

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



EMILY  
DICKINSON  
艾米莉·狄金森

WENDY MARTIN 编



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## 出版前言

《剑桥文学指南》是上海外语教育出版社从海外引进的一套研究、介绍外国文学的丛书，内容涉及作家、作品、文学流派、文学史等诸多方面。作者均为该领域有着较深造诣的专家、学者。

《艾米莉·狄金森》是该丛书中的一本。

艾米莉·狄金森现在被公认为美国最优秀的诗人之一，可在她有生之年所发表的诗作却寥寥无几。她在马萨诸塞州的阿默斯特过着与世隔绝的生活，自23岁以后便几乎完全闭门谢客。尽管艾米莉·狄金森缺少社会阅历，但她却有极丰富的内心世界。她的作品深受17世纪英格兰玄学派诗人的影响，同时带有清教的家庭背景的烙印。诗歌的内容几乎对当时重大的时事毫无涉及，而主要集中在像友谊、爱情、自然和死亡这样的永恒主题上。她去世以后，她的家人在她房内发现并整理出近1800首诗歌。她的第一部诗集于1890年出版。自她去世后的一个多世纪里，她的诗已赢得了所有年龄段的人的赞赏。她的作品对现代诗歌影响深远。她对破折号的偏爱，不规则的韵律和韵脚，超乎寻常的比喻，简洁而深邃和语言，都使她当之无愧地成为19世纪美国文坛上最具创新意识的诗人。后来的女性主义评论家也对她推崇备至。

本书收入了欧美当代著名学者的 11 篇研究艾米莉·狄金森的论文,涉及范围相当广泛。论文大致分为三个部分。第一部分的三篇论文介绍了艾米莉·狄金森死后作品整理出版过程中的纷争、南方背景对艾米莉·狄金森的影响、她与密友苏珊通信情况的研究。第二部分的五篇论文分别论述了艾米莉·狄金森的诗歌技巧、她的存在主义世界观的戏剧性表现、诗歌所呈现的性别特征多样化、她的自我意识以及她的文稿与手迹中体现出来的个性。第三部分主要探讨当时的流行文化、阶级观以及同时代的女性作家对艾米莉·狄金森可能的影响。

本书的读者对象为大学外语教师,外国文学研究人员,外国文学专业的研究生、博士生,以及具备了较高英语阅读能力的外国文学爱好者。

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WENDY BARKER has authored three book collections of poetry and a chapbook, as well as a study of Dickinson, *Lunacy Of Light: Emily Dickinson and the Experience of Metaphor* (1987). With Sandra M. Gilbert, she has also edited a collection of essays on the poet Ruth Stone. Two new books are forthcoming: a selection of translations from the Bengali of Rabindranath Tagore (with Saranindranath Tagore), and an edition of her poems with accompanying essays. Recipient of NEA and Rockefeller Fellowships, the Violet Crown Book Award and the Mary Elinore Smith Poetry Prize, she served as Fulbright Senior Lecturer at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia in Bulgaria. She is professor of English at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

CHRISTOPHER BENFEY is Professor of English at Mount Holyoke College. He has written widely on Emily Dickinson, including his first book, *Emily Dickinson and the Problem Of Others* (1984). He is also the author of *The Double Life of Stephen Crane* (1992) and *Degas in New Orleans: Encounters in the Creole World of Kate Chopin and George Washington Cable* (1997). Benfey has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. He lives with his wife and two sons in Amherst, less than a mile from the Dickinson Homestead.

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

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WENDY MARTIN is Professor of American Literature and American Studies at the Claremont Graduate University. Her publications include the following books: *An American Sisterhood: Feminist Writing from the Colonial Times to the Present* (1972); *An American Triptych: The Lives and Work of Anne Bradstreet, Emily Dickinson and Adrienne Rich* (1984); *Critical Essays on Kate Chopin* (1988); *We Are The Stories We Tell: Best Short Stories by North American Women Writers* (1990); *Colonial American Travel Narratives* (1994); and *The Beacon Book of Essays By Contemporary American Women* (1996). Professor Martin is on the editorial board of *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*; in addition, she founded *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* in 1972 and continues to be the editor of the journal.

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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.

DOMHNALL MITCHELL is Professor of Nineteenth-Century American Literature at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim. He has written articles on Dickinson for *American Literature*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature* and *The Emily Dickinson Journal*. His book, *Emily Dickinson: Monarch of Perception*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2000.

DAVID S. REYNOLDS is Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He is the author of *Walt Whitman's America: A Cultural Biography* (1995), winner of the Bancroft Prize and the Ambassador Book Award and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His other books include *Beneath the American Renaissance: The Subversive Imagination in the Age of Emerson and Melville* (1988), winner of the Christian Gauss Award and Honorable Mention for the John Hope Franklin Prize, *George Lippard* (1982), and *Faith in Fiction: The Emergence of Religious Literature in America* (1981). He is the editor of *George Lippard, Prophet of Protest: Writings of an American Radical* (1986) and the coeditor of *The Serpent in the Cup: Temperance in American Literature* (1997) and of a new edition of three works by the popular nineteenth-century novelist George Thompson.

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

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Humanities (IATH) at the University of Virginia (<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/dickinson>).

DANEEN WARDROP is Associate Professor of English at Western Michigan University. She has written *Emily Dickinson's Gothic: Goblin With a Gauge* (1996), as well as essays in journals such as *ATQ*, *BSQ*, *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, and *African-American Review*.

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SHIRA WOLOSKY received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Princeton University. She was an Associate Professor of English at Yale University before moving to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she is now Full Professor of English and American Literature. She has written *Emily Dickinson: A Voice of War* (1984); *Language Mysticism* (1995); "Poetry and Public Discourse" for the *Cambridge History of American Literature* (forthcoming) and *The Art of Poetry* (2001), as well as articles on poetry and literary theory.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Margaret Barry, who completed her M. A. in English at the Claremont Graduate University in 1998, for her invaluable and insightful assistance in the early stages of this volume. Finally, my thanks to Cambridge University Press, and particularly Ray Ryan and Nikki Burton, for their support.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 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, Massachusetts.
- 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.

CHRONOLOGY

- 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 in 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.

## 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.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR FREQUENTLY CITED WORKS

- 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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