

had made an effort to acquaint himself and other members of the staff with other archival establishments, their equipment and procedures. Visits were made to the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Archives of the Treasury at Washington, the Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia, the Hall of Records of Delaware at Dover, the State Library at Richmond, Virginia. The Archivist feels that these trips were extremely beneficial in breaking down that insularity which so often handicaps institutions of localized interest. In Maryland repeated visits were made to the more important depositories of archival materials and their holdings have been carefully examined. A study was begun of the possibilities of a division of function among these depositories.

In addition to the many distinguished visitors who came to the Hall during the meeting of the Society of American Archivists, there have been many others, archivists, historians, or genealogists with professional interest. Also many individuals and groups came simply as tourists, as members of patriotic and civic organizations who are interested as antiquarians or as patriots in the preservation of our ancient relics or simply as taxpaying citizens anxious to satisfy themselves that the funds allotted to the maintenance of the Hall of Records are well spent. The value of the interest of these visitors has been appreciated by the Hall, and the staff has spared no effort to satisfy curiosity, to assist research, to inspire interest where there was none before (especially in the case of very young visitors) and on rare occasions, even to allay suspicion. Some of the groups of visitors were from the Maryland Library Association, the Daughters of the American Colonists, the Penwomen's Association, the Girl Scouts, the Daughters of the American Revolution. In addition, the Hall invited the public to see two special exhibits of its own work and of the work of the Historical Records Survey which it sponsored on the occasion of the Archivists' meeting and again during the national "This Work Pays Your Community Week" sponsored by the Work Projects Administration. The Hall was also open during Garden Club Week.

Nor did we hesitate to go abroad to interest other groups. The Archivist and various other members of the staff visited about half the counties in the State to speak to governmental officials and to bar associations about the problems of preserving records and making them available. The Archivist spoke to the meeting of the State Council of the D.A.R. and to the Peggy Stewart Tea Party Chapter of that organiza-