

tasks essential to the compilation of the *Manual*. Able assistance with proofreading was provided by Sue Cook, Rae Ingram, Mary Lipham, Laurie Suba, and Carol Tilles, all on the Hall of Records staff.

After the data for the *Maryland Manual* had been keyboarded, it was still necessary to convert the material on magnetic tape to camera-ready pages for printing. Eileen Pancoast and her staff at International Computaprint Corporation were consistently courteous, knowledgeable, and efficient at their task of producing pages for the *Manual*, and we were always able to turn to Tony Fazio of ICC for advice and encouragement.

Finally, a new addition to the graphics in this edition of the *Maryland Manual* is the seals of the Maryland counties and Baltimore City. Artwork for the seals was prepared by Julia Jones Bryan from original color art generously supplied by Frederick T. Wehr, author of *Flags and Seals of Maryland and of the United States* (Baltimore, 1975). The cover of the book, as well as much of the layout design for the text, was the creation of Carleton B. Hayek of the Department of General Services.

It is impossible to thank by name all of the hundreds of people throughout the State of Maryland who contributed information contained in this edition of the *Maryland Manual*. The Hall of Records has compiled the *Maryland Manual* for forty years, and what is good about the book is to a large extent due to help we receive from outside our agency, because to date it has not been possible to establish a permanent editorial staff to handle the work of constantly updating and preparing information for each successive edition. It is our hope that at some point in the near future one or more staff positions can be created to undertake on a full-time basis the compilation of the *Maryland Manual* and other Hall of Records publications, at which time the amount of editorial control and original descriptive material can be substantially increased. While it remains necessary for us to allocate resources from our existing staff to produce the *Manual* every two years, however, we must continue to rely on the host of government officials who patiently respond to our questionnaires and telephone calls for the bulk of the information contained in the *Manual*, and to all of them we express our deepest appreciation.

When Elihu Riley embarked on his project of writing a manual of Maryland government for the year 1896, he was convinced as a private citizen that such a handbook would prove useful to the people of the State. The legislature agreed and appropriated the funds required for the publication of that first *Maryland Manual*. The kind of commitment displayed by Riley was exemplified by another individual intimately associated with more recent editions of the *Maryland Manual*, Frank F. White, Jr. Frank White was a senior archivist on the staff of the Hall of Records for nineteen years, a recognized authority on the history of Maryland and of his home county of Prince George's, author of a book on the governors of the Free State, an officer and active member of the Masons, Boy Scouts of America, and many historical groups. He was best known throughout the State, however, for his role as editor of the *Maryland Manual*, and it was he who was principally responsible for the issues that appeared between 1961 and 1978. Frank died suddenly on January 30, 1978. His expertise in so many fields has been missed by many, but none more so than by the compilers of this edition of the *Maryland Manual*. Frank would recognize much of his handiwork in the pages that follow—updated and slightly changed, but essentially the way he had presented the information in previous *Manuals*. He would also note some changes we have made of which, at least at first glance, he would disapprove, but he would certainly agree with our goal, which was to do everything within our limited resources to improve the *Manual* and to make it even more useful. Most of all, Frank would appreciate the challenges and frustrations, the periods of depression and the ultimate sense of accomplishment, that are all part of compiling a book like this. Completing this volume would have been easier, and the final results might have been better, had Frank White lived, and those of us associated with this *Manual* are acutely conscious of the enormous labor he expended over nearly two decades in work on earlier editions of this book. Frank fervently believed in the people's right to be informed, and he was convinced that the *Maryland Manual* was a vital publication to assist people in understanding their government and its public officials. We concur, and while we reserve the responsibility for errors and omissions to ourselves, we believe it is only fitting to dedicate what is good about this volume to the memory of Frank F. White, Jr.

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