

EDIS Annual Business Meeting
Palace Side Hotel
Grande and Moderato Rooms
Kyoto, Japan
August 5, 2007

Approximately 21 members present

President Gudrun Grabher convened the meeting at 1:00 by welcoming all present and expressing her gratitude to EDIS Japan for being such wonderful hosts. She also extended a special thanks to Mary Loeffelholz, Martha Nell Smith, Vivian Pollak, and Cristanne Miller for their hard work putting together the program for the conference. Grabher took great pleasure in stating that the conference had broken even financially. She then announced that the Board had voted to change the By-Laws to expand the number of Member-at-Large seats from one to three. Grabher explained that this change would increase opportunities for members to serve on the Board and that the new members-at-large would actively solicit the participation of all members in the planning and coordination of EDIS activities. Grabher announced that the 2007 Graduate Fellowship was awarded to Karen Anderson, who is completing her dissertation at Cornell University. She noted that there would be no Scholar in Amherst for 2007 and encouraged members to apply, stating that next year's award will be in honor of Suzanne Juhasz and Jane Eberwein. Grabher concluded her opening remarks by announcing EDIS would contribute \$1,000 to the Dickinson Museum and \$500 to the Jones Library.

Announcements and Actions taken:

- By-Laws changed to increase the number of Members-at-Large from one to three.
- EDIS breaks even financially with the Japan conference.
- Members-at-Large will communicate views of the general membership to the Board and request that members assist with society duties, such as organizing conference panels and planning meetings.
- Karen Anderson of Cornell University awarded the EDIS Graduate Fellowship for 2007.
- EDIS financial standing is sound with a checking account balance of \$17,155.
- EDIS officers elected: Paul Crumbley, President; Martha Ackmann, Vice President; James Fraser, Treasurer; Barbara Kelly, Secretary.
- 2008 Annual Meeting to take place in Amherst from August 1 to 3. The meeting will celebrate the 20th anniversary of EDIS and will introduce the first Dickinson Discussion Institute.
- 2009 Annual Meeting will take place in Regina, Saskatchewan from July 30 to August 2.

Paul Crumbley, in the absence of EDIS secretary Barbara Kelly, asked if there were any inaccuracies or omissions in the minutes from the 2006 Board meeting that took place on the University of Maryland campus. Martha Nell Smith pointed out that Erika Scheurer's name appeared as "Erica" instead of "Érika." Crumbley noted the error and said it would be corrected. Crumbley then asked for and received approval for the minutes.

In the absence of Jim Fraser, EDIS Treasurer, Crumbley provided a brief summary of the report prepared by Fraser. Crumbley reported that the EDIS checking account balance on July 1, 2006 was \$20,665.00 and that on June 30, 2007 it stood at \$17,155. This drop in the balance is not inconsistent with variations that take place annually and is therefore not a cause for great concern.

Due to Jonnie Guerra's early departure, Eleanor Heginbotham gave the Membership Committee report by stating that she and Guerra had discussed increasing EDIS membership with Johns Hopkins University Press and that Lisa Close at JHUP had agreed to assist with marketing. Close specifically recommended that the upcoming 20th anniversary of EDIS be incorporated in a direct marketing effort. Georgiana Strickland announced that she had agreed to edit a new column in the *Bulletin* that would run stories by members about how they became involved with EDIS.

In the absence of Ellen Louise Hart, Grabher presented the Nominating Committee Report. Grabher announced that the Board had elected Crumbley President, Martha Ackmann Vice President, James Fraser Treasurer, and Barbara Kelly Secretary. Grabher then stated that the Board had voted to change the By-Laws to expand the number of Member-at-Large seats from one to three. She explained that this change would increase opportunities for members to serve on the Board and that the new members-at-large would actively solicit member participation in the planning and coordination of EDIS activities. Grabher also explained that the Board would vote in the fall to fill an open seat on the Board. Grabher concluded by introducing the new Member-at-Large, Barbara Dana.

At this point, Grabher invited questions from the membership about EDIS activities. Vivian Pollak asked for clarification of membership dues and if the time of year when a membership was established made a difference in the benefits one received. Grabher and Cristanne Miller explained that the closer to the end of the year that a person joined, the sooner they would receive a renewal request, but that this would not make a difference in their receiving a year's membership or receiving the *Bulletin* or the *Journal*. Cynthia Hallen asked if there were any way to avoid having concurrent panels at conferences so that attendees could be present for all sessions. Grabher explained that financial constraints and the length of conferences made concurrent sessions unavoidable. Grabher then reminded the membership that all were invited to send submissions for the EDIS sessions at the 2007 Modern Language Association and American Literature Association annual conferences to Jed Deppman for MLA or Stephanie Tingley for ALA.

Crumbley opened the report on planning for the 2008 Annual Meeting that will take place August 1-3 in Amherst. This meeting will mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of EDIS and will be dedicated to the general theme of "Celebration." Crumbley mentioned that he and Cristanne Miller had moved forward with plans for the Emily Dickinson Discussion Institute that will take place on Friday, August 1. Miller then explained that poets Mark Doty, Elizabeth Willis, and Michael Ryan will appear as featured speakers. Miller mentioned that she and Crumbley will issue a general invitation to all members as well as a formal call for papers for those who need to be part of the official program in order to receive funds for travel. The Discussion Institute theme is "The Role of Narrative in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson." Crumbley then explained that the Annual Board Meeting will take place from 9:00 to 12:00 in

the morning of Saturday, August 2. The Members Meeting will then take place from 1:00 to 4:00 and include the Annual Business Meeting plus an opportunity for past EDIS Presidents to recall high points of their terms in office. Following the presidents' reflections, the floor will be opened to a general discussion of future EDIS plans. Following the Members Meeting, between 4:00 and 6:30, all members will be invited to the premier of Alberto Mancini's exhibit of 29 paintings inspired by Dickinson poems. The exhibit will take place at the Marsh Gallery at Amherst College. Mancini will make a brief presentation with a reception to follow. A banquet will then take place in Louis Sebring Hall with poetry readings and an open mic to follow. Sunday, August 3, will begin with the Research Circle, perhaps include a yet to be specified entertainment, and conclude with lunch.

Grabher then surprised Hiroko Uno, the primary coordinator for EDIS Japan who had worked so hard with Grabher and the other organizers, by giving her a gift and thanking her on behalf of all EDIS members. Grabher spoke glowingly of the skill with which all the logistics had been managed and the extraordinary hospitality that made this conference special for all who attended. Uno tearfully accepted the gift and acknowledged that she was both happy that the conference had gone so well and relieved that it was over. All present applauded Uno for all she and her colleagues had done to make the conference a success.

Crumbley then surprised Grabher by giving her a gift and thanking her on behalf of EDIS for her leadership as President and for her own efforts to make the Japan conference such a success. Crumbley also surprised Mary Loeffelholz by giving her a gift on behalf of EDIS for her central role in organizing the conference program. Crumbley clearly stated that EDIS would continue to depend on the talents of Grabher and Loeffelholz even though Grabher would be stepping down as President and Loeffelholz would be leaving the Board. All present applauded Grabher and Loeffelholz for their many contributions to EDIS.

Grabher's last act as President was to introduce Crumbley as the next EDIS President. Crumbley expressed his gratitude at receiving such an auspicious honor and stated that he would do all within his power to live up to the high standard set by his predecessors. Crumbley adjourned the Annual Business Meeting at 1:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Crumbley
EDIS Vice President