

volumes of wills were transcribed in full. In 1912, the Land Office purchased a Photostat camera and adopted the policy of withdrawing from circulation original volumes which had begun to deteriorate and replacing them with bound photostat copies. A number of volumes were so treated. But since 1935 when the records were transferred to the Hall of Records, it has been possible to send the original itself to a well-equipped repair department for such treatment as is deemed necessary. Ordinarily, the whole volume is repaired and rebound. A list of the volumes repaired is published in the annual reports of the Archivist.

In the course of all this repair and rebinding, the original arrangement of the records has been considerably disrupted. Moreover the system used for identifying the individual libers has also been changed, partly because many of the libers had lost their identity by being combined with other libers. Before the present system of numbered series was adopted, letters of the alphabet, numbers and initials of the commissaries general or of the registers had all been used at various times to identify the libers. In the lists below the old liber will be given immediately after the present liber number. The original liber numbers or letters are still found on the flyleaves or elsewhere in many of the volumes. Otherwise they have been determined by referring to lists of the records made in 1673,<sup>43</sup> 1687,<sup>44</sup> 1699<sup>45</sup> and 1776<sup>46</sup> and to the report of the committee of 1728. The lists below will also indicate the existence of handwritten or photostat copies, except in the case of the Proprietary Records which have already been fully analyzed in the "Calendar of State Archives" published in Volume I of the *Archives of Maryland*. Unless a definite statement is made to the contrary, the volume listed is the original.

### PROPRIETARY RECORDS

*Proprietary Records* is an artificial title which is ordinarily used to identify the earliest records of the colony. They are general record books covering all sorts of proceedings of the provincial government, especially records of the Provincial Court. None of

<sup>43</sup> *Arch. Md.*, XV, 26.

<sup>44</sup> *Testamentary Proceedings* 13, 477.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, 18, flyleaf.

<sup>46</sup> *Arch. Md.*, XI, 113.