

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 5, Number 1, January 2007

JANUARY 22ND MEETING
6:30 Reception and Book Signing
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
DIGGING THE HOUSTON ROOTS IN BLUES AND ZYDECO HISTORY
WITH HOUSTON MUSIC HISTORIAN
DR. ROGER WOOD

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.

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF *THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH*

The President's Column
Houston Music Historian Dr. Roger Wood to Speak at January Meeting
News from the Texas Room
 by Steve Hill, Manager of the Texas Room
October 24th, 2006, Minutes
Policies
Cultural Matching Gifts
Dues Reminder
Friends of the Texas Room: Who We Are
How to Contact Friends of the Texas Room
How to Contact *The Texas Room Dispatch*
Join the Friends of the Texas Room
Membership Application

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM MEETINGS

This year all meetings will be held on Monday evenings at the Museum of Printing History unless otherwise reported. All meetings begin with a reception at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00. Please mark your calendars for future meetings: January 22, April 30, July 23, and October 22.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

The upcoming documentary on the HMRC will feature excerpts from interviews with eight individuals who have used the collections for various purposes. The videotaped interviews will be available to researchers in the Texas Room in their entirety once the program has been aired on television.

Houston architect, Barry Moore, brings several different perspectives to the program. A native Houstonian, he remembers visits to the Julia Ideson Building as a child when it was the main library before many of the branches or the Jones Building were built. He also recalls many aspects of mid-twentieth century life in Houston such as the circus under the tents at Buff Stadium, the rodeo in Sam Houston Coliseum, and Prince's Hamburgers on South Main Street which today can be found only in circus posters, photographs, newspapers, and other resources located in the HMRC. As an architect, he appreciates the design, construction, and aesthetics of the Ideson Building, which could not be duplicated today. As an adjunct professor of architecture at U. of H., he assigns his students to spend time in the HMRC so that they will understand the resources that will be available to them there when they begin practicing their profession. Finally, Mr. Moore and his father both have enriched the architectural archives at the HMRC by donating their drawings and papers from their respective practices.

Raymond Terry is working on a book about the history of the Rice Hotel (now the Rice Lofts) which is located at the corner of Texas Avenue and Main Street on the site of the Capitol of the Republic of Texas. He helped Randall Davis restore the Rice by doing extensive research at the HMRC which included sifting through many original architectural drawings and floor plans of the Rice.

Crystal Granger used the photographs, city directories, map collection, African-American Collection, and oral histories to study African American church architecture in Houston. Michael Botson used the Hughes Tool Collection, Joseph Cullinan Collection, Independent Metal Workers Union Collection, and Houston Negro Labor News among other resources to write about the growth of labor unions in Houston in the early 20th century. Thomas Kreneck established the Mexican-American Archive at the HMRC. It has become the prototype for similar collections elsewhere in the U. S. Carol Moreno, an honors student at Houston Community College, and Sally Ann Gutting, a graduate student at Rice University, wrote papers about the building of the San Jacinto Monument using the papers of its architect, Alfred C. Finn, in the architectural archives. Sadie Gwin Blackburn used the photograph, map, and rare book collections, city directories, newspapers, and many other HMRC resources to write the chapter on the evolution of the landscape in Harris County for the book entitled *Houston's Forgotten Heritage: Landscape, Houses, Interiors, 1824 to*

1914.

Jim Bailey, who is producing the documentary, estimates that it is seventy-five percent complete, and he is very enthusiastic about the final product. In the next few weeks, final decisions will be made about the photographs from the HMRC collections which will be shown. It should appear on television during 2007.

Stay tuned!

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MUSIC HISTORIAN DR. ROGER WOOD TO SPEAK AT JANUARY MEETING

The speaker for our January 22 meeting is Dr. Roger Wood, author of *Down in Houston: Bayou City Blues* and *Texas Zydeco*. Dr. Wood did research in the Texas Room while writing his books. A resident of Houston and Professor of English at Houston Community College, Dr. Wood has written about Houston's blues, zydeco, and jazz history in numerous books, periodicals, and liner notes for music cds. Honored for distinguished community service by The Greater Houston Council on Black American Affairs in 1997 and a recipient of a Good Brick Award by the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, Dr. Wood is a regular contributing writer for *Living Blues* and *Houston Press*. He is also the author of a chapter in the forthcoming book *The History of Texas Music: The Beginnings to 1950* published by Texas A&M University Press. The title of his program for our January meeting is "Digging the Houston Roots in Blues and Zydeco History."

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

by Steve Hill, Manager of the Texas Room

The Texas Room is extremely grateful to the Friends for their recent contribution of three microfilm cabinets. The cabinets will enable us to store over 1,800 additional reels of film. The gift will immediately be put to use when we receive 165 reels of microfilmed Texas city directories in early 2007, a purchase which will fill large chronological gaps in the collection.

Recent months of inventorying, cataloging, conserving, and indexing have enabled us to offer Houstonians new insight into our archival and special collection holdings. "Houstonians During World War II: A Tribute to the Greatest Generation," curated by one of our senior librarians, features rare archival photographs of notable Houstonians who served in the war, colorful propaganda posters, memorabilia from the two Navy cruisers named *USS Houston* and other artifacts. The exhibit is displayed on the first floor of the Julia Ideson Building and has already attracted considerable attention.

A second exhibit located directly outside of the Texas Room, honors Houston bibliophile and Salvation Army officer, John Milsaps. The exhibit highlights miniature books, rare 19th century Bibles collected from around the world, anti-slavery pamphlets and rarely seen issues of the Salvation Army newspaper, *The War Cry*. We were especially pleased to host Susan Mitchem, national archivist for the Salvation Army, who traveled from Washington, D.C. to research our extensive collection of Milsaps' diaries.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce that work on our historic newspapers database is complete! Patrons are now able to easily and accurately identify titles, years and formats of ALL of our historic newspaper holdings. Given the popularity of this material, the completion of the project is a feather in our cap.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23rd , 2006, MEETING

Friends of the Texas Room met October 23, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay. An informal reception was held before the regular meeting. President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. after which she introduced special guests in attendance: Roland LeMonius, Helena Stokes, Meller Langford, and Steve Hill of the Houston Public Library staff; and Jim Bailey and Mark Susman, producers of the HMRC documentary.

The president presented Helena Stokes, who guided us through a video on the proposed renovation of the Gregory School in the Fourth Ward neighborhood. It is slated to become an African American Library and Archives Center. In response to a question, Ms. Stokes confirmed that a new archival collection will be developed independently of those collections currently in HMRC. The groundbreaking for this facility is scheduled for the end of 2007.

Jim Bailey and Mark Susman presented a seven-minute preview of the documentary which is being developed by the Friends of the Texas Room. Its working title is "Preserving Houston's Past."

After the president opened the business session, the minutes of the July 24, 2006, meeting were approved as printed in the *Dispatch*. Treasurer George Werner reported that we currently have a balance of \$22,820.47 in our checking account and \$10,123.68 in the savings account for a total of \$32,944.15. Of those funds, the amount of \$7,164.41 is committed for the documentary project. (Report attached) The treasurer also reported that the Board approved spending \$4500 to purchase new microfilm storage cabinets for the Texas Room but that amount has not yet been expended.

Sims McCutchan, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of Board members for 2007-2009:

President – Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice President – Sims McCutchan
Secretary – Mary Dix
Treasurer – Cathy Fitch
Director – Nancy Burch
Director – Susan Keeton
Director – Caro Walker
Director – Jim Parsons

There being no further nominations from the floor, Dorothy Johnson moved that we accept these nominees by acclamation; George Werner seconded the motion, which passed. The president introduced the newly elected Board members who were present.

In other business, Dorothy Johnson reported that we currently have 180 members. Jeff Lindemann reported that Jim Parsons is designing a Web site for Friends of the Texas Room which will, hopefully, be completed by the end of the year. Steve Hill thanked the Friends for purchasing the microfilm cabinets and requested additional funding of \$75 (\$25 per cabinet) to provide for installation of the cabinets upon delivery. Nancy Burch moved that we provide this additional funding; George Werner seconded the motion, which was approved.

Al Davis announced that the book signing by Godfrey Hodgson for his new book on the life of Colonel Edward M. House will be held October 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Czech Cultural Center, 4920 San Jacinto. It was also announced that the annual Book and Author Dinner benefiting the Houston Public Library will be held on November 12 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Additional information on the event can be obtained on the *Houston Chronicle* Web site.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Chapman, Secretary

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.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE

The Friends of the Texas Room will soon have its website up and running to give our organization an Internet presence and increase membership. If you have ideas for the website, please contact *The Texas Room Dispatch* editor Jeff Lindemann at jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu.

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 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.

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 – Mary Dix

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
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 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: _____