

the charter in Lord Baltimore is now the responsibility of the State, although the amount of such land remaining to be granted is infinitely less than in Lord Baltimore's day.

Since the seventeenth century Maryland has not possessed an official copy of the charter in English or Latin. The original recorded copy of the charter is in Latin and today is in the custody of the Keeper of the Records at the Public Records Office, London, England. In 1765 the General Assembly gave its blessing to a new translation of the charter by the Reverend Thomas Bacon, who had searched in vain for an authentic copy in the colony's archives. Bacon's translation is considered by many to be an authoritative text, but it was not what seventeenth-century Marylanders read.

The original parchment copy of the Maryland Charter in Latin has long been lost from the papers of the Calvert family. Fortunately the earliest documented manuscript English translation of the charter was recently discovered among the papers of a former colonial governor, Sir Edmund Andros (1637-1714). It was acquired by Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., who generously agreed to entrust it to the care of the Maryland Hall of Records.

The Houghton manuscript of the Maryland Charter will be discussed at greater length in the introduction of the forthcoming facsimile edition. It is a fascinating document written at two different times on paper with two different watermarks. Each portion is in a different clerk's hand (see figure 1). Both sections date from before 1660 and there is