

EDIS Annual Business Meeting
August 6, 2006
Music Lecture Hall, Room 2200
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Approximately 47 present

EDIS President Gudrun Grabher convened the meeting at 11:10 a.m., thanking Jonnie Guerra for organizing a stimulating meeting, Martha Nell Smith for hosting the meeting, Jim Fraser for scheduling the Meisha Bosma Dance Performance, and Ellie Heginbotham, Marianne Noble, Diana Fraser, and Laura Lauth for their work. She then highlighted some of what had been discussed at the Board meeting, explaining that there would be a rotation of three kinds of meetings in the future: a traditional meeting, a Dickinson Institute that would be more focused on scholarship, and an international meeting. She described the upcoming international conferences and meetings:

- The 2007 EDIS International Conference will take place in Kyoto, Japan, from August 3 to 5. The theme will be “Like Fabrics of the East.” Japan has the largest EDIS membership outside the U.S. and the Emily Dickinson Society of Japan offered to host this conference.
- The 2008 Dickinson Institute, celebrating the 20th anniversary of EDIS, will take place in Amherst, Massachusetts. Dates are yet to be determined.
- The 2009 Annual Meeting will take place in Regina, Canada, resulting from Cynthia MacKenzie’s offer to organize it. Dates are yet to be determined.
- The 2010 EDIS International Conference will take place in Oxford, England, organized by Paul Crumbley and Cristanne Miller. Dates are yet to be determined.

Grabher announced the Scholar in Amherst Award winner: Alexandra Socarides. The award will be offered again next year in honor of retiring Professors Jane Eberwein and Suzanne Juhasz. Contact Mary Loeffelholz for information about the Graduate Student Fellowship. Information about the award and fellowship may also be found on the EDIS website. Grabher announced that the Board was giving \$1,000 to the Dickinson Museum and \$500 to the Jones Library in Amherst. She said that future Business meetings would be moved forward to Saturday and be allotted more time. She noted that Martha Nell Smith will circulate the new EDIS website addresses to the membership and conference registrants. Smith and Martha Ackmann will manage the website and are looking for an advisory committee. All back issues of the *Bulletin* will be posted on the website. Smith would like feedback on the conference to pass along to the president of the University of Maryland.

Vice-president Paul Crumbley, having written the minutes in the absence of Secretary Barbara Kelly last year, asked for and received approval of the minutes from the 2005 Annual Meeting at Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Treasurer James Fraser distributed copies of his written report to the membership, reviewed the details, and announced a balance of \$20, 681 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

In the absence of EDIS Membership Chair Erika Scheurer, Crumbley reported that the total EDIS membership of 323 is down by seven members, but that there is usually an increase in membership before the international conferences. He announced that Scheurer is stepping down and Jonnie Guerra will be Chair of the Membership Committee consisting of Ellie Heginbotham and Jay Ladin (granted his consent).

Nominations Committee Chair Ellen Louise Hart announced the re-election of Board member Suzanne Juhasz for 2007-2009. She also announced the re-election of officers: Gudrun Grabher, President; Paul Crumbley, Vice-president; Barbara Kelly, Secretary; Jim Fraser, Treasurer. She explained that there would be a total of three members-at-large elected by the membership, two to be elected in 2007. She read a statement from current Member-at-Large Cynthia Mackenzie. Grabher thanked Vice-president Paul Crumbley, Secretary Barbara Kelly, Treasurer James Fraser, retiring Membership Chair Erika Scheurer, and Nominations Committee Chair Ellen Louise Hart for their work.

Grabher then opened the discussion to comments and questions from the membership. Jane Eberwein suggested giving the members an idea of what a member-at-large does. Grabher mentioned attending annual meetings and bringing in ideas from the membership. She said there would be more in the *Bulletin*. Cristanne Miller clarified that the Scholar in Amherst Award specifies that the scholar do work in Amherst. The award is named for the donor or a person the donor wishes to honor. She invited the membership to consider contributing to the award. Amanda Gardner suggested videotaping the meetings, making them available to teachers and students. Douglas Evans enjoyed the interview of Jane Eberwein and suggested more interviews. B.J. Bluth enjoyed the Research Circle and said it should be allotted more time. She wanted to know the meaning of the "turtle card" she received from Smith. Smith said that it's from a letter from Susan Dickinson to Mabel Loomis Todd. Bill Weaver said not to cut workshops in an effort to expand other things. Juhasz thanked Marcy Tanter for originating the Research Circle. Grabher encouraged everyone to spread the word in order to expand EDIS. Hart said that members who have institutional support and know promising undergraduates might encourage them to attend EDIS meetings. She noted Lynn Welch who googled "poetry" and found the EDIS meeting. Someone mentioned that a workshop on teaching Dickinson would draw teachers to the meetings.

Grabher called on Mary Loeffelholz to preview the 2007 International Conference in Kyoto, Japan, August 3-5. Loeffelholz said she was soliciting papers for "Like Fabrics of the East," but that the theme was not restrictive and could encompass Dickinson and intercultural exchange or any aspect of new work. The deadline for paper and panel proposals is September 15. Plenary speakers will be Barton Levi St. Armand, Christopher Benfey, Rebecca Copeland, and Toshikazu Niikura. There will be a banquet, a demonstration of the traditional Japanese wrapping cloth, and a tea ceremony. Marianne Noble is arranging a four-day excursion following the conference. Although details have not been finalized, Noble estimated a total package price of \$3,500.

Grabher thanked the membership for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Kelly
EDIS Secretary