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## *A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland*

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cumstance that the pagination of these session laws is consecutive with that of the edition of the compiled laws of the previous year, it seems that Jones had in mind the continuance of a series of annual Acts of Assembly to be bound with the body of laws and used as one collection until the passage of years should render necessary another revision and compilation of the whole. That Bradford's work was fairly well done, the copies remaining attest, but that it was not without vexatious errors may be inferred from a passage in the Upper House journal of two years later, when, after discovering that they had been bickering with the delegates over a point in one of the acts the sense of which, it eventuated, had been beclouded by a misprint, their Honours in an ungracious note to the Lower House declared, "We should be Glad you would Provide agt such Grosse mistakes in the Printing for the future."<sup>1</sup>

During the three sessions which followed this of May 1719 for which, with Evan Jones as intermediary, Andrew Bradford had printed the laws and addresses, these important state papers, almost certainly, were printed by John Peter Zenger, a resident printer to whose Maryland venture a later section of this narrative is devoted. On the departure of this individual from Maryland late in the year 1721, the Province was again without a printer. Once more and for the last time before his death a few months afterwards, the worthy Evan Jones stepped forward to act as the agent for its printing. On February 28, 1721/22, the Lower House journal records that "Mr. Evan Jones has the liberty of printing the Tobacco laws." No provision was made for the printing of the session laws, but as only one public law was passed at this session and as this was a tobacco law, the neglect explains itself. Despite the fact that no copy of this law remains, it is probable that it was printed by Bradford at Evan Jones's behest, for other documents of this session found their way into print through the Philadelphia office. One of the reasons given by Governor Calvert for calling this session had been his desire to explain to the Houses his dismissal of Thomas Bordley from his Council. The several addresses to and from the Governor on this and routine matters before the session, Bordley's defense and other pertinent documents were collected and printed under the title of *The Speech of his Excellency Coll. Charles Calvert, Governour of the Province of Maryland, to both Houses of Assembly, Feb. 20, 1721.*

Unfortunately there remains of this printed collection a single mutilated copy containing only three pages,<sup>2</sup> and as none of these is title-page or colo-

<sup>1</sup> U. H. J., August 5, 1721, *Archives of Maryland*, 34: 186.

<sup>2</sup> See bibliographical appendix.