"Were American Newcomen to do naught else, our work is well done if we succeed in sharing with America a strengthened inspiration to continue the struggle towards a nobler Civilization—through wider knowledge and understanding of the hopes, ambitions, and deeds of leaders in the past who have upheld Civilization's material progress. As we look backward, let us look forward."

—CHARLES PENROSE
Senior Vice-President for North America
The Newcomen Society of England

"Acturus Memores simul affectantr Agenda"

DR. JOSEPH McKEEN (1757-1807) AND THE BEGINNINGS OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE

"What of this man, Joseph McKeen, who had been chosen to guide the infant years of Bowdoin College? He was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire, in 1757 of Scotch-Irish descent, with stalwart Presbyterians in his ancestry. He graduated from Dartmouth, aged 17, in 1774."

—KENNETH C. M. SILLS
"As early as 1791, efforts were made to secure a Charter for this college in Northern New England. It was an open secret that it should bear the name of James Bowdoin, honored Governor of Massachusetts during the Revolutionary War, but a bitter political opponent of John Hancock. That fact delayed, until 1802, the opening of the new college."

—Kenneth C. M. Sills
“By an interesting coincidence, just last week there was sent to me an autographed letter dated July 10, 1802 from New Gloucester, written to a young student at Dartmouth College by Nathan C. Allen, Esqr., an Overseer of Bowdoin from 1797 to 1816. In this letter Allen tells of a meeting of that Board and the action taken to establish the new college. I shall tell you more of that letter.”

—Kenneth C. M. Sills
Biographical Sketch
of The Author

Bowdoin College stands for the best of New England traditions: in scholarship, culture, ideals, and teachings. Maine, cradle of Americanism, is a birthplace of stability, of faith, and of character. Bowdoin, pioneer college of a Maine wilderness in early 19th Century days, is a powerful symbol of intellectual influence—of the best which Maine has. Bowdoin graduates have gone forth from her ivy-clad halls and from her far-famed Bowdoin Pines to take their part in American life, throughout our Nation. None is better fitted to tell the dramatic, courageous story of Bowdoin’s beginnings than her distinguished and nationally known President. Kenneth Charles Morton Sills, LL.D., President and Winkley Professor of the Latin Language and Literature, is a graduate of Bowdoin, in the Class of 1901. Took his Master’s degree at Harvard, in 1903. Holds his Phi Beta Kappa key. During nearly 30 years, he has served the college as its president. Is a Trustee of Carnegie Foundation. Was President of Maine Historical Society. Has served on the Board of Visitors, at United States Naval Academy, at Annapolis. Few others in high place in American Education have taken such effective part in the affairs of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America as has Dr. Sills. Student of the classics, student of history, student of human nature, Dr. Sills is a rare and happy combination of those attributes which bring true qualities of conspicuous leadership. Furthermore, he is a grand person! Dr. Sills is a Vice-Chairman of the Maine Committee, in The Newcomen Society of England.

My fellow-members of Newcomen:

In the famous fireplace in the President’s Office at Bowdoin—the real hearth of the college—there are some iron pots and utensils which, with the crane, attract the attention of many a visitor; these are not, as they look to be, culinary but chemical instruments. They deal not with housekeeping but with Science. They were sent to our first professor of chemistry and natural philosophy, Parker Cleaveland, by the well-known English chemist, Sir Humphry Davy, with whom our Bowdoin teacher had a lively correspondence. All this seems an appropriate introduction to an address given under auspices of The Newcomen Society of England, dedicated as it is to the promotion of scientific and engineering and material enterprise; because this apparatus connects the science of Old England with the science of New England, and industry with the academic.

Massachusetts Hall, where, as many of you know, the fireplace is situated, is not only the oldest building on our campus, in constant use since 1802, but it was at the beginning all there was in material form of the infant college. Indeed it took the Governing
Boards, imbued as the members were with New England caution and conservatism, eight years to get the building erected and ready for occupancy. This takes us back to 1794 and requires a brief survey of the events leading up to the granting of the Charter by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on June 24th of that year. It is interesting to note that Bowdoin began, not as a school or seminary, or theological institution, but it began as a college, a college devoted to the study of the languages, then Latin and Greek, and of the useful and liberal arts and sciences. It owed its origin, not to the beneficence of a generous founder, nor to the act of a state, but to the independence of spirit of the people then living in the District of Maine of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These good Maine inhabitants did not wish to be obliged to send their sons to then distant Cambridge, or indeed outside of the district at all, for a college education; furthermore, they had enough local pride to believe that their culture was good enough to support a college. Consequently as early as 1791 efforts were made to secure such a Charter, and there is good reason to believe that politics here intervened. It was an open secret that the new institution should bear the name of James Bowdoin, the honored Governor of Massachusetts during the Revolutionary War; but when a Charter had been presented and enacted by both houses of the legislature, John Hancock, who was then Governor and who was a bitter political opponent of Bowdoin, refused to sign the bill, and the founders of the college had to wait until he went out of office and until his successor, Samuel Adams, much more amenable, came in. It is interesting to note that a college throughout its long history, altogether free from political influence, should at its origin have been involved in political quarrels. As soon as the College obtained its Charter steps were taken to erect a College Hall. In 1798 it was finally agreed that the building should be fifty feet by forty, to be built of brick or wood, and finished "after the finishing of Hollis Hall in Cambridge." We shall see later in other ways the influence of Harvard. But funds were scanty, the infant College had little credit and for two years the new Hall remained an empty shell with its windows boarded up. At one time we read that some persons "did cut and carry away the lead from the chimneys." In 1801 the boards managed to get together enough money to proceed with finishing the Hall and the two lower stories were completed. In the eastern portion there were chambers on the second floor, and in the first, parlor, kitchen and pantry; in the western portion two rooms on the first floor thrown into one for a chapel and hall, and two rooms on the second floor fitted for students, and although efforts were made to provide a home for the president-elect, it was not ready for occupancy and so President McKeen and his family for several weeks lived in Massachusetts Hall with a tutor and the eight undergraduate members of the first class.

By an interesting coincidence, just last week there was sent to me an autographed letter dated July 10, 1802 from New Gloucester, written to a young student at Dartmouth College by Nathan C. Allen, Esq., an Overseer of Bowdoin from 1797 to 1816. In this letter we read: "It is with pleasure I inform you that at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees and Overseers of Bowdoin College in May last, we received the final answer and acceptance of the Reverend Mr. McKeen as President, and Mr. John Abbot as Professor of Languages. The two Boards will have their next meeting on Wednesday, the second week in September, and on Thursday Mr. McKeen will be publicly instated into the office of President. On Friday students for admission will be examined. Although some time has elapsed since the act passed incorporating Bowdoin College, yet it must be recollected that an institution of this sort could not be put in operation without funds. To erect the necessary buildings and lay a permanent foundation for an honorable support of its officers was thought to be the first objects of the government. That in part has been effected so far that tuition will commence in September. Arrangements are now made that in a very few years the annual income from the funds will be somewhere about $9,000. from the sale of lands placed in banks."

And what of this man, Joseph McKeen, who had been chosen to guide the infant years of Bowdoin College? He was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire, in 1757 of Scotch-Irish descent, with stalwart Presbyterians in his ancestry. His grandfather, James,
was the founder and leading man of Londonderry, and his father, John, inherited his father's abilities and passed them on from him to Joseph. He graduated from Dartmouth, aged 17, in 1774, and during the next eight exciting years of the Revolution he taught school tranquilly in his native New Hampshire town excepting for a brief service in the army under General Sullivan. In 1782 he went to Harvard where he studied mathematics and astronomy. After teaching for a short while at Phillips Andover he decided to take the short step from being a Presbyterian to becoming a Congregationalist, and in 1785 he became minister of the Parish of Lower Beverly, where he remained until he was called to the presidency of Bowdoin. Thus to his new task he brought experience in teaching, interest in science, the art of dealing with people; he was mild and yet firm; he was dignified yet perfectly accessible.

Dr. McKeen in Latin, inducted him into office by delivering to him the seal, Charter and keys, seating him in the President's Chair—still used at Commencements—and declaring him in the name of the Trustees and Overseers President of Bowdoin College.

Dr. McKeen then delivered his inaugural address in English. But before analyzing that most interesting essay I must mention an historical incident tucked away in a footnote of Bowdoin's history that gives something of comic relief to the solemnity of the occasion. It seems that a local character of the name of Huston, a negro, was very anxious to witness the ceremony. Being somewhat fearful of mingling with the scholarly audience he esconced himself under the platform and placed his eye at a large knothole in the floor so that he could get a view of what was passing above. Now it happened, so goes the story, that his eye, glued to the knothole and dilated with curiosity and wonder, caught the eye of the President as he was in the midst of an eloquent passage. For the moment Dr. McKeen was entirely disconcerted, broke down for a while and had difficulty in recovering himself. Small wonder that he often in later times called this the most embarrassing moment of his life!

The inaugural address itself should not, however, have afforded the good president any embarrassment; for it is a remarkable, sensible and thoughtful document. It begins with a discussion of those disadvantages which had hindered the development of Maine—numerous and hostile Indians, scattered settlements, prejudice against the harsh climate and harsher soil, and above all the poor state of education. He did, however, assert that things were improving, and in a prophetic sentence he looked forward eighteen years to 1820 by the words: "Maine is rapidly advancing to that state of maturity in which, without being forcibly plucked she will drop from the parent stock." And in a remarkably eloquent passage he stated that the inhabitants of the District desired to have their sons educated for the liberal professions and instructed in the principles and practises of our holy religion; and then he went
on—"It ought always to be remembered that literary institutions are founded and endowed for the common good, and not for the private advantage of those who resort to them for education. It is not that they may be able to pass through life in an easy or reputable manner, but that their mental powers may be cultivated and improved for the benefit of society. If it be true that no man should live for himself alone, we may safely assert that every man who has been aided by a public institution to acquire an education and to qualify himself for usefulness is under peculiar obligations to exert his talents for the common good." And, mark you, these words were written not about a state university, but about an independently supported college. Every now and then we find in ancient records or books or essays thoughts that seem to us surprisingly modern until with a start we realize that they are universal. Six centuries before the inaugural address of President McKeen the great poet Dante in a foreword to his treatise on Monarchy struck exactly the same note in these words: "He who himself imbued with public teachings yet cares not to contribute aught to the public good may be well assured that he has fallen far from duty; for he is not a tree by the streams of waters bearing his fruit in due season but rather a devouring whirlpool, ever sucking in and never pouring back what it has swallowed." Thus the Catholic Dante and the Congregationalist divine Dr. Joseph McKeen are in absolute agreement regarding the purpose of a public education, namely, to contribute to the public good. It is not, I think, amiss to emphasize this point in this friendly gathering tonight, for though we have passed from war into a restless peace we cannot forget in any tribute to Bowdoin or any other college how much has been contributed, particularly in these later years and by the youngest sons, of the last full measure of devotion. There comes to mind the speech delivered by Pericles in 431 B.C. at the public funeral of the Athenians who had fallen in the Peloponnesian war as reported by Thucydides. "Fix your eyes on the greatness of your country as you have it before you day by day, fall in love with her and when you feel her great remember that her greatness was won by men with courage, with knowledge of their duty and with a sense of honor in action, who, even if they failed in some venture would not think of depriving their country of their powers but laid them at her feet as their fairest offering."

On the day after the Inauguration, eight applicants successfully passed examinations for admission. President McKeen, with equal boldness and wisdom, set the requirements at the same high standards as were then demanded at Harvard. It may interest some of you to know that each candidate for admission had to display a knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, the ability to translate English into Latin, to read the Orations of Cicero and the Aeneid of Virgil, and to be acquainted with arithmetic as far as the rule of three, whatever that may be. To us these requirements seem quaint; but there is surely something to be said for presenting a few subjects thoroughly studied than to wander over the face of the academic globe and pick up as painlessly as possible a few units gathered hither and yon. I was reminded some years ago of the relation between the Harvard and Bowdoin admission requirements, when a Massachusetts lad taking the Bowdoin examinations in mathematics made a few desperate scratches in the blue book, and then wrote: "I fitted for Harvard at the.............. school and am consequently unable to do any of these problems."

Every Bowdoin man knows of an incident connected with these early days which is itself a symbol of the continuity of the College. About the last of September 1802 Dr. McKeen conducted chapel exercises; when prayers were over the whole college, the President, Professor John Abbott, and the eight students, stood on the steps outside Massachusetts Hall, as professors and students have done ever since, and talked of this and that. One of the lads, George Thorndike by name, picked up a solitary acorn and seeing no oaks around wondered whence it came; probably it had been in some oak leaves that festooned the room where the inaugural dinner had been held shortly before. Thorndike picked up the acorn, made a small hole in the ground, and buried it. The next spring President McKeen asked the boys to help him start a small garden near the house that was being built for him. Thorndike remembered his acorn, made a search for it, and found it beginning to vegetate and sprout; he transplanted it to the north side of the new garden. There it continued to grow, looked after by President McKeen until he died in the summer of 1807, then
by President Appleton until his death in 1819. This is the true and authentic history of the Thorndike Oak which still flourishes:

“All Bowdoin’s sons have sat at my feet
And poets, warriors, statesmen have I seen
Tarry in youth beneath my boughs of green
Then pass along while I their sons’ sons meet.”

An early historian of the college compares this incident with the founding of Emmanuel College at Cambridge, England in 1585. Sir Walter Mildmay, the founder, said to Queen Elizabeth, who asked if he had erected a Puritan foundation, “No, your Majesty, far be it from me to countenance anything contrary to your established law, but I have set an acorn which when it becomes an oak God alone knows what will be the fruit thereof.” And so of the Thorndike Oak planted by the first graduate of the College to die in far off Russia five years after he received his degree.

How the oak stands for the continuity of the college is illustrated by a story told at one of our Commencements by Edward Page Mitchell, the charming and distinguished editor of The New York Sun. He was speaking at his fiftieth reunion in 1921: “As a sub-freshman just admitted in the summer of 1867 I ventured over the green as far as the Thorndike Oak, and there I discovered five gentlemen of patriarchal aspect but hilarious demeanor in the act of dancing around the tree like children in a game of ‘round the ring Rosy.’ With that instinctive sympathy which youth feels for the antics of frisky grandsires I inquired the reason of the surprising ceremony; and they told me amiably when they had recovered breath and wiped the perspiration from their venerable countenances, that they were the class of 1817 back for their fiftieth. There was a Bowdoin Cummings, a Bowdoin McKeen, youngest son of our first president, a Bowdoin Moody, a Bowdoin Packard, and a Bowdoin Widgery; five out of the eight of the class of 1817; think of it. It seems but yesterday, and yet those alumni whose elderly skippings and loyal shouting these eyes of mine and these ears of mine actually beheld and heard had been sophomores in Massachusetts Hall when the Battle of Waterloo was being fought.”

And what of the world in 1802 when the oak was planted? There was a global war going on then, at least so far as the western world was concerned; Bonaparte was threatening the peace of Europe and of the world, and the freedom of the British nation. Over here Thomas Jefferson was beginning his duties as President of the United States; he was a warm friend of James Bowdoin 2nd, and to that fact is due the ownership by the College of the famous Gilbert Stuart portrait of the great president, painted in the White House, and said by many experts to be the best likeness extant. In those days as the nineteenth century was dawning Bowdoin, the most easterly of our American colleges, as the seal with the rising sun attests, seemed almost literally to be at the end of the earth. The District of Maine had then a total population of about 150,000. Portland was a town of 4,000 or 5,000, Bath a small village, Wiscasset a flourishing little seaport, Gardiner and Augusta just emerging from the wilderness, Bangor a mere hamlet, and at Lewiston there was only a sawmill with a single house. Travel was by stage coach or on horseback. In 1804 Judge Parker of the Supreme Court made the eastern circuit in a sulky, for those days a great exploit. A letter posted in Boston took four days to reach Brunswick, almost as good service as we get today! And when friends of Bowdoin gathered for the first Commencement in 1806 all they could see on the sandy plain was a single three-story building of brick, with a plain unpainted chapel of wood, and the President’s house of very modest pretensions. Such, in the words again of Edward Page Mitchell, were the “scrabby beginnings and near beginnings that nevertheless in thirty years produced one of the most famous classes in American collegiate history.”

What were the educational ideals of the times? The American people had indeed faith in education, but attendance at institutions of higher learning was limited in general to the wealthy or professional people. As we all know, Harvard had been founded so that there might be learned candidates for the ministry; Dartmouth, to train Indians in Christian virtue. And although there was nothing of the professional or missionary aspect in the beginnings of Bowdoin, neither was there as yet faith in universal
education. Such a course as Bowdoin could give was for boys who were to be leaders in the professions and who had come from fairly prosperous families. The educational climate of the day was warm in those spots where the sun of privilege shone, but that sun had by no means illuminated the whole Province of Maine.

In President McKeen’s brief administration, from 1802 until his untimely death in 1807, one outstanding event occurred on October 23, 1805, almost exactly one hundred and forty years ago, when Parker Cleaveland was inducted as Professor of Mathematics and Natural and Experimental Philosophy. He fitted for college at Governor Dummer Academy, graduated from Harvard in 1799 with the reputation of being the most promising man in his class. Coming to Bowdoin at the age of twenty-five, he taught here for fifty-three years without missing a term, indeed one might say hardly without missing a day. From his treatise in Mineralogy he obtained much fame, both in this country and in England; and he corresponded with leading European scientists and men of letters interested in science, including Sir Humphry Davy, Cuvier, and Goethe. In my office over the fireplace hangs the original sonnet which Longfellow on his fiftieth reunion wrote in tribute to him, as fine an appreciation of the teacher as can be found in American literature:

Among the many lives that I have known,
None I remember more serene and sweet,
None rounded in itself, and more complete
Than his, who lies beneath this funeral stone.

These pines, that murmur in low monotone,
These walks, frequented by scholastic feet,
Were all his world; but in this calm retreat
For him the Teacher’s chair became a throne.

With fond affection memory loves to dwell
On the old days, when his example made
A pastime of the toil of tongue and pen;
And now, amid the groves he loved so well
That naught could lure him from their grateful shade,
He sleeps, but wakes elsewhere, for God hath said,
Amen!

I have emphasized this appointment of Professor Cleaveland because it illustrates one of the most important functions of any college president, and because when all is said and done the strength or weakness of a college is to be found in those who teach.

During Joseph McKeen’s administration occurred the first Commencement, that of 1806; it was so great an event in the life of the infant college that in 1805 a sort of dress rehearsal was held. We read in the Portland Gazette of September 9, 1805, “On Tuesday last, being the third anniversary of the Commencement of Bowdoin College (note the literal application of the word), the Trustees and Overseers assembled at Brunswick and several specimens of the improvement of the students were exhibited to a small but respectable audience.” An historian quips, “The smallness may have been due to the fact that the village at Brunswick contained comparatively few persons, who in the sense in which the word was then used, were respectable.” The writer in the Gazette, who claimed to have been present at many brilliant Harvard Commencements, was so impressed by the knowledge and oratory displayed by the Bowdoin students that he predicted for the first grand Commencement a performance that would equal anything produced by “the ancient and respectable seminary” at Cambridge.

September 1806 soon came along, but alas a fearful storm postponed the well planned exercises; even then the ceremonies held in the half finished church were conducted in the pouring rain, President McKeen presiding in the pulpit with an umbrella over his head. Seven students were graduated, the eighth, Ebenezer Wood, of Wiscasset was lost at sea at the end of his freshman year. The first honorary degree was conferred on a young Massachusetts man by the name of Leverett Saltonstall, the Senator’s great-great-grandfather; and in 1940 as some of you may recall, the successor of President McKeen had the pleasure of admitting
that distinguished descendant to the honorary membership of Bowdo
dom. Thursday evening a Commencement ball was held attended
by more fashion and beauty than ever before had gathered in the
District of Maine. A stranger, we read, might well have imagined
himself in Boston or New York, rather than in the humble village
of Brunswick. And the adventures through rain and tempest, in
rough, unlighted streets, with the carriage of General Knox, with
the company of ladies and gentlemen upsetting down the bank
near the bridge, were for years a college tradition. In passing it
is worth noting that most of the men connected with the early his-
tory of Bowdoin were persons of social distinction. The first Chief
Justice of the United States, John Jay, once remarked: “The
French Revolution banished silk stockings and high breeding.”
The Bowdoin Worthies of those days believed not in the democ-
incy of pants, but in the aristocracy of colored breeches, and not
in short cut locks, but powdered hair. There is in my office the
well-known silhouette of Joseph McKeen with queue as he ap-
ppears in the delightful program of this dinner.

The man about whom we have heard most tonight was a gradu-
ate of Dartmouth. Bowdoin owes much to Dartmouth in those
days; it owes much to the Dartmouth of the present. Bowdoin in
its founding years in many ways followed closely in the footsteps
of Harvard, and is glad today to acknowledge its indebtedness to
that great institution. In this company I would just like to remind
you in closing of the unity that should exist, and I believe does
exist, in our institutions of higher learning. We have so many
things in common. Joseph McKeen started the new college on its
way, gave it high standards both of scholarship and character, laid
its foundations deep and strong. Though he was by conviction and
training a Congregationalist divine, he had a true catholic spirit
and gave right direction to the religious character of the College.
Above all he believed with all his heart and soul in the value of
a liberal education. He would, I feel sure, have agreed with the
words of Dr. Thomas Arnold, the great Master of Rugby: “It
is not knowledge but the means of gaining knowledge which I
have to teach.” He believed further that in a college pride of

“Actorem Memores simul
affectamus Agenda!”
This Newcomen Address was delivered during the "1945 Maine Dinner" of The Newcomen Society of England, held in the Gold Room of the Hotel La-fayette, Portland, Maine, U.S.A., on October 30, 1945. Dr. Kenneth C. M. Sills, guest of honor, was introduced by Dr. Paul Nixon, Dean of Bowdoin College, member of the Maine Committee, in American Newcomen. The dinner was presided over by Dr. William Stark Newell, President, Bath Iron Works Corporation, Bath, Maine, Chairman of the Maine Committee, a roster of whose Office-Bearers is given in the following pages:

THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY OF ENGLAND

MAINE COMMITTEE

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President

Bath Iron Works Corporation

Bath

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Franklin E. Bragg, Esqre.

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Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Co.  
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President  
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Orono

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The Rt. Rev. Oliver L. Loring, D.D.  
The Bishop of Maine  
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H. M. Payson & Company  
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Dr. Kenneth C. M. Sills  
President  
Bowdoin College  
Brunswick

Horace S. Stewart, Esqre.  
President  
The Merchants National Bank  
Bangor

Edward W. Wheeler, Esqre.  
Vice-President & General Counsel  
Maine Central Railroad Co.  
Portland

[ Treasurer ]  

H. Nelson McDougall, Esqre.  
President  
National Bank of Commerce of Portland  
Portland
In the famous fireplace in the President's Office at Bowdoin—the real hearth of the college—there are some iron pots and utensils which, with the crane, attract the attention of many a visitor; these are not, as they look to be, culinary but chemical instruments. They deal not with housekeeping but with Science. They were sent to our first professor of chemistry and natural philosophy, Parker Cleaveland, by the well-known English chemist, Sir Humphry Davy, with whom our Bowdoin teacher had a lively correspondence. All this seems an appropriate introduction to an address given under auspices of The Newcomen Society of England, dedicated as it is to the promotion of scientific and engineering and material enterprise; because this apparatus connects the science of Old England with the science of New England, and industry with the academic.”

—Kenneth C. M. Sills
“Dr. Joseph McKeen started Bowdoin College on its way; gave it high standards both of scholarship and character; laid its foundations deep and strong. He believed with all his heart and soul in the value of a liberal education. He believed in a college pride of scholarship rather than a boast of numbers. For these ideals the sons of the college he started may profoundly be grateful!”

—KENNETH C. M. SILLS

Bowdoin College, since 1802, has cherished the highest ideals of collegiate education; has been a potent factor in developing New England character; has led a way for material and spiritual advance in the State of Maine!
THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY OF ENGLAND IN NORTH AMERICA

Broadly, this British Society has as its purposes: to increase an appreciation of American-British traditions and ideals in the Arts and Sciences, especially in that bond of sympathy for the cultural and spiritual forces which are common to the two countries; and, secondly, to serve as another link in the intimately friendly relations existing between Great Britain and the United States of America.

The Newcomen Society centers its work in the history of Material Civilization, the history of: Industry, Invention, Engineering, Transportation, the Utilities, Communication, Mining, Agriculture, Finance, Banking, Economics, Education, and the Law—these and correlated historical fields. In short, the background of those factors which have contributed or are contributing to the progress of Mankind.

The best of British traditions, British scholarship, and British ideals stand back of this honorary society, whose headquarters are at London. Its name perpetuates the life and work of Thomas Newcomen (1663-1729), the British pioneer, whose valuable contributions in improvements to the newly invented Steam Engine brought him lasting fame in the field of the Mechanic Arts. The Newcomen Engines, whose period of use was from 1712 to 1775, paved a way for the Industrial Revolution. Newcomen's inventive genius preceded by more than 50 years the brilliant work in Steam by the world-famous James Watt.

New England, fair land of mountains and sea, has deep rooted those sterling qualities of deliberate action, conservative opinion, and balanced judgment. Bowdoin College is a leader in promoting these proved virtues of mind and soul! Bowdoin men have gone throughout the land, adding strength to America!
"The roads you travel so briskly
lead out of dim antiquity,
and you study the past chiefly because
of its bearing on the living present
and its promise for the future."

—LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD,
K.C.M.G., D.S.M., LL.D., U.S. ARMY (RET.)

American Member of Council at London,
The Romance Society of England