

Liber 22 1738	548
Liber 23 1743-1744	712
Liber 33 1764-1765	460

Total 32,348

PHOTOCOPYING

It is with a deep sense of relief that I can report the end of our project for photostating all the county land records from the erection of the several counties to the date of the adoption of the Federal Constitution by the Maryland Convention, April 28, 1788. We have gained for the Hall of Records a full set of the originals, which have been repaired and rebound where necessary and which constitute an invaluable addition to our collection of historical records. The counties have newly-made and bound photostatic copies, and we have therefore insured ourselves against further loss of records for the early years. The period covered is, of course, a valuable one for genealogical studies, and the duplication was especially important because the terminal date of our project was roughly the same date as the beginning of the abstract system which has provided usable, if not perfect, copies for the later period. The project cost a great deal in time — all the spare time of the camera operator for close to ten years — and a great deal of money as well. When we began we had thought that we might extend the scope of the project to the beginning of the next century or even later, but in the meanwhile the use of microfilm has become universal and any further copying of land records or any county records will be done on film. We had also considered the possibility of duplicating the Will records by photostat and we tried it in one county, Somerset. We are now finishing that series, and we believe we have done enough to decide that we should go no further.

The continuous-process camera which we had ordered the year before was only delivered and installed at the very end of fiscal year 1952. Even then we were not able to use it until the new fiscal year began because of the need to change our water heating system in order to provide a sufficient flow of warm water to the washing apparatus of the new machine. The camera is at this writing in constant use.

Only a small part of our microfilm equipment is required to satisfy the needs of our clients, both public and private. For the rest, it is used to add miscellaneous items of interest to our collections of manuscripts or