

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume No.3, No. 3, July 2005

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Monday, July 18, 2005 * 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Museum of Printing History
1324 West Clay

The Museum of Printing History is located on West 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.

Our speaker will be Houston architect and Friends Board Member Paul Homeyer. His program, "Unmasking Main Street," will focus on slip-covered buildings in downtown Houston and will feature photographs from the HMRC's collection.

UPCOMING FTR MEETINGS

Meetings are set for different days and time throughout the year to make it convenient for as many people as possible to attend at least one meeting.

Monday, July 18, 2005, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Museum of Printing History

Monday, September 26, 2005 -- Friends of the Texas Room Membership Mixer, 7 p.m., Story Sloane Gallery, 2616 Fondren. Invitations will be mailed later.

Saturday, October 15, 2005, 10 a.m.-Noon, Harris County Archives, Harris County Criminal Justice Center, 1201 Franklin, 12th Floor.

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends:

On behalf of us all, I have the great pleasure of welcoming Steven Strom back to the Library as the new Manager of the HMRC. Those of us who were doing research in the HMRC during the 1980s and 1990s remember him as the Architectural Archivist and later as the Assistant Manager of the Archives Department. In the early 1980s, while he was a graduate student at Rice, Steven worked in the HMRC as a part-time Archivist I. Therefore, he begins his job with an invaluable background knowledge of and experience with the HMRC. A more extensive biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Despite his move to California in 2000, Steven became a charter member of the Friends of the Texas Room. Through his membership he has kept abreast of our activities and of developments at the Library. The Friends stand ready to assist him in any way we can.

Mr. Story Sloane III of Story Sloane Gallery very graciously has offered to hold a membership mixer for the Friends at his gallery located on 2616 Fondren, on Monday, September 26, at 7:00 P.M. As most of you know, Mr. Sloane has an outstanding collection of historic photographs of Houston. These will provide a most interesting and inspiring setting in which our members can greet one another. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to bring a prospective new member. Invitations will be sent in early September.

We will continue to monitor the progress of the renovation plans for the Julia Ideson Building and report them to you. Meanwhile, please join us for the meeting on July 18. FTxR board member Paul Homeyer will give a fascinating lecture on the historic downtown buildings that were "updated" with false facades, or "slipcovers," during the 1960s. These "slipcovers" saved many 19th-century buildings from demolition during the years when their architectural value was not appreciated. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES
FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

APRIL 23, 2005

Friends of the Texas Room met April 23, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay, with 32 members present. President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order. The minutes of the meetings held on October 23, 2004, and February 1, 2005, were approved as printed in the newsletters. In the absence of Treasurer George Werner, the president reported that we currently have a balance of \$17,521.20 in our bank account. She also announced that new membership brochures were available and encouraged guests in attendance to join.

Barry Whitehead of Prozign Architects was introduced as our speaker. Mr. Whitehead's visual presentation included two design proposals for the renovation of the Julia Ideson Building. In conclusion, he indicated that the preferred design is the one in which a wing would be added and dedicated exclusively to Houston Metropolitan Research Center use. Mr. Whitehead answered questions from the group following his presentation.

Brenda Tirrell, manager of Central Library and Technology Services, addressed several issues of concern to the Friends. She reported that no schedule has been determined for the Ideson Building's renovation. Houston Public Library Chairman Pat Lasher indicated that board committees have been appointed to study development procedures for raising funds. Ms. Tirrell reported that she had no information to report regarding the search for a new Library Director. In regard to the retrospective conversion of the map collections, which the Friends had promised to fund in the amount of \$4,000, Ms. Tirrell reported that the collection has been fully inventoried and that the company performing the work is currently determining the precise procedure to follow. They predict that it will take three to four months to complete once it is started and that it will cost between \$2,600 and \$2,800.

The president announced that our next meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum of Printing History. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty T. Chapman, Secretary

NEW STAFF AT THE HMRC

Steven Strom returned to Houston as the new Manager of the HMRC on June 27, 2005. He worked at the Houston Public Library from 1991-2000, first as Archivist II/Architectural Archivist and then as Archivist III/Assistant Manager of the Archives Department. He also worked for the Houston Public Library as a Part-Time Archivist I from 1980-1986. From 2000 until his return to Houston, Strom worked for the Aerospace Corporation in California as Archivist and

Corporate Historian. He also has experience as a researcher, writer, and editor and is currently working on a book, *Houston: Lost and Unbuilt*, which will be published by the University of Texas Press in 2006. Steven has a B.A. from Austin College with a major in history and an M.A. from Boston College in American History. He did postgraduate studies at Rice in American History.

Kandra Leonard is the new Library Assistant Supervisor at the HMRC. She has four years experience at the Houston Public Library, first as a Library Assistant and then as Senior Library Assistant/Desk Head at the Robinson-Westchase Branch Library. Her experience in workflow management and customer service will be utilized in the day-to-day operation of the HMRC.

FRIENDS' NETWORK GROWS

The Friends of the Texas Room has joined the Friends of the Texas Library and Archives.

CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monday, July 18, 2005 – Friends of the Texas Room Quarterly Meeting, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Museum of Printing History, 1324 West Clay.

Monday, September 26, 2005 -- Friends of the Texas Room Membership Mixer, 7 p.m., Story Sloane Gallery, 2616 Fondren. Invitations will be mailed later.

April 2006 – Texas Library Association's Annual Meeting, Houston.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Projects & Publications Using HMRC Resources.

Friends of the Texas Room Secretary Betty Chapman has done extensive research on Houston women over the years, relying heavily on the resources at the HMRC. On Thursday, August 25, 2005, she will participate in a free ***Celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment*** from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. at 411 Lovett Boulevard. Attendees will enjoy an evening with food and music, while they view historical exhibits and a photographic display celebrating the Constitutional amendment that gave voting rights to women. Another of Betty's projects is finally coming to an end. ***On Thursday, September 29, 2005, Scenic Houston and the City of Houston will dedicate the remaining 40 historical markers on Texas Avenue's distinctive light posts.*** Each light post tells two historical stories connected to the location. Betty researched not just the history, but also the photographs, at the HMRC. For more information, contact Betty at (713) 974-4970.

Texas Room Dispatch Editor Sandra Lord also relies heavily on the resources of the HMRC in designing her tours. She is currently working on bus tours

featuring the deaths of William Marsh Rice and Joan and John Hill (Saturday, July 16), Houston buildings designed by Philip Johnson (Saturday, September 17), and the Houston roots of Howard Hughes (Saturday, November 12). For more information, go to www.DiscoverHoustonTours.com.

Please continue to contact Sandra Lord, editor of the Texas Room Dispatch (sandraslord@aol.com), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize the resources of the 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. Please 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 along with your check 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 address below:

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 sent to the Texas Room Dispatch Editor at the address below.

Sandra Lord
Texas Room Dispatch Editor
P. O. Box 230183
Houston, Texas 77223-0183
(713) 222-9255 * Fax: (713) 921-1510
Email: SandraSLord@aol.com

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership in the Friends of the Texas Room has reached 190! Please spread the word and help us find even more 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 below 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