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The Cambridge Companion to Emily Dickinson

Emily Dickinson, one of the most important American poets of the nineteenth century, remains an intriguing and fascinating writer. *The Cambridge Companion to Emily Dickinson* includes eleven new essays by accomplished Dickinson scholars. They cover Dickinson's biography, publication history, poetic themes and strategies, and her historical and cultural contexts. As a woman poet, Dickinson's literary persona has become incredibly resonant in the popular imagination. She has been portrayed as singular, enigmatic, and even eccentric. At the same time, Dickinson is widely acknowledged as one of the founders of American poetry, an innovative pre-modernist poet as well as a rebellious and courageous woman. This volume introduces new and practiced readers to a variety of critical responses to Dickinson's poetry and life, and provides several valuable tools for students, including a chronology and suggestions for further reading.

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Professor of American Literature and American Studies
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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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United States Women's Poetry: 1825–1900, under advance contract with Princeton University Press.

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CRISTANNE MILLER is the W. M. Keck Distinguished Service Professor of English at Pomona College. She has served as president of the Emily Dickinson International Society and written several books and articles on Emily Dickinson, including *Comic Power in Emily Dickinson* (1993), with Suzanne Juhasz and Martha Nell Smith, and *Emily Dickinson: A Poet's Grammar* (1987). Professor Miller has co-edited *The Emily Dickinson*

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Handbook (1998), with Gundrun Grabher and Roland Hagenbuchle, and *Emily Dickinson: A Celebration for Readers* (1989), with Suzanne Juhasz. She is also the author of *Marianne Moore: Questions of Authority* (1995) and has co-edited *The Selected Letters of Marianne Moore* (1997) with Bonnie Costello and Celeste Goodridge.

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MARTHA NELL SMITH is Professor of English and Director of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH) at the University of Maryland. Her numerous publications include three award-winning books – *Open Me Carefully: Emily Dickinson's Intimate Letters to Susan Dickinson* (1998), coauthored with Ellen Louise Hart, *Comic Power in Emily Dickinson* (1993), coauthored with Cristanne Miller and Suzanne Juhasz, *Rowing in Eden: Rereading Emily Dickinson* (1992) – and more than thirty articles in such journals as *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Profils Americains*, *San Jose Studies*, and *The Emily Dickinson Journal*. The recipient of numerous awards from NEH and ACLS for her work on Dickinson and in new media, Smith is also coordinator and general editor of the *Dickinson Electronic Archives* project at the Institute for Advanced Technology in the

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1828 Dickinson's parents, Edward Dickinson, a lawyer, and Emily Norcross, marry on 6 May.

1829 Dickinson's brother, William Austin is born on 16 April.

1830 Dickinson is born on 10 December in Amherst, Massachussetts.

1833 Dickinson's sister, Lavinia, is born on 28 February.

1835 Edward Dickinson is appointed Treasurer at Amherst College.

1840 Dickinson enters Amherst Academy.

1847 Dickinson graduates from Amherst Academy and enters Mount Holyoke Female Seminary.

1848 Dickinson returns home from Mount Holyoke.

1852 Edward Dickinson is elected Representative to Congress.

1855 Emily Norcross Dickinson becomes ill. In the same year, Dickinson meets the Reverend Charles Wadsworth in Philadelphia.

1856 William Austin Dickinson marries Susan Gilbert.

1857 Ralph Waldo Emerson speaks in Amherst and visits members of the Dickinson family.

1858 Dickinson begins recording her poems in fascicles.

1860 Wadsworth visits Dickinson in Amherst.

1861 "I taste a liquor never brewed" published in the *Springfield Republican* under the title, "The May-Wine." In the same year, Austin and Susan Dickinson's first child, Edward, is born.

1862 "Safe in their Alabaster Chambers" published by the *Republican*. Dickinson begins corresponding with Thomas Wentworth Higginson.

1864 "Some keep the Sabbath Going to Church" published by the *Roundtable*, and "Blazing in Gold, and Quenching in Purple" published by the *Republican*. Austin Dickinson is drafted to fight in the Civil War; he pays $500 for a substitute.

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1866 "A narrow fellow in the grass" published by the *Republican*. Susan and Austin Dickinson's second child, Martha, is born.
1870 Higginson spends time with Dickinson in Amherst.
1872 Edward Dickinson resigns as Treasurer of Amherst College.
1873 Higginson visits Dickinson for a second time.
1874 Edward Dickinson dies.
1875 Emily Norcross Dickinson is paralyzed. Susan and Austin Dickinson's third child, Thomas Gilbert, is born.
1878 "Success is counted sweetest" published in *A Masque of Poets*.
1882 Wadsworth dies is April. Emily Norcross Dickinson dies in November after a long and debilitating illness.
1883 Dickinson's nephew, Thomas Gilbert, dies at age eight.
1886 Dickinson dies on 15 May. Her funeral takes place on 19 May.
1890 Higginson and Mabel Loomis Todd publish the first posthumous volume of Dickinson's *Poems*.
1891 Todd and Higginson publish the second series of Dickinson's *Poems*.
1894 Todd publishes the *Letters of Emily Dickinson*.
1895 William Austin Dickinson dies.
1896 Todd publishes the third series of Dickinson's *Poems*. In the same year, Lavinia Dickinson files a suit against Todd and wins.
1899 Lavinia Dickinson dies.
1913 Dickinson's close friend and sister-in-law, Susan Dickinson, dies.

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ABBREVIATIONS FOR FREQUENTLY CITED WORKS

DEA	Martha Nell Smith, Ellen Louise Hart, and Marta Werner, eds. *Dickinson Electronic Archives*. Online since 1995. Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH), University of Virginia. Available: http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/dickinson/
Fas	Franklin, R. W., ed. *The Manuscript Books of Emily Dickinson*. Cambridge, MA and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1981. References to manuscript books or groups in this edition will use the abbreviation "Fas" and cite the number assigned by Franklin.
Fr	Franklin, R. W., ed. *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Variorum Edition*. 3 vols. Cambridge, MA and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998. References will use these initials and the number assigned by Franklin.
J	Johnson, Thomas H, eds. *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Variorum Edition*. 3 vols. Cambridge, MA and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1955. References will use this initial and the number assigned by Johnson.
L	Johnson, Thomas H. and Theodora Ward, eds. *The Letters of Emily Dickinson*. 3 vols. Cambridge, MA and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1958. References will use this initial and the number assigned by Johnson and Ward.
LED	Sewall, Richard Benson. *The Life of Emily Dickinson*. 2 vols. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1974.
NAWP	Bennett, Paula Bernat, ed. *Nineteenth-Century American Women Poets: An Anthology.* Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998.
OMC	Hart, Ellen Louise and Martha Nell Smith, eds. *Open Me Carefully: Emily Dickinson's Intimate Letters to Susan Huntington Dickinson*. Ashfield, MA: Paris Press, 1998. References will use these initials and will cite the number assigned in the volume.

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WSD Martha Nell Smith, Laura Elyn Lauth, Lara Vetter, eds. *Writings by Susan Dickinson*. Online since 1998. Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH), University of Virginia. Available: http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/dickinson/susan/. A critical edition of Susan's work housed at the Houghton Library, Harvard University, and at the John Hay Library, Brown University.

YH Leyda, Jay. *The Years and Hours of Emily Dickinson*. 2 vols. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1960.

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