

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 11, Number 1, January 2013

Monday, January 28th, 2013 Meeting

6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:

“Observations on Houston Architecture”

by

Stephen Fox

Stephen Fox is an architectural historian and a Fellow of the Anchorage Foundation of Texas.
He is the author of the American Institute of Architects' *Houston Architectural Guide*.

The Julia Ideson Building, first floor auditorium
500 McKinney Avenue

Free parking is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue or on the street.

All attendees need to enter the Julia Ideson Building via the side door across the plaza from the Central Library.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF *THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH*

The President's Column

by Dorothy Knox Houghton

Minutes of the October 29th, 2012, Annual Meeting

News from the Texas Room

by Liz Sargent, Manager of The Texas Room/HMRC

Policies

Cultural Matching Gifts

Friends of the Texas Room: Who We Are

How to Contact Friends of the Texas Room

How to Contact *The Texas Room Dispatch*

Membership Application

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

2013 began with news that two more landmarks of the second half of twentieth century Houston are soon to be razed, joining lost icons such as the Shamrock and the Prudential Building. Foley's Department Store on Main Street set a new national standard for merchandizing when it opened in 1948. It's architecture, inside and out, was innovative, and for years it was one of the most profitable department stores in the United States. At Thanksgiving Foley's sponsored Houston's Thanksgiving Day Parade which ushered in the Christmas season. Houstonians flocked to see its Christmas window displays which were the centerpiece of the holiday decorations in downtown Houston. As I write, the liquidation sale is under way in anticipation of the store's closing.

Today I attended the auction of the furnishings of the one hundred and nineteen year old Houston Club. Since 1955, the Houston Club Building, which soon will be razed, has been at the center of activity for Houston business, social organizations and the arts. For most of the twentieth century, most people who were active in building Houston either belonged to the Houston Club or attended functions there. The club will continue in another location, but the culture which it built at its iconic location on Rusk Avenue will be relegated to historical photographs and documents and to its history book.

Although the beautiful white marble Sakowitz Department Store across from Foley's on Main Street has not been razed, it has been gutted and transformed into a multistory parking garage. These three icons of mid twentieth century Houston life join many other buildings and organizations whose histories for the most part are kept alive only at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. These buildings were integral parts of many of our lives over many years. As time goes on, more of the built environment which we associate with the soul of Houston, such as the Astrodome, will disappear. For this reason, we work to support the institution which houses our collective memory, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

I hope you will join me on Monday, January 28 to hear Stephen Fox's talk on Houston architecture.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox

MINUTES OF THE October 29th ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dorothy Knox Houghton at 7:05 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported that as of September 10, 2012, total funds were \$39,894.25 comprised of \$12,662.36 in the checking account, \$6,231.89 in the savings account and \$21,000 in a certificate of deposit. She also reported that as of November 1st, 2012, PayPal will be operational on the Friends of the Texas Room Web site for paying for memberships or to purchase the DVDs.

President Houghton announced the following membership benefits that will be offered by library staff: preservation-consultation days and research lock-ins twice a year, with advance sign-up. Members also may purchase up to five photographs at half-price each year.

The proposed slate of officers was presented as follows:

President	Dorothy Knox Houghton	2013-2014
Vice President	Nancy Burch	2013
Secretary	Kathy Disson	2013-2014
Membership	Cheri Fossler	2013-2014
Treasurer	Frank Jones	2013-2014
Directors:	Michael Botson	2013-2014
	Jeff Lindemann	2013-2014
	Charles Maynard	2013
	Susan Teich	2013

Two directors and one officer were nominated for one-year terms in order to foster continuity on the board while bringing on new members. Fred Heyne moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation; Marvin Rich seconded the motion, which passed.

Regarding the proposed revisions to the by-laws, which were distributed to the membership prior to the meeting, Nancy Burch moved that they be accepted. Charles Maynard seconded the motion, which passed.

President Houghton announced the winner of the 2012 Julia Ideson Award – Michael Vance, creator and producer of “HAM (Houston Arts Media) Slices of Houston, Volume 2.” Entries for the 2012 competition were limited to non-books, beginning an alternating system for the award. For 2013, the call for entries will be for books.

For the program, Vance showed several selections from his award-winning video and answered questions from the audience. At the conclusion of his remarks, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Burch

(for Secretary Georganna Barnes)

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Manager, HMRC



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

The HMRC staff is continuing work on various projects to improve our services and outreach efforts to our customers and the general community.

- The Collection Analysis project is ongoing. Since the last *Dispatch*, Emily Scott, HMRC Archivist, and three volunteers have reviewed 254 archival collections. This review included creating physical descriptions, scope and content notes, and biographical notes for each collection. Most of these collections had not been previously described.
- Vernon Gillette, Friends of the Texas Room member, has joined the team of staff members developing lesson plans for K-12 teachers incorporating HMRC

primary sources. The lessons will vary in length and will cover various subject areas.

- Aaron Winslow, Electronic Services Librarian, is still working on combining all of our many photo databases. Many of these photo databases were developed by Friends of the Texas Room Volunteers. The end result will be a web-based site that will include records for almost 150,000 photographs.
- Laney Dwyer, Architectural Archivist, is still working through a complete inventory of our entire architectural drawing collection. She is going job by job to ensure accuracy in our online database. The end result will be an online database with several hundred more records that accurately describes all of our architectural drawings.

Vote for the Julia Ideson Building

Please vote for the Julia Ideson Building for the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Houston Development of Distinction "People's Choice" Award. The Julia Ideson Building is a finalist for the ULI Award, which recognizes developments that exemplify best practices in design, construction, economic viability, marketing and management. Vote today at <http://houston.uli.org/news/detail/vote-for-the-2013-peoples-choice-winner>. Online voting ends January 21st, and The People's Choice Award will be announced on January 29th.

John Milsaps' *Houston Chronicle* Article

Be sure to check out the *Houston Chronicle* article featuring John Milsaps and the Milsaps collection at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. The story can be found at <http://www.houstonlibrary.org/hpl-news>.

Upcoming Exhibition

Emma Richardson Cherry: Houston's First Modern Artist

February 1, 2013 – May 4, 2013

Julia Ideson Building | 500 McKinney St., 77002

The exhibition will be a retrospective of Mrs. Cherry's work and will include 50 plus works by the artists and a selected group of works by her contemporaries, some of Houston's first artist in the 20th century, and following generations to discuss the impact of the artist's work. This exhibition will also include archival material drawn from local collections. Emma Richardson Cherry, one of the earliest professional women artists in Houston, worked in oils, watercolors, pastels, pencil, and charcoal; though at least one critic referred to her use of "modern" laws of color," she painted a number of traditional

portraits while living in Houston and experimented with a number of styles. She taught locally in her studio, and in 1900 she organized the Houston Public School Art League, which later became the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

Digital Film Collection (KHOU-TV and Orris Brown)

Be sure to check out the Digital Film Collection found here:

<http://digital.houstonlibrary.org/cdm/search/collection/film>. There are currently 177 films online. Most of these films are from HMRC's KHOU-TV Collection, and the others are from the Orris Brown Film Collection. The digital preservation of these films was made possible by a grant to the Texas Archive of the Moving Image and the Houston Public Library from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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 Liz Sargent at elizabeth.sargent@houstontx.gov to discuss further.

2013 Membership Benefit: Discounted Photograph Reproductions

Each 2013 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photograph reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:

- 5x7 print (\$6.25, normally costs \$12.50)
- 8x10 print (\$9.00, normally costs \$18.00)
- 11x14 print (\$12.50, normally costs \$25.00)
- 8x10 digital scan at 300 dpi (\$6.25, normally costs \$12.50)

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

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10:00 – 6:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 8:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 6:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 5:00

Friday and 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.

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: Kathy Dissen

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Michael Botson, Cheri Fossler, Jeff Lindemann, 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 at 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

2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/ 12013 – 12/ 31/2013

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:** _____