

we wanted. Mr. Skordas has been put in actual charge of the physical protection of the building, of the staff, and of researchers who might find themselves in the building during an alert. A shelter has been provided in the vaults supplied with chairs and lights, and this shelter has been marked for the guidance of the public in the search rooms of the Hall of Records and the Land Office. Several drills have been held and the Commission may feel assured that the staff of the Hall of Records realizes its responsibilities in this matter and is prepared to acquit itself of them.

#### MARYLAND COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Committees for the conservation of cultural resources were organized early in the year for the protection of art objects, books, records, old houses and other objects of cultural value which might suffer from direct military action or from the heightening of normal hazards bound to occur in war time such as neglect due to the scarcity of caretakers, thoughtless demands for scrap paper and metal, the increased incidence of fire due to the expansion of industry and so forth. These committees were called into existence by the National Resources Planning Board, an agency of the Executive branch of the Federal government. The Archivist was asked to call together the custodians of the larger collections of such objects in Maryland and he was also asked to act as temporary chairman.

An organization meeting was held at the Hall of Records on January 5, 1942. At this time the Archivist was elected permanent chairman, and Lieutenant Charles W. Mixer (USNR), Librarian of the Naval Academy, was chosen Secretary. Membership was made to include representatives of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Peabody Institute, the Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland Library, the Maryland Historical Society, the Walters Art Gallery, The Maryland Institute, the Bar Association Library, the Department of Legislative Reference, the Archives of the City of Baltimore, the Maryland State Library, the St. John's Library, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the United States Naval Academy Library, the Work Projects Administration and the Hall of Records. A second meeting was held on March 24, 1942 at the Walters Art Gallery.