

BOWDOIN COLLEGE  
Commencement 1990

FRANCIS MASSEY O'BRIEN, bibliophile and historian, native of Munjoy Hill and guardian spirit of all who cherish the art of the book, we celebrate today your life in letters and, most especially, your life in Portland, Maine. Longfellow's line, "Often I think of the beautiful town/ That is seated by the sea," reminds us of landmarks, such as that sign BOOKS that hung at 38 High Street with its message as eloquent as it was simple. We see you in your study, surrounded by friends, family, fellow students of Maine history, several cats, and thousands of treasured volumes. We recall your adventurous early days at sea, and we remember that, by the time you were the age of a Bowdoin senior, you had rubbed shoulders with both Joshua Chamberlain **and** James Joyce! Most of all, we remember Dr. Johnson's observation: booksellers are "generous, liberal-minded men," an accolade you have confirmed in your half century and more in the profession. As an ornament of both city and state, and a longtime friend of Bowdoin's Library, you are welcomed into our ranks as, *honoris causa*, DOCTOR OF LITERATURE.