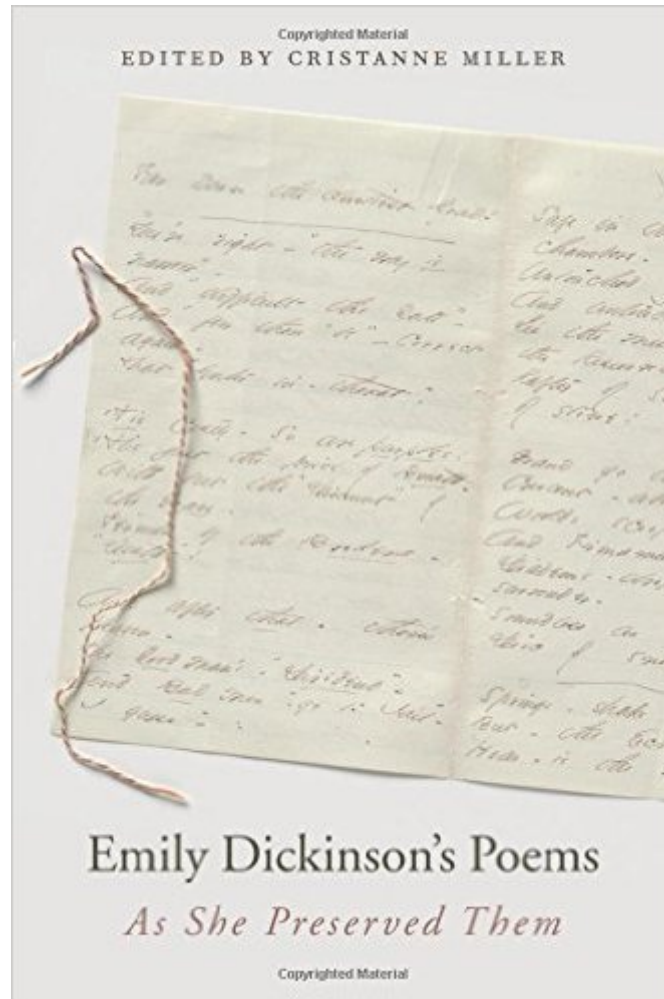


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Emily Dickinson's Poems: As She Preserved Them



Synopsis

Emily Dickinson's Poems: As She Preserved Them is a major new edition of Dickinson's verse intended for the scholar, student, and general reader. It foregrounds the copies of poems that Dickinson retained for herself during her lifetime, in the form she retained them. This is the only edition of Dickinson's complete poems to distinguish in easy visual form the approximately 1,100 poems she took pains to copy carefully onto folded sheets in fair hand—arguably to preserve them for posterity—from the poems she kept in rougher form or apparently did not retain. It is the first edition to include the alternate words and phrases Dickinson wrote on copies of the poems she retained. Readers can see, and determine for themselves, the extent to which a poem is resolved or fluid. With its clear and uncluttered pages, the volume recommends itself as a valuable resource for the classroom and to general readers. A Dickinson scholar, Crisanne Miller supplies helpful notes that gloss the poet's quotations and allusions and the contexts of her writing. Miller's Introduction describes Dickinson's practices in copying and circulating poems and summarizes contentious debates within Dickinson scholarship. Emily Dickinson's Poems: As She Preserved Them brings us closer to the writing practice of a crucially important American poet and provides new ways of thinking about Dickinson, allowing us to see more fully her methods of composing, circulating, and copying than previous editions have allowed. It will be valued by all readers of Dickinson's poetry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This should now be the definitive book of Emily Dickinson's poetry. It is important to know the sequence in which she wrote her poetry. (And helps even more if you have read "The Life of Emily Dickinson" by Richard B. Sewall, a wonderful biography of her life.) There are so many books of poetry out there supposed to be her poetry, but instead are poems doctored by well-meaning family and friends. I have yet to read the entire book, as it is long, but I intend to compare it to the prior authoritative version of her poetry by R. W. Franklin. I had thought from the advertisement of the book that it would have more photographs of her actual handwritten poetry fragments. However, there weren't very many of such illustrations. I might add that I also have the book, "Emily Dickinson: The Gorgeous Nothings," by Marta Werner and Jen Bervin which includes multiple photographs of her handwritten poems or scraps of them. However, this book has its own problems as the poems from which they are drawn is listed in the end of the book as a Directory of the Envelope Writings rather than with the photographs of her writing in the main part of the book. The scraps photographed themselves do not necessarily help identify the actual poems by themselves.

Essential reading for those seriously interested in Dickinson, but at the price, worth it for anyone even just curious. We are finally reading Dickinson's poems in a manner in which she preserved them, which is about as close to "correct" as we can get. Still room for uncertainty, but that's a good thing, a place generative of thought, care, excitement.

very nice publication

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