

# THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room  
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)  
Volume 14, Number 3, July 2016

## Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting

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

6:00 – 7:00 Reception  
7:00 Program

### PROGRAM

Andy Smith, Ship Manager of the *Battleship Texas*,  
will speak on the topic

“Come on *Texas!*”

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](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org)

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## **THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Dear Friends,

Why do we belong to the Friends of the Texas Room?

Our first and most important reason is philanthropy for the preservation of our local history. At its last meeting, your board voted to fund the digitization of the last 43 tapes in the HMRC's Oral History Collection. The rest of the collection was digitized earlier with funds from grants which have run out. This project will begin immediately, and soon the remaining taped interviews of persons involved in the development of all aspects of our community will be available on line. Most of the individuals in the interviews are now deceased. They include such people as Nina Cullinan. Carol and Harris Masterson, and people who were involved in the first controversy over zoning. They give rare insight into the stories behind the dry historical facts. At present they are inaccessible to the public because the library's equipment for playing them has worn out.

The HMRC is in the process of assessing overhead scanning machines which can scan rare and fragile books with a minimum need for manipulation of the book spines, pages, and covers. These machines also are better options for scanning magazines, newspapers, photographs and document than the conventional copy machines now in use. When they make a decision, we hope to be able to purchase the machine for them.

Without our financial support, the HMRC cannot keep up with the changing technology which, along with its incomparable collections, sets it apart as a first class institution.

Thank you for being a part of it. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to go to our website [www.friendsofthetexasroom.org](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org) and join us. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting on July 25 where we will learn the latest on the *Battleship Texas*.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

### **MINUTES OF THE April 25th, 2016, GENERAL MEETING**

President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved from the floor.

Mike Vance, author of *Houston Baseball: The Early Years 1861 to 1961*, made a presentation entitled "Three Ballparks--Pre-World War II Baseball in Houston." As in New Orleans and Galveston, baseball was brought to Houston by workers who arrived from New York and New England. Ball clubs were established as early as 1859, but the game took off in the post war period of 1866 to 1868. Local newspapers reported a game played on San Jacinto Day at which Ashbel Smith, who had become acquainted with Sam Houston in 1837, served as the Secretary of State and a Texas diplomat

during the years of the Republic, helped negotiate the peace at the end of the Civil War, organized and was the first President of the Texas Historical Society in 1870, served in the Legislature, and helped establish both Prairie View A&M and the University of Texas, addressed the assemblage. Most games were played on the clay surface of the brick yard on the north end of town.

The Texas Association was founded in 1884 consisting of semi-pro teams on which certain players were paid. The first exhibition pro game was held in 1877 between the Chicago White Stockings and the St. Louis Browns. The Texas League was organized in 1888. The Houston team, organized in 1889, was called the Mud Cats and became the Houston Buffalos in 1896. They played in the ballpark at Milam and McGowen streets. In 1904 the park was moved to the Harrisburg race track. At the West End Park, there were college football games between Notre Dame and both Texas and Rice in 1915, and UT and A&M played a game there for four years. In 1916, a local business group bought the Houston Buffs on behalf of Branch Rickey of the Cardinals which then was contrary to League Rules prohibiting farm teams. The Houston Black Buffalos played there in the 1920s, including the 1929 -1930 World Series against the Kansas City Monarchs of the old Negro Baseball League. Buff stadium was built in 1928 and among other things, sold mosquito spray by the squirt: 5¢ for three squirts. Inaugurated night games began in 1930.

Respectfully submitted,

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

In keeping with HMRC's objective of providing access to Houston's history, which includes its historic home in the Julia Ideson Building, the library offers group tours of the building based on docent availability. However, with increasing interest in the building, the demand for tours has grown, making it challenging to accommodate all requests. Consequently, in an effort to better serve our customer's requests HMRC, with funding and support from the Friends of the Texas Room, developed an audio tour with an accompanying website to provide an alternative tour option for those who are not able to schedule tours, or would like to tour the building from a remote location. With OnCell's mobile tour technology, our customers have access to a multimedia tour on the Internet, on smart mobile devices, or even using basic cell phones. The mobile tour app also works with accessibility options on most devices for the visually- and hearing-impaired to expand and enhance the customer's experience and better meet user needs.

Currently there are eighteen tour stops positioned throughout the building marked with signs. These sites represent important features of the building and interesting facts about the architecture, furnishings, and the history of the library and the city. Whether accessed in the building or online, customers are given an educational tour experience filled with beautiful custom photos, videos, and audio all available at their own pace. The tour has been accessed hundreds of times since its launch in October 2015, and we have received considerable praise for its usability, information content, and convenience.

Since the tour is built on a flexible platform, our account allows us to add multiple languages, input our organization's brand into the site, create interactive images, and add additional tours, games, and other interactive tour experiences to the website. Future plans for this application include creating a scavenger hunt for younger visitors, creating customized tours for specific subject areas including oral histories, HMRC's book collections, and artwork in the building, and providing audio/ visual supplements for features in upcoming exhibitions. Link to the tour: <http://hmrc.toursphere.com/>

## **Programs and Events**

### **July-September**

(Details forthcoming) **Writing Workshop: *Handbook of Houston Talk*** of an encyclopedic-style collection of Houston's history began in earnest in 2008, when professional and avocational historians started meeting regularly to discuss the idea. A 2015 partnership between the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) and Houston History Alliance (HHA), along with the generous underwriting of Houston Endowment, has made it possible for the project to move forward.

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) has been involved with this project since its inception, sharing both staff expertise and resources.

The *Handbook of Houston* will be the first regional offshoot of the TSHA statewide resource, the *Handbook of Texas Online*, the most widely cited history resource in Texas.

The *Handbook* committee is actively recruiting authors interested in writing about all aspects of Houston history. Topical workshops are being held in the next few months.

**August 2nd, September 3rd, & October 1st, 11:00 a.m.**

**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 11:00 a.m. 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.

**August 20, 2016, 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.**

**The Astrodome Memories Project** is pleased to invite you to bring your memorabilia and memories to a community scanning event. The Astrodome Memories project is seeking additional photos, memorabilia, and other memories of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in the Astrodome. August 20, 2016, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Julia Ideson Building Auditorium Houston Public Library 500 McKinney Street Houston, TX 77008.

Please make an appointment by calling: 832-393-1522. You can also contribute your memories online at <https://www.astrodomememories.com>.

**August 20, & September 17, 11:00 a.m.**

**Texas Room Orientation**

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.

**July 28, 2016, 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 a.m.**

Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room, JIB Presentation: HMRC Student Showcase

Students from Houston Community College spent this semester gaining hands-on experience with the archival collections at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. Celebrate this collaborative effort and the students' contributions to the preservation and promotion of Houston's history!

This program was administered by HMRC Hispanic Collections Archivist, Mikaela Selley and SHIP Coordinator, Caroline Castillo De La O

**August 27 – November 12, 2016**

Exhibit: 'We Serve Humanity': Stories of Hope and Commitment Julia Ideson Building, 2nd floor exhibit gallery 550 McKinney, Houston 77002

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center salutes its 40th anniversary with a gallery of individuals who strived to make the world a better place for future generations. These diverse stories, told through photographs, documents, audio-visual media and ephemera, include the fields of business, medicine, civil rights, social justice, the arts, journalism, environmentalism, education and government service. Spanning the twentieth century, they resonate into the twenty-first as we face variations on many of the same issues today.

**2016 Membership Benefits**

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2016 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](mailto: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 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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](mailto: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](http://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:** \_\_\_\_\_