

**ABBIE HUSTON EVANS.** Daughter of a Maine family with roots deep in pre-Revolutionary soil, from which have sprung several Bowdoin men, her interests took her far from the coastal matrix of her youth, to Radcliffe College and Phi Beta Kappa, to Europe with American troops of World War I, west to aid coal miners, back to Pittsburgh to help steel workers and their families, and finally to Philadelphia to the Settlement Music School for thirty years. A life of such devotion to fellow man would alone deserve recognition, but we honor equally her endowment and accomplishment of mind, beauty, and intellect. This extraordinary woman has found time in her busy life to skillfully distill into three lovely volumes of poems what is best encompassed by her own poetic statement: "Make affirmation of what thing you know; this is the utmost man can do for man." Winner of the Loines Award for Poetry and Guarantors' Prize, jury member of the Shelley Memorial Award, and an editor for *Contemporary Poetry*, her latest collection, *Fact of Crystal*, reaped accolades of praise from discerning critics. Her poetic imagery derived from stern Maine landscapes of childhood has been disciplined and defined by New England heritage and education, given grandeur, fire, and depth by the passionate blood of a Welsh father and his forebears – yeomen and bards. No mawkish sentimentalist, she brings to her work sensitive perceptions, probing deep into the very core of life. Her view of nature cosmic, yet her observation of detail painstakingly exact, a mystic apprehension of life's meaning underlies the clear-cut beauty of her verse. She is truly an affirmation of what thing she knows.

*Honoris Causa*, DOCTOR OF LETTERS