

EDIS Annual Business Meeting
August 5, 2001
Brittania Hotel
Trondheim, Norway

Approximately 75 present

EDIS President Jonnie Guerra convened the meeting at 12:10 p.m., welcoming all members and conference participants.

Guerra announced the next three EDIS conferences:

- the 2002 Annual Meeting will take place July 26 – 28 in Amherst and have as its theme “Dickinson in Song”;
- specific dates for the 2003 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia have not yet been selected, but the theme will be “Dickinson and Other Writers”;
- the fifth International Conference is scheduled for July 30 – August 1, 2004, in Hilo, Hawaii, with Jonathan Morse, Suzanne Juhasz, Vivian Pollak, and others organizing events.

Guerra explained that the Scholar in Amherst Scholarship is a \$2000 grant that requires a one-week minimum stay in Amherst. The scholarship will be awarded to someone who would benefit from such a visit and opportunity. The deadline for applications is October 15, 2001; the scholarship will be awarded in December 2001 or January, 2002, for the year beginning January 2002. Interested applicants should contact Ellen Louise Hart or Jonnie Guerra. Information is also available on the EDIS web site.

Guerra announced that the EDIS Board has decided to initiate a National Dickinson Week in April; the dates, yet to be selected, will be connected to Emily Dickinson’s [April 15, 1862] letter to Higginson, asking him if her verse was alive. More information will be forthcoming in the *EDIS Bulletin*, but Guerra suggested that the week could be celebrated in a number of ways: the donation of a book to a library, readings, lectures, concert events – all to be announced in local newspapers, mentioning EDIS. Later, the results would be reported in the *EDIS Bulletin*. Membership Chairman Jim Fraser will play a large role in publicizing and promoting this effort to make EDIS more visible.

Guerra announced that EDIS had filed a trademark application and is awaiting a final report that will be published in the fall 2001 *EDIS Bulletin*.

Guerra said that EDIS will make a \$500 contribution to each of the following: the Jones Library, the Homestead, and the Evergreens.

Finally, Guerra announced the sad news that no later than June of next year Georgiana Strickland will resign as the *EDIS Bulletin* Editor so that she can pursue research interests of her own. She will have been Editor for 11 years. Guerra expressed a wish to honor and recognize Strickland for her fine work. In response, Strickland received a

standing ovation from those at the meeting. A search for a new editor will begin immediately, and further news on this topic may be found in the *EDIS Bulletin*.

Paul Crumbley asked for approval of the minutes from the August 2000 meeting. Since all members had not read the minutes, he suggested provisional approval. His motion was seconded and passed.

Jonnie Guerra gave the treasurer's report in Ellen Louise Hart's absence. A balance of approximately \$16,000 includes the money for the Scholar in Amherst Scholarship.

Membership Chairman Jim Fraser reported that John Hopkins University Press is now keeping records of the EDIS membership. The Press reports 340 members from 25 countries. Fraser noted that, as a reflection of the diversity represented in the membership, two new members are from Copenhagen and Fort Wayne, Indiana. As an appreciative Dickinson reader rather than as a Dickinson scholar, Fraser encouraged others, not just scholars, to join EDIS and participate in events. Guerra added that application forms for membership are available in the lobby. Juhasz mentioned that EDIS is interested in increasing its membership and that one way of doing that is for members to get others to join. Guerra said that anyone interested in having meetings should let her know.

Nominations Committee Chairman Ellie Heginbotham reported that she and members of her committee (Martha Nell Smith and Gary Stonum) submitted the following nominees to the EDIS Board, and it had elected Jonnie Guerra as President, Suzanne Juhasz as Vice-president, Ellen Louise Hart as Treasurer, and Barbara Kelly as Secretary. The Board also re-appointed Jonnie Guerra, Ellen Louise Hart, Mary Loeffelholz, and Cristanne Miller, whose terms expire this year, for another three-year term as directors. Heginbotham expressed a wish to expand the nominating committee.

Georgiana Strickland gave an updated report on the 2002 Annual Meeting in Amherst. Announcing that the theme will be "Dickinson in Song," Strickland added that the Evergreens can now be included as a venue in addition to the Jones Library, the Homestead, and the cemetery. Musical performances as well as interactive events are being considered. With 2000 musical settings for Dickinson's poems to draw upon, Strickland suggested that one activity, among others, might be to compare settings for one poem. Guerra added that EDIS has tried to be inter-disciplinary at all conferences from the beginning, focusing especially on what Dickinson herself experienced.

Suzanne Juhasz reported on the panels EDIS has sponsored for the Modern Language Association (MLA), the American Literature Association (ALA), and the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW).

- At the 2000 MLA, two panels, "Dickinson and the Civil War" and "Dickinson and the Victorians," were well attended; panels scheduled for 2001 MLA are "Mourning Dickinson" and "Remembering Dickinson"; and panels scheduled for

2002 MLA are “Sounding Dickinson, Seeing Dickinson” and another, as yet untitled, panel.

- The ALA featured two panels on Dickinson: “Dickinson and Material Culture” and “Emily Dickinson’s Reception.” Proposed topics for the 2002 meeting are “Dickinson As Precursor” and “Dickinson and Politics.”
- The SSAWW panels on Dickinson were “Dickinson and Other Women Writers” and “Dickinson and Her Critics”; the SSAWW meets every other year, and future panel topics will be noted in the *EDIS Bulletin*.

Editor of the *Emily Dickinson Journal*, Gary Stonum, reported that it had been a quiet year. The move to John Hopkins University Press means that the contents of the *Journal* are now available at the John Hopkins/*Emily Dickinson Journal* web site. Stonum received a good showing of hands when he asked how many members knew that the *Journal* is available on the web. Stonum solicited submissions of Trondheim conference papers, either complete or partly reduced in size by November 1, 2001. Guerra announced that selected papers from the proceedings of the 1999 Holyoke conference are available [Gudrun M. Grabher and Martina Antretter, eds.] as a supplement to the papers already published in the *Journal* [vol. ix, no. 2].

EDIS Bulletin Editor, Georgiana Strickland, reported that the fall 2001 *Bulletin* will focus on the Trondheim conference, containing brief reports of the conference sessions, and that panel chairs will need copies of the papers presented for accurate reports. The spring issue will resume with the usual assortment of articles. Strickland expressed her thanks to everyone who had been helpful to her in editing the *Bulletin*, including Jonnie Guerra, the Poet to Poet Series Editor; Jane Eberwein, the Dickinson Scholars Series Editor; Marianne Garbowsky who reported on Dickinson and the visual arts; Cindy Dickinson and Gregory Farmer, the Editors from the Dickinson houses; and Barbara Kelly, the Book Review Editor. Strickland said that she felt fortunate to edit a publication where the writing is well done. She announced that if anyone is having a problem receiving the *Bulletin*, John Hopkins should be contacted for membership status. If that doesn’t work, Strickland said to contact her. Reflecting on the change in editorship, Strickland said that the job takes time but brings rewards, among which are friendships with people all over the world. She added that the rewards outweigh the cost in time. Guerra noted that the *EDIS Bulletin* Editor sits on the EDIS Board.

Curator of the Homestead, Cindy Dickinson brought greetings from Amherst and said she was looking forward to seeing everyone next year at the Annual Meeting. Her report included four items:

- She reported on the conversion of the back ell of the Homestead from a 1970s era kitchen to a reception area for visitors; the first floor will now be handicapped accessible and have a bathroom.
- A new booklet intended for visitors is available for \$5 plus postage at the Homestead web site: www.dickinsonhomestead.org.
- The \$500 gift from EDIS will be used to remove mold from a photograph of Edward Dickinson.

- Jane Wald, formerly of Old Sturbridge Village, is the new director of the Evergreens; Gregory Farmer will continue as project manager; the Evergreens will be open two days a week through October.

In connection with the next international conference at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii, Jonathan Morse gave a brief preview by showing a few representative slides. He noted that Hawaii does get snow and has skiing; Mauna Kea has about 15 international observatories associated with the University of Hawaii.

Before closing the meeting, Guerra asked if there were questions or announcements from the membership. She announced that Virginia Dupuey is hosting a three-day musical festival at the University of Texas in Austin, May 26. Brochures will be mailed to members of EDIS, and others may get in touch with Jim Fraser. Textual scholars and musicians are welcome. The event will be announced in the *Bulletin*. Guerra asked Betty Bernhard to stand as the member-at-large on the EDIS Board. Guerra thanked Cris Miller and Domhnall Mitchell for a splendid three days in Trondheim. Miller thanked all the cordial people at the conference, for submitting papers, for coming, for making a wonderful conference.

Guerra adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Kelly
EDIS Secretary