

Early Louisiana and Her Spanish World

Introduction by the Editor in Chief

In this volume *The Forum* proudly presents a double issue devoted to Louisiana legal history. The essays address the theme “Early Louisiana and Her Spanish World: Legal Tradition, Laws and Customs in *Luisiana* and the Floridas.” That was the title of an especially rich legal-history conference that was held at the Tulane Law School in late 2016. The conference brought together some of the most eminent historians of Louisiana law, both locally, nationally and internationally. The conference was held under the auspices of The Portalis Society of Legal History, the Eason Weinmann Center of International and Comparative Law, and the Tulane Law School. The essays being presented are original contributions on various aspects of one of the more neglected and confusing periods of Louisiana history. They provide context and clarity about Spanish legal institutions, contemporary attitudes to Spanish law, and American perceptions of Spanish rule. There is new light on the codes, codifiers, and their sources. There is a comprehensive study of the early lawyers of the Territory of Orleans, a detailed study of the litigation of Florida land claims based on Spanish titles, the travails of Florida families reclaiming their homes in the back and forth between Spanish and English sovereignty in the Floridas, and an exploration of the dark legacy of extra-legal violence in the Floridas. In short there is a wealth of new material on the effects and after-effects of the Spanish domination of Louisiana.

As an organizer of the conference, I must express my deep gratitude to my co-organizer, Professor Seán Donlan of the University of the South Pacific, whose efforts were indispensable to the success of the colloquium. I would also like to thank Olivier Moréteau, James Gordley, and David Campbell for chairing the sessions of the colloquium, and also David Meyer, Dean of the Tulane Law School, for his remarks at the conference luncheon. Finally I wish to thank Georgia Chadwick and Ben Janke for all their assistance, support, and encouragement.

Vernon Valentine Palmer
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