

FOREWORD

A new millennium provides us with an opportunity to deliver a new look for the *Maryland Manual*. The 20th century printed *Manual* contained as much information about State government as was physically possible to bind between two covers. The *Maryland Manual 2001* is a much slimmer volume. It reflects the new look of reference books in this millennium, books designed to compete with the advent of on-line electronic reference, while providing a permanent historical record of their subject.

The electronic world is all too fragile and fast changing to accurately and permanently reflect the composition and personnel of State government over time. Since 1995, when the State Archives pioneered bringing the Web to State government, we have taken an annual slice in time of our website, including the *Maryland Manual On-Line*, in order to permit future generations to reflect on the nature and extent of Maryland government at all levels.

With the advent of the Internet and the mandate to have all State agencies on-line in the latter part of the 1990s, it quickly became evident that the website could accommodate much more detail than the printed volume and was dynamic. The *Maryland Manual* staff, under Diane Evartt's direction, works diligently to keep the information on the website current and comprehensive. Consequently, the website has become the definitive electronic volume and has had over 6.7 million visits since July 2000, a much broader audience than the printed version could ever reach.

When the time came to move the contents of the website to a printed volume, a decision had to be made. It simply was not possible to put everything into print in one volume. The Archives is legally mandated to print the name and address of each officer of the State or a county who is either elected, appointed by the Governor, or appointed by the Board of Public Works, as well as a copy of the Maryland Constitution (Code State Government Article, sec. 9-1027). Meeting these explicit requirements of the law is the essence of the *Maryland Manual 2001*.

This edition of the *Manual* retains biographical information on senators, delegates and State officials. It comprises the basic structure of Maryland government following the mandated guidelines. It no longer contains budget information; organization charts; lists of reports; agency origins, functions, and historical evolution; or municipal information. Simply put, the detail that resides on the website is not wholly available in print.

However, since the detail of state government is critical to the understanding of how government works, and there is a pressing need to capture the whole of the structure of Maryland government in a permanent historical record, this volume of the *Manual* comes with a self-executing, searchable compact disc (CD) of the entire *Maryland Manual On-Line* website current to June 2001. All the information from the website is available on your desktop on this CD without the delays of the Internet. The CD is searchable by name or subject and allows the user to set up files for commonly accessed terms. It not only provides access to descriptions of agencies and commissions, but also provides direct Internet linkage to the agency's own website to give the user a complete and comprehensive overview of State government.

Because the enormous requirements of maintaining the Web version of the *Maryland Manual* did not permit Diane Evartt to craft this print edition, I asked Lynne MacAdam to suspend many of her other duties as Archives' webmaster and take on the task of pruning the detail of the website and producing this volume. She did so with the creative energy and dedication to duty that is her hallmark and for which we are most grateful.

Her print edition and the slice-in-time CD of the website join all previous editions of the *Maryland Manual* on our pioneering *Archives of Maryland* website (<http://www.archivesofmaryland.net>), where they are fully searchable, including the previously overlooked edition of 1885.

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