

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 15, Number 1, January 2017

Monday, January 30th, 2017, Meeting

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

6:00 – 7:00 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM

Dr. Dan Michael Worrall,
Member of the Harris County Historical Commission,
will speak on the topic

“Pleasant Bend: Upper Buffalo Bayou and the San Felipe Trail in the 19th Century”

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 the Pappas restaurant. The garage entrance is on Smith Street. A flat parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 pm.

Free parking is also available on the nearby streets after 6:00 pm.

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,

I am saddened to report the death last month of Doris Rubin Glasser, a greatly esteemed former Director of the Texas and Local History Collections at the HMRC. Those of us who were doing research in the HMRC in the 1970s and '80s will remember Doris' welcoming smile, unlimited energy, and the fact that she seemed to know the exact location of every book in the collection. She retired due to health issues, but she always maintained her passion for the HMRC. In 2011 she served as a judge for the Julia Ideson Award. The Friends of the Texas Room is the only nonprofit listed in her obituary for memorial contributions. We are most grateful for her time with us and for her devotion to our cause. We will miss her.

On a happier note, 2017 marks the tenth anniversary of the Julia Ideson Award. This year we will be considering books published in the last five years. The authors must have used the resources of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center significantly, but not necessarily exclusively, for their works to be considered. If you have written a book or know of a book that should be considered for the award, you can go to our website to find the entry form and instructions. The deadline for entries to be received is June 1, 2017.

In December you should have received by email a letter asking you to renew your membership. All memberships are on a January to December schedule. The HMRC counts on us to supply them with items of equipment, etc. which are not in the city's budget for them. Most recently, we purchased a Zytron overhead scanner for copying rare and fragile books. Soon we will cover the costs of digitizing thirty-six reels of oral history interviews. The funds for these gifts come primarily from your dues. If you have not done so already, please renew your membership!

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE April 25th, 2016, GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Dorothy Knox Houghton.

Minutes of the prior quarterly meeting were presented and approved.

President Houghton next announced the slate of officers and new directors for 2017:

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice-President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, Carol Haddock, Jeff Lindemann, Catherine McCulley, Randy McKinney II, and George Werner

The slate was approved by acclamation.

President Houghton then gave a brief description of the Julia Ideson Award and announced and presented the 2016 award to Jim Bailey and Kim Lykins for their documentary *Post Oak Boulevard: A Texas Legacy*.

Thereafter, President Houghton called upon board member, Charles Maynard, to introduce the speaker, Mr. Randy Reipe, co-founder and organizer of College Park Cemetery Association, which has raised funds and organizes monthly maintenance and improvement activities at the historic African-American cemetery on West Dallas Street in Houston. Randy talked about ongoing research conducted by him and others to identify graves and burials at the cemetery and recounted very heartfelt and moving anecdotal stories about persons interred there including many prominent African-American citizens who contributed greatly to our community in the years following the Civil War and into the 20th century.

His remarks were very well received and prompted many questions and poignant remarks and reminiscences from audience members.

The meeting concluded around 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maynard, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney Chavez, HMRC Manager

The Texas Room, Julia Ideson Building



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

Following the Thanksgiving holiday, we welcomed Preservation Librarian Elizabeth Mayer to our team. This is an entirely new position encompassing reference and programming and outreach, as well as working on preserving our collections with our volunteer conservator, Charlie Abore. "Conservation and preservation have always been interests of mine, and I'm excited to work hands-on with all of the collections at the HMRC," she says.

Some of her main areas of responsibility are digital preservation and reformatting; performing basic and intermediate conservation treatments including, but not limited to, conservation rebinding, rebacking and board attachment, surface cleaning, aqueous treatment to wash and deacidify, mending and/or lining, tape and adhesive removal; designing custom-fit enclosures for fragile objects using supplied materials; assisting in the preparation of collection materials for exhibition, including condition reporting and tracking incoming and outgoing collections; developing and reviewing conservation and preservation-related policies and procedures; and planning and implementing preservation/conservation-related programs and publications.

Elizabeth graduated with a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2016. She took courses in preservation, archives administration, metadata, and bookbinding, and took an assistantship at the Health Sciences Library on the University of Illinois Urbana campus where she gained experience in reference assistance, managed student workers, and participated in a large-scale deaccessioning project. Additionally, she completed an internship at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library where she worked with the Oral History Department and the Conservation Department. Most recently, she worked for the Collections Care Department of Preservation Services for the University Library of UIUC assessing the triage workflow of the Preservation Unit and performing quick repairs on the general collections.

Elizabeth has already made great strides in her work at the HMRC. She is working on several conservation projects which include mending, mold removal, cleaning, and rebinding. She is currently working on a scrapbook which has some signs of mold damage. This work requires that the items in the scrapbook be removed, cleaned, rebacked, and re-bound. She is also working on several book projects which involve removing bindings, washing to lighten the pages and remove stains, sizing the pages to add strength, and re-binding.

Elizabeth is also beginning work at the reference desk and is assisting with more in-depth preservation-related inquiries. In addition, she has begun to develop some workflows regarding intake of items for conservation treatments as well as guidelines for treating the HMRC materials. She is also becoming familiar with the HMRC's collections

as she is beginning to survey materials in our stacks to assess preservation issues and is working with other staff to inventory items in our Rare Books Room. Furthermore, she has already begun planning for future outreach events such as a series of programs to be held during Preservation Week in late April.

Her skills, expertise, and eager, self-starter attitude will surely make a positive impact on the preservation of our collections and the services that the HMRC offers to the public. We know Elizabeth will make an invaluable addition to our team!

Clinton Drake, the HMRC's Collection Development Librarian has also moved on to find a job closer to his new home in Richmond, Texas. The candidate we have selected to replace his position will begin in February. Jennifer Sessa, Assistant Manager and Lead Archivist, is also leaving this month to pursue a new career in teaching.

Programs and Events

Julia Ideson Building Tour- March 4th, April 1st, 11:00 am

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 11:00 am at the reception desk in the lobby. Tours are available on a first-come basis and are limited to twenty people. If you would like to schedule a tour for a group of ten or more, please contact 832-393-1662.

Texas Room Orientation - February 18th, March 18th, April 15th, 11:00 am

On the third Saturday of every month, the 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 the HMRC. Find out how to get started with your research and ways to get the most out of your research. No reservations are required. Please allow time for signing in and checking personal items.

April 23 - April 29, 2017

The HMRC invites everyone to join in celebrating Preservation Week 2017. This is a week dedicated to the many methods of preservation and their importance to libraries and special collections, both public and private. During this week, the HMRC will host a series of public events, talks, and programs to share the ways the world preserves its

knowledge and cultural heritage and how these practices can be implemented with your personal collections.

May 3, 2017, 6:00pm - 8:00 pm

The HMRC is hosting an open house! We will have archival and special collection materials on display, behind-the-scenes tours, demonstrations, and exclusive access to non-public areas to learn about what we do at the HMRC. Featured areas include archival stacks, Architectural Archives, the HMRC Imaging Lab, the Norma Meldrum Children's Room, and the Conservation Lab. Visitors can observe archival processing activities, conservation and repair work, image digitization and reproduction, and our state-of-the-art storage areas. Parking is available under the Central Library building, with entry on Lamar Street. For questions, please contact the Texas Room at 832-393-1662.

April 12 & May 10, 2017, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

The HMRC is hosting an Architectural Orientation of the Texas Room to introduce the public to our collections and how to access them through the reference desk. This program goes beyond our monthly Texas Room orientation to focus primarily on the HMRC's architectural collections. Guided by Architectural Archivist, Samantha Bruer, customers will learn about architectural drawings, archival collections, books, and other materials that are useful in historic building research. Parking is available under the Central Library building, with entry on Lamar Street. For questions, please contact Samantha Bruer at samantha.bruer@houstontx.gov or 832-393-1376.

The HMRC can use volunteers who want to help going through archival collections box by box to determine what is in them. The HMRC can also use volunteers who want to help create lesson plans incorporating primary sources from HMRC's collections. The 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 the 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 Chavez (Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

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 – 6:00 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 the 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 photographic 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)

(Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.)

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

The FTxR policies relate 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 FTxR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTxR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your

hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTxR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTxR 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.

2017 Board of Directors:

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice-President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, Carol Haddock, Jeff Lindemann, Catherine McCulley, Randy McKinney II, and George Werner

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
Texas Room Dispatch
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership Year: 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017

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:** _____