

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

When the Hall of Records opened its doors in 1935 there was as yet no single professional organization which devoted its full attention to recordkeeping. The need was present—it had been described strikingly by the public records commissions of the American Historical Association beginning at the turn of the century. A catalyst was needed to bring together the widely scattered archival interests in the country and this came only with the establishment of the National Archives in 1934. By 1937, there were enough active archivists to justify the organization of the Society of American Archivists—the late Dr. James A. Robertson, first Archivist of Maryland was a charter member. This Society is still flourishing, but so many specialties have been needed to care for our modern records problems that many new groups have appeared concerned with such things—unheard of things years ago—as records management, microfilming, data processing and many others. It has now become impossible for any one individual to keep abreast of all these fields; it is next to impossible even to scan the journals and to attend the meetings. As you will see we have tried to divide the responsibility among the members of our staff.

The Archivist continued to serve on several committees of the Society of American Archivists: the Long Range Planning Committee, The Committee on Professional Standards and Training, and the Committee on State and Federal Relations. He served for the first time this year on the Waldo Gifford Leland Prize Committee and as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Study of State Archival Programs. The last-named is an *ad hoc* committee constituted to council with the Director of the Project, Dr. Ernst Posner. The study is being financed by a generous grant from the Council of Library Resources, Incorporated and will be completed by the end of calendar year 1963. The Archivist is also serving on the Editorial Board of the *American Archivist*.

At the invitation of Dr. Kent Roberts Greenfield the Archivist accepted membership in a seminar organized at the Maryland Historical Society for the purpose of assisting scholars who are presently writing in Maryland History. Other members of the seminar are Professor Aubrey C. Land, Department of History, University of Maryland, Professor F. Wilson Smith of the same department at the Johns Hopkins University and Professor Rhoda Dorsey of Goucher College. The late James W. Foster, Director of the Maryland Historical Society