



# The Dickinson Electronic Archives

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AAC / ÖAW

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# Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

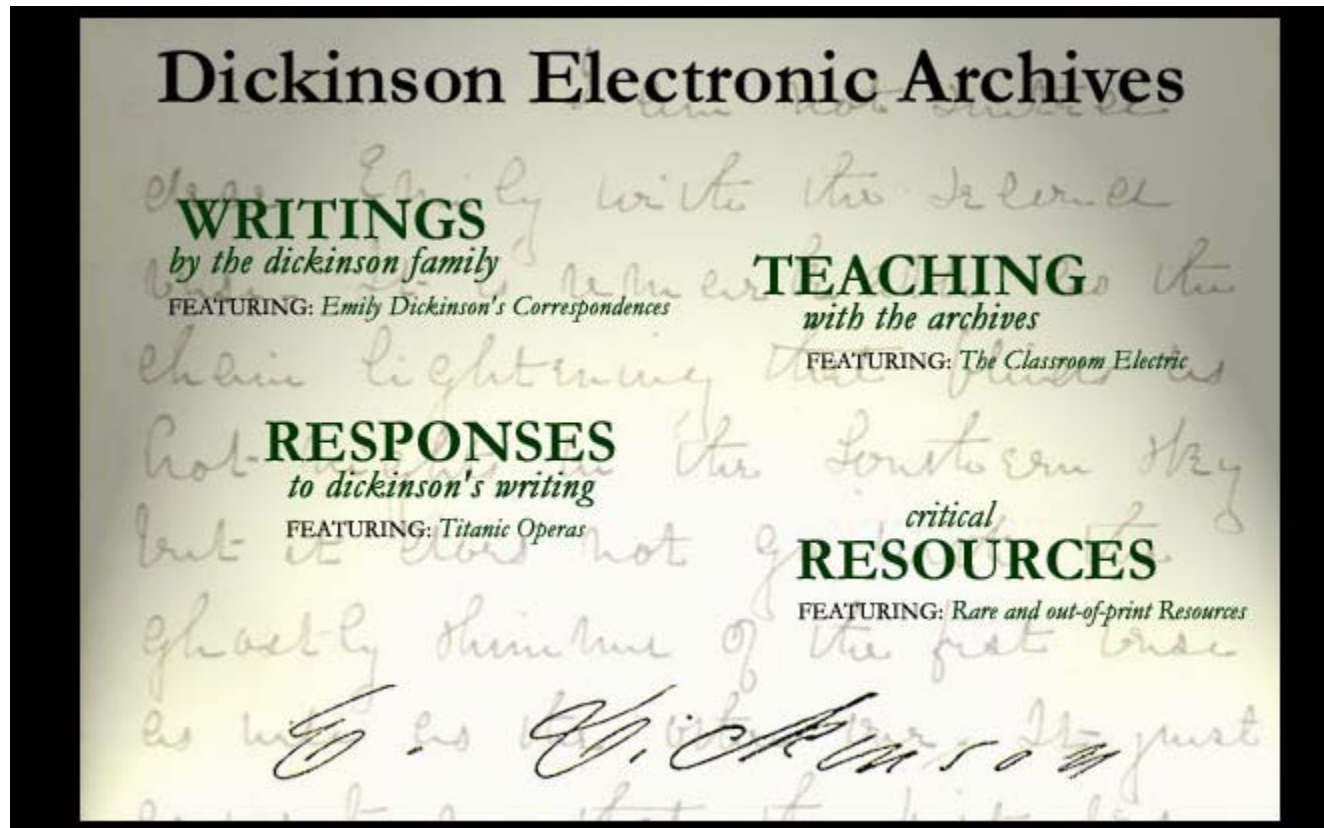
- Only 8 poems appeared during her lifetime
- Poetry circulated in manuscript form amongst family and friends
- Many poems exist in more than one version
- Her manuscripts also play with typographical convention in their layout, punctuation and capitalisation
- Even in fair copies alternative words or lines are retained, suggesting that for Dickinson there is no such thing as a definitive, final version.



# “The Technology of Print”

- “Emily Dickinson’s writings resist the technology of print.”
- Dickinson Electronic Archives
  - <http://www.emilydickinson.org/>

# The Technology of the WWW





# Access Restricted...

## Writings by the Dickinson Family

Please contact the editors concerning access to restricted areas of these sites.

- *Emily Dickinson's Correspondences* (in process; access restricted); currently *Correspondences with Susan Dickinson* and the complete e-text of Johnson's *Letters* are available (access restricted)
- "Emily Dickinson Writing a Poem" (available; access restricted)
- "Dickinson, Cartoonist" (available; access restricted)
- "The Letter-Poem, A Dickinson Genre" (available; access restricted)
- "Mutilations: What Was Erased, Inked Over, and Cut Away" (available; access restricted)
- *Writings by Susan Dickinson* (available)
- *Edward (Ned) Dickinson: Correspondence & Notebook* (available)



# “Unediting” Dickinson

- Marta Werner
  - “We need to find ways of launching them into circulation again and again in the hopes of illuminating the tensions and freedoms”
- Facsimile / Diplomatic / eText



# Variation

- Dickinson's poem exhibit variation at all levels:
  - Intratextual
  - Subtextual
  - Extratextual
  
- Multiple versions



# But what is a poem?

- Bibliographic taxonomy has privileged the manuscript notebooks rather than the letters
- Poem / Letter
- Fascicle / Fair Copy



# “Dismemberment”

- Dickinson’s writings have been “dismembered”:
  - Property Rights
  - Literary Orders
- Dickinson Electronic Archives
  - Making available the “scene” of Dickinson’s writings



# Shift

- Shift in “archives”
  - Library
  - Letterpress Edition
  - Electronic Storage
- Shift in practice
  - Ongoing editorial work is seen
  - Open to correction and criticism
  - Collaborative



# “The Poetics of the Archive”

- Poetics of Collaborations
  - Multiple
  - Diverse
  - Generative



# “The Classroom Electric”

- Resource for teaching Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman
  - “Constellation” of www sites
  - <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/fdw/intro.html>



# The Classroom Electric

## *The Classroom Electric*

*The Classroom Electric* is a constellation of web sites on Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and nineteenth-century American culture. Here users can explore images of original manuscripts, rare photographs, notebooks, scrapbooks, letters, and maps in sites informed by cutting-edge scholarship. While each site works as a stand-alone case study useful to students and teachers, the sites also link to each other, to other resources, and to the [Dickinson Electronic Archives](#) and the [Walt Whitman Archive](#).

Users may enter *The Classroom Electric* through a variety of portals. The [table of contents](#) page opens with a collection of pop-up menus, each allowing searching and sorting of the projects through a particular variable--by theme, by the creator of each project, by the poet(s) focused on in the projects, or by a user-selected keyword.

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