

FOREWORD

The 1981–1982 edition of the *Maryland Manual* is the latest issue in a series that began publication in 1896. Elihu Riley, the compiler of the first *Maryland Manual*, sought not only to provide a sourcebook of useful information for the citizens of Maryland, but also to succinctly describe the various components of Maryland government as a record for posterity. He adopted as a motto for the first *Maryland Manual*, “What is News To-Day is History To-Morrow,” to reflect the dual purpose of the book as both an informational handbook and a permanent record of government at the time.

The validity of Riley’s premise that the *Maryland Manual* could serve a useful function beyond its utility as a sourcebook for current information is appreciated by anyone who has undertaken research on the history of Maryland government. The successive editions of the *Manual* are an invaluable source of information on past public officials and on the development of State and local agencies and departments. Above all, the various issues of the *Maryland Manual* chart in detail the nature and extent of the growth of State government. Riley required little more than five pages of his *Manual* to print the “Civil List of the State of Maryland for the Year 1896,” and even less space to reproduce the State payroll (which ranged from \$4,500 per year for Governor Lloyd Lowndes to “no salary” for the three State Telephone Commissioners). State officials whose positions are described in Riley’s book include the Commissioners to Take Acknowledgments, the Inspectors of Hay and Straw, the Measurers of Oysters, the Measurers of Carts (Baltimore City only), the State Wharfinger, and the Wreck Master (Worcester County only). As archaic as these titles may seem today, they reflect in a unique way the nature of State government and the kinds of services it was expected to provide in the closing years of the nineteenth century.

A chronological review of the successive issues of the *Maryland Manual* reveals the disappearance of a host of agencies and officials as their tasks became anachronistic, while other agencies of government have been transmogrified to reflect the changing needs and priorities of society. This role of the *Maryland Manual* in documenting the changing needs and priorities of State government continues to the present. The Bedding Advisory Board is but one of the State agencies dropped from the last edition of the *Manual*, and the Maryland Bicentennial Commission, which first appeared in the *Maryland Manual* for 1969–1970, is an example of an agency that completed its task and is no longer listed in the present volume. New directions and areas receiving special emphasis from the State executive and legislative branches can be perceived in the task forces and study committees created since the last *Manual*, covering topics such as adoption laws, procurement regulations, the educational needs of children in residential institutions, State documents, drinking drivers, and mobile homes. Some new commissions, such as the Three Mile Island Committee, were established in response to an urgent, unforeseen situation that arose in the State, while others, such as the Youth Employment Task Force, have been formed to deal with more tenacious problems. Concern with the environment—an area barely mentioned in the *Maryland Manual* of a decade ago—is conspicuous in the current *Manual*, with a new assistant secretariat in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene devoted to the subject and with the creation of new independent agencies such as the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Board, and the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority.

The dynamic nature of Maryland State government necessarily complicates the task of compiling the biennial editions of the *Maryland Manual*. Not only must the informational content, such as addresses and telephone numbers, be updated and corrected, but all legislation, executive orders, regulations, and internal reorganizations must be digested so that both in organization and in content the text of the book reflects as accurately as possible the state of Maryland government at a given point in time. With a book of this length accomplishing these goals requires a firm cutoff date for the inclusion of information, in the case of this edition Election Day, November 4, 1980. An early November deadline for *Manual* material is required if the book is to be available for distribution during the following session of the General Assembly. The *Manual* issued during the first year of a gubernatorial term, like the 1979–1980 edition, cannot be sent to press until the governor’s initial appointments are made. Therefore, *Manuals* issued in these years have a later cutoff date for the inclusion of material, but they appear at a correspondingly later date, generally in early summer.

Simply revising existing data, deleting obsolete agency descriptions, and adding new material as required is a large task. With each new edition of the *Maryland Manual*, however, we strive to make changes that will improve the quality and value of the book. Stylistic concerns were of paramount im-