

XLIII (No. 5 of the sub-series), in 1927 Volume XLV (No. 6 of the series), in 1930 Volume XLVII (No. 7 of the sub-series), and in 1931 Volume LVIII (No. 8 of the sub-series). This final volume of the series brought the printed journal down to November 11, 1784.

The remaining unprinted manuscript materials pertinent to this sub-series present a less unwieldy mass than the court records. The Proceedings of the Governor and Council between November 1784 and December 1821 are found at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, in eight folio volumes of approximately 3000 pages altogether. Four letterbooks containing out-letters of the council over these same years have about 800 pages. This total of 3800 pages would fill seven volumes of the *Archives* if the present format is followed.

In planning the future of the *Archives* the Publications Committee of the Society recommended to the Director and Council that the Court Series be discontinued as of Volume LXX (No. 15 of the Court Series) and that publication of the Journal and Correspondence of the State Council, in abeyance since the last volume appeared in 1931, be resumed. The committee arrived at this decision after carefully considering the expressed needs of scholars as well as possible alternative publication projects and their feasibility. In the first place the approaching bicentennial of the American Revolution suggested the appropriateness of publishing materials from the revolutionary period which inevitably will be prominent among the interests of students in the field of early American history in the immediate future. Secondly, the Revolution and the early national period are patently underrepresented in printed series based on manuscript sources. Thirdly, the body of archival material pertinent to this series could be edited and brought to publication within the foreseeable future, say within a decade.

The decision to resurrect the sub-series, Journal and Correspondence of the State Council, raised a problem of content, or more accurately raised anew this ancient problem. For questions of content had cropped up almost as soon as the editors began preparing text for the first two volumes of the Journal and Correspondence (Volumes XVI and XXI of the *Archives*) and had never ceased to plague the work. By 1924 it had become serious. Briefly, the editors had in the beginning attempted a difficult combination of archival materials, three altogether, into a single text. The basic text they chose was the Journal of the State Council, the day by day minutes of proceedings, as recorded by the clerk. Into this basic text they interpolated at appropriate dates the council's out-letters as taken from the Letter Books, which contained copies of all the Council's letters chronologically recorded by the clerk. This interpolation proved not too difficult, because the letters were closely articulated to Council decisions and ordinarily went out on the same or succeeding day. It was the letters to the council—the in-letters—that created difficulties of several sorts. In the first place, the in-letters were scattered: some were in the Rainbow Series—particularly the Red Books; others were in bundles which had not been examined since the Society acquired them in the 1880's. Secondly, some were addressed to the Governor, others to the Council, and still others to the Governor and Council. Finally, though the letters bore the date the writer