

**The Honorands of
The 2000 Commencement**

Bowdoin College

**Phyllis Pray Bober
Doctor of Humane Letters**

Scholar and writer Phyllis Pray Bober's ties to Maine and Bowdoin are varied. She was born in Portland, spent childhood summers in Maine when her father's employment required that they live elsewhere, then returned to Portland and graduated from Cape Elizabeth High School. Bober earned a bachelor's degree at Wellesley College in 1941, a master's at New York University Institute of Fine Arts in 1943, and a doctorate in archaeology and history of art at the same institution in 1946.

Bober has had a lifelong love of learning and is known for her meticulous and energetic scholarship. She is the founder and director of the *Census of Classical Works of Art Known to the Renaissance*, an encyclopedic reference and a definitive work that was coordinated at the Warburg Institute at the University of London (1947-1973) and is now centered at Humboldt University in Berlin. She was the founder of the Department of Fine Arts at the University College at New York University and served as its chair from 1976-1973. In 1973 she became dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Bryn Mawr College and was appointed professor of art, professor of classical and Near Eastern archaeology, and Leslie Clark Professor in Humanities there.

She has written and edited books on art and archeology: she was editor of *Drawings after the Antique by Amico Aspertini* (1957), co-author of *Renaissance Artists and Antique Sculpture* (1986, 1990), and a contributor to *Samothrace: Volume VII: The Rotunda of Arsinoe* (1992). Her most recent work, *Art, Culture, and Cuisine: Ancient and Medieval Gastronomy* (1999), demonstrates her enthusiasm for new and interdisciplinary research.

Among the awards and honors bestowed upon Bober are a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1979, a senior fellowship at the Society for the Humanities in 1984, and an honorary doctorate for her contributions to classical scholarship from the University of Rome in 1993. In 1995 she was a fellow at the Accademia Nazionale dei lincei in Rome, and because of her work in culinary history, she was also elected to the Dames d'Escoffier that year. Last year she was elected to the American Philosophical Society.