

to another State agency for attention. Because correspondence is much more costly than circulating original records, we have found it necessary to limit our efforts to consulting indexes or single documents. We never attempt to trace a family line, nor do we evaluate a record for genealogical purposes. In spite of these self-imposed restrictions our correspondence has grown steadily through the years as the figures given here below will witness. Queries came this year from all of the forty-eight States, the District of Columbia, Canada, England and Spain.

Fiscal year 1951	1,026 letters written.
Fiscal year 1952	1,190 letters written.
Fiscal year 1953	1,293 letters written.

We are continually called on to answer questions for newspapers, historians, attorneys and others over the telephone, but this is a service which we find it difficult to measure.

PHOTOCOPYING

The new Microfilm Division of the Hall of Records was created for certain special purposes described elsewhere in this report. Our photographic facilities include, in addition, the excellent equipment in our photographic laboratory and the services of one photographer. This department does microfilming, photostating and photographing for genealogists who need copies of wills, attorneys who want certified reproductions of the engrossed laws, and historians who want the full text of the original executive papers abstracted in one of our Calendars. All these are listed below under the category of "paid orders." "No charge" orders include work done for the Hall of Records, for the Court of Appeals, for the Department of Budget and Procurement and other State agencies.

Whether work for other State agencies should be handled under some sort of reimbursable agreement is now under study. Certainly the present system is far from satisfactory. For example, all work done for the Department of Law is done without cost of any kind to that agency; the Department of Budget and Procurement provides photostat paper; Cecil County paid for the binding but not for the photostating of the two index volumes listed below.

Very little of the microfilming reported here is done on order. Its chief purpose is to permit us to add materials which we need and which are un-