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NEWS RELEASE

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***ARCHITREATS: FOOD FOR THOUGHT* SPECIAL PRESENTATION
ALABAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION LEGISLATURE
BY MILLS THORNTON
AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

Join us at **noon** on **Thursday, August 26** as **Mills Thornton** presents a very special *ArchiTreats: Food for Thought* presentation on ***Alabama's Presidential Reconstruction Legislature***. This will be held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

This program is based on a special lecture presented by Dr. Thornton on March 4, 2010 in England at the Cambridge Historical Society and is a rare opportunity for Alabamians to experience this prestigious lecture series. Thornton's presentation will examine the state's initial efforts to adjust to emancipation at the end of the Civil War, from the spring of 1865 to the passage of the Military Reconstruction Acts in the spring of 1867. He will focus on the Alabama legislature's consideration of the ratification of the 13th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Montgomery native Mills Thornton recently retired as professor of history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Thornton received his bachelor's degree with high honors from Princeton University in 1966, and his doctorate from Yale University in 1974, joining the faculty of the University of Michigan in that year. His book, *Politics and Power in a Slave Society: Alabama, 1800-1860*, published in 1978, received the Dunning Prize of the American Historical Association. His second book, *Dividing Lines: Municipal Politics and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma*, published in 2002, received the Liberty Legacy Prize of the Organization of American Historians. During 2007-08, he served as the Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at the University of Cambridge in England. He is currently working on a new book which examines the evolution of the Democratic Party in Alabama during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The public is invited to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a bit of Alabama history. Coffee and tea will be provided by the Friends of the Alabama Archives. For more information, call (334) 353-4726.

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