

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(incorporated December 2, 2002)
Volume 10, Number 3, July 2012

Monday, August 6th Meeting

6:30 Reception

7:00 Program

PROGRAM:

Dr. John Boles,

William P. Hobby Professor of History at Rice University,

will speak on

“Edgar Odell Lovett and the Creation of the Rice Institute”

NEW MEETING LOCATION:

The Julia Ideson Building

500 McKinney Avenue

The Friends of the Texas Room will meet in the Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room on the first floor of the Julia Ideson Building. The Julia Ideson Building is located downtown at 500 McKinney Avenue. The underground parking garage under the Jones Library Building, which closes at 8:00 p.m., is accessed from Lamar Avenue.

Free parking is available in the garage under the Jones Building or on the street.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM SUMMER MEETING

The Friends summer meeting will take place on Monday, August 6th, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at the Julia Ideson Building. The speaker is Dr. John Boles of Rice University speaking about the Rice University Centennial.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

As the Friends of the Texas Room approaches the tenth anniversary of its incorporation on December 2, 2002, we have an astonishing record of accomplishments to look back upon. Paramount among them is our role in helping bring about the new archival wing. Now it is time to focus on the future of our organization and the role it will play in advancing the goals of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

Our funding comes primarily from membership dues. This fall we are launching a membership campaign for which we need your help. We are asking each of our board members to submit ten names with contact information (mailing address as well as email address) for our list of prospective members. These people will receive invitations to join in the fall. If each of our members also would submit at least one name, or better yet, recruit one member, we could double our membership instantly. This will double our dues income which, in turn, will allow us to make more gifts to the HMRC.

For the convenience of those who pay their bills on line, we are in the process of setting up a Pay Pal account. We hope this will make it easier for members to renew, purchase our DVD, or make a donation. We hope this also will help attract new members among those who visit our website or otherwise learn about our organization. We expect this to be operational by the fall.

As many of you know, 2012 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the opening of the Rice Institute, now Rice University. The speaker for our summer general meeting will be Dr. John Boles, William P. Hobby Professor of History at Rice University, speaking on "Edgar Odell Lovett and the Creation of the Rice Institute." I urge all of you to attend this excellent lecture on one of the most momentous events in the history of Houston.

Please submit your suggestions for new FTxR members to: Friends of the Texas Room, P. O. Box 27827, Houston, Texas 77227-7827 or to: contact@friendsofthetexasroom.org.

Many thanks. I look forward to seeing you on August 6th .

Sincerely, Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30th GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Julia Ideson Building on April 30, 2012. After a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. Dorothy Knox thanked Mary Jo Coselli and JoLee Haddock for providing the refreshments.

Dorothy Knox called for a motion to dispense with a reading of the January 30, 2012, General Meeting Minutes. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported that the funds on hand, including the checking account, the savings account, and the 14 month CD total \$39,621.62.

Dorothy Knox asked for a show of hands of those members who would like to use the PayPal for renewing their membership in the Friends of the Texas Room. Three members acknowledged their desire to use this method.

Dorothy Knox reviewed the revised schedule for consideration and presentation of the Julia Ideson Award. Judging and selection of the winners for book and non-books would be in alternate years. Entries for journal articles, magazine articles, dissertations, video presentations and web sites will be considered in 2012. Books will be considered in 2013. To be considered, a significant amount of the research for the work must have been done in the HMRC.

Dorothy Knox announced that the Houston History Conference will take place on June 2, 2012. Information on the conference and entry forms for the Julia Ideson Award were made available.

On behalf of Liz Sargent, Manager of the Texas Room/HMRC , Dorothy Knox announced that tours of the Julia Ideson Building are being conducted by guide/educators. Members who would like to participate in this activity are encouraged to volunteer. Dorothy Knox thanked staff members Aaron Winslow, Joel Draut, Tim Ronk, and Laney Dwyer who facilitated setting up for the General Meeting.

Dorothy Knox introduced writer Steven Fenberg who spoke on "Researching Jesse Jones in the HMRC." Mr. Fenberg thanked the staff members of the HMRC for their help in researching material for his book *Unprecedented Power: Jesse Jones*,

Capitalism and the Common Good, which won the Texas Institute of Letters 2011 award for best non-fiction.

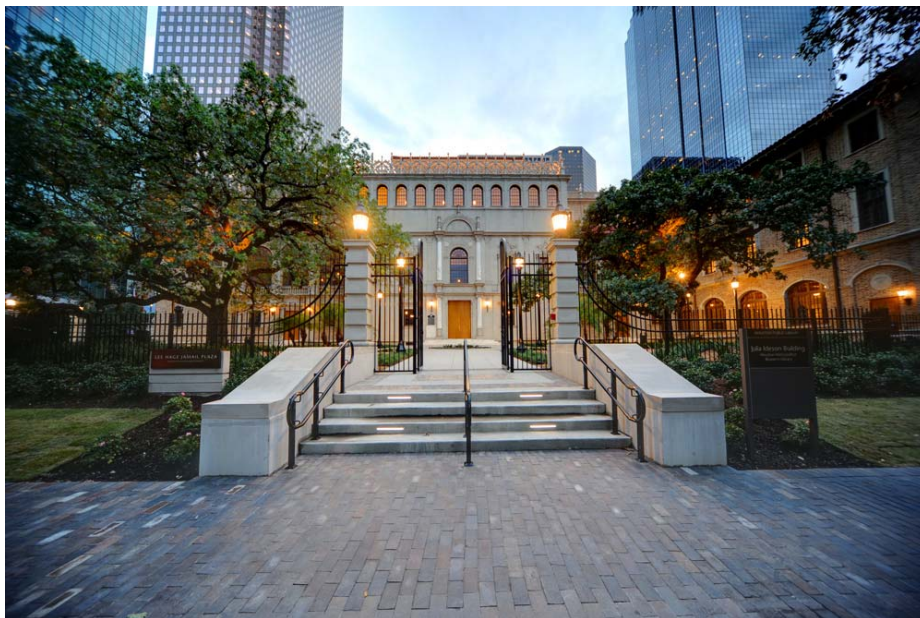
Following Mr. Fenburg's presentation, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Georganna A. Barnes

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Manager, HMRC



McKinney Entrance to the Julia Ideson Building

Photo by Joel Draut

I am pleased to announce that two new archivists started at HMRC on June 25, 2012. Both are classified as Archivist I. The new archivists are:

Emily Scott: Emily has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Ancient Mediterranean Studies from Trinity University and a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was previously a Research Assistant/Digitization Technician for the Carolina Digital Library and Archives at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Volunteer Archival Processor for the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center, a Volunteer Digitization Technician for the Cataloging and Metadata Department with the Houston Public

Library, and a Contract Digitization Technician for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. At HMRC, Emily will be processing collections, assisting with reference, providing tours, and soliciting new archival donations.

Caroline Castillo: Caroline has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology/Sociology from the University of Houston and a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Texas. She was previously a Lead Phone Counselor with the Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County, a High School English/Language Arts Teacher with the Klein Independent School District, a Bibliographic Assistant with ExxonMobil, a Volunteer Archival Processor with the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum, and an Oral History Rights Researcher with the Houston Public Library. At HMRC, Caroline will be handling the Oral History Collection, the Houston Public Library Collection, assisting with reference, soliciting new archival donations, providing tours, and conducting trainings including outreach to teachers.

Be sure to check out the *Houston Chronicle* article featuring the new exhibit *Faces, Places & Spaces*. The article can be found at <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Photo-exhibit-puts-century-old-Houston-under-glass-3674760.php>. It featured Joel Draut, HMRC's Photo Archivist, Danielle Burns, Houston Public Library's Curator, and HMRC's glass plate negative collection.

New Exhibit: *Faces, Places & Spaces*

June 9, 2012 - September 8, 2012

Julia Ideson Building | 500 McKinney St., 77002

During the 1880s, the use of glass as a transparent and stable base for dry photographic emulsions replaced the collodion wet plate process. Glass was the first widely implemented medium used to create a transparent photographic negative. The end product became known as the glass plate negative and became obsolete as the camera and the photograph processes evolved over time. Commonly used into the 1920s, glass plate negatives prefigured the more durable, affordable, and familiar flexible film negative.

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) is home to thousands of glass plate negatives capturing Houston and its citizens from the late 1800s. Although the majority of the images are an assortment of studio portraits, street scenes, and residences, other subjects and places are also represented. Selected from a variety of HMRC collections, the negatives reveal a visual cross-section of Houston citizenry and scenes representing the first century of the city's history. These distinctive negatives are rare, fragile, and irreplaceable historical artifacts. To safeguard against damage, we

have taken some of these images and reproduced them in a contemporary light box installation illuminating the space.

The exhibition *Faces, Places & Spaces*, explores the glass plate negative in a contemporary context, demonstrating its enduring value as a documentary and aesthetic form.

This exhibition is generously supported by: City of Houston, Houston Public Library and Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

Second Saturdays at the Julia Ideson Building

Join us for this special series that highlights not only the collections and services of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and the facilities of the Julia Ideson Building, but also the history of Houston and its preservation.

Gallery Talk

Saturday, August 11 | 2 PM

Glass-plate negatives were the prime photographic medium for a 40-year period beginning in late 1880s. In collaboration with the exhibition *Faces, Places & Spaces*, please join Joel Draut, HMRC's Photo Archivist, as he discusses the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's glass plate negative collection and images featured in the exhibition.

Local Houston Photographers

Saturday, September 8 | 2 PM

In collaboration with the exhibition *Faces, Places & Spaces*, please join local Houston photographers Jeff Balke, Tracy Carlson, and Katya Horner, for a panel discussion and Q & A about Houston photography today.

Scheduling Julia Ideson Building Tours

HMRC staff and Julia Ideson Building docents are currently offering group tours of the Julia Ideson Building by appointment only. Reservations for tours may be made through HMRC's new main line number which is 832-393-1662. Please call at least two weeks in advance to see if we can accommodate your request.

Julia Ideson Building Docents

The HMRC is 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

We particularly need help on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10-6

Tuesday: 10-6

Wednesday: 10-8

Thursday: 10-6

Saturday: 10-5

Friday and Sunday: Closed

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Thomas H. Kreneck, former Latin American Archivist at the HMRC, has revised and updated his book *Del Pueblo: A History of Houston's Hispanic Community* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2012). It was released officially on March 5th. It is the revised second edition of the book published in 1989. It has an expanded text with new material in various chapters and an additional chapter which brings the survey to the year 2000.

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: 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 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

2012 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: _____