaching Emily Dickinson and American poetry. Musical recitals by Mary Ann Sewall and lectures by Paula Bennett, Mary DeShazer, Cristanne Miller, and Barbara Mossberg have also been sponsored by the society.

From members' responses to our first mailing, it is clear that many all over the world are enjoying the study of Emily Dickinson. In Quebec, Anne Atkinson performs *An Exaltation of Larks*, a performance of music and drama based on the life and poetry of Emily Dickinson. Recently one member forwarded a wonderful book translating Dickinson's poems into Frisian. Roger White, a member from Haifa, Israel, must have one of the most complete bibliographical files on Dickinson in the world; he regularly sends clippings mentioning Dickinson's name to Cristanne Miller, EDIS secretary. Several mention the impact that Dickinson has had and continues to have on their lives.

Another correspondent of special interest is J. Harold Kittleson, from whom we received a delightful letter. He tells us that for the past "sixty years plus!" he has been taking pleasure in nineteenth-century New England poets, essayists, and novelists. Some years ago he generously donated his extensive collection of first editions of these writers to the Minneapolis Public Library Special Collections. This collection includes many early first editions of works on Dickinson, as well as substantial holdings of works by Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Holmes, Whittier, and Longfellow.

THE DICKINSON FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Flora M. Stene, Secretary of the Dickinson Family Association, and Emily Elizabeth Dickinson's third cousin, three times removed, recently contacted us with information about this organization. Comprised of descendents of Nathaniel Dickinson, the poet's great-great-great-great-great grandfather, the Dickinson Family Association claims a proud heritage. As Richard Sewall tells us at the outset of his splendid biography, Nathaniel Dickinson "came over with

the Great Migration led by John Winthrop in 1630." Settling first in Wethersfield, Connecticut, Nathaniel later founded Hadley, Massachusetts; Amherst split off from Hadley in 1759. Of his many, many descendents, Flora Stene writes that Emily Dickinson was "assuredly the most prestigious of all the cousins." We are also delighted to welcome Professor Sewall as a member of EDIS.

Martha Nell Smith

TOKENS ON DICKINSON'S GRAVE: AN INQUIRY

Can any reader explain the impulse of visitors to leave mementos on Emily Dickinson's grave? Several participants in the recent Amherst conference noticed when visiting the cemetery that her stone is now ornamented with a changing collection of objects. Not only was there a faded pot of chrysanthemums at the foot of the gravemarker, but there were also fresh and plastic flowers on its narrow top along with an assortment of small stones, a pencil, an eraser, and a photograph of an unidentified family. As the collection grew during my recent week in town, I noticed that some of the objects gradually got shifted from Emily's grave marker to the top of Lavinia's — with no such tributes offered to either parent or to surrounding stones of local worthies, some of them friends of the poet. Judith Farr notes that Jews often leave a stone when visiting a loved one's grave but has no explanation for the other objects. The stone also collects pennies, as though the poet needed fare for Charon. Daniel Lombardo, Special Collections curator of The Jones Library in Amherst, reports receiving inquiries about why people leave coins on Emily's gravestone. Visitors who had made pilgrimages to the site in previous years had no recollections of such tributes, which seem to be a new phenomenon. Can anyone help make sense of this practice? One thinks of the cairn rising at the site of Thoreau's Walden cabin as the result of analogous private tributes and wonders whether there are additional examples.

Jane Donahue Eberwein

THE FOUNDING OF THE EMILY DICKINSON INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

The idea for a Dickinson Society germinated amid the festivities in 1986 of the centennial of Emily Dickinson's death. In Washington, D.C., where the Folger Shakespeare Library sponsored the most lavish of the celebrations, what was to become the first local chapter of EDIS had already begun to form. Later that fall another smaller conference was held at the University of Dayton in Ohio. Many of those present had participated in other meetings held during the previous year, and shared the enthusiasm they had witnessed across the country and internationally.

Despite the proliferation of societies devoted to the lives and work of other poets and authors, none existed in honor of Dickinson. Furthermore, although more than a dozen books about Dickinson had been published in the past decade, there were no academic journals devoted to her art. Conferences focussing on her poetry consistently drew huge crowds, yet it had become increasingly difficult to arrange for panels to discuss her work at the annual meetings of the Modern Language Association. The success of the Dayton conference prompted the desire to create a permanent organization which would facilitate such discussions, journals, and panels.

One Year ago — jots what?

Once expressed, this desire began to materialize into the beginnings of a society. By the time the MLA next met in December 1986 a planning group, headed by Margaret Freeman, had begun to discuss structural and organizational issues. The following February this group held its first formal meeting at the Columbia Historical Society in Washington. Legal procedures preoccupied most of that year (1987). Christer Mossberg of Coudert Brothers in Washington D.C. donated his services as legal advisor to the society, ensuring compliance with state and federal laws.

On May 24, 1988 Emily Dickinson International Society, Inc. became official. The initiation ceremony took place amidst the Dickinson writings and memorabilia in The Jones Library in Amherst, Massachusetts, witnessed by nine of the twelve founding directors and by seven new members. In the year and a half since that first official meeting, EDIS has been preoccupied with clarifying its long-term and immediate goals, and with setting machinery in operation for its current activities: its first large membership mailing, publication of its first Bulletin, and planning for its first international conference. At a minimum, Board meetings are held annually in May or June. Dates and times of future Board meetings will be posted in the Bulletin. All members are invited to attend the open meetings.

*Best, to know and tell,
Can one find the rare Ear
Not too dull —*

REVIEWS Continued

Dickinson also took notice of other people and what she could learn from them."

Phillips may extend the "closed circle," but she rarely goes beyond it, drawn back in by the apparently irresistible urge to recreate—and in this case, vindicate—the poet. Paradoxically, grounding her argument in biography and intention, Phillips makes assertions such as Dickinson "would have appreciated the critics who hold that the poems are autonomous and are to be read for themselves." To the field of "warring theories" about Dickinson, Phillips offers an image which represents, at best, a disparate part of the world that was the poet.

Desiree E. Hellegers
University of Washington, Seattle

SPECIAL DICKINSON PUBLICATIONS *Continued*

not yet been given much attention, are especially welcome. *The Single Hound* also looks for interviews, book reviews, and excerpts from speeches on Dickinson. Address submissions to:

The Single Hound
Box 598
Newmarket, NH 03875

Editor's note:

Welcome to EDIS. Although future Bulletins of this organization will vary somewhat according to information and material submitted by EDIS members, generally each Bulletin will contain the regular features presented: reports from the committees or officers of the governing Board (when appropriate); various news on publications; informational book reviews; reports and announcements on conferences or other Dickinson events; members' notes; and brief essays, observations, and announcements on a variety of topics relating to this poet. These essays and observations may be on Dickinson's work, aspects of her life, the Dickinson houses, Dickinson studies, or on other topics of interest to the poet's admirers and scholars. While not all material submitted may be published, the Bulletin will attempt to represent accurately the interests and activities of the international Dickinson community. Minor editorial changes may be made in copy submitted, particularly in the interest of brevity. For the next (May/June 1990) Bulletin, submit material before March 31, 1990 to:

Margaret Freeman
1300 Greenleaf Canyon Road
Topanga, CA 90290

Cristanne Miller,
Editor of Vol. 1, no. 1.