

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO THE HONORABLE
THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

While many things of note occurred during the year, nothing so noteworthy as the final settlement of our controversy with the Librarian of Congress concerning the Maryland Records in his custody. I shall not go into the details here because each of you has seen the arguments pro and con, especially during the last few years, which has seen the Maryland Legislature pass a Joint Resolution urging that these records take their place again with the Maryland archives and separate resolutions introduced at the request of the Commission by each member of the Maryland delegation in the Congress of the United States, all without appreciable effect on the Librarian of Congress. It seemed that thirty years of effort would come to naught.

Then, this year, the Honorable Samuel N. Friedel, member of Congress from the seventh district of Maryland, became Chairman of the House Administration Committee, as well as Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library. Even more remarkable, he remembered our problem and promptly scheduled a hearing for May 20, 1969. Mr. Skordas and the Archivist attended with the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Quincy Mumford, the Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Elizabeth Hamer, the Chief of Liaison of the Library with Congress and the legal advisor to the Librarian.

The hearing proved to be a searching one, and I think that we were able to make our point clear, namely, that these books were part of a series of the Treasurer of the Western Shore of which we were in possession of the major share. The Committee urged us to settle the matter out of court, as it were, and we did. On November 3, 1969, the records were brought to the Hall of Records and I signed a receipt for them. The agreement will be found elsewhere in this report.

Our archival duties caused several brushes with the courts in the course of the year. A researcher found, what he considered, an error in the records of the Orphans' Court of Anne Arundel County, now in the custody of the Hall of Records. His appeal was first to me, but I explained to him that I had no power to change the record and I advised him to appeal to the source of the record, namely the Orphans'