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## *Typographical Beginnings in Baltimore*

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November 5, 1772, that the following announcement appeared in the *Maryland Gazette*:

Baltimore, Oct. 31, 1772.

Printing, In all its Different Branches, Performed with the greatest neatness, accuracy and dispatch, by Hodge and Shober, At their new Printing-Office in Gay-Street a few doors below Market-Street, and opposite to Dr. Henry Stevenson's; who intend shortly to exhibit Proposals for publishing a News-Paper, which shall be justly entitled to the Attention and Encouragement of this Flourishing Town and Province, both for Entertainment and Elegance.

All kinds of Blanks, Hand-Bills, &c. &c. done in the neatest and most speedy Manner, at said office.

For some reason the expectations of these two printers came to nothing. They removed in this same year to New York, and no imprint remains to attest that their press was actually set up and operated in Baltimore.

Robert Hodge, of this firm, was born in Scotland, where he learned his trade. In 1770 he came to America, settled in Philadelphia and worked for two years in the printing house of John Dunlap. His partner, Frederick Shober, was German born. Coming early to this country, he served his apprenticeship with Anthony Armbruster of Philadelphia. Both of these printers bore the reputation of being industrious, prudent men as well as good workmen. In 1775 Hodge sold to Shober his share of the establishment which they had set up in Maiden Lane, New York, on their removal to that city from Baltimore, and during the next few years found employment in a Boston printing house. At the close of the Revolution he returned to New York and established a book shop and publishing business in which, with varying success, he continued almost until his death, at his home in Brooklyn, in the year 1813.

After the dissolution of his partnership with Hodge, Frederick Shober formed with Samuel Loudon, under the name of Shober & Loudon, a firm which printed in New York for a few months, but becoming discouraged by the certainty of war, he sold out to Loudon and became a farmer. He died about the year 1806 near Shrewsbury, New Jersey.<sup>1</sup>

### ENOCH STORY, THE YOUNGER, 1774-1775

Isaiah Thomas is authority for the statement that Enoch Story, the younger, came to Baltimore sometime in the year 1772, immediately after the expiration of his apprenticeship to William Hall of Philadelphia, but as there exist no imprints from his Baltimore press before the year 1774, one must conclude that the earlier date is questionable. This printer was a rel-

<sup>1</sup>The above facts relative to Messrs. Hodge & Shober after their departure from Baltimore are taken from Isaiah Thomas.