

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Baltimore, December 1, 1947

To the Maryland Historical Society

GENTLEMEN:

The volume of the *Archives of Maryland* now offered you is the sixty-fourth of the series, and the thirty-second volume of the sub-series of the Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly. It consists of the official record of the last pre-Revolutionary sessions of the Assembly, the meeting or convention of October 13-28, 1773, the session of November 16-December 23, 1773, and the third session of the body elected in May 1773, the session that lasted from March 23 to April 19, 1774. The first session of this Assembly was held in June-July 1773, and its proceedings have already been printed in volume LXIII of the *Archives*.

As has previously been done, the text that begins on page three and ends on page 420 has been printed directly from photostats of the official libers which are now in the Hall of Records in Annapolis, except for the Lower House proceedings for two sessions. For the convention of October 13-29, 1773, and for the session of November 16-December 23, 1773, there is no manuscript now known to exist, so that recourse had to be had to the official printed version, the work of Anne Catharinè Green of Annapolis. Indeed, the printed version itself is but little less rare than the manuscript. Wroth, in his *History of Printing in Colonial Maryland*, lists only one of the three, but the Historical Society has copies of all of them. Two came to light after Wroth wrote, when the library of James McSherry was broken up.

As always, the manuscript has been followed with Chinese faithfulness. End quotes have been inserted, in brackets, and in a few places missing words have likewise been put in, but the cases have been very few. Although the manuscript is the source, it has been compared with Green's printed version throughout, and, where the differences seemed important enough, comment on them has been made. The *Votes and Proceedings*, and the session laws, as printed by Green, were the official version: they were sent to the high officials at Annapolis and in the counties for their guidance. They may even be more accurate than the original, for the clerks of the houses were often observably careless. Printing from Green was less difficult than from the manuscript, and the Lower House proceedings of the October 13-29 and the November 16-December 23 sessions are presented as faithfully as a modern press can reproduce the eighteenth century product. Only one known change has been made.