

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held on Monday, February 18, 1952, in the Hall of Records at Annapolis. The following members were present:

The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals,
Honorable Ogle Marbury, Chairman

The Governor of Maryland,
Honorable Theodore R. McKeldin

The Comptroller of the Treasury,
Honorable J. Millard Tawes

The President of the St. John's College,
Dr. Richard D. Weigle

Senator George L. Radcliffe, President of the Maryland Historical Society telephoned his regrets at not being able to attend. Communications were also received from Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, President of The Johns Hopkins University and Mr. William L. Marbury, President of the Board of The Peabody Institute.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 P. M. by the Chairman. A motion was made, seconded and carried that reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with. An agenda had been prepared by the Archivist and the items on this agenda were taken up in order.

I. It was decided that a Vice Chairman should be elected at this time because the Hall of Records Commission has designated the Chairman and the Vice Chairman to act as an executive committee to pass on appointments to the staff of the Hall of Records, and there had been no Vice Chairman since the retirement of Dr. J. Hall Pleasants. Dr. Richard D. Weigle was elected Vice Chairman.

II. The State Law Librarian had requested the transfer of five Audubon letters to the custody of the State Library. These letters had to do with the subscription by the first State Librarian to the Elephant Folio Edition of Audubon. The Commission felt that it was proper that these letters be exhibited in the State Library and instructions were given to the Archivist to place them on permanent deposit in that institution.

III. Tentative approval was given to the following appointments to the staff of the Hall of Records:

Mr. Raymond B. Clark, Jr., to be Junior Archivist to assist in library and publication work.

Mr. John Torrey Caton, to fill the new position of Public Record Examiner.

Miss Beryl E. Gardner, to fill the new position of Senior Archivist in the Microfilm Division of the Hall of Records.

IV. At the suggestion of the Archivist the problem of record space in the proposed new State Office Buildings was considered. The Commission decided that no definite action should be taken until the plans for these buildings had matured.

V. At the suggestion of Governor McKeldin the Commission authorized the Archivist to assist in the survey of current and non-current records which is provided for in the budget for Fiscal Year 1953.

VI. Mr. Tawes moved that the Archivist retain the editorship of the Maryland Manual. The Archivist suggested that his task as editor might be simplified if the Hall of Records published and distributed the Manual and if the money for this purpose were in the Hall of Records budget. The Governor asked that action on this proposal be postponed until he had had an opportunity to study the matter with greater care.

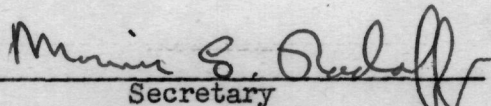
VII. The Director of the Maryland Historical Society and the Archivist had agreed upon certain measures which would further cooperation between the Maryland Historical Society and the Hall of Records, as follows:

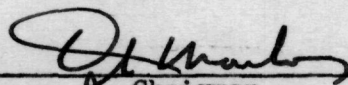
1. With as few exceptions as possible the Hall of Records will in the future confine itself to the acquisition of public records; the Historical Society, to private records.
2. The Hall of Records will be permitted to microfilm public records in the custody of the Historical Society and the Historical Society will be permitted to microfilm private records in the custody of the Hall of Records.
3. Borderline definitions of "public" and "private" are to be left to a decision arrived at by the Director of the Historical Society and the Archivist of the Hall of Records.

The Commission approved of this agreement.

VIII. Since three of the four members of the Commission present were new and had not been present at an earlier meeting, our proposed publication of Chancery Court Records was explained in detail. The Commission felt that the project was a worthy one. The Hall of Records will continue its work in transcribing parts of the First and Second Volumes of the Chancery Court Records and, upon its completion the transcript will be sent to the Chairman of the Commission for editorial comment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P. M.


Secretary


Chairman