

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO THE HONORABLE
THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

Following the air-conditioning which was installed in fiscal year 1967 and the roof repairs, we had the building painted from top to bottom; and following this we replaced the asphalt tiling in the first deck of the stacks, the index room and the repair room. The study room above the research room and to the rear, now boasts a red carpet. Thereafter painting was done and the heating system was overhauled. All of this was done under the immediate supervision of Gilbert Roberts, a new member of the staff, who fit into our program precisely from the very beginning.

Various Maryland public agencies were asked in the course of the year, whether any one of them would take over and maintain in perpetuity the house in Yorkshire which George Calvert built and in which Cecil Calvert was born. It was understood that the house, Kiplin Hall, would be given to the State, under the proper conditions, by its present owner, Miss Bridget Talbot, a maiden lady without heirs. It was her feeling that since she had no direct heirs the death duties on the house and about one hundred acres of land in the valley of the Swale, would be confiscatory. At that time she was unable to give it to the National Foundation since she was unable to endow it sufficiently. The archivist volunteered to go to England for the St. Mary's City Commission. He arrived in Yorkshire the first week in May, he found the house and farm beautiful, and began negotiations with the owner through our ambassador, Mr. David Bruce. Miss Talbot is now eighty-six years of age and, therefore, takes her time so that nothing has been settled as of now.

In spite of so many interruptions during the fiscal year, it proved to be one of renewal in other ways besides structurally. Mr. Skordas edited the Land Office index to patents which was published under the title of *The Early Settlers of Maryland, 1633-1680*. Beverly Baker went through the microfilm catalogue and the Accession books and made corrections where needed. Phebe Jacobsen continued to press for the acquisition of church records with much success (see "Archival