

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Commencement 1993

JOHN L. THOMAS, native of Portland, Maine, member of the Class of 1948, George L. Littlefield Professor of American History at Brown University: you have been teaching students for over 45 years. You began your career at Washington Academy in East Machias, Maine; you went on to teach at Deerfield Academy, Barnard College, Harvard University, and Brown University. In 1988, Bowdoin honored your commitment to inspiring and challenging your students by presenting you with the Bowdoin College Distinguished Educator Award. As a scholar, your contribution to the field of history has been recognized time and again by the awards, prizes and fellowships you have received. You have searched, explored, and analyzed the moral and intellectual vision of nineteenth-century America. Your 1963 biography of William Lloyd Garrison, for which you won the Bancroft Prize, uncovered both his morality and his fanaticism. Your 1983 collective biography of Henry George, Edward Bellamy, and Henry Demarest Lloyd illuminated the radical, millennialist utopianism of the late nineteenth century. The collections of essays that you have edited on John Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln, and on the Abolitionist Crusade offer provocative insights into the American Political and intellectual tradition. As we prepare to celebrate the bicentennial of the College and to honor 200 years of Bowdoin history and tradition, we are pleased to honor you as one of the master historians of the United States.

(Degree of DOCTOR OF LAWS, honoris causa)

Presented by Professor Sarah F. McMahon