

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 9, Number 1, January 2011

Monday, January 31st Meeting
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
“The HMRC’s Collection of Historic Houston-Related Circus Posters”

Barry Moore
Architect Barry Moore/Adjunct Professor of Design at the University of Houston
School of Architecture/Senior Associate at Gensler Architects/ Project Architect
of Julia Ideson Building Addition and Renovation

Voting
for
Frances Heyne, Member of Board of Directors, Friends of the Texas Room

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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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

It is with extreme gratitude that we will honor Kemo Curry, Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, at our general meeting on January 31, 2011. We will celebrate the heroic accomplishment of Ms. Curry and her staff in moving the HMRC collections from the original Julia Ideson Building into the new archival wing. We also will celebrate Ms. Curry's upcoming retirement which she has scheduled for April 1.

Ms. Curry became Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center on November 17, 2007, having joined the staff of the Houston Public Library in 1997. In 2000 she received her Master of Library Science degree from the University of North Texas. Subsequently, she served the Library in several leadership capacities before joining the staff of the HMRC. She was Fiction Specialist and Assistant Manager of Humanities. Along with her colleague, Michael Van Campen, she planned and initiated the HPL's original virtual reference service, InfoLive, and served as Acting Manager of the John P. McGovern-Stella Link Neighborhood Library.

Prior to joining the HPL staff, she served as Curator of Print Storage at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Curator of Dr. Mavis P. Kelsey's private collection of Winslow Homer engravings; and Curator of Exhibits for the Menil Foundation. These experiences, coupled with a keen interest in the history of her native state of Texas, greatly enhanced her work at the HMRC.

As sad as we are at Ms. Curry's departure, she leaves behind a superb staff which will carry on under the leadership of Assistant Manager and Lead HMRC Archivist, Liz Sargent. Ms. Sargent came to the HMRC in August 2008 as the Collection Development Librarian. She became Lead Archivist in August 2009. During the recent move of the HMRC's collections, she had a leading role in supervising the mapping and preparation of all material to ensure a smooth and safe transition into the new wing.

Prior to joining the HMRC, Ms. Sergeant was a high school speech, debate, and theatre teacher; a special collections librarian/cataloger for the online library, Questia Media; and a librarian/archivist for the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service. She is a certified archivist and holds a BA in Speech/Theatre and a Master of Education in Curriculum/Instruction from Sam Houston State University. She holds a Master of Library Science from Texas Women's University where she is a Ph. D. candidate in library science. Her studies focus on special collections and archives within public library systems.

Please join us for the reception at 6:30 P. M. on January 31 at the Museum of Printing History to wish Ms. Curry well and to greet Ms. Sargent.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2010, GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Texas Room was held at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 West Clay Street, on Monday, October 25, 2010. Following the reception at 6:30 P. M. the president, Dorothy Knox Houghton, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P. M. She thanked Mary Jo Coselli and Jo Lee Haddock for providing the wonderful refreshments.

The minutes of the general meeting on July 26, 2010 were approved as printed in the Friends newsletter.

The treasurer, Cathy Fitch, reported funds on hand of \$29,387.75. This reflects the payment of our \$5,000 pledge for 2010 to fund the preservation and digital conversion of the HMRC's oral history tapes. This was our third year to partner with the Houston Public Library to apply to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for a Texas Treasures grant. Each year we pledged \$5,000 to be paid if the Library received the grant. The Library received three grants over three years, so the Friends gave a total of \$15,000 over three years.

Mrs. Houghton thanked the nominating committee for its diligent work in putting together the slate of nominees for 2010 –2011. The committee members were: Susan Teich, Chairman; Jo Lee Haddock; Harriet Latimer; Evelyn Nolen; and Francita Ulmer.

Just prior to the annual meeting, nominee Nita Jackson had to withdraw her name from the slate. The nominating committee will submit a name for her replacement at the January 2011 meeting.

The following slate was accepted unanimously:

President – Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice President – Nancy Burch

Secretary – Georganna Barnes

Treasurer – Cathy Fitch

Directors – Mary Jo Coselli, Charles Maynard, Susan Teich

Mrs. Houghton thanked Dick Dickerson, Chairman of the Julia Ideson Award and the three judges who chose the winners: Prof. Virginia Bernhard, Prof. Michael Bordelon, and Patricia Bozeman.

She then presented the award to Suzanne Turner and Joanne Seale Wilson, authors, and Paul Hester, photographer, for Houston's Silent Garden: Glenwood Cemetery, 1871-2009. She presented an honorable mention award to Kate Sayen Kirkland, author of The Hogg Family and Houston: Philanthropy and the Civic Ideal.

Following the presentation, she introduced Paul Hester, who talked about photographing the monuments in Glenwood Cemetery.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President

Acting Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Kemo Curry, Manager, HMRC

As usual, much is going on in and around HMRC – a lot of it behind the scenes. The renovation of the Julia Ideson Building is proceeding apace. HMRC's staff is gearing up for the next exciting phase of reopening the entire building with a special sense of purpose involving the Exhibit Gallery and the Opening Day Exhibit. We are also, of course, looking forward to the establishment of the Architectural Archives, which promises to be the premier repository for architectural collections in Houston.

One very important and welcome bit of news is that Liz Sargent received a well-deserved promotion to Assistant Manager. She will continue to serve as HMRC's Lead Archivist.

An exciting development to report is the revitalization of HMRC's Houston Music Oral History Collection with the establishment of a Blues component. Erin Norris, the Archivist in charge of the Oral History project, is using new technology and will be focusing her efforts on incorporating musicians, radio personalities, and venue owners, all of whom are active participants in the Houston Blues community.

Lastly, through a "Texas Cultures Online" grant from University of North Texas' Portal to Texas History, two important HMRC collections are being digitized. These collections -- the John J. Herrera Papers and the Mexican American Family Photo Collection -- are frequently accessed by scholars and provide significant primary source material. There

are many benefits to having these materials digitally preserved and available online. First, direct handling of the fragile originals can be minimized. At the same time, access to the materials is vastly increased from in-person only to 24/7 anywhere in the world. By making the documents searchable, we are also providing a depth of detailed access not available before. Finally, we make it possible for so many more students and life-long learners to discover all the other riches in the HMRC collection.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO MARKET DVD

Now that the documentary “In Search of Houston’s History” is finished, the Friends of the Texas Room is seeking volunteers to help market the film to prospective purchasers such as schools, colleges, universities, and museums. Volunteers should contact President Dorothy Knox Houghton at her email address:

Dorothy_Houghton@SBCglobal.net.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* (lindemann@SBCglobal.net), 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.

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: Nancy Burch

Secretary: Georganna Barnes

Treasurer: Cathy Fitch

Directors: Mary Jo Coselli, Charles Maynard, and Susan Teich

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

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2011 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:

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First Person 2nd Person (If Different)

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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.

__ 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.

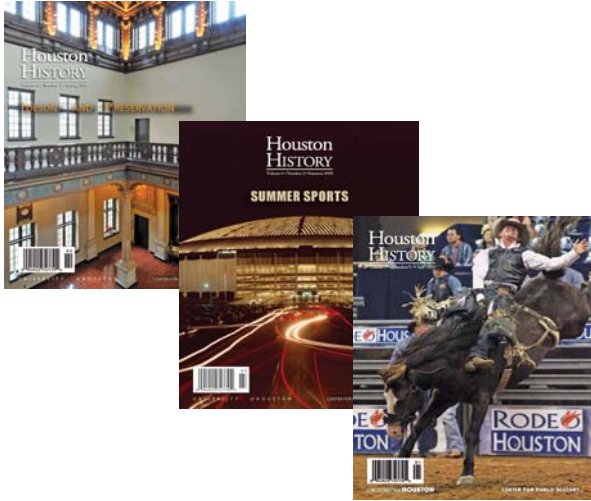
__ Hospitality: Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

__ Programs: Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

__ Public Relations: Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.

__ Special Projects

__ Other: _____



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