

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
P.O. Box 300100  
624 Washington Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0100

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Sherrie Hamil  
334-353-4726

Release Date: Immediately

ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION  
*HISTORY OF LICENSE PLATES IN ALABAMA* BY ROSS SLOAN  
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ArchiTreats: Food for Thought continues another year of informative talks on Alabama history at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, June 21, 2012**, as **Ross Sloan** presents *History of License Plates in Alabama*.

The Alabama Legislature passed Act 634 in 1911, requiring the display of a 'white on dark blue' porcelain plate on automobiles. In the early years, the letters 'ALA' were displayed vertically on the left side of the plate, with the number in the center. The color of the plates was changed annually. As more cars meant more license plates, the designs grew more complex. Collector Ross Sloan will share some of the interesting discoveries that he made while researching the history of Alabama license plates.

A Mobile native, Sloan majored in history in college and graduate school before becoming a career insurance agent. His life-long interest in antiques led to his saving the license plates from his own cars over the years. After discovering the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association, he began collecting them systematically. He may now have the only complete set of Alabama plates in the world.

This ArchiTreats presentation is 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 sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)

###