
A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland

It contains a concise statement of the causes of the Revolution and an expression of loyalty to their Majesties, presented in terms appreciably more moderate than had been employed in the "Declaration," and what is of the greatest importance in this story of the Maryland press, it bears at the bottom of the sheet the following colophon:

Maryland printed by order of the Assembly at the City of St. Maryes August: 26th. 1689.

Coode's assertion in his letter of December 17th that he was sending a copy of the Assembly's "Address," the fact that Coode's letter and a printed, attested copy of that "Address" were received by the Lords of Trade from Lord Shrewsbury on the same day, and the colophon of the "Address" itself combine to furnish a reasonably clear pedigree for the printed broadside in the Public Record Office which, in the absence of a copy of the Maryland edition of the "Declaration," must be claimed as the earliest extant issue of the Maryland press, and the chief bibliographical evidence for the seventeenth-century origin of typography in Lord Baltimore's Province.

LATER ACTIVITIES OF MARYLAND'S FIRST PRINTER

When we find Nuthead figuring once more in public affairs, the Province, now under a royal governor, has resumed that aspect of peacefulness into which the turbulency of the Protestant Associators had entered brusquely some four years before. On October 14, 1693, there was read in the Council a deposition made by William Nuthead in regard to a printing "job" which Colonel Darnall, agent of the dispossessed Lord Baltimore, had demanded that he put through as a "rush order." The transaction is of importance in this narrative inasmuch as in the entry which records it, one is enabled to catch a glimpse of the first Maryland printer in the actual prosecution of his business, and to observe the straight course which a public printer must needs hold to in that day of restricted liberty of the press. At the meeting of the Council on the day named above, there was

"Produced at this Board Copy of a blank Warrant which was Given by Coll Darnall & Mr. Smith as a president (*sic*, precedent) to William Nuthead the Printer in order to print a certain Number of the same, for their Use, the Tenor whereof followed in these words, Vizt. . . . [Here follows in the original a blank land warrant running in the Proprietary's name].

On the back of the abovesd Warrant was taken the following Deposition, Vizt.
Octbr 14th 1693.

The Deposition of William Nuthead of St. Maries City Printer Aged Thirty Nine years or thereabouts. This Depont saith that Coll Darnall & Mr. Richard Smith comeing to this Deponts house on the 6th of this instant month would have had him to have printed the within written blank Warrant to the Number of ffive hundred, to be done imediately out