

EDIS Annual Business Meeting
July 31, 2005
Alumni House
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Approximately 60 present

EDIS President Gudrun Grabher convened the meeting at 11:15 a.m., welcoming all members and thanking Margaret Freeman and her team for the hard work that they gave to making this year's Annual Meeting such a success. She then announced upcoming EDIS meetings and international conferences and their themes:

- The 2006 Annual Meeting will take place at the University of Maryland in College Park from August 4 to 6. The theme will be "The Economy of Pain."
- The 2007 EDIS International Conference will take place in Kyoto, Japan from August 3 to 5. The theme will be "Fabrics of the East."
- The 2008 Annual Meeting will take place in Amherst, Massachusetts, dates and theme yet to be determined.

Grabher invited applications for the Scholar in Amherst Program, announcing that four such awards had already been made. She also invited applications for the Graduate Student Fellowship, stating that more information about the Fellowship and the Scholar in Amherst Award is available at the EDIS website. The new address for the EDIS website is emilydickinsoninternationalsociety.org.

Grabher officially donated \$1,000 to the Emily Dickinson Museum. Jane Wald, Director of Resources and Collections, accepted the donation. Grabher also stated that a donation of \$500 would be made to the Jones Library.

Grabher introduced Cristanne Miller as the new editor of *The Emily Dickinson Journal* and invited members to send submissions to both the *Journal* and the *Bulletin*.

In the absence of EDIS Secretary Barbara Kelly, EDIS Vice President Paul Crumbley asked for approval of the 2004 minutes. The membership unanimously approved the minutes.

James Fraser, the EDIS Treasurer, reported that the EDIS bank balance was \$21,072.64. Fraser further stated that this was an acceptable balance for this time of year and pointed out that EDIS will actually make money on the 2005 Annual Meeting.

In the absence of Erica Scheurer, EDIS Membership Chair, Fraser announced that as of July 7, 2005, EDIS had 330 active, fully paid members. Of these, 45 are from 21

countries outside the United States. The total number of current members marks a decline of 23 over the last year that Scheurer attributes to the increase in membership that took place in advance of last year's international conference in Hawaii. When compared with membership in 2003, the year before the conference, the current figure represents a net increase of two members.

Grabher reported that Vivian Pollak, Martha Ackmann, Marianne Noble and Martha Nell Smith have all been elected to new terms on the Executive Board. All current EDIS officers were also re-elected for another year.

Jonnie Guerra reiterated Grabher's invitation to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting at the University of Maryland. She explained that Marianne Noble, Martha Nell Smith and Eleanor Heginbotham are all residents and that everyone should feel at home. The theme, "The Economy of Pain," is a phrase taken from Linda Pastan's poetic tribute to Dickinson. Grabher has agreed to give an opening address and Hart, Juhasz, Miller and Noble have agreed to lead workshops on poems illustrating Dickinson's "economy of pain." Dancer Meisha Bosma will perform an original dance piece inspired by Dickinson. There will also be a panel of poets.

Grabher opened the meeting to member comments. Guerra announced that the "Poet to Poet" column in the newest issue of the *Bulletin* will feature Cynthia Hogue. She invited suggestions for poets to be featured in future issues. A longtime member expressed his appreciation for the high level of audience participation built into this year's meeting. Margaret Freeman proposed that EDIS contribute funds to erect permanent signs on the Emily Dickinson Trail recently constructed in Amherst. A new member expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to participate actively in so many of this year's events. She stated that she particularly liked the experience of reading poems out loud and requested that more time be scheduled for participatory activities.

Grabher thanked all present and adjourned the meeting at 11:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Crumbley
EDIS Vice President