

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO THE HONORABLE
THE HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Gentlemen:

The deposit by the Librarian of Congress of the valuable fugitive archives of the State of Maryland brought to a close a thirty-five year effort on the part of the Archivists of Maryland and the Hall of Records Commission to recover these valuable materials from the Peter Force Collection at the Library of Congress. During the same period the Hall of Records has received the older records from every state agency and from all the counties of Maryland. There is only one collection still at large, the very rich state archives now at the Maryland Historical Society.

The Society became the *de facto* custodian of the Archives of the State after 1847 (Resolution No. 27, Acts of 1846) when a large deposit of records by the Governor in the Maryland Historical Society was authorized. There was also deposited "a complete copy of the laws of this State, so far as the same are published, and may be found in the possession of the State," In subsequent years additional deposits were made by the State at the Historical Society. Finally, in 1882 the society became the archival agency of the state *de jure* when (Chapter 138) an Act was passed "to provide for the preservation, arrangement, publication and sale of ancient documents pertaining to Maryland, Provided that any or all of said papers may be recalled, and shall be returned to the State on its demand therefor." For all this the Society was given an annual stipend of \$2,000. This appropriation was used for the publication of the enormous collection — now 71 volumes — of letter press volumes of the early records of Maryland. The amount of the appropriation has been raised from time to time reaching \$30,500 for fiscal year 1972.

Equally as important as the deposits of the State, have been the acquisition of related records given, bequeathed or deposited because of the fact that the Society was considered to be the Archival Agency of the State until 1935 (Ch. 18) when the Hall of Records was established. Chief among these related accessions has been the Scharf Collection which was first given by J. Thomas