

Media Release
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From a Love of History book signing set for Fendall Hall, Sunday, January 26

...the artifacts themselves described in this book will tease, seduce, tempt, and finally obsess others as it did the collection's founder and me.

From the foreword by Wayne Flynt

Author and curator Stephen Rowe will sign his new book *From a Love of History, the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection at the University of Alabama* on Sunday, January 26 from 2:00 -4:00 pm at Fendall Hall in Eufaula.

Published by the University of Alabama Press, the book details the monumental collection assembled by A.S. Williams, III, a direct descendant of Fendall Hall builders Edward and Ann Young.

An insurance executive and book lover, Williams created this collection over a forty-year period. The collection is exceptional in size and scope. The University of Alabama's Gorgas Library purchased a portion of William's materials. Their Americana Collection includes some 20 thousand volumes and pamphlets published between the late seventeenth century and the early twenty-first century.

Particularly noteworthy are some fifteen thousand photographs of the South taken between the 1850s and the mid-1930s. Smaller collections include early southern maps, the African American experience in the South, and the financial history of the United States from pre-Revolutionary times to the founding of the Bank of the United States.

Stephen M. Rowe is archivist and curator of the Eufaula Athenaeum, Eufaula, Alabama. A native of Richmond, Virginia, and a graduate of North Carolina State University at Raleigh, he was an assistant archivist at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation from 1974 to 1977. Since 1983 he has worked as an antiquarian bookseller and appraiser.

Copies of the book are available for sale at Fendall Hall prior to the Sunday event.

Fendall Hall is an Alabama Historical Commission historic site. It is one of Alabama's finest Italianate mansions. For more information, call Fendall Hall at 334 687-8469.

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The Alabama Historical Commission protects, preserves, and interprets Alabama's historic places and is the State Historic Preservation Office. To learn more go to www.preserveala.org.



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