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## PREFACE

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Easton on the Eastern Shore, and at Frederick and Hagerstown in Western Maryland. Baltimore was soon to become one of the important printing centers in the country.

An effort has been made to give a concise history of the important printing firms and a biography of the printers connected with them. In many cases the only source of information has been the surviving copies of the newspapers which they printed, so the accounts are often necessarily limited to a few facts. The bibliography contains all Maryland imprints between the years 1777 and 1790 which have either been seen by me or which, on the evidence of newspaper announcements, may be assumed to have been published.

Kenneth L. Rede, of Baltimore, began a bibliography of Maryland imprints from 1777 to 1820 which was intended to form the basis of a history of Maryland printing in that period. The work was in its early stages when he died on November 21, 1934. His notes, given by his parents to the Enoch Pratt Free Library, will be of the greatest value to his successors in that interesting period of printing history. The notes, which were used in preparing this work, contain a short title entry for each of the three hundred items in Evans together with thirty-eight additional imprints of the period 1777 to 1790. These he had discovered at the Maryland Diocesan Library, the Maryland Historical Society and the library of the Hon. John W. Garrett. His search yielded six per cent of the five hundred and sixty-five items listed in the bibliography of the present work.

The task of compiling this bibliography has been an enjoyable experience because of the interest and cooperation given by members of the staffs of the Maryland Historical Society, the Maryland Diocesan Library, the Peabody Library and the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore; the Maryland State Library and the Hall of Records, of Annapolis; the Library of Congress and the Washington Public Library; the New York Public Library and the New York Historical Society; the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library Company; the Harvard University Library and the Boston Athenaeum; the American Antiquarian Society; the Henry E. Huntington Library; the William C. Clements Library; the John Hay Library, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Rhode Island Archives, and the John Carter Brown Library, of Providence.

In particular, I would acknowledge the help and inspiration given by Mr. Louis H. Dielman, librarian of the Peabody Institute and chairman