

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 14, Number 2, April 2016

Monday, April 25th, 2016 Meeting

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

6:00 – 7:00 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM

Mike Vance, Houston Arts and Media,
will speak on

“The History of Baseball in Houston”

Free parking, with validation at the meeting, is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. 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 flat parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 p.m. Free parking is also available on the nearby streets after 6:00 p.m.

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

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

The HMRC needs your help! The Friends of the Texas Room uses your membership dues to make gifts to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. With your dues we have purchased many needed items such as microfilm storage units, map stands, and custom made plinths for the antique display cases in the Ideson Building. Recently we funded the new cell phone tour of the Ideson Building. It saves the staff hours of time, because they no longer have to drop their work to give tours. Presently we are considering the funding of a new photocopier which will allow rare books with fragile bindings to be scanned without harm. The purchase of this machine will cost almost half of our existing funds, almost all of which come from membership dues.

In order to continue supporting the HMRC in a significant way, we need not only for our current members to renew, but to find new members. We need your help in identifying persons who would be interested in helping promote our mission of "advocacy, financial support, volunteerism, public relations, and meeting other needs of the HMRC." Besides the gratification that comes from philanthropy, membership offers quarterly issues of the "Texas Room Dispatch," quarterly meetings with outstanding speakers, preservation consultation sessions with HMRC staff members, research lock-ins, and half price on five digital scans from the HMRC photograph collection per year.

Our membership year runs from January 1st – December 31st. If you have renewed for 2016, we look forward to seeing you at our programs and sharing in the excitement of advancements we have helped promote at the HMRC. If you know of others who could help advance our efforts, please urge them to go to our website at: www.friendsofthetexasroom.org where they can learn all about us and find our membership form.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25th, 2016, GENERAL MEETING

The membership of the Friends of the Texas Room met in the auditorium of the Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, 500 McKinney Avenue on Monday, January 25th, 2016. A reception was held at 6:00 pm followed by the meeting which was called to order at 7:05 pm by the President, Dorothy Knox Houghton.

The minutes of the annual meeting, which was held on Monday, October 26th, 2015, were approved as circulated in the January 2016 newsletter.

The Nominating Committee submitted the name of Carol Haddock to serve as a Director of the FTxR Board for a two year term, 2016 and 2017. She was unanimously elected.

Mrs. Houghton then introduced architect and author, James Gast, who gave a fascinating talk on the subject of his book, *The Astrodome: Building an American Spectacle*.

Following the program the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Knox Houghton (for Charles Maynard)

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney McAdow, HMRC Manager

The Texas Room, Julia Ideson Building



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

April 24th to April 30th HMRC will be recognizing Preservation Week, a national campaign to help raise awareness about collecting and preservation. The origins of Preservation Week can be traced to a national survey lead by the American Library Association (ALA) performed in 2005, which determined that some 630 million items held in U.S. institutions were in substandard conditions or had preservation need. The aim of Preservation Week is to connect our communities through events, activities, and resources that reveal what we can do, individually and together, to preserve our personal and shared collections.

Libraries alone hold three billion items (or 63 percent of the 4.8 billion items found in the 2005 survey). Many of these institutions have few if any paid staff assigned the responsibility for collections care. A large portion of the items are unprotected by an emergency plan putting them at high risk for loss in the event of a natural disaster. Personal, family, and community collections are equally at risk.

Our country's collections, both private and public, hold a wealth of cultural material including books, manuscripts, photographs, prints and drawings, and objects such as maps, textiles, paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, and furniture, to give just a sample. They include moving images and sound recordings that capture performing arts, oral history, and other records of our creativity and history. Many of these items such as fast-growing digital collections and their formats have become, or are quickly becoming obsolescent, making their preservation and our ability to recover them even more challenging.

The Society of American Archivists takes a community engagement style approach to this initiative by emphasizing the need for advocacy for preservation issues. They encourage individuals to act on behalf of our nations cultural institutions by:

- Advocating for public policies and the resources necessary to ensure records are preserved and made available.
- Advocating for increased funding to manage, preserve and make accessible, national, state and federal archive records.
- Pushing to expand grant support from the federal government for state and local archives.
- Encouraging state governments to appropriate equal amounts as the federal government for the care of archival records.

HMRC will again be providing programs and workshops this year to promote Preservation Week (see Programs and Events below). These events focus on not only highlight organizational and community preservation projects, but also they also aim to remind us all how important our own personal artifacts are and provide advice on how to best care from them. In accordance with the ALA's vision, our goal is to provide the general public with preservation information and expertise, and to emphasize the close relationships among personal, family, community, and public collections and their preservation.

American Library Association. (n.d.) Preservation Week. [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/alcts/preservationweek/about>

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2015). Preservation Advocacy [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/2015%20SAA%20PresWeek%20poster%20final.pdf>

Programs and Events

April 14th, 2016 – July 30th, 2016 (Opening April 14th, 2016, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Exhibit: Designing America: Spain's Imprint on the US Julia Ideson Building, Exhibit Gallery (2nd floor) 550 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77002

Curated by Spanish architects Juan Miguel Hernández León and Francisco Arques Soler and designed as an open cross-sectional tour through architecture, urban planning, and the territory. Designing America: Spain's Imprint in the US enlightens the historical, political, and cultural events that have marked the course of 500 years of common history between the United States and Spain.

April 18th – June 18th, 2016

Exhibit: The Intrepid Miss Julia Ideson Julia Ideson Building, first and second floor display cases 550 McKinney St, Houston TX 77002

This exhibit explores Julia Ideson's life and career as the first librarian of the Houston Public Library (from 1903 to 1945). As a suffragette, librarian in France during WW I, world traveler, promoter of the arts, birder, and avid gardener at home and on the job, Miss Ideson was a woman of encyclopedic interests who repeatedly demonstrated an adventurous spirit, generosity and strength of will. In 1951, responding to the move to name the Houston Public Library in her honor, the Houston Chronicle wrote:

"[Her] shield of quiet dignity, which she never dropped, was a deceptive front for the steel determination that lay underneath."

April 25th, 2016, 11:00 am

Presentation: Preservation Week: Photo & Heirloom Preservation: Ring Branch, Houston Public Library 8835 Long Point Rd. Houston, TX 77055

HMRC employees Joel Draut, Emily Scott, and Jennifer Unruh will conduct a program outlining best practices for preservation of photographs and other treasures.

April 27th, 2016, 6:00 pm

Presentation: Preservation Week: The Blue Tile Project Julia Ideson Building, Norma Meldrum Room (1st floor) 550 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77002

In celebration of Preservation Week, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center will host the founders of The Blue Tile Project to discuss their efforts to preserve the blue street tiles that can be found across the city. The blue tile street signs lined our streets as early as the 1930s and are slowly disappearing. These installations were the first

signs of street art. The vision of the Blue Tile Project is to bring awareness to the street tiles and give Houstonians something to call their own. For more information about the project, check out their Facebook page or visit their website <http://www.bluetileproject.com/>.

April 30th, 2016, 10:30 am – 11:15 am

Presentation: Preservation Tips for Family Historians Learn best practices and tips for storage and handling of family documents and photos. This program will be presented by Archivist Jennifer Sessa of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. This event is part of a series of presentations put on by Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research as part of Preservation Week (April 24 – April 30th). Reservations are required, please call: 832-393-2600.

May 4th, 2016, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Presentation: Telegraph, Travis and the Texas Revolution: An Archival and Archeological Journey through the Last Days of San Felipe de Austin Julia Ideson Building, Norma Meldrum Room (first floor) 550 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77002

Bryan McAuley of the Texas Historical Commission will share recent updates about the development project at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. His program will focus on the month of March 1836 which began with the Texas Declaration of Independence and ended with the burning of San Felipe during the Runaway Scrape. Recent archival and archeological research will be used to share the stories

of William B. Travis and his “Victory or Death” letter (and the preservation story of his diary), Gail Borden’s print shop and newspaper – the Telegraph and Texas Register – that served as the mouthpiece of the revolution, and the ultimate destruction of the town.

May 7th, 2016, 11:00 am

Julia Ideson Building Tour

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 a.m. at the reception desk in the lobby. Tours are available on a first come basis and are limited to 20 people. If you would like to schedule a tour for a group of 10 or more, please contact 832-393-1662.

May 17th, 2016, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Outreach Event: Workshop for students entering college Cafécollege at Carnegie Neighborhood Library and Center for Learning 1050 Quitman Street, Houston, TX 77009

Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC), part of the Special Collections Division of the Houston Public Library, collects and preserves Houston's history. HMRC houses thousands of records and over 4 million photographs all relating to the history of our city. HMRC Hispanic Collection Archivist Mikaela Selley and Architectural Archivist Samantha Bruer will discuss their role in bringing history to the public and the career opportunities in the library and archival field.

Saturday, May 21, 11:00 am

Texas Room Orientation Julia Ideson Building 550 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77002

On the Third Saturday of every month, Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) will offer a Texas Room orientation. In our monthly orientation, patrons can learn about the variety of resources available through the Texas Room and the types of collections and materials available through HMRC. Find out how to get started with your research and ways to get the most out of your research. No reservations required. Please allow time for signing in and checking personal items.

Date and Location TBD Presentation: HMRC Student Showcase

Students from Houston Community College spent this semester gaining hands-on experience with the Hispanic Archival Collections at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. Their research will culminate in a web page that displays Houston's Chicano Movement through selected archival material. Celebrate this collaborative effort and the students' contributions to the preservation and promotion of Houston's history!

This collaboration was done in partnership with Dr. Natalie Garza and her Mexican American history class at Houston Community College System Stafford Campus and administered by HMRC Hispanic Collections Archivist, Mikaela Selley.

June 6th – July 29th, 2016

Student Historian Internship Program (SHIP) Julia Ideson Building 550 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77002

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center is accepting applications for its 4th Annual Student Historian Internship Program (SHIP). Launched in 2013, the purpose of this summer program is to expose students to librarian and archivist activities so they can experience what working in the library science and archival field is like. Students will work in the historic Julia Ideson Building while gaining hands-on experience with archival collections, learning how to record an oral history, how to preserve materials,

and how to create digital history timelines. Students must be age 16 by June 2016 to qualify. This is a 120-hour program taking place June 13th, 2016 through July 29th, 2016. Application materials are due by April 29th, 2016. View the Information Packet and Application at <http://digital.houstonlibrary.org/cdm/ref/collection/curriculum-project/id/6>

This program is administered by Mikaela Selley, Hispanic Collections Archivist & Volunteer Coordinator, and Caroline Castillo, SHIP Coordinator.

2016 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2015 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.McAdow@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 McAdow (Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Tuesday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday and Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.

Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.

Preservation consultation sessions with HMRC staff members on preserving family documents and memorabilia. Sessions are conducted twice a year on Fridays when the Texas Room is normally closed.

Research Lock-Ins twice a year on a Friday. HMRC staff members will provide one-on-one research consultation to FTxR members.

Five copies per year of digital scans from the HMRC photograph collection for half price.

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

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: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Kathleen Colt, Linda Fosseen, Carol Haddock, Catherine McCulley, and Jeff Lindemann

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
The Texas Room Dispatch
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership Year: 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

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:** _____