

Baltimore's Avalon colony; and some items of the Thomas Bray Collection not found in the large collection now held by St. John's College. Among the manuscripts an original letter of George Plater was of most interest.

PUBLICATIONS

The *Twentieth Annual Report of the Archivist* appeared May 7, 1956. It contained a detailed account of the work of the Hall of Records for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1954, and ending June 30, 1955. While this report has always as its first objective to inform the members of the Hall of Records Commission, it is useful to the staff too because it inevitably confronts us with an austere statistical judgment of the work we have accomplished or left undone in the course of the year. We are also hopeful that the lists of accessions, finding aids and publications will prove of value to searchers. Finally, we invite through the wide distribution of these reports to fellow archivists, comment and criticism which ought to prove useful to us.

The *Maryland Manual, 1955-56*. While all the copy for this edition had been delivered to the printer before the beginning of fiscal year 1956, it was not until December 1955 that the book appeared. Since the *Manual* is issued only once every two years, we are at pains to make corrections even as late as page proof. Moreover, a work of this kind can never be forgotten: no sooner is one edition out than we start collecting material for the next.

Calendar of Maryland State Papers Number 4, Part Three, The Red Books Publication No. 10 of the Hall of Records Commission. This volume, perhaps the last of the State Paper series, was described in the 1955 *Annual Report* because it too had been completed before that fiscal year had ended. It is listed here again because it did not appear until August 1955 and, therefore, within the new fiscal year.

Index Holdings, Bulletin No. 10 of the Hall of Records Commission. This is the latest in our series of short processed finding aids. The series was begun for the convenience of our own staff but because of a surprisingly widespread interest in these bulletins, the more recent numbers have been distributed to a selected group of libraries and individuals. Bulletin No. 10 appeared in May 1956.

The Old Line State, A History of Maryland, Historical Record Association, Hopkinsville, Kentucky. This three-volume work, while in no way connected with the Hall of Records as such, was made possible by the collaboration of certain members of the staff and is therefore worth reporting. The *Archivist* acted as general editor and wrote the first chapter, "The Settlement." The chapter on Southern Maryland was written by Mr. Thomas; Mr. Caton wrote the history of Baltimore city; and Mr. Skordas and Mr. Hively