

TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27th, 2002)
Volume 17, Number 4, October 2019

Monday, October 28th, 2019, Meeting

The Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, first-floor auditorium,
500 McKinney Avenue

6:00 – 6:30 Reception

6:30 Program

PROGRAM

**"Shades of Black and White:
Growing Up as an African-American Groce Descendant"
by
Debra Blacklock-Sloan**

Debra Blacklock-Sloan is a sixth-generation Texan and native Houstonian. She is a self-employed historical researcher and genealogist. An avid preservationist, she is responsible for twelve City of Houston Protected Landmark designations and 26 state and county historical markers. Currently, she serves as the Historic Research Advisor for the R.B.H. Yates Museum in Houston's Freedmen's Town.

ELECTION OF FTxR BOARD MEMBERS

Nominees to the 2020 FTxR Board of Directors

President: Mister McKinney (New two-year term on Board – Term expires Oct. 2021)
Vice President: Susan Teich (New two-year term on Board – Term expires Oct. 2021)
Secretary: Charles Maynard (New two-year term on Board – Term expires Oct. 2021)
Treasurer: Frank Jones (One year remaining on Board – Term expires Oct. 2020)

Director: Jim Bailey (New two-year term on the Board – Term expires Oct. 2021)
Director: Nancy Burch (New two-year term on Board – Term expires Oct. 2021)
Director: Anthony Cavender (One year remaining on Board – Term expires Oct. 2020)
Director: J.J. Gonzalez (New two-year term on Board – Term expires Oct. 2021)
Director: Carol Haddock (New two-year term on Board – Term expires Oct. 2021)
Director: Kathy McCully (One year remaining on Board – Term expires Oct. 2020)

NEW PAPERLESS PARKING

Free parking is available for FTxR members in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. Upon arriving at the garage entrance meter, (1) select language, (2) enter your license plate number, (3) select "All Day Parking \$16," (4) select "Yes" to the question "Do you have a coupon code?," (5) enter the code 59186, (6) place the printed receipt on your dashboard.

The one-time parking code is 59186

No code is needed upon exiting.

Non-FTxR members who want to use the underground parking must pay upon entering the HPL Garage. Paper tickets will no longer be issued.

Parking is also available in the Smith Garage located at 1100 Smith Street next to Pappas restaurant. The garage entrance is on Smith Street.

A parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 pm.

Free parking is also available on the nearby streets after 6:00 pm.

All attendees need to enter the Julia Ideson Building from the main entrance across the plaza from the Central Library.

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MINUTES OF THE April 29TH, 2019, GENERAL MEETING

(NOTE: The Minutes of the April 29th General Meeting are presented here due to the cancellation of the July 29th General Meeting.)

Susan Teich, Vice President, called the April 29th General Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Per her request, the Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on January 28th were approved.

She then introduced John Choate, who stepped in for our scheduled speaker hospitalized with a sudden illness. John, a proud graduate of Texas A&M University, gave a fascinating presentation on the great grandfather and grandfather of his wife and former board member, Calanne: Edward Hopkins (E.H.) Cushing and his son, Edward Benjamin (E.B.) Cushing, who in 1877 matriculated at the then Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, founded just a year earlier.

E.H. Cushing, a Vermont native and an 1850 alumnus of Dartmouth College, was a migrant to Texas, arriving in Galveston shortly after graduating where he taught for one year at a Presbyterian Church there. He moved along to teaching positions in Columbia and Bryan, Texas, and became a journalist, writing first for the *Democrat Planter* published in Columbia and the *Weekly Telegraph* in Houston until 1862. He owned newspapers and other businesses. E.B.'s enrollment at A&M ended in 1879 owing to his father's untimely death forcing him to return home and to support his family. He went to work for and had a long and significant career at Southern Pacific Railway, eventually becoming the Superintendent of Maintenance and Way for the Sunset Line between New Orleans and El Paso.

But his attachment to A&M persisted and he eventually received his degree in civil engineering from A&M College in 1899, joined the board in 1912 and played a crucial role in preserving the school as an independent institution by personally guaranteeing the school's debts when its existence was in jeopardy following a catastrophic fire that destroyed the old main building and led to calls that it be relocated to and combined with the University of Texas. He received a commission, served on the staff of General John Pershing and was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his service in the first world war. On his death, he bequeathed his collection of engineering books to A&M and today the University library bears his name.

It was, of course, mention of his commitment to the establishment of an official library at A&M College that produced the warmest round of applause from those in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

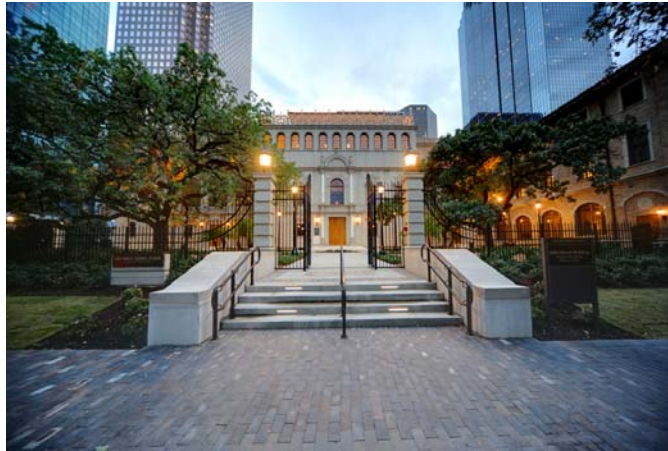
Charles Maynard, Secretary

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Joanna “Jo” Collier, Library Services Supervisor (A Book Nerd in Rare Book Heaven)



McKinney Entrance to the Julia Ideson Building, Photo by Joel Draut

Books can be rare for reasons other than being old. Characteristics that may qualify a volume to be considered rare include:

- A unique binding
- Notes written in the book by an author or well-known owner
- First editions
- Limited editions

I was promoted in 2017 to a position that makes me responsible for books at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). In that role, as I began cataloging, it quickly became apparent that HMRC’s materials require more detailed records than standard library materials. For rare books, this is even more true.

When I began studying rare book cataloging on my own, I encountered a descriptive vocabulary beyond what I had expected. So, I inquired about attending a book-history workshop. Through the generosity of the Friends of the Texas Room, who covered the cost of tuition, I took part of the 18th annual Book History Workshop at Texas A&M University, held June 2nd through 7th, 2019. The sessions included lectures, the opportunity to view rare texts, and intensive hands-on training in book craft.



Each day began with a lecture covering an aspect of the history of the book and of printing. Following the lecture, we were allowed a brief period to look at example texts

from the Cushing Memorial Library & Archives at A&M.

One example was a Dharani scroll. In 764 AD, one million small wooden pagodas, each one containing a paper scroll with a small woodblock print, were distributed to temples throughout Japan. These scrolls are the earliest known examples of woodblock printing, and possibly the oldest verifiable printed matter in the world. (Houston's Printing Museum also has one of these pagodas in its collection.)

After each daily lecture, much of our time was spent doing the work of a compositor, or typesetting. Working together as a group, we produced a copy of Thomas Paine's *Thought on the peace*.

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j					e	i	s	f	g	ff	9		
	b	c	d			l	See	Fairy	Gold	fi	0		
!						o	y	p	w	,			
z	Look	Ma	No	h		Oh	Yikes	Po-po	Without	EN SPACER	EN QUADS		
x						a	r						
v	u	t		3-EM SPACES									
q	Very	Unflattering	Tutu			Arrrr							

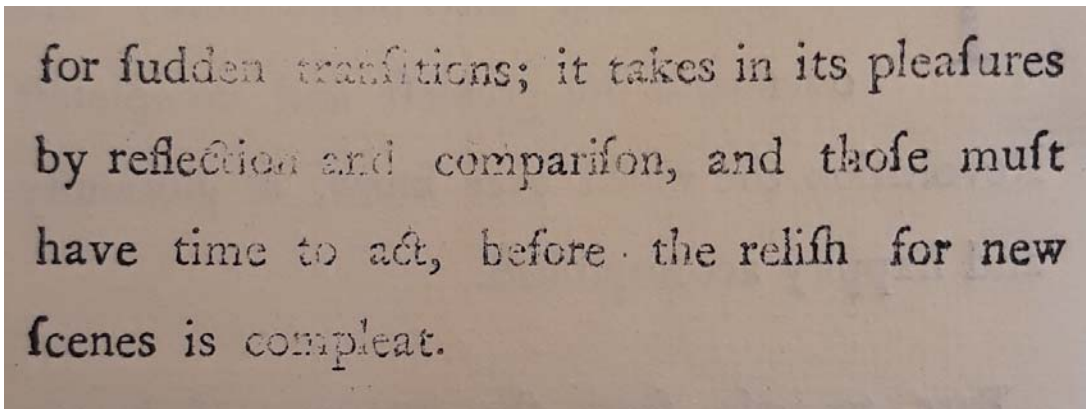
Each letter, symbol, punctuation and space is a separate piece of metal (i.e., type). The wooden cases holding the loose type come in various layouts. The one we used in the workshop was a California job case; the left portion holds the lower-case letters.

The instructors supplied us with sentences in which each letter of a word corresponded with the letter's placement in the case. I

used some of the suggestions, but also made up some sentences of my own.

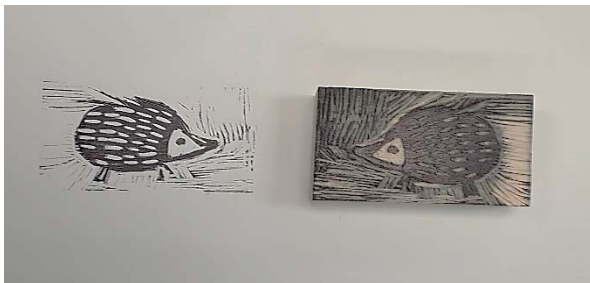
We learned that one piece at a time, type is placed into a composition stick, upside down and backward from the typesetter's view. Most errors in this type of composition by hand are caused by the difficulty of learning this skill. The text in the picture of the composition stick reads "have time to act, before the relish for new."





The uneven coverage of the text in this example is due to the inexperience of the “beater” who applied the ink.

In addition to the varied tasks involved in working with type and the printing press, workshop participants also made paper, tried our hands at marbling paper, and carved our own illustrations into woodblocks.



The hedgehog woodblock in the picture isn't my own creation, but is one of my favorites.

Looking ahead, HMRC plans to put to use what I've learned by adding a book history element to the 2020 Student History Intern Program (SHIP). I am working to develop

training to help teach young book nerds during that program.

In Search Of...

HMRC is looking for yellow pages that cover the whole of the *Greater Houston Area* for 2008 forward. If you have copies of these (or microfilm) and would be willing to donate, we'd be glad to add them to our holdings.

Programs and Events

Exhibit: !Música! A History of Hispanic Sounds in Houston

August 24, 2019 - November 9, 2019 - JIB Exhibit Gallery

This exhibit captures key moments through the decades of different Hispanic music genres and reveals the vast impact it made on the Bayou City.

Halloween in the Archives (social media)

Thursday, October 31, 2019

HMRC is taking over the HPL Instagram! We'll show followers special behind-the-scenes content as well as our favorite spooky finds in the archive. Like #AskAnArchivist day, this virtual program seeks to break down barriers that can make archives seem inaccessible and fosters interaction between viewers and HMRC staff.

[Nick Vaughn and Jake Margolin: Cabin Boy Blue](#)

Thursday, November 7, 2019 | 6:00 pm

This performance lecture is offered in collaboration with DiverseWorks.

Julia Ideson Building Tour – November 2nd, December 7th, and January 4th | 11:00 am

Join us on the first Saturday of every month for a tour of the historic Julia Ideson Building. Formerly Houston Public Library's "Central" Branch, the Julia Ideson Building is a beautiful Spanish Renaissance Revival (Plateresque)-style building in the heart of downtown. Learn about the history and use of the building, the renovations and additions, as well as the significance of its art and architecture. Free one-hour tours of the Ideson Building begin at 11:00 a.m. at the reception desk in the lobby. If you would like to schedule a tour for a group of 10 or more, please contact 832-393-1662.

2019 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2019 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:

- 5x7 print (\$12.50 normally costs \$6.25)
- 8x10 print (\$18.00 normally costs \$9.00)

Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

Volunteers

HMRC can use volunteers who want to help going through archival collections box by box to determine what is in them. HMRC can also use volunteers who want to help

create lesson plans incorporating primary sources from HMRC's collections. HMRC is also still seeking talented individuals to serve as tour guides and volunteer educators to ensure that all visitors to the HMRC and Julia Ideson Building have an enriched experience.

We are looking for docents who are:

- Passionate and Curious about Texas and Houston history.
- Committed to engaging the visitors to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and the Julia Ideson Building in a rewarding and educational experience.
- Well-prepared for diverse questions and expressions of interest regarding the history of the Julia Ideson Building and HMRC's various collections.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Walking tours of the Julia Ideson Building and grounds
- Orientations to the Texas Room, Reading Room, and/or Exhibit Hall
- Instruction on history topics
- Guided informational visits to exhibits and installations

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact Laney Chavez (Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of the *Texas Room Dispatch* (lindemann@SBCglobal.net), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize HMRC resources.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM POLICIES

The FTxR policies relate to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center which includes the Collections of the Archives and Manuscripts Department, the Texas and Local

History Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Public Library.

A. Contributions

From time to time, the Friends of the Texas Room will purchase and contribute to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library items that will enrich and enhance the above-named collections and ensure their preservation.

All such contributions will be purchased by the Friends directly and then given to the Library with specific stipulations as to how such contributions are to be used by the Library to enhance and ensure the preservation of the HMRC collections.

The Friends will give no money directly to the Library.

The Friends will not buy expendable supplies for the Library.

The Friends will not fund Library personnel.

B. Relationship to Administration and Staff

The Friends of the Texas Room is not to be involved in the administrative or employee actions of the Center, except that the Friends can question policies which, in its opinion, negatively impact the ability of the Center to provide service to the public.

CULTURAL MATCHING GIFTS

Are you or your spouse working for or retired from a corporation which makes cultural matching grants or volunteer involvement awards if you give to or do volunteer work for a cultural institution?

Will your employer match your gifts to cultural institutions that qualify under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code?

The Friends of the Texas Room has such a qualification. Send your corporation's cultural matching funds form with your check for membership in FTxR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTxR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTxR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTxR and can be used towards making a difference to the Texas Room and HMRC.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM: WHO WE ARE

Mission: The Friends of the Texas Room seeks to support the collections of the Texas and Local History Department, the Archives and Manuscripts Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library.

2018 Board of Directors:

President: (Dorothy Knox Houghton, passed)

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, Carol Haddock, Jeff Lindemann, Catherine McCulley, Mister McKinney, and George Werner

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the following address:

Friends of the Texas Room
P. O. Box 27827
Houston, Texas 77227-7827

HOW TO CONTACT *THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH*

Submissions and comments for the *Texas Room Dispatch* should be emailed to the editor, Jeff Lindemann, at lindemann@SBCglobal.net or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann, Editor
Texas Room Dispatch
4910 Houston Drive, Galveston, TX 77551

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2019

Mail with dues to:

P.O. BOX 27827 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

Or apply and pay with PAYPAL online at: **www.friendsofthetexasroom.org**

DATE: _____

Check applicable: _____ RENEWING APPLICATION _____ NEW APPLICATION

FIRST PERSON: _____ SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS (if applicable): _____

first name, middle, last name

first name, middle, last name

MAILING ADDRESS (include street or P.O.): _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, EMAIL

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON (if different)

HOME: _____

HOME: _____

OFFICE: _____

OFFICE: _____

FAX: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please check category)

_____ Benefactor \$500

_____ Patron \$250

_____ Sponsor \$100

_____ Donor \$50

_____ Family \$30

_____ Individual \$20

_____ Senior \$10

_____ Student \$10

NOTE: Friends of the Texas Room is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization operating under IRS Code 501(c) (3). Membership and additional contributions over and above membership are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Is your gift eligible as a “matching gift” from an employer or other entity? If so, please give the name and include the appropriate form.

Additional contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution): \$ _____

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS: Please check below to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

___ **COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER:** Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research techniques.

___ **NEWSLETTER:** Writing articles about materials in the collections or reporting on related activities.

___ **MEMBERSHIP:** Maintain up-to-date membership list and send out renewal notices.

___ **HOSPITALITY:** Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

___ **PROGRAMS:** Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

___ **PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.

___ **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

___ **OTHER:** _____

2020 Call for Entries



Julia Ideson

Award

**Houston Public Library
Friends of the Texas
Room**

Deadline: May 1, 2020

This is a call for entries for the annual Julia Ideson Award sponsored by the Friends of the Texas Room at the Houston Public Library. The award commemorates the Houston Public Library's first director, Julia Bedford Ideson (1885-1945), and it recognizes distinguished projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture.

THE RESOURCES OF THE LIBRARY'S TEXAS ROOM/HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER MUST BE USED, TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT, IN THE CREATION OF THE ENTRY. In 2020, the call for entries is for published books documenting Houston and Texas history and culture.

The Julia Ideson Award and a prize of \$500.00 will be presented to the winner by the Friends of the Texas Room at its annual meeting on October 26, 2020. For additional information, visit www.friendsofthetexasroom.org or contact Anthony B. Cavender at Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com (713-276-7656).

Eligibility: A book based scholarly research completed within the past five years (2014-2019) documenting local Houston and/or Texas history and culture USING THE RESOURCES OF THE HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVELY.

2020 Entries: As described above.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH ENTRY:

1. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person submitting the entry/nomination.
2. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person(s) or organization responsible for the project, if not the nominator.
3. Briefly describe the entry.
4. LIST THE SPECIFIC RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS ROOM / HMRC USED IN THE PROJECT AND HOW SUCH RESOURCES WERE UTILIZED.
5. Explain how the project contributes to a better understanding of local or Texas history/culture.
6. Submit **three copies** of the entry.

Submission:

Entries must be submitted in the name of the person(s) or organization responsible for executing the project. Submitting an entry constitutes agreement to the terms of eligibility and also serves as agreement that the Friends of the Texas Room may publicize the award and accompanying details about the recipient(s). **All physical entries become the property of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.**

Send entries to:

Friends of the
Texas Room
P. O. Box 27827
Houston, TX 77227-7827

Previous winners:

- 2019 No award.
- 2018 Dr. Edwin C. Breeden's thesis, *Educational Politics and the Making of School Desegregation Policy in Houston, Texas*.
- 2017 Tyina Steptoe, author of *Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City* (University of California Press).
- 2016 Jim Bailey & Kimberly B. Lykins, Texas Foundation for the Arts, *Post Oak Boulevard, A Texas Legacy*, (2016).
- 2015 Barrie Scardino Bradley, author of *Houston's Hermann Park: A Century of Community* (Texas A & M University Press, 2014).
- 2014 No award.
- 2013 Dr. Brian Behnken, author of *Fighting Their Own Battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2011).
- 2012 Michael Vance, *HAM Slices, vol. 2: Vignettes of Houston History* (Produced by Houston Arts and Media, 2012).
- 2011 Steven R. Strom, author of *Houston Lost and Unbuilt* (University of Texas Press, 2010).
- 2010 Suzanne Turner and Joanne Seale Wilson, co-authors of *Houston's Silent Garden: Glenwood Cemetery, 1871-2009* (Texas A & M University Press, 2009).
- 2009 Michael R. Boston Jr., author of *Labor, Civil Rights and the Hughes Tool Company* (Texas A & M University Press, 2005).
- 2008 David Welling, author of *Cinema Houston: From Nickelodeon to Megaplex* (University of Texas Press, 2007).