

A HISTORY  
*of* PRINTING  
IN  
COLONIAL  
*MARYLAND*

1686-1776

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*Jonas Green, his Family and his Associates*

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GREEN & RIND, PUBLISHERS, 1758-1766

It is proper that while speaking of Jonas Green notice should be taken of a printer, who was, as far as can be ascertained, the first native-born Marylander to practice the typographical art in the Province. Unfortunately little is known of the activities in Maryland of this William Rind,<sup>1</sup> who for nearly eight years appears in the imprint of the *Maryland Gazette* as the partner of Jonas Green. Apprenticed at the usual age to Green, he had remained in his master's shop after the expiration of his articles, and eventually in October 1758, he had become Green's partner in the publication of the *Maryland Gazette*.<sup>2</sup> During these years he conducted a book store of no small pretension in the house on West Street, where, his advertisement informs us, "the late Mrs. M'Leod formerly kept Tavern." A long and interesting list of books imported by him appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* for August 26, 1762. In this house he established his circulating library, where the people of Annapolis, for one guinea a year might borrow under easy rules new and standard works of English writers. He had originally proposed a plan for "circulating a Library through the Province," but the uncertainty of the local system of transportation had discouraged him and his subscribers to such an extent that on January 13, 1763, he advertised in the *Gazette* his restriction of the privilege to the people of Annapolis. His relations with his partner and former master seem to have been particularly close; his name appears more than once in the St. Anne's register as sponsor in baptism for the children of Jonas and Anne Catharine Green, and when their partnership was dissolved in 1766, the several advertisements regarding the dissolution which appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* contained an interchange of the most amiable felicitations between the two associates.

It was in the year 1758 that the firm of "Green and Rind" was formed for the purpose of carrying on the newspaper. The junior partner, it seems, did not enter into the ordinary business of the establishment; his name appeared on none of its imprints except that of the *Maryland Gazette*. The relationship continued until the year 1766, when at the solicitation of Thomas Jefferson and others in Virginia, Rind removed to the southern colony. "Until the beginning of our revolutionary disputes," wrote Thomas Jeffer-

<sup>1</sup> The son of Alexander Rind and of Anne his second wife, he was born the 24th of December 1733 and baptized soon afterwards in St. Anne's Church, Annapolis. His father was a member of St. Anne's Parish and was married by its rector for the first time to Abigail Green, alias Harvey, on the 24th of August 1725. The maiden name of Anne his second wife does not appear in the "Register" of St. Anne's Parish from which these facts were abstracted.

<sup>2</sup> Advertisement in *Maryland Gazette*.

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son to Isaiah Thomas forty-three years later, "we had but one press, and that having the whole business of the government, and no competitor for public favor, nothing disagreeable to the governor could be got into it. We procured Rind to come from Maryland to publish a free paper."<sup>1</sup> That Jefferson had not forgotten the situation which existed in 1766 when he wrote these words in 1809, one learns by reference to the *Maryland Gazette* at this period, wherein is to be found a bitter controversy, long extended, between Royle the Williamsburg printer and certain Virginians who were indignant with him for refusing to publish their attacks on the local government. In this connection, one may refer also to the Rev. John Camm's pamphlet on the Two-penny Act,<sup>2</sup> printed by Green in 1763, the appendix of which consists of an interchange of correspondence between Camm and Royle, the latter giving as his reason for refusing to print the pamphlet the fact that the gentlemen attacked in it were members of an Assembly which had not been dissolved at the time that the "copy was submitted."

In Virginia, Rind was soon appointed public printer. He established a newspaper called, as was the rival paper published also in Williamsburg, *The Virginia Gazette*. This journal was published regularly by Rind until his death on August 19, 1773, after which it was continued for a short time by Clementina Rind who died within two years of her husband. Thomas says that Clementina Rind was born in Maryland. If this be true, she is another woman with Maryland associations to be added to the list of those who have been referred to in this narrative as proprietors of printing establishments. One is inclined to wonder sometimes if women have been as rigorously excluded from opportunity in the past as the apostles of feminism would have us believe.

#### THOMAS SPARROW, THE FIRST MARYLAND ENGRAVER

It is to be wished that more could be learned of the life and training of one of the most interesting of the individuals connected with the Green establishment;<sup>3</sup> namely, that Thomas Sparrow who is remembered as the first Maryland engraver. Very little, however, is known of his life, and because of its general artistic inferiority no careful study has been made of his work. From the antiquarian standpoint, however, both Sparrow and his work have their interest.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas, 2d ed., 1: 336.

<sup>2</sup> See bibliographical appendix. Copies in Maryland Diocesan Library and New York Historical Society.

<sup>3</sup> Of still another of Green's employees, William Poulitney, who several times in May 1762 advertised in the *Maryland Gazette* that he bound books very neatly, only the name is known. His bindery was "at the Printing office."