

The Dickinson Electronic Archives

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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.

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“The Technology of Print”

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

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The Technology of the WWW



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Access Restricted...

Writings by the Dickinson Family
Please contact the editors concerning access to restricted areas of these sites.

- *Emily Dickinson's Correspondence* (in process, access restricted-4), currently *Correspondence with Susan Dickinson* and the complete e-text of *Johnson's Letters* are available (access restricted-4)
- *Emily Dickinson Writing a Poem* (available, access restricted-4)
- *"Dickinson, Cartoonist"* (available, access restricted-4)
- *"The Letter-Poem, A Dickinson Genre"* (available, access restricted-4)
- *"Mutilations: What Was Erased, Inked Over, and Cut Away"* (available, access restricted-4)
- *Writings by Susan Dickinson* (available)
- *Edward (Ned) Dickinson: Correspondence & Notebook* (available)

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"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

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● ● ● | Variation

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

- Multiple versions

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● ● ● | But what is a poem?

- Bibliographic taxonomy has privileged the manuscript notebooks rather than the letters

- Poem / Letter
- Fascicle / Fair Copy

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● ● ● | "Dismemberment"

- Dickinson's writings have been "dismembered":
 - Property Rights
 - Literary Orders

- Dickinson Electronic Archives
 - Making available the "scene" of Dickinson's writings

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● ● ● | Shift

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

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● ● ● | “The Poetics of the Archive”

- Poetics of Collaborations
 - Multiple
 - Diverse
 - Generative

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● ● ● | “The Classroom Electric”

- Resource for teaching Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman
 - “Constellation” of www sites
 - <http://www.classroomelectric.org/index.html>

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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 point(s) focused on in the projects, or by a user-selected keyword.

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