

The last fiscal year was the first full year of activity of the Department of Information. As we had expected, this new agency of the State relieved us—along with other older agencies—of the burden of replying to the thousand and one questions asked by school children, prospective tourists, history teachers and so forth. We can now with a clear conscience restrict the services we give to persons who require genealogical, historical and archival information of a kind which we alone are equipped to render. As a result the number of letters which we answered did not increase in the same proportion during the year as the number of visitors or the number of documents circulated. There was an increase, though, however small, but since these letters were of a more specialized nature, the number alone is not an exact measure of the increased burden on our time.

Number of letters written Fiscal Year 1947.....	1,007
Number of letters written Fiscal Year 1948.....	1,137
Number of letters written Fiscal Year 1949.....	1,150

These letters were written to persons in forty-three states, the District of Columbia, Cuba, England, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Uruguay and French Morocco.

The Hall of Records finds itself more and more called upon to answer questions by telephone. These questions are of mixed quality, ranging from the serious inquiries of other agencies of the State government to the trivial demands of radio fans who are intrigued by the prizes offered for the correct answers to preposterous questions about the history of Annapolis. There were an especially large number of ridiculous questions this year due no doubt to the celebration of the Annapolis Tercentenary, but there were also eighty-three calls for legitimate purposes.

#### AIDS TO RESEARCH

Work progressed during the year on the *Calendar of the Red Books*, the last of the so-called "Rainbow Series" to receive this attention. I stated in my last *Annual Report* that it would not be possible to complete any part of this work during the year, and that proved to be the case; we are confident, however, that we shall have one of the three contemplated volumes printed by the end of the fiscal year 1950. Work was also resumed