

are only accountings of these activities they too become fixed in content if not necessarily in form. The only area in my report which still permits some freedom of maneuver is the Letter of Transmittal; and there, from time to time, I am at liberty to abandon facts and statistics and to replace them with hopes, reflections and judgments. In the Twenty-Fifth Annual Report I took advantage of this situation to write a brief account of the first twenty-five years of the Hall of Records. It was challenging to me and I hope useful to you. This report appeared January 24, 1961.

#### MARYLAND MANUAL, 1961-1962

There is only a short while between the appearance of one *Manual* and the start of preparation for the next one. In addition to the compilation of data, we have had in the past to consider changes in form. We believe that this part of our work is over: the 1961-1962 *Manual* looks precisely like its predecessor except of course for color of the binding. The text has as always been thoroughly revised but the book looks the same and for the first time it is exactly the same size. This is the first *Manual* which has been paid for out of the budget of the Hall of Records Commission; previously it was a charge of the office of the Secretary of State. We have also taken over from the Secretary of State the responsibility for distribution. As an innovation we have printed extra copies to be made available to the public for \$3.50 per paper-bound copy, \$4.50 for clothbound. The *Manual* will be ready for the first day of the General Assembly, February 7, 1962.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. *Liber A*, 1696-1699

This project was undertaken first in 1945 jointly with the Littleton-Griswold Committee of the American Historical Association. It has now at long last and after many vicissitudes of fortune come within striking distance of the end. It is expected that type will be set during the last months of fiscal year 1962 and that the book will appear in fiscal year 1963, perhaps in the early fall of 1962. While it has been discouraging to see one editor follow another through so many years, we feel that it proved to be worthwhile because the editor who is bringing the book to completion is extraordinarily interested and competent. When Joseph H. Smith undertook the editorship he was in private practice; he is presently Professor of Legal History at the Columbia Univer-