

**THE LORDS OF TRADE
AND PLANTATIONS,
1675-1696**

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The Lords of Trade and Plantations, 1675-1696 by Ralph Paul Bieber

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RALPH PAUL BIEBER

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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BY
RALPH PAUL BIEBER

A THESIS

PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN PARTIAL
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PREFACE

No longer do historians view the American colonies as practically independent communities, but as integral parts of the British Empire. More and more stress is being laid upon the relations between the colonies and the mother country, and as a result several extended studies have recently been made of the imperial organs of colonial administration, which however, have left virtually untouched the period from 1675 to 1696.

In this thesis I have attempted to present a history of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, a committee of the English Privy Council charged with the administration of the colonies during these years. It has been my purpose to describe the organization and activities of this body from the point of view of its relations with the American colonies. Several additional topics might naturally have been treated in this connection, namely, legal review, trade, defense and centralization, but as these phases have already been covered at least in part in the works of Professors Osgood, Andrews, Beer, Root and Dr. Russell, it has not been thought necessary to extend this study to include the above subjects.

After all the material for this thesis had been collected and organized and the text partly written, there appeared an article in the *American Historical Review*, vol. XXIII, no. 1, by Professor W. T. Root, entitled "The Lords of Trade and Plantations, 1675-1696." This article has been of no aid in the preparation of the present monograph which is based on an independent study of the sources.

I desire to express my gratitude to Dean Herman V. Ames, of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania, who

first suggested the subject of this thesis and under whose guidance it was carried to completion. To him, as well as to Professors Edward P. Cheyney, Albert E. McKinley, and John B. McMaster, of the same institution, I am indebted for their critical reading of the manuscript. For various courtesies extended to me in the search for material my thanks are due to the officials of the Library of Congress, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Main and Ridgway Branches of the Philadelphia Library Company, and the Main and Biddle Law Libraries of the University of Pennsylvania.

RALPH P. BIEBER.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
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