

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 9, Number 3, July 2011

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

PROGRAM:
“Bayou City History:
Exploring Houston’s Past through Photojournalism”

J. R. Gonzalez, News Copy Editor at the *Houston Chronicle*
and author of “Bayou City History Blog”
at chron.com

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,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the decision of your board to dedicate three of the atlas stands which the Friends gave to the Texas Room to three of our members who have served the HMRC with extraordinary devotion.

First and foremost, one will be dedicated in honor of Kemo Curry, recently retired manager of the HMRC, who most successfully orchestrated the move of the archives from the Julia Ideson Building into the new archival wing. The enormity of this task and its impact on the future of the HMRC cannot be overstated. It involved a complete reorganization of the collections. In the process, many misplaced items were found and accounted for properly.

The Friends still plan to give an archival item to the HMRC in honor of Kemo, but we decided that we also wanted to show our appreciation in a permanent, more public way. The brass plaques mounted on the atlas stands will be visible to every patron who walks through the door of the Texas Room.

The other two plaques will honor two FtxR volunteers who have served the Friends and the HMRC for many years with hundreds of hours of their time and with their treasure. George C. Werner attended the first meeting that resulted in the formation of the Friends, and he served on our first board. He and Dorothy Howard Johnson, our first membership chairman (2003-2011), both worked for Exxon for forty years. Dorothy retired in 1993, and George retired in 1994.

George's interest in the HMRC began in the 1970s when he started spending his lunch hours researching the Texas railroads in the old Texas Room. He either wrote or edited most of the articles on Texas railroads in the *Handbook of Texas*. His research is used by others in their publications.

In addition to his own research, George has been a FtxR volunteer at the HMRC for years. He helps our photographer, Joel Drout, catalogue the vast collections of photographs, volunteering on an average of once a week.

The FtxR has benefited greatly from the talents honed by Dorothy Johnson during her years as an assistant corporate secretary responsible for managing details relating to Exxon's overseas exploration, coal, and minerals affiliates. A docent at the Heritage Society, she was introduced to the FtxR by founding member, Trevia Beverly, whom she knew through local genealogy organizations. Dorothy's skills building and maintaining our membership records were priceless.

In addition to their hands-on volunteer work for the FtxR, both George and Dorothy participate in Exxon's Volunteer Involvement Program. This program makes generous

donations to non-profit organizations where their employees and retirees volunteer their time. George and Dorothy specified the FtxR to receive Exxon donations representing the many hours that they put in volunteering in the name of the FtxR. This has made an enormous difference in our balance sheet, and it has enabled us to be more generous to the HMRC than would be the case if we relied only on membership dues.

We are delighted to be able to honor these three loyal and dedicated members.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE April 25th, 2011, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St., on April 25th, 2011. After a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 31st, 2011, members' meeting as printed in "The Texas Room Dispatch."

Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported that the funds on hand, including the checking account, the savings account, and the 13 month CD total \$36,585.69 as of the March 14th, 2011, statement. 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. Brochures, forms and DVD's which feature HMRC information are available.

President Houghton announced that the presentation by Betty Chapman would be videotaped and included on the Friends of the Texas Room website. Mike Vance of Houston Arts and Media and former honorable mention award recipient for the Julia Ideson Award in 2009 and still photographer Tim Godwin will film the talk and format it for the website. This project was suggested by Board member Susan Teich and "The Texas Room Dispatch" editor Jeff Lindemann and is undertaken to give greater exposure to the Friends of the Texas Room organization. The cost of this production is \$250.00.

President Houghton introduced Betty Chapman, Houston historian, lecturer for the Rice University Continuing Education Studies, columnist for the *Houston Business Journal*, and long-time supporter of the Friends of the Texas Room. Her topic, "The History of Women Lawyers in Houston," is based on her latest book *Rough Road to Justice: The Journey of Women Lawyers in Texas*, which was published in 2008. Ms. Chapman has spent over twenty-five years researching and writing about the city of Houston and has been a consultant to and/or on the boards of numerous projects including the Heritage Society, The Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, the Houston History Association, the *Houston History Magazine*, and the Houston Archeological and Historical

Commission as well as authoring six books in addition to the one on which she was speaking at this meeting. Ms. Chapman's talk focused on women lawyers in Houston from 1900 forward.

President Houghton announced that Sherwood McCall of Sherwood Gallery has offered to donate the entire cost of framing two of the Thomas Flinthoff paintings currently located in the HMRC inventory. The paintings will be displayed as part of an exhibit at the Harris County Heritage Society. Although the customary charge for this type of archival framing of the two works exceeds \$1000.00, Mr. McCall had originally agreed to do the work for \$550.00 and then generously decided to provide the framing without cost to the Friends of the Texas Room.

Barbara Eaves, who is coordinating the 4th annual Julia Ideson Award competition, reported that the deadline for nominations is June 1st, 2011. The winner will be announced at the October Friends of the Texas Room meeting. She reviewed the requirements, which are included on the Entry Information sheet, and announced the names of the judges: John Boles, Rienzi-Hobby Professor of History at Rice University; Michael Botson, Professor of History at the Northwest College of the Houston Community College System; and Doris Glasser, retired manager of the Texas Room Library. Anyone can submit nominations and self-nomination is encouraged.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georganna A. Barnes, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Acting Manager, HMRC

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) staff is steadily preparing for the reopening of the Julia Ideson Building (JIB), and the collection moves back into JIB starting very soon. The architectural drawings, for example, move from their temporary offsite location into the new Architectural Archives area starting August 8th, 2011.

Important Note: Change in Hours

In preparation for the grand reopening of the historic Julia Ideson Building, the HMRC will be closed from Monday, August 1st, through Sunday, August 14th.

Beginning August 15th and continuing until the reopening of the fully restored Ideson Building, the HMRC will operate according to the following reduced schedule:

Wednesdays: 10 AM - 8 PM

Thursdays: 10 AM - 6 PM

Saturdays: 10 AM - 5 PM

We look forward to resuming our full complement of services when this historic restoration is complete.

Prepare to be amazed at the beautiful paint colors throughout the building. The inaugural exhibition for the Ideson will not disappoint. Work is ongoing with the development of this exhibition, and I am pleased to share the exhibition's title: *Theater of Memory, Cabinet of Curiosities: Treasures from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center*.

As a teaser, the tentative description for the exhibit is:

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center, housed in a Spanish Renaissance style landmark, presents treasures from its archives, an accumulation begun when Julia Ideson moved the HPL collection from its original Greek revival building into the JIB in 1926. Grand circus posters, suspended from the high ceiling of the newly designed space, immediately catch the eye. Photographs, objects, documents and other ephemera range in scale, format and setting, from the intimacy of small items like a 2,000 B.C. cuneiform tablet to hands-on computer interaction with oral histories.

Julia Ideson Building Docents

The HMRC is 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 and its collections

- Instruction on history topics
- Guided informational visits to exhibits and installations
- Assistance at other Special Collections Library locations, as needed

If this sounds like something that interests you, please contact Liz Sargent at elizabeth.sargent@houstontx.gov to discuss further.

Celebrate Houston's 175th Birthday

In honor of Houston's 175th Birthday, there will be a city-wide celebration "Houston 175: 1836 through Now" starting on August 26th, 2011, and ending June 5th, 2012. Please visit the Houston 175th website at <http://houston175.org> to learn more. This celebration is a collaborative effort between AIA Houston, the ArCH Foundation, City of Houston, DiverseWorks, FotoFest, Harris County Heritage Society, Harris County-Houston Sports Authority, Houston Arts Alliance, Houston Center for Photography, Houston History Association, Houston Public Library, Museum of Printing History, Texas Medical Center, and the University of Houston-Downtown. One date to remember is October 29th, 2011! A Houston History Conference will be held in addition to an all-day exhibit crawl. Ten venues throughout the city are each creating an exhibit exploring Houston's history and development through one of the following broad areas: architecture, arts, commerce, education, government, medicine, people, public spaces, sports, and transportation. All ten venues will be open for the October 29th, 2011, exhibit crawl.

Do not forget to visit <http://houston175.org> to learn how to participate in the "Houston 175: 1836 through Now" celebration.

The HMRC is creating the exhibit *From Draft Horse to NASA: 175 Years of Transportation in Houston*.

While Houston may be well-known as an oil town, Houston's history as a hub for transportation continues to color our local culture and economy. Once a landing place on the bayou for cargo ferried inland from the Gulf of Mexico, our city continuously transformed itself until it eventually became the home of NASA. As part of a city-wide celebration of Houston's 175th anniversary, the Houston Public Library (HPL) will present an exhibit exploring the history of transportation in our city. Images and ephemera from the collections of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, part of HPL's Special Collections Division, will describe our city's evolution through transportation. Stops along the way will include the days of animal-drawn transport, Houston's stint as a railway nexus where "17 railroads met the sea," the rise of the automobile and Houston's famous car culture(s), and much more.

The exhibit will be open September 15th, 2011, through November 15th, 2011, in the Central Library Art Gallery at 500 McKinney in Downtown Houston.

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.

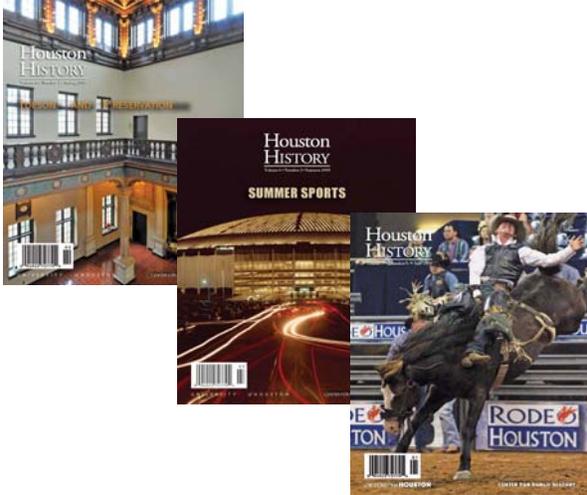
__ Hospitality: Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

__ 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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