

composed of at least three members appointed by the Judges of the Court of Appeals, exercises general supervision over the library, purchases books, and appoints the Law Librarian and other employees (Code 1939, 1947 Supp., Art. 41, secs. 117, 119, 121). The Maryland State Library was established in 1827 by an Act of the General Assembly (Ch. 53, Acts 1826, Dec. Sess.). The Library is divided into two sections, the Law Library and the General Reference Library. The Law Library has on its shelves a large collection of law books including the acts and court decisions of the Federal government, the various states and territories, and the District of Columbia. There is also a collection of English laws, as well as current legal periodicals and journals. The library also has a number of rare books including the four volumes of the Audubon subscription edition and the most complete file of the *Maryland Gazette* now in existence. All together there are approximately 112,000 volumes on the shelves of the library. The library is also a depository for publications of the State government, and all State officials and State agencies are required to place in the library one copy of all reports and publications (Code 1947 Supp., Art. 41, sec. 103). The library also acts as the distributing agency for the Journals of the General Assembly, the Laws of Maryland, the *Maryland Reports* and the Annotated Code (Code 1939, 1947 Supp., Art. 41, secs. 113-116, 118). The reading rooms are open to the public Monday through Friday.

| | Expenditures | Appropriations |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 1950 | 1951 |
| Library | \$ 13,764.66 | \$ 13,911.00 |
| Library Committee | 3,430.66 | 5,500.00 |
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| Staff: 4 | \$ 17,105.32 | \$ 19,411.00 |

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COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

Harry L. Harcum, Commissioner, 1955
 Malcolm W. Waring, Administrative Assistant

Hall of Records, Annapolis

Telephone: Annapolis 3451

The Commissioner of the Land Office is appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, to hold office during the term of the Governor (Const. 1867, Art. VII, sec. 14). The Land Office keeps records pertaining to boundaries of land, including records of all warrants, certificates and patents for land from the settlement of the Province of Maryland in 1634, records of deeds, or abstracts of same, from 1786 to the present time, and abstracts of mortgages and releases from 1900 to June 1, 1949. Every clerk, after he records any deed, mortgage, release of mortgage or lease of real estate must make or have made a 35 mm. microfilm copy of every such record and transmit it to the Commissioner of the Land Office at the end of each year (Acts 1949, Ch. 504). The Commissioner hears and determines all disputes which may arise concerning the validity of surveys. The Land Office is now engaged in making, filing, and recording plats for subdivisions of land; copies of such plats are sent to the Supervisors of Assessments upon request. All plats that have been filed with the