
A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland

Strangely enough Green seems to have been less versatile as a publisher than was his predecessor William Parks. In a great measure he confined his activities to governmental and political business, and although the greatly increased population of Maryland provided him a wider market than Parks had been able to count on, yet the breadth of his literary interests seems to have been less than that of the earlier publisher. An explanation of this may lie in the circumstance that with the passage of years and the consequent growth of population the governmental business unquestionably had increased in volume; moreover, it is certain that the editorship and publication of the second *Maryland Gazette*, which Green established in the year 1745, consumed a great deal of the time and effort which might otherwise have gone into the conduct of a general publishing business. Green's journal was a much more elaborate publication than the newspaper which Parks had issued, and it is probable that he put into its maintenance so much effort and so much capital that he had little of either left for the continuance of the book trade so auspiciously begun by his predecessor.

THE CIVIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF GREEN

Happily, it is not only as printer that Jonas Green engages our attention, for in his civic and social character one perceives a distinction as worthy of comment as are the qualities of intelligence which he devoted to the public service in the practice of his craft. During a part of his residence in Annapolis he was an alderman of the city, and more than once he was elected to serve as vestryman of St. Anne's Parish. At the time of his death he was registrar of the vestry, having held that office several times since his first election to it in 1746. The vestry proceedings of St. Anne's are full of references to his activity in the work of the parish. Did the vestry need something in Philadelphia, Mr. Green would see that it was sent for; were some new pews to be put in, Mr. Green would arrange with the carpenter; were there printing to be done or a prayer book to be bound, Mr. Green, of course, would attend to that. Indeed both in the church and in the community at large Mr. Jonas Green was the cheerful and obliging servant of his neighbors.

For many years postmaster of Annapolis,¹ acting sometimes as auctioneer at the country vendues,² clerk of entries for the Annapolis races,³ secretary of the local lodge of Masons,⁴ vestryman, alderman, journalist, printer, and

¹ See colophons to the *Maryland Gazette*, 1745 *et seq.*

² *Chancery Depositions*. I. R. No. 5, folio 730. Ma. in Land Office, Annapolis.

³ Advertisements in *Maryland Gazette*.

⁴ Verso of title-page of Brogden, William, *Freedom and Love*. Annapolis 1750. See bibliographical appendix.