

reason to believe that the first part, which details the benefits to be derived from the colonization of Maryland, is contemporary with the first year or two of settlement.

The text of the Houghton manuscript is virtually identical to the 1635 printing reproduced here from a promotional pamphlet entitled *A Relation of Maryland* (Readex Microprint, 1966). Although one scholar has argued that another printing of the charter preceded the 1635 edition, a careful examination of the wording and typography of both leads inevitably to the conclusion that the following is the earliest printed translation of Maryland's Charter. With it and the Houghton manuscript, we have the text of one of the basic documents in Maryland history, the very language of which enticed the first settlers to the New World and governed their lives.