

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 6, Number 1, January 2008

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

PROGRAM:
THOMAS JEFFERSON
WITH HISTORIAN
DR. JOHN B. BOLES
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,

As the new year begins, we welcome the new manager of the HMRC, Kemo Curry, who assumed the position effective November 17th, 2007. Most recently she has been Acting Manager of the John P. McGovern-Stella Link Neighborhood Library.

Ms. Curry, who holds a Masters in Library Science, joined the Houston Public Library in 1997 as the Supervisor of the Access Center for the Visually and Hearing Impaired. She has worked in many different areas of the HPL system including as Fiction Specialist and Assistant Manager of the Humanities. She and her colleague, Michael Van Campen, planned and initiated the HPL's original virtual reference service Info Live! She also created the Reader's Connect pages on the HPL website.

Prior to joining the HPL, she served as Curator of Print Storage at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; curator of Dr. Mavis P. Kelsey's private art collection of Winslow Homer engravings; and Curator of Exhibits for the Menil Foundation.

Volunteers who are cataloging the collections in the Texas Room are working under her direction. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please call Ms. Curry at 832-393-1662 or email her at <Kemo.Curry@cityofhouston.net>.

Also, I want to extend our best wishes to the secretary of our Board, Mary Dix, who has resigned because she will be traveling during much of 2008. We welcome Bill Kellar whom the Board unanimously elected to complete Mary's term of office.

The coming year promises to be our most exciting and productive to date. The hour long documentary will appear on Channel 8 and then will be available as a program to schools and civic groups.

The first Julia Ideson Award will be presented at the annual meeting in October. The nomination guidelines for this award are on our website. I encourage each of you to help make this award a success by submitting nominations of individuals or organizations which meet our criteria.

Finally, if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do. Our year runs from January to December. Your support has made possible everything we have accomplished so far.

With many thanks to you all,

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 DR. JOHN B. BOLES TO SPEAK AT JANUARY 28 MEETING

The speaker for our January 28th meeting is Dr. John B. Boles, William P. Hobby Professor of History at Rice University and Editor of the *Journal of Southern History*. His research areas are U. S. Southern history, with emphasis on religion, culture, and slavery. His topic for our meeting is "Thomas Jefferson."

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2007, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at 7 P.M., 2007, at the Museum of Printing History. After an opening reception, initially cloaked in darkness because of an area blackout, the fall meeting of the Friends of the Texas Room began at 7:00 P.M. The minutes of the July 23 meeting were approved, and the treasurer's report will be filed with the secretary.

Sims McCutchan announced that the information about the Friends of the Texas Room's Julia Ideson Award was being distributed. This annual award will be given for a project completed in the last five years that drew in part on research done in the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. He also noted that we are seeking volunteers to begin next January to inventory the Texas Room collection, work Sims, Anne Sloan, and Betty Chapman have started. The volunteers would receive training from the Library staff.

Our website, www.friendsofthetexasroom.org is up and running.

The Julia Ideson Library Preservation Partners have begun their efforts to raise funds for the extension that would house the Library archives. Thirty million dollars is needed before the work can begin.

Jim Parsons presented an illustrated presentation on Art Deco in Houston, based on *Houston Deco*, a book on which he and David Bush have collaborated. He said that to their surprise they found many more Art Deco buildings in Houston than they had expected, and 140 appear in their book. The style came late to Houston and in moderated form. He highlighted the work of Albert C. Finn and Joseph Finger and cited Finn's Gulf Bank Building as one of the prime examples of Houston's Art Deco architecture.

Dorothy Knox Houghton thanked Jim Parsons for his splendid talk and Ann Becker and her committee for making the reception so convivial.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Dix, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Carol Johnson, Interim Manager of The Texas Room

The next time you visit HMRC, plan to spend a few minutes with the current exhibit, entitled "Fly Girls," in the Ideson Building 2nd floor outside the Texas Room. The exhibit focuses on women aviators during World War II. It will remain in place through the end of January.

Volunteers from the Friends have made a great start on the project to inventory the Texas Room collection. Betty Chapman, Anne Sloan, and Sims McCutchan have worked out the kinks in the process and the work is flowing smoothly. Please consider volunteering to join them - the more volunteers we have, the sooner we can complete the book inventory and move on to the archival collections. Call Marlana Mitchell, HPL's Volunteer Coordinator, at 832-393-1481, or simply speak to a member of the HMRC staff if you are interested.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Congratulations to Friends' member **Anne Sloan** who recently received the "2007 Leader of the Year Award" by *The Leader* newspaper of Northwest Houston. In addition to having served on the Board of the Friends of the Texas Room, Anne is a member of the Neighborhood Histories of Committee of the Houston History Association, the Harris County Heritage Society, the Harris County Historical Association, the Texas State Historical Association, the Southern Association of Women Historians, and the Southern Historical Association. She has also authored two mystery novels set in the Heights neighborhood. Needless to say—Anne Sloan loves history!

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)

<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____