

BOWDOIN COLLEGE
Commencement 1987

ELIZABETH GILMORE HOLT, woman of letters, world traveler, founder in 1935 of the first community art center in the country, and lifelong student of the visual arts, Elizabeth Gilmore Holt is remembered today not only as a scholar of international repute but as a long-time Georgetown friend and neighbor. By enabling students to engage the original texts (many of which she translated for the first time into English), she revolutionized the study of art history in this country and gave it permanence through her three volume Documentary History of Art. Later this year the Yale University Press will print the final two volumes of her study on The Emerging Role of Exhibitions and Critics. Bowdoin feels honored that our Hawthorne-Longfellow Library was of some service to her in these efforts. But texts alone did not satisfy her: while others read of Alexander the Great in libraries, she -- in her seventh decade -- hitch-hiked from Iran to India in order to trace Alexander's invasion route -- to see it for herself. Seeing is what she taught others to do, and thereby she fulfilled art's essential task; and -- in the rich course of her 81 years -- she seemed to have relished not only art, but life itself, in all its perplexing splendor. With deep gratitude and in fond memory, we declare her, *honoris causa*, DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS.