

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 6, Number 2, April 2008

April 28th MEETING
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
INTERSTATE THEATERS
WITH HISTORIAN
JEFF MILLS
MUSEUM OF PRINTING HISTORY
1324 W. CLAY

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.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!
www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM MEETINGS

Currently, all meetings will be held on Monday evenings at the Museum of Printing History. All meetings begin with a reception at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00. Please mark your calendars for future meetings: January 28th, 2008; April 28th, 2008; July 28th, 2008; and October 27, 2008.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

The Friends of the Texas Room will present the first annual Julia Ideson Award at our annual meeting on Monday, October 27, 2008. The winner will be a person who has completed a project related to local or Texas history/culture within the past five years. The winner must have made use of the resources of the Texas Room/ Houston Metropolitan Research Center for a significant portion of their project. The nomination can be for a book, thesis, article, film, video production, web site, or any other published work. The work must be complete and thoroughly researched and accurate.

I am delighted to announce the three judges for the award. Don Carlton, Executive Director of the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, was the first Archivist for the HMRC, so it seems most fitting that he should be one of our judges. Richard Dickerson, University Archivist, University of Houston Libraries, Special Collections, also serves on the board of the newly formed Houston History Association. The third judge is Lee Pecht, Director of Special Collections, Woodson Research Center, Rice University.

We hope each of you will help make this a great success by nominating works with which you are familiar which have been completed within the past five years. The nomination form is attached to this newsletter. Please mail them to the FTxR P. O. Box 27827, Houston, Texas 77227-7827.

Your board has voted to partner with the Houston Public Library in submitting a grant request to the Texas State Libraries and Archives Commission for funds to preserve and provide digital access to a significant collection of oral history recordings in the HMRC. If the request is granted, the Friends will provide \$5,000 toward initiating this project.

Recently several FTxR board members participated in the first conference of the newly formed Houston History Association. Co-sponsored by the Houston History Association and the Center for Public History at the University of Houston, "Building Bridges: The Future of Houston's Past," was chaired by FTxR secretary, Dr. Bill Kellar, who serves as vice president of the Houston History Association and as an affiliated professor at the Center for Public History. The Houston History Association is a network for historical and archival groups in the Houston area. Its function is to promote Houston's history in the community. The conference brought together representatives from many of these groups.

The deadline for nominations for the Julia Ideson Award is June 1. Please help us make this contest a great success.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't miss out! The year 2008 will bring the Friends' hour-long documentary to public television, the first annual Julia Ideson Award in October, and wonderful speakers at our meetings. Your support has made all of this possible. We must hear from you soon, or we will have to drop your name from our mailing list. Membership forms are attached to this edition of *The Dispatch* and are available on our website.

HISTORIAN JEFF MILLS TO SPEAK AT APRIL 28th MEETING

The speaker for our April 28th meeting is Jeff Mills, creator of the documentary *Before the Curtain Rises*, a film about the motion picture theatre business. Jeff, president of Io Communications in Houston, produced and directed the film. He has been involved in researching interstate theaters for over ten years. He will be speaking about Texas' interstate theaters as well as his commitment to history and historical preservation.

MINUTES OF THE January 28, 2008, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St., on January 28, 2008. After a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton introduced Ms. Kemo Curry, the new Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC), who spoke briefly about the new addition to the Julia Ideson Building and about some of her goals for the HMRC and the Texas Room.

The members then gathered in the auditorium where Dorothy Knox Houghton introduced Professor John Boles of Rice University, the guest speaker for the evening. Professor Boles gave an informative presentation about Thomas Jefferson.

Following professor Boles presentation, President Dorothy Knox Houghton convened the general meeting. The members approved the Minutes of the previous meeting. Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported that there was a balance of \$24,920.07 in the checking account and \$10,402.68 in the savings account for a total of \$35,322.75.

Publicity Co-Chair Dick Luna reported that KUHF 88.7 FM had done a story on the Friends of the Texas Room.

Dorothy Knox Houghton stated that speakers for future meetings included Jeff Mills (April), Kate Kirkland (July) and Jesus "Frank" De La Teja, Professor of History at Texas State University, and the State Historian, would be the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting in October. She also encouraged members to

spread the word about the first Julia Ideson Award that would be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Jim Bailey provided an update on the documentary and indicated that editing should be complete by mid-March.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. William Kellar, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Kemo Curry, Manager, HMRC

My first quarter as Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center has been an exciting one. There is much to report. I am very pleased to announce that the staff has grown to include Amber Seely, Assistant Manager, Erin Norris, Archivist II, and Barbara Morales, Senior Library Assistant.

The volunteer project of conducting an inventory of the Texas Room's book collection is well underway – the Biographies are complete and a big dent has been put in the 900s! We all owe huge thanks to Betty Chapman, Alice Conlon, Sims McCutchan and Anne Sloan. Another volunteer project has been initiated and will result in a searchable database of the Houston Press photography archives.

We have launched the HMRC Architectural Drawings database on HPL's Web site. Take a look and enjoy:

<http://www.houstonlibrary.org/cgi-bin/archives/architecture.pl>

We are also planning to launch a totally new HMRC Web page this spring that contains many great and fun features, including the tape of an hour-long presentation given by Barry Moore regarding the upcoming expansion and restoration of the Julia Ideson Building (JIB).

Please plan to visit JIB for an exhibit presented by The Houston International Festival called *Rise and Shine: African American Texans 1820-21st Century*. Historic documents including bills of sale, labor contracts, indenture agreements and slave ship manifests will be on display from April 18, 2008 – May 18, 2008.

Finally, the design plans for the upcoming expansion of JIB and the restoration of the existing building have been received and reviewed. That dream project is well on its way to a reality!

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

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. We like to hear what our Friends are doing!

POLICIES

Policies of the Friends of the Texas Room

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.

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. 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 – Sims McCutchan

Secretary – Robert Kellar

Treasurer – Cathy Fitch

Directors: Nancy Burch, Susan Keeton, Caro Walker, and Jim Parsons

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
3405 Roseland
Houston, Texas 77006

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

2008 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 name last name

first name middle name 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: _____

