

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 9, Number 2, April 2011

Monday, April 25th Meeting
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
“The History of Women Lawyers in Houston”

Betty Chapman, Houston Historian

MUSEUM OF PRINTING HISTORY

1324 W. CLAY

The Museum of Printing History is located at 1324 W. Clay Street between Waugh Drive and Montrose, one block south of West Dallas. Free parking is available in the lot across the street or in the small lot on the left, adjacent to the Museum building.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!
www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report that your board recently voted favorably on a request from the staff of the HMRC to fund the archival framing of two paintings by Thomas Flintoff so that they may be displayed in an exhibit at the Harris County Heritage Society. These paintings of Market Square

and Courthouse Square, painted in 1852, are the earliest known views of Houston. They have been kept in the Library's vault for years and are rarely seen by the public, although the Library sells copies of them. They will be part of the exhibit entitled, "Culture in Frontier Texas, 1820-1870." There they will be shown with other Flintoff paintings owned by the San Jacinto Museum of History. They will give Houstonians a glimpse of the vast historical holdings in the HMRC as well as an understanding of how Houston really looked in its first twenty years.

The painting of Courthouse Square shows the 1850 Courthouse with the Nichols/ Rice/ Cherry house, now located in Sam Houston Park, on its original site in the background. It shows that that house originally had two-story porches around three sides rather than only one two story porch on one side as is the case now. This demonstrates the value of the research in original documents available at the HMRC.

Thomas Flintoff (ca. 1809 – 1891) was an itinerant portrait painter who was born in England and moved to the U. S. about 1850. He visited Galveston and Austin in 1851. In 1852 he visited Houston, Corpus Christi, Indianola, and Matagorda painting portraits, city landscapes and public buildings. In 1853 he moved to Australia where he continued to paint. His paintings are as valuable for the first-hand historical information that they record as they are rare. Now, for the first time, the HMRC will be able to display them properly and much more frequently.

The Friends are gratified to be able to partner with the HMRC to make possible the HMRC's participation in this exhibit honoring 175 years of Texas history. I urge you to attend "Culture in Frontier Texas, 1820 – 1870" at the Heritage Society Museum Gallery. It will be up April 19 – September 4. Perhaps I will see you there.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31st, 2011, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St., on January 31st, 2011. After a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 25th, 2010, members' meeting.

Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported that the funds on hand, including the checking account, the savings account, and the 13 month CD total \$32,307.25. President Houghton encouraged those in the audience who are not members of the Friends of the Texas Room to obtain a membership form before leaving the Museum and join the organization.

President Houghton asked for approval of Frances Heyne, whose name was submitted by the Nominating Committee, to fill a vacancy on the Board. A motion to have Frances assume this position was made, seconded, and approved.

President Houghton reminded everyone that nominations for the 2011 Julia Ideson award can be submitted, and she encouraged the membership to recommend candidates for this honor.

President Houghton announced that Kemo Curry, Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Committee will retire April 1st, and she noted that the Board had approved a contribution to the Texas Room in Kemo's honor. The specific item has not yet been chosen, but hopefully, the choice can be made and announced at the July members' meeting. Praise for Kemo's achievements and generous spirit were given by Dr. Lawson, Director of the Houston Public Library; Susan Bischoff, Houston Public Library Foundation Director; Suzy Shooter, Preservation Partner; and Nella Langford.

President Houghton introduced guest speaker, Barry Moore, architect, Adjunct Professor of Design at the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines School of Architecture, Founding Director of the Workshop of Historic Architecture, Senior Associate at Gensler Architects and Project Manager of the Julia Ideson Building Addition and Renovation. Mr. Moore gave an insightful presentation on circus, World War I, and World War II posters, some of which are in the Library archives.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05. PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georganna A. Barnes, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Assistant Manager, HMRC

We are pleased to announce that HMRC recently acquired the John Chase Architectural Collection. Mr. Chase was the first African-American licensed to practice architecture in the state of Texas and later was the first African-American admitted to the Texas Society of Architects and the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). This collection is currently being processed and will be available to researchers when the new Architectural Archives reopens in the renovated Julia Ideson Building.

Please be sure to check out the *Culture in Frontier Texas* exhibit at the Heritage Society from April 19, 2011 – September 4, 2011. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Texas Room and Sherwoods Gallery, HMRC's Thomas Flintoff paintings are included in

this exhibit. Also remember to take a look at the online HMRC Oral History Collection http://digital.houstonlibrary.org/cdm4/index_Interviews.php?CISOROOT=/Interviews. This collection now includes over 300 interviews from the 1970s and 1980s. The Friends of the Texas Room helped fund this project.

HMRC continues its outreach and support of local area school districts and community colleges. On January 22, 2011, Caroline Castillo, Kemo Curry, Jeff Lindemann, and Liz Sargent presented at the Region IV Social Studies Conference. This conference was attended by K-12 teachers from the Greater Houston area. HMRC sessions included "In Search of Houston's History: An Introduction to the HMRC" and "Houston Oral History Project: Classrooms and Connections." On Saturday, February 26, 2011, Jeff Lindemann and Liz Sargent presented at the Houston Community College Faculty Conference. HMRC sessions included "Multigenerational Learners in Search of Houston's History" and "Houston Oral History Project: Communities, Classrooms, and Connections." Attendees were provided complementary copies of the DVD "In Search of Houston's History" to use in their classrooms.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO MARKET DVD

Now that the documentary "In Search of Houston's History" is finished, the Friends of the Texas Room is seeking volunteers to help market the film to prospective purchasers such as schools, colleges, universities, and museums. Volunteers should contact President Dorothy Knox Houghton at her email address: Dorothy.Houghton@SBCglobal.net.

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. We like to hear what our Friends are doing!

POLICIES

Policies of the Friends of the Texas Room

Relating 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 FTR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTR 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.

Board of Directors:

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice-President: Nancy Burch

Secretary: Georganna Barnes

Treasurer: Cathy Fitch

Directors: Mary Jo Coselli, Frances Heyne, Charles Maynard, and Susan Teich

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@hccs.edu or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann
The Texas Room Dispatch Editor
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2011 Membership Application

Membership Year: January 1 – December 31

RETURN TO: P.O. BOX 27827 * HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

FIRST PERSON: SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS:

_____ *first name middle name last name first name middle name last name*

Mailing Address (include street or P.O.): _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, OR EMAIL

First Person 2nd 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

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

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.

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS

Please check below if you would like 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.

__ Telephone/E-Mail Committee: Contact for meeting cancellations, unscheduled events, or breaking news.

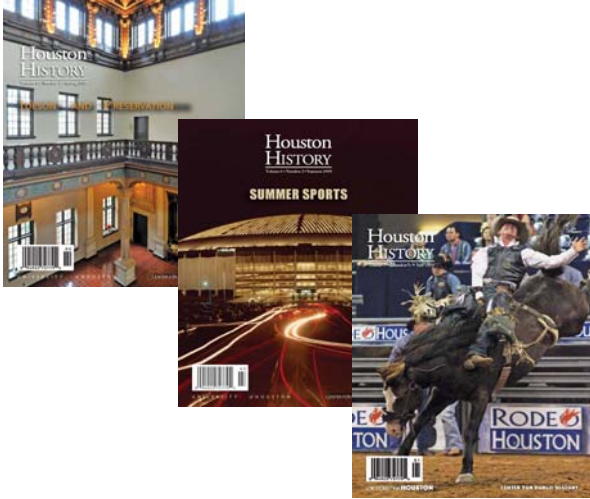
__ Hospitality: Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

__ Programs: Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

__ Public Relations: Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.

__ Special Projects

__ Other: _____



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