

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

November 29, 1955

TO THE HONORABLE  
THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

*Gentlemen:*

Since no member of the Hall of Records Commission is new this year, there is no need to explain the purpose or the content of the Archivist's Annual Report. It should be pointed out, however, that this is the single opportunity of the Archivist to give a full report of his work and that of his staff to the Commission. It is not always possible to describe every facet of the work of an institution of this character even in a report of this length, but the Archivist has tried as much as possible to do so, though the statistics and the details which are his materials are oftentimes a good deal less than inspiring.

Your attention is called especially to the report of the Records Management Division. This division achieved a staff stability this year which it had lacked in its first year of operation, and its accomplishments were, consequently, appreciably greater. You will note, too, that while last year we were uncertain that it would be economical to continue our bindery, the improvement during fiscal year 1956 was such that we ought now to accept record binding as a permanent function of the Hall of Records.

County and church records have absorbed much of our effort this year and they should continue to do so in the future. Our long-term program of providing insurance copies of all the major county record series and of all the historic church records is only fairly begun. We are now concentrating on reproducing the land records for the period 1851-1949 and the records of the Protestant Episcopal Church through the Colonial period, when that church had been established and acted as the official keeper of vital statistics for the whole population. That we have already made good progress will be obvious from an examination of the section of this report dealing with accessions. That there is yet a great deal to be done is equally evident. At this writing we have procured copies of all Maryland church records which have found their way into the library of the Cathedral at Washington; we are now filming all those records presently deposited in the Diocesan Library at Baltimore; and our work with individual churches in the Diocese of Easton, where there is no central depository, is most encouraging. In the case of the land records, microfilming is now going forward in Baltimore and Howard Counties, and we expect other counties to begin shortly.