

2/Foreword

Constitution of 1867, which still governs Maryland today, is the great-grandchild of Maryland's first Constitution of 1777, and that constitution was the embodiment of the values and experiences of men who were the product of nearly a century and a half of growth, development, and experience in the Colony of Maryland. The Constitutional Convention Commission of 1965-1967 and the Constitutional Convention of 1967-1968 were logical extensions of the political development of Maryland, and as such the records generated by both bodies provide a unique perspective into the Maryland political experience.

The *Index* and *Guide* that follow are essential keys to unlocking the vast store of information contained in the archives of the Constitutional Convention Commission and Constitutional Convention. Used in conjunction they make available for the first time the accumulated knowledge that resulted from the decision to attempt to draft a new constitution for the State of Maryland. It is our hope that this volume will encourage new studies of the Maryland Constitution and the political process in the state, and that as a result we all will better understand our past and its implications for the future.

EDWARD C. PAPERFUSE
State Archivist and
Commissioner of Land Patents