

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Baltimore, December 1, 1943

To the Maryland Historical Society

GENTLEMEN:

The Committee on Publications of the Maryland Historical Society presents as Volume LX of the *Archives of Maryland* the *Proceedings of the Charles County Court 1666-1674*. This is the ninth volume of the Court Series of the *Archives*. This volume is a direct continuation of the proceedings of this same county court, covering the years 1658-1666, which appeared in 1936 as Volume LIII of the *Archives*.

It has been the plan of the Committee on Publications to publish in the Court Series, as a cross-section of the legal procedure of Maryland for the third quarter of the seventeenth century, the proceedings of the several courts of the Province. Those published embrace the Provincial (or General Court), the Court of Chancery, four county courts, and a manorial court. Until the year 1694 when an independent Court of Appeals was established, the highest appellate court in the Province was the Upper House of the General Assembly, sitting as a Court of Appeals. These Assembly proceedings have already been published. The proceedings of the Provincial Court from the establishment of the Province through the year 1670 have likewise appeared as volumes IV, X, XLI, XLIX, and LVII of the *Archives*. In these Provincial Court volumes down through the year 1668 will also be found entered the equity cases heard by these same justices when they sat as a court of chancery, but beginning with the year 1669 a separate series of chancery record books begins. One chancery volume, covering the years 1669-1679, designated "Proceedings of the Court of Chancery", has already appeared as Volume LI of the *Archives*.

Two volumes of county court proceedings for the third quarter of the seventeenth century have been previously published. Only the court proceedings for the counties of Kent, Charles, Talbot, and Somerset for this period have been preserved; those for the other counties have been lost. The records of Kent (1648-1676), Talbot (1662-1664), Somerset (1665-1668), and Charles (1658-1666) have been printed in volumes LIII and LIV. The records, which are fragmentary, of the manor court of St. Clement's Manor (1659-1672) have also been printed in Volume LIII. The volume which is now presented carries down the Charles County proceedings through the year 1674. Of the extant county court proceedings before the year 1675 there only remains for publication the proceedings of the Somerset County court from 1668 to 1674.