

enormous series. At this writing we have already begun to work in Washington County and we are hopeful of a beginning in Charles County.

Counties Completed Previous to Fiscal Year 1960

Anne Arundel	1851-1949
Baltimore	1851-1949
Calvert	1882-1952 (earlier records burnt)
Caroline	1851-1950
Frederick	1851-1949
Howard	1851-1949
Prince George's	1851-1949
Queen Anne's	1851-1949

Counties Completed in Fiscal Year 1960

Carroll	1851-1949
Wicomico	1867-1949 (Wicomico created in 1867)

CIRCULATION

The number of working visitors at the Hall of Records was approximately the same for fiscal year 1960 as for the previous year, 1,731 as compared with 1,736. Both years fell well below the 1,933 who came in fiscal year 1958, our busiest year. The number of separate items circulated also declined from 12,045 to 10,266. There is no ready explanation for these variations from year to year. Nor is a statistic of this kind of real importance. It is somehow encouraging though that the trend over the years has been toward higher totals in spite of occasional but temporary setbacks.

Perhaps one reason for the decline last year in the use of records is the increase in the number of queries answered by mail. The figures here are, for 1960, 1,643; for 1959, 1,467. The increase in the number of letters written would have been even greater were it not for the fact that beginning in March 1960, we stopped writing covering letters for photographic reproductions which had been ordered and paid for. This is a courtesy which we did not wish to abandon, but it was too costly to continue. We are now considering the substitution of some kind of form letter to be used in replying to relatively simple requests for information. Perhaps we shall come to that too.

The list of records most frequently circulated which follows includes every series used more than twenty times, a purely arbitrary figure. The list will indicate how useful the county records have become