

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

August 4, 1943.

TO THE HONORABLE

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION,

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

The following pages will furnish you with an account of the activity of the Hall of Records for the past fiscal year. Your attention is invited at once to the fact that the fiscal "year" was composed of only nine months, October 1, 1942 to June 30, 1943, in order that the fiscal year of the State of Maryland might be made to coincide in the future with that of the Federal Government which begins always on July 1. The shortness of the "year" will, of course, be reflected in every part of this report: the large amount of money reverted to the Treasurer, the drop in circulation, the quantity of new materials received, and so forth.

The Archivist notes here with regret that the Hall of Records suffered a grievous loss in the death of Judge Carroll T. Bond, Chairman of the Hall of Records Commission. How large Judge Bond's part was in the creation and the growth of the Hall of Records will be outlined briefly in another part of this report.

An examination of the list of members of the professional staff will disclose further changes due to the attraction of higher salaries in Washington. The loss of Miss Elizabeth W. Meade, who had been Assistant Archivist from the opening of the Hall of Records, to the National Archives in Washington, was especially regrettable. The loss of a second secretary in the course of a single calendar year was also a serious loss since the amount of paper work has continued to increase.

Several projects begun previously were completed during the year. Our first two publications: *Catalogue of Archival Material, Hall of Records* and *Calendar of Maryland State Papers, No. 1 The Black Books*, finally came from the press after many delays on the part of the printer. Such reviews of these volumes as have already appeared have been most gratifying. The shortening of the fiscal year and the almost insuperable difficulties created by the war have prevented the completion of our publications program for this year. Unless there is considerable improvement in the printing situation, no effort will be made during the coming fiscal year to follow our publications schedule.

All of the records in our custody which we considered to be of the