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Land Records Liber T. 1733-1739	768
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Maryland Charter — 2 copies made into booklets	56
TOTAL	23,242
Parchments Pressed	
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BINDING

In the Report of the Archivist for last year an account of the first fruits of our bindery was given. In fiscal year 1953 we bound eleven volumes; in fiscal year 1954, forty-eight volumes. Our progress, however, is not quite so great as these figures would indicate. In the first place, the binder, who had previously divided her time between that work and laminating, this year devoted full time to binding. An examination of the costs involved disclosed that each volume bound cost about twice as much as we have heretofore paid to a commercial shop. On the credit side though, we must note that the books were out of use a much shorter time, they were at all times protected in our building; moreover, the cost and dangers of highway transportation were avoided. While we have always insured ourselves against total loss of the record while the volume was out of the building by first preparing a microfilm copy, we cannot dodge the obvious fact that the Hall of Records was created primarily to preserve the originals and not photographic copies, no matter how accurate.

With all its advantages, however, we must not continue our bindery if we cannot reduce costs. Whether we can do that depends altogether on how skillful our operator can become. We must face the fact that ledger