

in force in this Province which You know are not to be procured, & to have
so many Sets transcribed from the Records in the same manner as was
that Copy which I transmitted in the Year 1750 for the Council Office would
be attended with a very heavy Expence, of which it is evident (by their
having refused to reimburse me what I paid for the abovementioned Copy)
that the Assembly would not defray the least Share; Nor do I believe they
will ever contribute a Shilling towards an Edition of our Laws unless the
Editor will leave out the Tunnage Law & the Act made in 1704 for the
Support of Government. Had not such Obstacles as these prevented it a
Sum of Money would in this time have been granted to encourage the
Rev. Mr Bacon to send a Copy of all the Acts of Assembly now in
force (which he has collected & compared with the Records) to the Press;
but as the Expence of Paper, of printing, correcting the Press, & of binding
them would be very considerable, perhaps £400 by a Sum much larger
than he is able to advance; all his Labour & pains will I fear be lost & the
Province long remain without a good Edition of our Laws, tho the Want thereof
is extremely obvious & much lamented. It is now two or three Years since
Mr Bacon published Proposals inviting people to subscribe at the Rate of
Forty Shillings Currency for each Book or printed Copy & promising to send
his Collection or written Copy to the Press as soon as a sufficient Sum to
defray the Expence of Printing should be subscribed, but the people in this
Province being averse to Subscriptions, his proposals met with a cool Reception
tho I cannot but be of Opinion that if the Acts of Assembly were once published
agreeable to Mr Bacons plan many more Copies might be sold in the Province
than would defray all Expences attending the Publication, & therefore that
Mr Bacon might be enabled to proceed I would readily advance him £40 or
£50 if other Gentlemen would come into the proposal & advance largely likewise