

MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION
April 7, 1958

Suggestions for an Agenda

- I. Call to order by the Chairman.
- II. Reading of the Minutes of the meeting of August 9, 1956.
- III. Consideration of appointments to the staff of the Hall of Records made since the meeting of August 9, 1956.
- IV. The Maryland Manual. Report of the Archivist on its present status.
- V. The new Record Center for non-current records and the problem of additional space for permanent records. Willingness of the Land Office to move to the new office building in Annapolis.
- VI. The Maryland Guide. Complication due to unwillingness of Oxford University Press to relinquish its rights. Forthcoming meeting with representatives of the Press and also Hastings House.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE HALL OF RECORDS
COMMISSION

A meeting of the Hall of Records Commission was held on Monday, April 7, 1958, in the Hall of Records at Annapolis. The following members were present:

The Chief Judge of The Maryland Court of Appeals,
Honorable Frederick W. Brune, Chairman,

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

The Governor of Maryland,
Honorable Theodore R. McKeldin,

The President of the Maryland Historical Society,
Honorable George L. Radcliffe,

The Comptroller of The Treasury,
Honorable J. Millard Tawes.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:50 p. m.. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, held August 9, 1956, was adopted. The minutes were thereupon approved in the form in which they had been circulated.

The members of the staff of the Hall of Records listed herebelow, whose appointments had previously been approved by the Executive Committee of the Hall of Records Commission, were then approved by the whole Commission:

Martha M. France, Senior Account Clerk,
Lois G. Clark, Junior Archivist,
Jackson S. Saunders, Public Records Examiner,
George W. Straubinger, Senior Archivist.

One other appointment, that of Dorothy Harris, Senior Clerk, which had not previously been submitted to the Executive Committee, was then approved by the Hall of Records Commission. Mrs. Harris was appointed to fill a new position, created July 1, 1957.

There followed a discussion of the present status of the Maryland Manual. The Archivist reported that Senate Bill 88 of the 1958 Session of the General Assembly, which authorized the transfer of responsibility for the Maryland Manual from the office of the Secretary of State to the Hall of Records Commission, had failed on third reading in the House of Delegates. The question was raised as to whether the Hall of Records Commission should continue to compile and edit the Manual in the future. It was agreed by the

Commission that we should continue and that an effort should be made in the next General Assembly to accomplish the purpose of Senate Bill 88.

Plans for the new Records Center in the Annapolis State Office Building, which is to be administered by the Records Management Division of the Hall of Records, were then shown to the Commission by the Archivist. These plans were received with general approval.

The Archivist then reported that an effort was being made to find quarters for the Commissioner of the Land Office in the new building, thus freeing for the Archives Division of the Hall of Records the staff rooms now occupied by the Land Office and the stack area used for the storage of Land Office records. After the Commission had expressed approval of this project, Governor McKeldin and Mr. Tawes assured the Commission that as members of the Board of Public Works they would give sympathetic consideration to a request for special funds to provide furniture and equipment for the Land Office.

The Archivist then reported that the Oxford University Press has thus far refused to surrender its rights in the Maryland Guide, which was prepared by the Writers' Project of the WPA in 1939. The contract negotiated at that time between the Oxford University Press and the State of Maryland did not stipulate if and when revisions should be made. The Oxford University Press maintains that it has fulfilled its contract by offering to continue reprinting; while the Archivist insists that reprinting of the 1939 text, especially in the measured tour sections, would only mislead the tourist.

~~We~~ ^{It} had ^{been} expected that a contract with The University of North Carolina Press to print a revised edition would have been signed by this time. But The University of North Carolina Press is not willing to proceed without a clear title to the text, this title to be guaranteed by the State of Maryland. The Commission was advised by the Archivist that he will meet with a representative of the Oxford University Press on April 14, and at that time he hopes to persuade the Oxford Press to relinquish whatever rights it may have to the Guide. But failing this, he will report again to the Hall of Records Commission, which has suggested tentatively that under the circumstances it might be proper to ask the Attorney General of Maryland for his opinion in the matter.*

There followed a short, informal discussion of other business of the Hall of Records. The meeting adjourned sine die at 3:50 p. m..

Mavis S. O'Connell
Secretary

Frederick W. Arum
Chairman

*Emendation by Dr. Weigle, April 14, 1958.