



NEWS RELEASE

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March 18, 2008

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Poetry Scholar to Lecture on “Emily Dickinson and the Brownings: A Triad of Poets” March 25

AMHERST, Mass.—The Emily Dickinson Museum’s “Replenishing the Shelves” lecture series continues with guest speaker Vincent Petronella on March 25 at 7 p.m. Petronella will deliver a talk titled “Emily Dickinson and the Brownings: A Triad of Poets” at the Amherst’s Woman’s Club on Triangle Street. There is no charge for this program, but donations are appreciated.

Dickinson’s admiration of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s work is well documented. Elizabeth Barrett’s poetry is considered by most scholars to be a significant inspiration for Dickinson who admired her not only as a great poet but also as a woman of achievement. Dickinson paid little attention to Robert Browning while Barrett was alive, but after Barrett’s passing from a long illness in 1861, Dickinson found a temporal sensibility in Browning’s poetry. Petronella will discuss the extraordinary lives of Dickinson, Barrett and Browning, who are considered by many to be three of the world’s greatest poets.

Petronella earned his doctorate in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and currently serves as professor emeritus of English at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is a seminar leader and board member for Beacon Hill Seminars in Boston, where he teaches courses in Shakespeare, the poetry of the Brownings and John Keats, the fiction of Hawthorne and Melville and the plays of George Bernard Shaw. He is a past president of the Boston Browning Society.

“Replenishing the Shelves” is a Dickinson Museum initiative aimed at recreating the libraries of the Homestead and The Evergreens as accurately as possible. The effort is dedicated to and led by Polly Longworth, a longtime Dickinson scholar and the first chair of the Emily Dickinson museum’s board of governors. “Restocking the Dickinson family library dovetails with the museum’s mission of preserving the legacy of the Dickinson family,” said Longworth. “Few possessions meant so much to them. Even though it would be a lifetime challenge to read all the books Emily Dickinson read, we welcome the support of friends in the great project of reassembling on the shelves those she lived with.” For more information on “Replenishing the Shelves,” please visit the Dickinson Museum’s Web site, emilydickinsonmuseum.org, or call executive director Jane Wald (413/542-2154).

The Emily Dickinson Museum, comprising the Dickinson Homestead and The Evergreens, is devoted to the story and legacy of poet Emily Dickinson and her family. Both properties are owned by the trustees of Amherst College. The museum is overseen by a separate board of governors charged with raising its operating and capital funds. The Dickinson Homestead was the birthplace and residence of the poet (1830-1886), while The Evergreens was the 1856 home of the poet’s brother and sister-in-law, Austin and Susan Dickinson.

The museum is located at 280 Main Street in Amherst. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., March through December, with extended hours, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., June through August.

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