

maine

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A. S. PACKARD

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COVER PHOTO: Alpheus S. Packard, Bowdoin College professor and Maine Historical Society librarian and cabinet keeper, is one of a legion of professional and amateur historians whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their labors in founding Maine's state and local historical societies. This issue of the *Quarterly* presents four studies of the historical society tradition in Maine, viewed from four different perspectives. Elizabeth Miller describes the internal politics of merging historical and genealogical missions at the Maine Historical Society; Marilyn Gass and Abigail Ewing place the development of Bangor Historical Society in the context of broader historiographical, social, and community developments; Kerry O'Brien discusses the development and changing focus of York Institute's collections; and Katharine Hudson portrays the roles of individuals in building Pejepscot Historical Society's multifaceted program. But each of these themes is common to all such institutions, and together the four articles present a rich composite portrait of the trials and triumphs of Maine's oldest historical societies.