

EDIS Annual Business Meeting  
Amherst College Alumni House  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
August 2, 2008

Approximately 55 members present

EDIS President Paul Crumbley convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., welcoming all and mentioning the new format with the business meeting moved from Sunday to Saturday. He called attention to the evaluation sheet and encouraged members to fill it out. He expressed his appreciation for those attending the annual meeting and announced that the number of registrations covered the meeting's expenses. Crumbley said the Board had made a decision about future conferences that would be discussed later. He thanked Cindy Dickinson and Jane Wald for making the Museum available to the membership during the weekend.

Secretary Barbara Kelly said that the minutes from the 2007 annual meeting in Kyoto had been posted on the EDIS website for the past year. She asked for and received approval of the 2007 minutes.

Treasurer Jim Fraser reported a June 30, 2008 balance of \$13,456.56. The balance reflects a beginning balance (July 1, 2007) of \$17,155.05, plus income of \$17,052.77 (from conference registrations, memberships, and contributions), and expenses of \$20,751.26 (the major expenses being approximately \$11,985.85 for the 2007 Kyoto conference and \$4,756.14 for the *Bulletin*).

Nominations Committee Chair Ellen Hart welcomed the two newest members of the Board, Jed Deppman and the newly elected Member-at-Large Nancy Pridgen, and thanked all the candidates who stood for election. She also thanked Cindy Mackenzie for her term as Member-at-Large. Hart announced the election of Paul Crumbley, President; Martha Ackmann, Vice President; Stephanie Tingley, Secretary; and James Fraser, Treasurer. She thanked Barbara Kelly for her years of service as Secretary. Hart also announced the re-election of Marianne Noble, Vivian Pollak, and Martha Nell Smith to three-year terms on the Board and thanked all for their continued service to EDIS.

Membership Committee Chair Jonnie Guerra reported a total of 332 members, an increase of 18 members since July 2007. She announced that Nancy Pridgen will join Barbara Dana, Eleanor Heginbotham, Marietta Messmer, Georgiana Strickland, and Hiroko Uno on the Membership Committee.

Crumbley announced that Aife Murray received the 2007 Scholar in Amherst Award, honoring Jane Eberwein and Suzanne Juhasz. The 2008 Scholar in Amherst Award will honor Roland Hagenbüchle. Crumbley explained that the 2008 Graduate Student Fellowship, like the Scholar in Amherst Award, is a competitive award supported by members, not supported by membership dues; the deadline for applying for the Graduate Student Fellowship is October 15. Check the EDIS website for more information.

Cindy MacKenzie reported that the meeting in Regina, Canada, July 30 – August 2, 2009, will have the theme of “Queen” and will focus on teaching Dickinson. Watch the website for further details.

Crumbley announced that the Board had selected the dates and locations for the next two international conferences: 2010 in Oxford, England, and for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EDIS in 2013, the University of Maryland near Washington, D.C. He described the informal policy of planning conferences alternately

on and off U.S. soil. The Board is considering some kind of affiliation with another single author society for the 2010 conference at Rothermere American Institute in Oxford. Until that has been resolved, a conference theme cannot be chosen. For the 2013 conference, Crumbley said a transatlantic theme is being considered. That conference will be held at the University of Maryland with a special event scheduled at American University in Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Tingley reported that the American Literature Association (ALA) met in San Francisco, May 22-25, 2008. EDIS sponsored two sessions: "Emily Dickinson and Place" and "Emily Dickinson's Correspondence." She said that the two Dickinson sessions were among the best-attended at the conference.

Jed Deppman reported on the Modern Language Association (MLA) convention in Chicago in December 2007, noting that it is important for EDIS to reach out to the wider academic community. EDIS sponsored two panels: "Emily Dickinson and Specialized Vocabularies: Architecture, Law, and Physics" and "Emily Dickinson and the History of Ideas." The MLA conference in San Francisco in December 2008 will include two panels: "Emily Dickinson as World Poet" and "Emily Dickinson Moving toward Modernity."

Emily Seelbinder announced that the South Atlantic MLA will meet in Louisville, Kentucky, November 7-9, 2008; she appealed for papers, adding that Georgiana Strickland will chair a panel on drama. Marcy Tanter appealed for papers for the South Central MLA meeting in San Antonio, Texas, November 6-8, 2008.

*Journal* Editor Cris Miller reported increased *Journal* submissions. She announced a special fall 2008 issue, edited by Jed Deppman and Joy Ladin and an upcoming special issue edited by Marianne Noble and Dan Manheim.

*Bulletin* Editor Michael Kearns solicited contributions to the *Bulletin* from members who would like to write about any of the weekend meeting events.

EDIS Website Director Martha Nell Smith passed around a paper for members to add their e-mail addresses if they would like to receive EDIS listserv messages.

Executive Director of the Dickinson Museum Jane Wald congratulated EDIS on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, mentioning that it was also the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museum in its current profile. She said the Museum has engaged in thoughtful and disciplined planning for the future and shares a mission with EDIS to promote Emily Dickinson worldwide. Paul Crumbley added that the EDIS Board had voted to give the Museum \$1,000 and the Jones Library \$500.

Research Circle leader Ellen Hart reminded everyone that the Research Circle would meet Sunday morning, and all are welcome to attend.

Crumbley adjourned the business meeting and announced that to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EDIS, past EDIS presidents Margaret Freeman, Vivian Pollak, Cristanne Miller, Jonnie Guerra, and Gudrun Grabher would each speak about their EDIS experience.

These lively talks were followed by a general discussion among the membership about new directions for EDIS. Much of the discussion focused on EDIS chapter formation, interest being expressed by members from Maryland; Hilton Head, South Carolina; Portland, Oregon; Claremont, California; and

Bettendorf, Iowa. Michael Kearns invited members to submit chapter news to the *Bulletin*; Martha Nell Smith said members can contact the EDIS website and she will post a list of chapter announcements; Emily Seelbinder said local independent bookstores might be receptive to group meetings; Marcy Tanter suggested that local chapters could give annual meeting presentations.

Responding to Cris Miller's question about possible topics for future EDIS Institutes, members suggested Dickinson's letters, Dickinson and intertextuality, interdisciplinary studies celebrating Dickinson and other occupations, a particular scholarly book, a book Dickinson read and loved, articles and chapters in books, Dickinson and ethics, and Dickinson and politics.

Martha Nell Smith announced that the University of Virginia Press is looking for testers for a digital publication. Anyone who is interested should e-mail Smith for the URL and password; she suggests that testers "be ruthless in feedback."

Crumbley asked what members thought about the policy of holding EDIS meetings in and out of the U.S. Marcy Tanter said that having an international option is good. Cynthia Hallen said, "let EDIS grow," but she advised "cautious, wise growth." She suggested holding annual meetings where the chapters are located, but also mentioned that her *Lexicon* work has introduced her to Dickinson readers in Sweden, Poland, Australia, Brazil, and New Zealand. When Jonnie Guerra cited the pattern of holding an annual meeting in Amherst every third year, members applauded with a lively, positive response, as if to say, this is something about which we can all agree.

Crumbley adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kelly  
EDIS Secretary