

PREFACE

The history of printing and of the books which formed a background for the culture of early America - ever since the publication of Isaiah Thomas' History of Printing in America in 1810 - has been a subject of interest to many writers and bibliographers. In late years, the formation of the American Imprints Inventory project of the Historical Records Survey and the publication of their state bibliographies has made the study of printers and printing recognized as a national project.

But long before the development of state bibliographies on a national scale, Lawrence C. Wroth, a native of Maryland, now librarian of the John Carter Brown Library of Providence, Rhode Island, proved without doubt that Maryland could boast the possession of a printing press at a very early date, and that its chronology came probably next after Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Virginia, it is true, antedated Pennsylvania in the establishment of a press, but Virginia's was not a permanent establishment. These discoveries of Wroth's are incorporated in his book, A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland, published in 1922. Later discoveries led to the conclusion, set forth in Wroth's article, "The St. Mary's City Press; a New