

SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS VOLUME

At the suggestion of a number of students of Maryland history, a note will be made here as to the source material from which this printed volume of the *Archives* is derived. The proceedings or journals of the Upper House as printed here are taken from one of the series of large official manuscript folio libers, kept by the clerks of that house, covering the colonial period from 1660 to 1774. Prior to 1660 the proceedings of both houses of the Assembly are to be found recorded together in the same liber. It was the business of the Clerk of the house, or of some under-clerk designated by him, to make his entries in these official libers from rough notes kept day by day of the proceedings of this body. John Ross (1696-1766), who was Clerk of the Upper House from 1729 to 1764, and was at this time nearly seventy years old, if he personally made these entries, which appears unlikely, had become a rather careless scribe and one who ignored both punctuation and paragraph, and an indifferent speller. In one instance the recorder failed to enter in the journal an Upper House message (pp. 263, 382), and in another instance did not record the proceedings for parts of two days (p. 270). His handwriting is to be rated as fair to poor. The contemporary volume from which this Upper House journal is taken bears the designation U.H.J. No. 36. Messages from the Upper House to the Lower House are also to be found recorded in the journals of the latter house, both in the official manuscript libers of the Lower House and in Jonas Green's printed *Votes and Proceedings of the Lower House of Assembly*. The Clerk of the Lower House in transcribing these messages usually corrected the errors in spelling, and filled in the letters or syllables which Ross, or an understudy, had carelessly omitted, and not infrequently added punctuation marks. Green even went further, correcting not only the spelling or other obvious errors, but paragraphing and punctuating liberally. The editor has thought it wise, however, to copy literatim and punctuatim the Upper House Journal so as to reproduce it verbatim as it appears in its own original manuscript record, even at the risk of some loss of clarity. In the case of messages, where occasionally a word is left out or is undecipherable, it has been supplied from the Lower House Journal when this is possible. It is to be noted that the Clerk has failed to enter the proceedings for part of the afternoon session of November 23, 1763, and for the morning session of the day following (p. 270). The clerk probably lost his rough notes and did not dare to supply them later from memory. None of the rough notes of the clerk of the Upper House are known to have been preserved.

In the case of the Lower House journals for the second and third quarters of the eighteenth centuries there are two separate contemporary series of records available, and in some cases also a third. These are the large official manuscript quarto libers, known as the Journals of the Lower House, and the printed "Votes and Proceedings of the Lower House", as they are designated in Jonas Green's contemporary printed pamphlets for each session. As a separate series the Lower House manuscript libers begin with the year 1666, and run down through the colonial period to 1774. The liber used in com-