

and elsewhere to find the answers, and each year as the emphasis changes new data will be wanted. A summary of its early period should provide full answers to all factual questions about the Hall of Records. In addition it should prove useful to succeeding members of the Hall of Records Commission who are not especially appointed but who serve *ex-officio* and may not therefore be thoroughly acquainted at first with the history and functions of the institution they are required to govern. It will also, of course, be useful to future archivists of Maryland and members of the staff of the Hall of Records.

The printed Annual Reports of the Archivist, listing, as they are bound to do, the accomplishments of single years, cannot consider the events of the first four years and as a result neglect altogether the work of Dr. Robertson and his staff. Judge Carroll T. Bond once wrote to Governor Harry W. Nice that it was supremely important to begin the work of the Hall of Records as solidly as possible. If that were done, the future, he thought, would be assured. It is important for us, therefore, as well as for those in the future who may have some interest in the matter, to know what that solid foundation was. It is also just that credit should be given where it is deserved.

The materials for this account are almost entirely in manuscript form: the Annual Reports of the Archivist, the Minutes of the Hall of Records Commission, the Minutes of the Tercentenary Commission, the papers of Governors Ritchie and Nice, the scrapbook of the Hall of Records. There is little word-of-mouth information because of the original Commission no one is still a member, and only two are still alive. Of the original staff not one remains at the Hall of Records. Therefore, all that was not recorded cannot now be known—there is in this an obvious moral for archivists—and cannot be included in this sketch. It would have been convenient had the first four annual reports been prepared so that they might have been published without alteration at a later date, but this unfortunately was not the case. They are of a confidential nature and they are organized for the most part around individual members of the staff rather than around the tasks accomplished and projected.

The form of this report will be that of the printed reports. For example, under "Hall of Records Commission" the original members