

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

February 3, 1953

TO THE HONORABLE

THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

In the following pages you will find a detailed report — perhaps too detailed — of all the work accomplished at the Hall of Records during the fiscal year of 1952. Many of our functions are traditional and are well-known to you because they have appeared in every report of the Archivist. Most of these traditional functions involve an end product which may be measured — so many documents circulated, so many pages laminated, so many photostatic or microfilm copies provided, and so forth. For some years now it has been a pleasure to report about these things to you, for almost invariably, where our effort alone was involved, I have been able to show that we have accomplished more each year than ever before. This year is no exception, as the comparative figures which I have given for each department will prove.

Certain of our activities do not lend themselves however to quantitative reporting of this kind. And, by coincidence, these are functions which we have assumed recently. I thought it would perhaps be worthwhile at this time to give some account of how we happen to find ourselves involved in so many tasks which are traditionally non-archival. We assumed the editorship of the *Maryland Manual* in 1948 at the request of Governor Lane and with the approval of the Hall of Records Commission. In 1952, the Commission at the suggestion of Governor McKeldin, decided to continue this work. Even a cursory examination of the *Manual* will reveal how exacting and time consuming such a volume must be.

The Public Documents Project began in 1947 as the result of an Act of Assembly of that year (Chapter 651) which established the Hall of Records as a depository for all publications of the State government. It was our own idea to build up a file of earlier publications, especially reports, of existing agencies in order to make this collection more useful, and secondly to collect the publications of agencies now defunct so that students, legislators, and others might find the history of a governmental function as readily available as that of an agency. We could not have