

being adjudged public and hence left in the custody of the Royal Secretary rather than with the Proprietor's Agent. At the end of the royal period the Register again resumed custody and kept it throughout the remainder of the colonial period.

The records of these two important series have on the whole been preserved remarkably well. On not a few occasions, from the seventeenth century on, there was agitation and subsequent legislative action in the interests of their preservation. With the lists of land records as they exist today I have included a list of the land records as they existed in 1680 (a list identical, except for later additions, to another list compiled in 1694).<sup>44</sup> Only four of the thirty books of the 1680 list are missing today and one of them, Liber D, is not a land record but a book of instructions pertaining to land matters and another, Liber RM, is a land record of a restricted type. It deals with lands in what is now Delaware, and may possibly be in existence in that state. The other two missing volumes are Liber I&K "Burles 2 Bookes of Rights from 1649 to 1657", and Liber P "Booke of Rights & Warrants 1660" which appears to be missing already on the 1694 list.<sup>45</sup>

### PROPRIETARY LEASES

The *Proprietary Leases* series consists of just three volumes. All the leases, as the title implies, are leases between the Lord Proprietor (represented by his agent) and individuals who rented lands on his manors or reserves. It appears that though some leases were recorded in county land records, as a whole they were not recorded regularly in a separate volume series the way patents and other instruments were. Instead they were made out in duplicate and the lessee and the agent each received a copy. The agent was to keep these, but apparently he lacked a methodical system in so doing. In 1757 Governor Sharpe complains to the proprietor of "the Neglect of those who have heretofore had the Care & Management of these Lands None of whom have recorded or kept Copies of the Leases that they granted, & as many Tenants have lost their leases & know not how their Lands are situated or bounded."<sup>46</sup> Later the same year he writes in another letter to Lord Baltimore: "... The Steward

<sup>44</sup> cf. p. 77.

<sup>45</sup> *Arch. Md.*, XX, 192-200.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, VI, 322-523.