

PRESERVATION AND REPAIR

Quantity of output is not always a perfect criterion of the amount of work done in the repair room. A record volume which has torn loose from its binding is relatively easy to wash, laminate and prepare for binding. On the other hand, a volume which has had the opportunity to deteriorate fully in the attic of a county courthouse will require a great deal of inlay; and it may have to be put together with tweezers. Still, over the years, the simple and the difficult ought to average out. If we assume that to be the case, then we may boast of a steady increase in the productivity of our repair room. The one full-time technician, Mrs. Hiltabidle, and the day-a-week volunteer, Mrs. Moss, together laminated 24,680 pages this year as compared with 23,342 in fiscal year 1954.

From time to time doubts are expressed as to the permanency of the laminating process. Only recently some of the plasticizers in the cellulose acetate used for record work have aroused suspicion. Some lamination done elsewhere twenty years ago has deteriorated; but fortunately our oldest work, dating from 1941, is still in perfect condition; and it is possible that some of the deterioration noted is due to faulty method rather than materials. It is also possible that the synthetic aging procedures used in laboratory tests are inapplicable. That remains to be seen, but in any case, as of now, our work has given no sign that it is being affected adversely by the passage of time.

MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS LAMINATED

	<i>Pages</i>
Accounts	
Liber 9 1728-1729	512
Liber 17 1739	570
Liber 38 1755	350
Anne Arundel County	
Land Commissions Liber I. B. No. 1	1724-1767 712
Land Records Liber I. B. No. 3	1770-1773 548
Liber W. S. G. No. 23	1838-1839 648
Liber W. S. G. No. 24	1839-1840 656
Wills Liber T. G. No. 1	1780-1786 368
Baltimore County	
Accounts Liber D. M. P. No. 45	1844-1845 532
Administration Bonds Liber D. No. 4	1668-1785 370
Inventories Liber W. B. No. 22	1801-1803 660
Land Records Liber I. R. No. P. P.	1663-1705 232
Liber W. G. No. L.	1783 546