
Jonas Green, his Family and his Associates

imprints from his press should be the Upper House "Address," the *Votes and Proceedings* and the *Collection of the Governor's Several Speeches* of the year 1739.

JONAS GREEN AS CRAFTSMAN AND PUBLISHER

Among the early specimens of Green's handiwork in the Province there are not many of such a character as to distinguish him from other colonial printers of his day. His *Votes and Proceedings*, as was the case usually with the House journals, were printed unimpressively in a crabbed letter on poor paper. On the other hand, his *Collection of the Governor's Several Speeches* showed a tendency toward that distinction of typographical manner which one learns to look for in examining his later work. How far he had been influenced by Franklin in his style is an interesting question which presents itself at the first view of the *Collection*, a work which he printed when the lessons of his service with or near the great Philadelphia printer were fresh in his memory. Early in his career he was able to procure better equipment than that in general use in America at this time, but if he had not used his new fonts and appliances with a serious and thoughtful craftsmanship, the mechanical aids alone would not have made for him the reputation, which ultimately he obtained, of being a printer as accomplished as any in the colonies. One remarks in his work a tendency toward studied simplicity, almost it might be said, toward austerity. He shortened and simplified the matter of his title-pages, and discontinued the use of ruled borders in their composition. He set his pages in broad measure without fussiness or mannerism, and imposed them with care for correct register. In the year 1764, having imported some months previously a rich assortment of Caslon for use in setting his edition of Bacon's *Laws of Maryland*, he advertised¹ that thereafter the session laws would be printed in this letter and in the same style as the Bacon. The first use which he made of the new fonts may have been the printing of his petition to the Assembly of 1762, mentioned earlier in this chapter. This broadside was a very handsome specimen of typography, and from the time of its publication until the fonts of Caslon had been worn out by continued use, Maryland public printing remained on a plane of dignified excellence to which, in spite of the great facility of modern methods, it has never attained since Jonas Green's day. Isaiah Thomas said of Green, whom he admired for other qualities also, that "His printing was correct, and few, if any, in the colonies exceeded him in the neatness of his work."²

¹ Advertisement appended to Acts of 1763.

² Isaiah Thomas, 1st ed., 2: 129.