

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
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APRIL 24TH MEETING

Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, the new Director of the Houston Public Library, will be the speaker at our April 24th meeting to be held at the Museum of Printing History. The membership is invited to a reception for Dr. Lawson at 6:30 pm prior to the meeting which will start at 7:00.

In the 101 year history of the library, she will be the sixth director. She comes to Houston from the Detroit Public Library where she served as deputy director. Dr. Lawson holds a BA in political science from Morgan State University in Baltimore, an MA degree in library and information science from the University of Maryland-College Park, and a PhD in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Our meeting on the 24th will give us all a chance to meet her, learn about her fresh vision for the Houston Public Library, and ask questions. The Museum of Printing History is located at 1324 W. 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.

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FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM MEETINGS

This year all meetings will be held on Monday evenings at the Museum of Printing History. Please mark your calendars for future meetings:

July 24, 2006, Monday, 7:00 pm

October 23, 2006, Monday, 7:00 pm

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

Those of you who have visited the Central Branch of the Library in recent weeks know that the renovation of the Jones Building has begun. Some staff members and library services are moving to the Julia Ideson Building temporarily until the Jones Building renovations are complete. This will not affect the functioning of the HMRC. The Texas Room will be open to researchers as usual.

The library administration has appointed Stephen Hill to be the new Assistant Manager for Reference Services for the HMRC. He has a long track record in reference services, management, and staff supervision within the Houston Public Library system. His biographical information, along with that of other new staff appointees, can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The documentary on the holdings of the HMRC is moving forward. The producer of the documentary, Sunset Productions, has filmed the majority of the historical materials (maps, architectural drawings, rare books, paintings, and photographs) which will be featured. In mid-May they will film interviews with individuals who have experience using the various resources in the HMRC in their research. Once the interviews have been filmed, the script will be written, and the documentary will be put together. We look forward to the finished product with great anticipation.

The featured speaker at our membership meeting on April 24 will be Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, the new Director of the Houston Public Library. At 6:30 P. M., prior to the meeting, we hope you will join us for a reception at the Museum of Printing History honoring Dr. Lawson. This will be your opportunity to ask questions about the Library and its future. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES, FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM, JANUARY 2006

Because the January meeting was a social gathering at Story Sloane's Gallery, there are no minutes to report. The Friends are extremely grateful to Mr. Sloane for his generous hospitality and his talk about his collection of historic Houston photographs. The meeting was well attended, and members had a wonderful time.

HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER STAFF UPDATE

submitted by Brenda Tirrell

The new HMRC Assistant Manager for Reference Services is Stephen Hill. His B.S. (Political Science with a minor in History) and MLIS are from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. After working as a reference intern at the Golda Meir Library, he joined the staff at Houston Public Library 15 years ago. He worked in Branch Services, and served as Acting or Assistant Manager at Hillendahl, Lakewood, and Henington-Alief. He also served as the Adult Services Librarian for the Alief Region. He then transferred to Central Services, where he has served as Assistant Manager of the Humanities Dept. and, most recently, Assistant Manager of the Business, Science & Technology Dept. He brings both reference expertise and strong management and supervisory skills to HMRC.

The closure of the Jesse Jones Building and the transition to HPL Express Downtown in the Julia Ideson Building have resulted in many changes in Central Services. During the 18-24 renovation period, many staff will be deployed to other sites, both to provide staff support for branches and also for the benefit of cross-training. Several HMRC staff are participating in the deployment: Wendy Willeford and Nina Oliver were deployed to the Stella Link Branch in March; in April, Andy Hempe, Ron Lee, and Doug Weiskopf will be deployed to Stella Link, Robinson-Westchase, and Scenic Woods Branches respectively.

The deployment experience has been very positive. Nina writes from Stella Link:

“This email is to THANK YOU for the transfer here. The staff is great as well as the patrons. My working life is so different here from HMRC-TXR...I have learned so much in a month. Working in a branch full time is so different but to me very rewarding. Again, Thank You for considering me for this temporary assignment.”

Deployment will also bring staff from other Central Services units to HMRC.

Amy Taylor reported to HMRC in March. She has a BA from Texas A&M University with a major in History; she worked as a testing supervisor at A&M. She is in progress toward an MLA at the University of St. Thomas. Her second language is Japanese. Amy worked for about a year in the Business, Science & Technology Department before her deployment to HMRC.

Fred Mondrik has a BA in History from Queens College of the City University of New York, and an MA in History from the University of Houston. He worked as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Houston History Department. Fred is bilingual in English and Spanish. He has 30 years of service at Houston Public Library. His first assignment was in Archives just prior to the establishment of the HMRC. He worked for three years at the Denver Harbor Branch (now the Cliff Tuttle Branch). Since 1977 he has worked in the Social Sciences Department (now Fine Arts/Social Sciences Department) at the Central Library.

Ingrid Grant is a native Houstonian and has a BA from the University of St. Thomas with a double major in International Studies and French. Ingrid has eight years of reference experience at HPL, including six years in the Business, Science & Technology Department and two years in the Humanities Department.

Fred Parris has worked at HPL for more than ten years in the Business, Science & Technology Dept. His BS (Journalism) and MLS are from the University of Kansas. He is the author of *All You Can Eat*, a 234-page guide to buffet restaurants throughout Texas and the United States.

Rachel Davis has worked at HPL for six years. She joined the staff as a Library Assistant and was promoted to Senior Library Assistant, working in the Circulation Department and in the Humanities Department. For the past year, she has worked as the Administrative Aide for the Humanities and Fine Arts/Social Sciences Departments. She is a model of efficiency and productivity and provides excellent support for customer service.

RARE BOOKS AND ARCHIVES UPDATE

submitted by Brenda Tirrell

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center staff has completed an inventory of the Norma Meldrum Collection, one of our juvenile special collections. This inventory involved gathering the collection back into one location and placing it in a single shelving sequence, ensuring that all items were barcoded, and that all items were reflected in the catalog. Items not found have been identified; we have retained the bibliographic records so that they can be restored if we find additional Norma Meldrum Room materials as we complete inventory of other special collections. Staff from the Processing Department in the Technical Services Division assisted with the inventory, including barcoding, scanning, and processing files through the inventory control module of our integrated library system.

Welch Collection (MSS 0077) Update: We were fortunate to receive a \$36,000 grant from the Welch Foundation in 2004 to complete conservation and processing of this archival collection. Cheryl Carrabba, of Carrabba Conservation Inc., evaluated the collection and recommended steps for conservation. Preservation Technologies Inc. completed mass deacidification of the entire collection. We recently contracted with Processing Archivist Mark Carley to begin actual processing of the materials.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

The Greater Houston Preservation Alliance is developing an online History of Houston Museum. It will, eventually, tell the entire history of Houston through the use of narratives and archival materials from numerous collections in the area. Betty Chapman and Steven Strom are serving on the

Steering Committee for this project. Betty is the historian, working on the content, while Steven represents the archival collections of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. You can go to www.historyofhouston.org to check it out. It is still in the very early developmental stages, however.

Last fall Mayor Bill White appointed a Task Force on Houston's History and asked the group to determine how to educate Houstonians about the city's history and to identify all of the existing historical resources in the city. During the past six months, 65 Houstonians have served on five committees to study the mayor's mandate. Friends of the Texas Room were well represented in this process. Betty Chapman has served as the over-all chairman; Barrie Scardino and Joe Pratt have chaired individual committees; and members of the Task Force include Trevia Beverly, Minnette Boesel, Ralf Brehm, Nancy Burch, Renee Cross, Barbara Eaves, Jim Fisher, Stephen Fox, Willie Lee Gay, Paul Homeyer, Dorothy Knox Houghton, Sandra Lord, Graham Luhn, Louis Marchiafava, Anne Sloan, Story Sloane, Steven Strom, Bart Truxillo, and Caro Ivy Walker. The Task Force is currently preparing a final report which will contain their recommendations to the mayor for future action.

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* (jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu), 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 WEBSITE

The Friends of the Texas Room is planning to construct a website to give our organization an Internet presence and increase membership. If you have talent in website construction or have ideas for the website, please contact *The Texas Room Dispatch* editor Jeff Lindemann at jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu.

CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

Please note the 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.

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. 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 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 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@hccs.edu or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann

The Texas Room Dispatch Editor

1509 Monarch Oaks

Houston, Texas 77055

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 on the next page 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

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS:

_____ *first name middle/maiden last name* _____ *first name middle/maiden 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.
- Website manager: Design and maintain an official site for the Friends of the Texas Room.
- 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: _____