



**Press Release**

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**ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION  
ALABAMA'S "INVISIBLE MAP" OF 1818 AND THE ORIGINS OF THE  
GREAT SEAL OF ALABAMA  
BY DAVID ROBB**

*ArchiTreats: Food for Thought* continues another year of interesting and informative talks on Alabama history at the **Alabama Department of Archives and History** on **Thursday, November 19 at noon**. David Robb will present *Alabama's "Invisible Map" of 1818 and the Origins of the Great Seal of Alabama*.

Thanks to recent advances in technology, historians have recently revealed previously unrecorded details of the first state seal of Alabama. These new images of our embossed seal — distinctive in featuring a map of its domain — open new lines of historical investigation and enable scholars to reflect in new ways on the values of Alabama's founders. This month, historian David Robb will trace the origins and history of Alabama's first state seal. He will explore its impact on later versions of the seal and what these suggest about our understanding of Alabama's history.

David M. Robb, Jr. is an art historian; has served several decades as a museum director; and is now a regional historian and museum consultant. Robb has been long intrigued by map making and map design ever since his college art history studies at Princeton and Yale. Following curator appointments at the National Gallery of Art, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, and the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Robb served as Director of the Telfair Museum in Savannah, and at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Since retiring he has been researching diverse topics, including the architectural photography of Frances Benjamin Johnston, the natural ice trade in the South, and paintings by William Frye; and has written articles about the adventurer Zachariah Cox and the origins of Alabama's boundaries for the *Encyclopedia of Alabama*.

This ArchiTreats presentation made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission is always FREE!** To view the full 2015 ArchiTreats schedule visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov).

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