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The proliferation of affordable, portable personal computers, and the networking, on an unprecedented scale, of homes, individuals, institutions of all sorts (educational, governmental, commercial, religious, and medical), and nations, makes it possible to extend this book beyond its boundaries, to continue and record the conversations begun in these pages in ways unimaginable just a few years ago, as well as to feature far more illustrations online than would be possible in a book. To avoid yourself of our perpetually updatable bibliography, to post a comment about any or all essays in this volume or see what others have said, and to view the illustrations and photographs accompanying these essays, as well as other related essays and notes, please visit our Companion to the Companion at http://emilydickinson.org/BlackwellCompanion.
Notes on Contributors

Editors

Martha Nell Smith is Professor of English and Founding Director of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH <http://www.mith.umd.edu>) at the University of Maryland. Her numerous print publications include three award-winning books – *Open Me Carefully: Emily Dickinson’s Intimate Letters to Susan Dickinson*, coauthored with Ellen Louise Hart (Paris Press 1998), *Comic Power in Emily Dickinson*, coauthored with Cristanne Miller and Suzanne Juhasz (Texas 1993), *Rowing in Eden: Rereading Emily Dickinson* (Texas 1992) – and more than 40 articles and essays. Besides co-editing this *Companion to Emily Dickinson*, she has also written *Dickinson, A User’s Guide* for Blackwell (forthcoming in 2008). The recipient of numerous awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the Mellon Foundation, and the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE) for her work on Dickinson and in new media, Smith is also Coordinator and Executive Editor of the *Dickinson Electronic Archives* projects at the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities (IATH) at the University of Virginia <http://www.iath.virginia.edu/dickinson> or <http://emilydickinson.org>. With Lara Vetter, Smith is a general editor of *Emily Dickinson’s Correspondence: A Born-Digital Inquiry*, forthcoming (December 2007) from the Mellon-sponsored Rotunda New Digital Scholarship, University of Virginia Press. With teams at the University of Illinois, University of Virginia, University of Nebraska, University of Alberta, and Northwestern University, Smith is working on two interrelated Mellon-sponsored data mining and visualization initiatives, NORA <http://www.noraproject.org> and MONK (Metadata Offer New Knowledge). Smith also serves on the editorial board and steering committee of NINES (Networked Interface for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship; <http://www.nines.org/> and is on numerous advisory boards of digital literary projects such as *The Poetess Archive* <http://www.
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**Paul Crumbley** is Associate Professor of English and American Studies at Utah State University. He is the author of *Inflections of the Pen: Dash and Voice in Emily Dickinson* (Kentucky 1997), coeditor of *The Search for a Common Language: Environmental Writing and Education* (Utah State 2005), and contributing editor for *Body My House: May Swenson’s Work and Life* (Utah State 2006). Crumbley has published numerous essays on Dickinson and is currently completing a second book, *Revolution in the Pod: Dickinson and the Politics of Personal Sovereignty*.

A distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University of California, Davis, **Sandra M. Gilbert** has taught at Princeton and Stanford Universities, as well as Williams College, won NEH, Guggenheim, Rockefeller, and Soros Foundations fellowships, and held residencies at Yaddo, MacDowell, and Bellagio. A former president of the Modern Language Association (MLA), Professor Gilbert has authored numerous award-winning books of literary criticism and feminist theory, as well as seven books of poetry. With Susan Gubar, she has published a series of critical studies of women writers, beginning with *Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination* (Yale University Press 1979) and culminating in the three-volume study of women writers in the twentieth century, *No Man’s Land* (Yale 1987, 1989, 1996), edited *The Norton Anthology of Literature by Women* (3rd edition 2007; 1st edition 1985), and most recently *Feminist Literary Theory and Criticism* (Norton 2007). Gilbert has also published seven books of poetry, most recently *Belongings* (Norton 2005).

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**Eleanor Elson Heginbotham**, Professor Emerita of English at Concordia University Saint Paul, inspired by many of the other contributors in this volume, especially Martha Nell Smith, her dissertation advisor, published *Reading the Fascicles of Emily Dickinson: Dwelling in Possibilities* (Ohio State University Press 2003). She continues her interest in the subject by co-editing a collection of essays on the manuscript books, *A Spectrum of Possibilities*, a work-in-progress in collaboration with Paul Crumbley. She joined the Emily Dickinson International Society (EDIS) at its inception, and has been a member of its Board. She was awarded four NEH fellowships for summer study; three MHC (Minnesota Council for the Humanities) grants for conference planning; and a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to teach at the University of Hong Kong in 1998–99. In retirement, she continues to teach and write – on Emily Dickinson and other American writers.

Connie Ann Kirk, Ph. D., is a fulltime writer and independent scholar who specializes in American literature, children’s literature, and Emily Dickinson. Author of *Emily Dickinson: A Biography* (Greenwood 2004), her many other titles include *Sylvia Plath: A Biography* (Greenwood 2004); *Critical Companion to Flannery O’Connor* (Facts On File 2007); and for younger readers, *A Student’s Guide to Robert Frost* (Enslow 2006). Kirk occasionally teaches as an Adjunct Professor of English at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania and is currently at work on a novel.

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Poet, critic, and midrashist, **Alicia Ostriker’s** most recent book is *For the Love of God: The Bible as an Open Book* (Rutgers 2007). Author of eleven volumes of poetry – most recently *The Little Space* (Pittsburgh 1998); *The Volcano Sequence* (Pittsburgh 2002); and most recently *No Heaven* (Pittsburgh 2005) – she has also written six major critical works – *Vision and Verse in William Blake* (Wisconsin 1965); *Writing Like a Woman* (Michigan 1983); *Stealing the Language: the Emergence of Women’s Poetry in America* (Beacon 1986); *Feminist Revision and the Bible* (Blackwell 1993); *Nakedness of the Fathers* (Rutgers 1994); *Dancing at the Devil’s Party* (Michigan 2000), as well as editions of *William Blake* and *Five Scrolls.* Ostriker has won fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her honors include the William Carlos Williams Prize (1986), the Paterson Poetry Prize (1996), the San Francisco State Poetry Center Award (1996), the Anna David Rosenberg Poetry Award (1994), the Larry Levis Prize, two Pushcart Prizes (1979 and 2000). She has twice been a National Book Award finalista for poetry.

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