

lection of State Papers which were brought from the Maryland Historical Society. This collection amounted to over 45,000 papers which were unfolded, boxed, and arranged. In addition 10,000 State Papers of a later period which had been transferred from the Executive offices were also arranged and placed with the earlier papers.

Study and arrangement of many of the larger and more important collections were begun this year. All of the court materials including the Court of Appeals, the Provincial Court, and the General Court were carefully examined and put in proper order. Shelf lists were made and gaps in the records indicated. These collections were given permanent places in the stacks, and shelf labels for each volume or box were made. In the course of this work many "discoveries" were made, among them 25 pages of a Provincial Court *Judgment* record which had been "lost" before the volume of the *Maryland Archives* for that term of court was printed, a volume of records labelled *Bonds* proved to be a record of Conveyances of the General Court of the Eastern Shore, the only record of this kind now known to have survived, a volume which had been catalogued as a record of a "Court of Assizes" proved to be, with the exception of a few pages, a Provincial Court *Judgment* Record which had been separated from the other records of that court when it was moved to the Maryland Historical Society in 1882; after sixty years it has been restored to its proper place. Less spectacular, but perhaps more useful, is the effort to arrange the fee books, the cost books, the rough dockets, the rough minutes, all the records supposedly of minor importance which we have inherited under such classifications as "miscellaneous" or "odds and ends", classifications which are useless to the researcher except to help him form a judgment of record custodians.

At present we are studying the financial history of the State, and before the year is over we expect to have arranged all the financial records now in our possession and some others shortly to be transferred from the basement of the Court of Appeals Building. Perhaps this kind of work justifies an archival establishment more than any other. It is too much to expect custodians of records who change from year to year and who are absorbed in the daily tasks of their offices to study their older records, the history of their offices and the legislation governing them, and without this study correct arrangement is impossible.