

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume No.3, No. 2, April 2005

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 23, 2005 * 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Museum of Printing History
1324 West Clay

The Museum of Printing History is located on West 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.

Our speaker will be Barry L. Whitehead, Architect with Prozign Architects.
He will discuss the exciting new plans for renovation of the Julia Ideson Building.

UPCOMING FTR MEETINGS

Meetings are set for different days and time throughout the year to make it convenient for as many people as possible to attend at least one meeting.

Saturday, April 23, 2005, 10 a.m.-Noon, Museum of Printing History
Monday, July 18, 2005, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Museum of Printing History
Saturday, October 15, 2005, 10 a.m.-Noon, Museum of Printing History

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends:

I am very pleased to report that the Library has hired two new archivists for the HMRC: Ronald Dreese, Archivist I, and Tammy Jordan, Archivist II. Biographical information on both of them can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. The Library hopes to be able to announce a new Archivist IV very soon. The Archivist IV will have the position of Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, which encompasses all of the collections on Texas and local history housed in the Julia Ideson Building. The Friends welcome Ronald and Tammy and look forward to working with them.

Nancy Burch and Barrie Scardino have produced a beautiful membership brochure for the Friends using photographs of the Ideson Building taken by HMRC photographer, Joel Draut. We are very appreciative of the efforts of all involved in this important effort. We will introduce the new brochure at the San Jacinto Symposium to be held on Saturday, April 16, 2005 at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel where the Friends will have a display table.

Because the last newsletter came out after the February meeting, we were unable to approve the minutes of the October meeting at the February meeting. Therefore, in this newsletter you will find the minutes from the October meeting and from the February meeting. Please read them, as we will approve both sets of minutes at the April 23 meeting.

You are welcome to bring interested friends to the April 23 meeting to learn about the exciting plans for the renovation of the Ideson Building. Our membership chairman will be on hand to encourage your friends to join our organization.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM OCTOBER 23, 2004

Friends of the Texas Room met October 23, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay. President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order after which the minutes of the July 20 meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter. The president thanked Sandra Lord and Dorothy Johnson for preparing and distributing the Newsletter. In the absence of

Treasurer Marks Hinton, the president reported that the organization currently has a bank balance of \$11,518.03. This amount includes \$2,000 received from ExxonMobil through applications submitted by two of our volunteers. Members who are eligible for acquiring similar funds were encouraged to consider applying for them. Karen Rogers, founding president of the Rice Historical Society, presented a copy of *Houston as a Setting of the Jewel* to be placed in the Texas and Local History Collections. Copies of this publication can be purchased for \$25 by contacting the Rice Historical Society.

President Dorothy Knox Houghton read the Contributions Policy adopted by the Board. (Copy attached to these minutes.) She announced that the Board had approved expending \$4,000 for the retrospective conversion of Texas and Local History Department materials. A letter of explanation from Central Library Chief Brenda Tirrell was read. (Copy attached to these minutes.) In addition, the Friends funded the \$125 purchase of a tape player that will enable patrons to hear oral history tapes made at HMRC in the 1970s. Jim Fisher was thanked for securing this piece of equipment from eBay for us.

A membership brochure is currently being prepared by Nancy Burch and a mailing will be sent when it is completed. We currently have 187 members. Vernon Gillette reported that the Friends' Web site is being reviewed by the library administration and will be put in operation as part of the Houston Public Library Web site when this review is completed. Mr. Gillette suggested that at some future date we may want to consider the feasibility of having our separate site.

Following this business session, George Werner presented an enlightening program on "The History of Texas Railroads."

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Werner, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that the following persons had been nominated to serve as officers of Friends of the Texas Room for 2005-2006:

President – Dorothy Knox Houghton
Vice President – Barrie Scardino
Secretary – Betty Chapman
Treasurer – George Werner
Directors – Paul Homeyer, Sims McCutchan, Anne Sloan, and Carol Weaver

There being no further nominations from the floor, Gus Mistrot moved that these nominees be accepted by acclamation; Vernon Gillette seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. George Werner thanked those retiring from the Board: Marks Hinton, Jim Glass, Marvin Rich, and Elizabeth Whitlow. Vernon Gillette requested that the body extend their appreciation to these persons by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty T. Chapman, Secretary

**MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
FEBRUARY 1, 2005**

Friends of the Texas Room met on February 1, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay. President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order. Since the minutes of the previous meeting were not circulated to the membership in a newsletter, the approval of those minutes will be postponed until our meeting in April. The president thanked retiring board members Marks Hinton, Jim Glass, Marvin Rich, and Elizabeth Whitlow for their service during the past two years and introduced Carol Weaver, Sims McCutchan, Barrie Scardino, and Paul Homeyer as new board members. She also thanked Betsy Griffin, Director of the Museum of Printing History, for scheduling our meetings for us.

The president reported on the resignation of Barbara Gubbin as director of Houston Public Library and of Rolando Romo as manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. She announced that the Julia Ideson Building Renovation Committee is considering a plan that would construct a new wing that was actually included in the building's 1925 architectural design. This wing would be dedicated entirely to HMRC activities. The first floor of the Ideson building would then be available for public events. Barry Whitehead of Prosign Architects, lead firm for the project, will speak at our April meeting. The president also reported that the HMRC staff is being enlarged; three archivist positions will soon be filled and openings for two new positions, one in the Texas Room and one in Support Services, will be posted on February 2. Betty Chapman announced that the concluding event for the library's centennial celebration will be held on Saturday, February 5, at 11:00 a.m., when a historical marker will be dedicated. She also announced that copies of *100 Years – 100 Stories*, the centennial history, would be available for purchase after the meeting.

The president reported that the board held an all-day planning retreat on January 29. Plans made include revising our by-laws; establishing a Program Committee to plan special events, such as a symposium with a call for papers; forming a Communications Committee to include the newsletter, a web-site, and general publicity; and conducting a membership campaign through a mailing and by having our members speak before other groups in the city. We will expand all of our committees to include more members.

Virginia Hancock reported on the status of the old Cage Elementary School and plans for its renovation. She also shared research that she has been doing on her eastside neighborhood and its early residents, including the Simms family.

Treasurer George Werner reported that our bank balance is \$16,370.32. This amount includes \$4,000, which will be used in the conversion of collection maps to the online catalogue when the library has prepared the materials for this process. The treasurer also reported that \$2,500 was received last year from ExxonMobil in recognition of volunteer hours given at the library by ExxonMobil retirees Dorothy Johnson and George Werner. The president encouraged any other members who might be in a similar position to act accordingly in requesting funds for the Friends organization.

The president introduced Dr. Joseph Pratt of the University of Houston who spoke on the various projects of the Center for Public History at the university. Dr. Pratt expressed his hope that all the historical organizations in the city will come together in a collaborative effort to promote Houston's history. Members were also introduced to the *Houston Review* and encouraged to subscribe to the publication.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty T. Chapman, Secretary

NEW ARCHIVISTS IN THE HMRC

Ronald Dreese (Archivist I): B.S., Case Western Reserve; M.L.A., University of St. Thomas; M.S.I.S., University of Texas at Austin with focus on archives and records management. Ron did applied coursework at the Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin and an internship as associate librarian for archives and serials at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. He has also worked as a volunteer at the Center for American History at the University of Texas and in the archives section at the University of St. Thomas. He joined the HMRC staff in March.

Tammy Jordan (Archivist II): B.A., University of California at Los Angeles; M.L.I.S., San Jose State University. Tammy comes from the Tulare County, California, Public Library, where she was manager of the Annie R. Mitchell History Room. Previously, she served as archivist, special collections librarian, and reference librarian. She also worked as archives assistant for Disney Feature Animation Research. She had additional academic and public library experience prior to earning her M.L.I.S. She joined the HMRC staff in April.

IN MEMORIAM – ANN QUIN WILSON

FTR Charter Member Ann Quin Wilson died on March 23, 2005. A trailblazer in conducting local research, Ann began documenting Houston's history four decades ago. Her book, *Native Houstonian: A Collective Portrait*, published in 1983, contains photographs and descriptions of the people and places that established the city's foundation. Preserving Ann's book in the HMRC's collection will preserve her love of Houston.

CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

**Friends of the Texas Room Policy for Contributions 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**

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.

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 IRS 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April -- New Display at the Ideson Building: Texas Sheet Music.

Through May 29 -- Walking Sticks: Fashion and Function, Heritage Society Museum, Sam Houston Park. For more information, go to www.heritagesociety.org.

Saturday, April 16 -- Battle of San Jacinto Symposium 2005, Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, University of Houston. 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost: \$35.00 before April 8, \$40.00 at the door, based on available space. For additional information or to register for the Symposium, go to www.sanjacinto-museum.org. Be sure to stop by the FTR table and pick up a copy of our new brochure!

Thursday, April 21 -- Hill/Finger Noontime Lecture: Jesse Jones, Noon-1 p.m. Steven Fenburg, Executive Producer and co-writer of the PBS documentary, *Brother Can You Spare a Billion: The Story of Jesse H. Jones* will present a special lecture on the life and accomplishments of Jesse H. Jones. For more information, go to www.heritagesociety.org or call 713.655.1912, extension 213.

Saturday, April 23 -- Friends of the Texas Room Quarterly Meeting, 10 a.m.-Noon, Museum of Printing History, 1324 West Clay.

Sunday, April 24 -- GHPA Walking Tour: Westmoreland Historic District, 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.ghpa.org.

Thursday, May 19 -- Hill/Finger Noontime Lecture: Houston's Wards, Noon-1 p.m. Dr. Cary Wintz, professor of history at Texas Southern University will present a lecture on Houston's six wards. For more information, go to www.heritagesociety.org or call 713.655.1912, extension 213.

Sunday, May 22 -- GHPA Walking Tour: Old Sixth Ward, 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.ghpa.org.

Sunday, June 26 -- GHPA Walking Tour: Courthouse District, 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.ghpa.org.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

FTR Committee Opportunities

We have established several working committees and we need you, our members, to become involved by volunteering to serve on these committees. Please contact the committee of your choice and become involved.

The **Communications Committee** coordinates the newsletter, website, and general publicity. Contact: _____, phone, email.

The **Membership Committee** will use our new brochure to recruit and sustain membership. Contact: Dorothy Johnson, (281) 497-2448, dhjohnsn@hal-pc.org.

Programs Committee is charged with recommending speakers for our quarterly meetings and, eventually, an annual symposium with a call for papers and possibly a lecture series. Contact: _____, phone, email.

The **By-laws Committee** revises and refines our by-laws. Contact: _____, phone, email.

The **Development Committee** will be needed as we expand our activities. Contact: _____, phone, email.

Projects & Publications Using HMRC Resources.

FTR Member Dr. Mavis Kelsey, Sr.,'s new book, *Engraved Prints of Texas, 1554-1900*, has been published by Texas A & M Press.

FTR Member and HMRC volunteer Don Teter is indexing a multi-box collection of biographical clippings from the old *Houston Press*.

A non-Friend volunteer is continuing the work of FTR Members and volunteers Gayle McDonald and Kathy Boren, who together tamed the Houston Vertical Files.

Please continue to contact Sandra Lord, editor of the Texas Room Dispatch (sandraslord@aol.com), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize the resources of the HMRC.

DUES REMINDER

Our Membership Year runs from January 1 - December 31. Please fill in the membership form at the end of this Newsletter and mail it with your check to P. O. Box 27827, Houston, TX 77227-7827. Please make your check payable to "Friends of the Texas Room." If you have friends who might be interested in membership, please submit their names and addresses along with your check

and we will send them information. If you have email, please include it. This saves us mailing costs.

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 – Barrie Scardino

Secretary - Betty Chapman

Treasurer – George Werner

Parliamentarian – Nancy T. Burch

Directors: Paul Homeyer, Sims McCutcheon, Anne H. Sloan, Carol Weaver

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the address below:

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 sent to the Texas Room Dispatch Editor at the address below.

Sandra Lord
Texas Room Dispatch Editor
P. O. Box 230183
Houston, Texas 77223-0183
(713) 222-9255 * Fax: (713) 921-1510
Email: SandraSLord@aol.com

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Please spread the word and help us find new members. If you have access to a list of likely members, which you can share with us, we would appreciate it. The Membership Application below can be emailed to your prospects or photocopied

and faxed or mailed to prospective members.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership Application: Membership Year: January 1 - December 31

RETURN TO: P.O. BOX 27827, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827