

MARYLAND MANUAL

The Maryland Manual for 1951-1952 appeared January 18, 1952. Preparation began almost immediately thereafter for the 1953-1954 edition, which will be distributed in December of 1953. (At this writing it is in page proof.) Because a new Code of Public General Laws had appeared since the publication of the last *Manual*, almost every legal reference in the whole work had to be revised. In addition, every telephone number in Maryland and the District of Columbia has been changed during the last year. The long session of the General Assembly also made many changes in the duties and authority of State agencies. In the past we could count on many re-appointments of State and local officers by the Governor, but where there has been a change in the party in power as at present in Maryland, new appointments are the rule rather than the exception.

New appointments mean changes in the text and in the index; new agencies require changes in the governmental chart and elsewhere; new addresses and telephone numbers add to the time required to gather information and to check it. We have also decided it would be valuable to give more information on the fiscal affairs of the State and to include the results of the two last primaries and general elections rather than one. In the forthcoming *Manual* we have continued the policy adopted several years ago of using for illustrations pictures of capital improvements completed during the last biennium by some agency of government. They are all public buildings, dedicated to some form of governmental service and ought to be made known to those who pay for them. The Hall of Records is constantly being asked to supply the charter dates for incorporated places. We decided, therefore, that it would be worth the time and effort to include this information in the new *Manual*.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS PROJECT

The task of collecting and servicing public documents is assigned to the same member of the staff who is also charged with much of the responsibility for the *Maryland Manual*. Since this was a year in which a new *Manual* — a biennial publication — was being prepared, our attention was necessarily diverted from the task of completing our files of documents. The total number of State publications which did come to us, 417, was a little more than two-thirds of the number reported last year. Of this number, almost all were current publications, and since they will be listed in the