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## *A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland*

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and for their children the rights of Englishmen. In the sessions of 1724 and 1725, anxious to put themselves on record before their constituents in this matter, and at the same time to expose the obduracy of the Proprietary and the Upper House, the burgesses determined upon the printing of such of their recent proceedings as related to the contention which had been engaging their interest. The resulting collection was the earliest printed record of which copies have remained of the proceedings and procedure of the Maryland Assembly, but before passing to a consideration of this pamphlet, it is necessary to take account of an earlier publication of the same character which has never engaged the attention of bibliographers.

On October 13, 1724, the following entry was made on the journal of the Lower House:

“Several printed Copys of the Address and the Resolves of the Lower House in October Assembly 1722 being produced to this house are well approved of in the manner as they are now printed.”<sup>1</sup>

No copy of this initial issue of the Maryland Assembly proceedings has ever been recorded. Its printing had not been ordered by the Assembly of 1722, in which year it might conceivably have been printed by Michael Piper. No mention was made of it in the Assembly of 1723, and from the expression used in 1724, “the manner as they are now printed,” one acquires the impression that the publication had newly issued from the press. Bladen’s old press, presumably, having been sent to Philadelphia, there was no printing press in Annapolis in 1724, so that in seeking the place of origin of the first printed proceedings of the Maryland Assembly, one turns naturally to the office of that busy Philadelphia printer, Andrew Bradford, whose relations with the Province had continued to be close. It is not listed, however, with the issues of his press, nor is it recorded elsewhere in American bibliographies.

One passes with relief from this ghost book, the “Address and Resolves of the Lower House of Assembly of Maryland in the Session of October 1722,” to the well known but rare work of a similar character which Bradford printed for Thomas Bordley, Esq., in the year 1725. In the October session of 1724, three days before the occurrence which has been spoken of in the foregoing sentences, the delegates in the resolution cited below had provided for the publication of such of their proceedings as had to do with the English statutes in Maryland and related constitutional matters. “It being proposed,” the journal records,

“that for the more effectually publishing the Resolves and the Address relating to the

<sup>1</sup>L. H. J., October 13, 1724, *Archives of Maryland*, 35: 102.