



EIGHTH ANNUAL RARE BOOK LECTURE

AUSTIN, TEXAS (January 17, 2012) – The Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas School of Law will present its eighth annual rare book lecture, "An Accidental Collector: The Making of an Historian's Law Library" on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. The talk features Warren M. Billings, Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus, University of New Orleans.



Billings has written on topics as varied as the making of the King James Bible, using digital archives in historical research, and the origins of Virginia law. He has delivered talks around the country and around the world; his vitae lists lectures and talks in more than a dozen states and at least four countries. He has been the Historian for the Louisiana Supreme Court and an Advisory Board Member for New Orleans' National Public Radio station, in addition to a contributor to major historical journals and legal publications. He is the author or editor of more than a dozen books.

In this talk, Professor Billings discusses how his research into the history of law in early America accidentally turned him into a collector of rare books and led to the making of his law library, which in turn became fundamental to his research, writing, and teaching.

Billings joined the University of New Orleans in 1968 and remained on the faculty there until he retired as Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Formerly he held the Williams Visiting Professorship of Law at the University of Richmond and currently he is Visiting Professor of Law at the College of William and Mary. He is a past president of the Louisiana Historical Association and an honorary life member of the British and Irish Associations of Law Librarians.

For more information on Billings, please see his online [curriculum vitae](#).

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Law School's Sheffield Room (TNH 2.111). Reception to follow.

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