
Bacon's Laws the Typographical Monument of Colonial Maryland

It will be remembered in this connection, that the seal eventually used on Bacon's title-page was engraved on wood by Thomas Sparrow of Annapolis. On the title-page of the session laws of 1765, however, Green used the seal of the Province, engraved by another hand. It is possible that here was the plate made in response to Sharpe's request, but the reason that Sparrow's woodcut was substituted for it in Bacon's book is not known.

In the meantime, on two occasions, November 13, 1764, and February 26, 1765, to be exact, the Governor had transmitted additional sheets of the book as they issued from Green's press, announcing, in sending the second set of gatherings, that the work was now "printed down so low as the year 1745." On the tenth of July 1765, he announced the approaching completion of the task in the following words:

"The Acts are at length all printed & I now send you copies of the last of them, & as soon as some Copies of the Index & Preface can be printed the Books will be bound & exposed to Sale; as soon as they are I shall transmit you some of them with the Great Seal appendant to be lodged in the Council Office and delivered to the Board of Trade."¹

Finally, on July 21st, 1766, a year after the announcement that the printing was practically completed, Sharpe wrote in the following terms to Hugh Hamersly, who had now taken the place of Caecilius Calvert as secretary to his Lordship:

"The Collection of the Maryland Laws which hath been printed here being at length published I shall by a Ship of Mr. John Buchanan (Capt Hanrick) which is ready to sail hence for London transmit you two bound Copies one of them for the Lords of Trade to be presented with the inclosed Letter & the other for the use of the Council Office Their Lordships having long ago called on me for them, the next Ship Capt. Richardson in Groves's Employ will bring you another Copy or two."²

When one recalls that nearly six years had passed since the Lords of Trade had given order that copies of the Maryland laws be sent them, one is inclined to admire the patience with which their Lordships had awaited their transmittal no less than the coolness of the note from Sharpe which accompanied the volume when it was finally put into their hands. "My Lds," said the Governor,

"a compleat Collection of the Acts of Assembly which have been made in this Province & are now in force having been just printed here after many obstructions & Delays I embrace the first opportunity to transmit Your Ldps a Copy in obedience to your Commands some time ago signified to Your Ldps most obedt. humb. servt."³

At last then, the great book was printed and published, evidently in the summer of 1766. Although the title-page bears the date 1765, yet from the

¹ Sharpe Correspondence, July 10, 1765, *Archives of Maryland*, 14: 202.

² Sharpe Correspondence, July 21, 1766, *Archives of Maryland*, 14: 322.

³ Sharpe Correspondence, July 25, 1766, *Archives of Maryland*, 14: 322.