

In his chronicle of this adventure, Father White has a place in the tradition of more famous travellers – Herodotus, Caesar, Marco Polo, and his contemporary, Captain John Smith – who have recorded great events among distant lands and peoples, and in so doing have drawn the cultures they observed into the consciousness of western civilization. In his brief and vivid account, Father White has conferred upon the founders of Maryland “the honor of remembrance.” Like those great chroniclers who preceded him, he speaks from the pages of his *Briefe Relation* to posterity, even as he fulfills his obligation to make an annual report to his superiors.

As we enter new frontiers in the late twentieth century, it is proper that we pause to reflect on the challenges faced by courageous men and women on the first frontier, in a new land that was to become America.

Publication of this reprint was made possible through the cooperation of Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, State Archivist, and Rick Blondo, Publications Director, of the Maryland Hall of Records Commission. A fuller printed version of Father White’s narrative first appeared in July 1634 in a now rare promotional tract entitled *A Relation of Maryland*. This pamphlet will be reprinted with an introduction on June 20, 1984, as the fourth in a series of documents issued by the Hall of Records Commission in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of Maryland.

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is grateful on the occasion of Maryland’s 350th anniversary commemoration for the opportunity to bring Father White’s words before the public once again.

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Charlotte Hall, Maryland  
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