

BOWDOIN COLLEGE  
Commencement 1991

JOHN ROBERT McCLOSKEY, author and artist; native of Hamilton, Ohio, and long-time resident of Scott Islands, Harborside, Maine, your books have become classics, especially the Caldecott Medal winners *Make Way for Ducklings*, now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, and *Time of Wonder*. Your record of two Caldecott Medals and three Caldecott Honor Book Awards, among numerous other prizes, is unmatched. Two generations of parents and children have heard the kerplink, kerplank, kerplunk of *Blueberries for Sal* and worried over the lost tooth of *One Morning in Maine*; delighted in Lentil's exuberant harmonica, Homer Price's prolific doughnuts and Bert Dow's bright boat, the Tidely-Idley. Your stories and illustrations chart the geography of childhood. At the center stands "home," the secure, bounded world that fosters curiosity and imagination. Like the family taking leave of their Maine summer island in *Time of Wonder*, Bowdoin graduates too may feel "a little bit sad about the place (they) are leaving, and a little bit glad about the place (they) are going." Your affirming vision - of benevolent parents; wise, often comic, friends; and splendid, surprising nature - reminds us that immediate experience can be a "time of wonder," for adults as well as children, if only - as you once put it - we "bother to look." President Edwards, I am honored to present to you JOHN ROBERT McCLOSKEY for the degree of DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, honoris causa.