PROVENANCE

When the Maryland State Colonization Society ceased active operations in 1863 its books and papers were left in the hands of the General Agent, Dr. James Hall, who had also been the Society's business manager and the editor of the Maryland Colonization Journal.

On October 9, 1876 Dr. Hall wrote the Reverend E. A. Dalrymple, Corresponding Secretary of the Maryland Historical Society, expressing his wish to give the Historical Society the 'Archives of the Colonization Society. When this letter was read before the Society, a motion was made and passed that the entire matter be referred to the President and Librarian, both of whom were empowered to act.

Four months later the President, John H. B. Latrobe, confirmed acceptance and read a letter to the Historical Society which stated that Mr. Gatchell, the Assistant Librarian, had received from Dr. Hall an inventory of the Maryland State Colonization Society records. This inventory, dated January 22, 1877, listed twenty-three items 'in manuscript' and twelve items of 'printed matter'.

Not until 1937 was any attempt made to classify and arrange the voluminous records in any order other than that in which they were received from Dr. Hall. The formidable task of reclassifying the collection was taken on by William D. Hoyt, Jr. of the Johns Hopkins University. In 1955 the Librarian of the Society, John B. Kilbourne, annotated the Hoyt Classification to bring the contents of the collection up to date. During the intervening twenty years, between the initial effort of Hoyt and Kilbourne's work, a number of significant items had either been lost or misplaced within the collection.

For this microfilm project, the two previous examinations of the Maryland State Colonization Society Papers were thoroughly re-checked against the material and most of the lost items of the 1955 study were found to have been either re-shelved in the library, in the pamphlet collection, or misplaced in the collection itself.

The microfilm contains two categories of material. The subject matter pertains directly to the activities of the Maryland State Colonization Society or to printed items from Liberia which are not likely to be available to the student elsewhere. Appended to the Hoyt Classification is a list of pamphlets from the Maryland Historical Society's main pamphlet collection which were not originally contained in the Colonization collection, but which concern the colonization efforts in Maryland.