
NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana
Department of State



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LOUISIANA'S CIVIL CODE EXHIBIT AT LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne and the staff of the Louisiana State Archives are celebrating the 200th anniversary of Louisiana's Civil Code with an exhibit opening on Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m. at the Archives. The exhibit showcases the work of artist Jacques Royal including photographs, pencil sketches of Louisiana plantations, a collection of French stamps about America and Louisiana Purchase memorabilia.

The compilation of the Louisiana Digest of Civil Laws is closely connected to the period which followed the Louisiana Purchase and to the history of the Territory of Orleans. The Territory of Orleans, which would later become the State of Louisiana, needed unity of its different French, Spanish and American laws. On June 7, 1806, the Legislative Council and the House of Representatives appointed lawyers James Brown and Moreau Lislet to prepare a Civil Code for the use of the territory. The Digest of Civil Laws, published on March 31, 1808, was inspired by the "Civil Code des Francais" proclaimed on March 31, 1804 and later referred to as the "Code Napoléon" in September 1807.

The exhibit will be open in the Louisiana Room of the Louisiana State Archives at 3851 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge through Monday, March 31. The public is invited to view the exhibit during regular Archives hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and the building is wheelchair accessible.

For more information about the Louisiana State Archives, visit our Web site at www.sos.louisiana.gov/archives.

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