

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

August 23, 1949

TO THE HONORABLE  
HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

*Gentlemen:*

An examination of this report for the fiscal year which closed last June 30 will, I think, indicate that the staff of the Hall of Records has given the State good service. With the addition of only one new—and thus far temporary—employee and a budget which has shown no appreciable change for several years, we were able to accomplish as much, or more, in every field which we have come to consider as our part in the State government and to extend our activities to other tasks assigned to us by the Legislature, the Governor and the Hall of Records Commission.

The circulation of records, the number of working visitors, the number of letters written in reply to historical or archival inquiries, all increased during the year. The repair room bettered its best previous mark, as it has done now for several years running. Photostating of the county land records progressed to the point where we can now see the end of the project; and we added to our collection 130,000 feet of microfilm of county records, completing the project begun several years ago by the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Our collection of publications of other State agencies doubled in the course of the year, and our holdings of State and county records continued to increase at a rate which, while not spectacular, was as much as we could care for. Nor have we neglected the genealogist, as the list of finding aids will indicate. We found time also to bring out a second printing of the *Maryland Manual*, to offer a course, with the St. John's College, in Annapolis History, to continue our participation with the American University and the National Archives, in an intensive training course for archivists, and to take a large part in the celebration of the Annapolis Tercentenary.

At the very end of the year, after having pressed for legislation providing for some sort of records disposal plan in Maryland, especially in the counties, we began visiting the various county seats, explaining the new Acts of Assembly to records custodians, and in general preparing ourselves for what, at least during the first few years, will be an absorbing task. The Archivist suggested to the Legislative Committees that perhaps records