

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 8, Number 3, July 2010

Monday, July 26th Meeting
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program/Demonstration

PROGRAM:
Preservation Techniques for Family Archival Treasures

Laney McAdow and Mary McMillen
Houston Metropolitan Research Center Archivists

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,

This summer the FTxR is inaugurating an in-service program to introduce high school social studies teachers from the fifty-four school districts in the greater Houston area to the resources of the HMRC. The program is being developed by HMRC staff member, Elizabeth Sargent, who is a former teacher, and FTxR Newsletter Editor, Jeff Lindemann, who teaches at Houston Community College. They are being assisted by HMRC Manager, Kemo Curry.

The social studies department chairs and the social studies curriculum chairs from the fifty-four school districts which make up the Texas Education Agency's Region Four (the largest region in Texas) will attend a meeting at the Region Four Service Center. There Liz, Jeff and Kemo will use the Friends' DVD, "In Search of Houston's History," to explain the breadth and depth of the HMRC's collections and how they can be used by researchers. It is hoped that the department heads and the curriculum specialists will go back to their schools and urge the social studies teachers who work under them to attend an in-service training session at the HMRC.

The HMRC will hold the in-service on a Friday, the day the HMRC is closed. The plan is to show the DVD in four or five segments with a break whenever a new component of the collection is discussed. Teachers will be given ideas on how they could use that component of the collection in their lessons as well as how to use the DVD as a stand alone source. The teachers also will be given a behind the scenes tour of the HMRC.

Private schools in the area are on a separate schedule and will have their own in-service session at the HMRC.

The Friends will make a gift of the DVD to every attendee at every session.

In this project the DVD is serving the purpose for which it was made, to educate the public about the resources of the HMRC while also teaching the history of Houston.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26TH , 2010, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 West Clay Street, on Monday, April 26, 2010. Following the reception at 6:30 P. M. the president, Dorothy Knox Houghton, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P. M. She thanked Mary Jo Coselli, Jo Lee Haddock, and Barbara Eaves for the delicious refreshments. She then introduced the speaker, Dr. Louis J. Marchiafava, former archivist of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, who spoke on the "Origins of the HMRC's Oral History Program."

Dr. Marchiafava said that the WPA “Slave Narratives” of the 1930s were the first instances of the interview process which would come to be known as oral history. In 1948 the first formal oral history program was developed at Columbia University as a new way of studying history. In the 1960s and ‘70s oral history programs popped up all over the country including at Rice University. There Dr. Harold Hyman in the history department had the idea of bringing together in one place all the historical materials relating to Houston necessary for comprehensive study of the city’s history. He saw the opportunity to use the new oral history techniques as part of this program. Thus, the Houston Oral History Project started by Dr. Marchiafava was an original component of the HMRC as it developed in the basement of Fondren Library.

In 1976, when the Central Branch of the Houston Public Library moved into its new building next door (the Jones Building), the HMRC was moved from Rice to the Julia Ideson Building. In 1980 Dr. Marchiafava became the head archivist. Under his direction, over 900 oral histories were produced on the following topics: ethnic and racial groups, politics, law enforcement and judiciary, religion, culture (including the Houston Jazz Collection), prominent Houstonians, business, labor, sports, and social services.

Following Dr. Marchiafava’s talk, Marie Wise, Digital Projects Manager at the Library, brought us up to date on the digitization of the original 900 tapes which is almost 80% complete. The Friends have helped fund this project.

Two more components are now being added to the Houston Oral History Project. They are: a.) the Mayor’s (Mayor White’s) Oral History Collection of 100 video histories with Houston community members, and b.) “Neighborhood Voices,” an on-going project documenting Houston’s neighborhoods.

The digitization of the original 900 tapes preserves their content and minimizes their handling and use. It allows users to search across the collection and access it from anywhere.

Following the program President Houghton announced that since the January general meeting Bill Kellar had had to resign as secretary. She would like to find someone to finish his term which ends in December.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved with the following additions:

- a.) Carol Weaver was elected to fill the unexpired term of Alice Conlon as a director
- b.) Dick Dickerson is chairman of the 2010 Julia Ideson Award

The treasurer, Cathy Fitch, reported a total balance of all funds of \$33,185.06

President Houghton announced that the atlas stands which the Friends have given to the new Texas Room have arrived and are beautiful.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Knox Houghton, President, Acting Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Kemo Curry, Manager, HMRC

We are settling into the new Archival Wing very nicely with more and more pieces of the puzzle falling into place. For example, the four atlas stands donated by the Friends are beautiful as well as extremely functional.



Ms. Ideson's portrait now hangs in the Viewing Room within the Texas Room. As the restoration of the Julia Ideson Building progresses, I will be discussing other installations of artwork with Barry Moore. A rather eccentric but required addition to the furnishings is in the form of a "Thermo Scientific" explosion-proof freezer designed to meet NFPA and OSHA standards for safe storage of volatile materials. It houses the nitrate negatives from the photography collection!

The Open House held exclusively for the Friends of the Texas Room on June 25th was a delightful event with an impressive turnout considering the "tropical" nature of the weather.

The Texas Room is eager to add to its Yearbook Collection which is built entirely by donations. We collect High School and College yearbooks from throughout Texas. A recent donation to this collection included the 1930 - 1933 Jeff Davis High School yearbooks. Hint -- We only need 1934, 1935, and 1936 to complete our run of the 1930s.

We are excited to announce that processing of the Mayor Bob Lanier collection will begin shortly. This collection is closed until processed so we hope to have this project completed by the time the restored Julia Ideson Building is reopened.

The HMRC Adult Special Collections has a new name. It is now the Warren Culbertson Adult Special Collections in honor of Warren A. Culbertson whose estate made a very generous donation to HMRC. These monies are being used to organize, process, and catalog the materials which include very important early donations to the Library by Major John E.T. Milsaps and Ms. Annette Finnigan.

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 –

Treasurer – Cathy Fitch

Directors: Carol Weaver, Mary Jo Coselli, Sharon Dies, 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
2010 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: _____

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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.

__ 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.

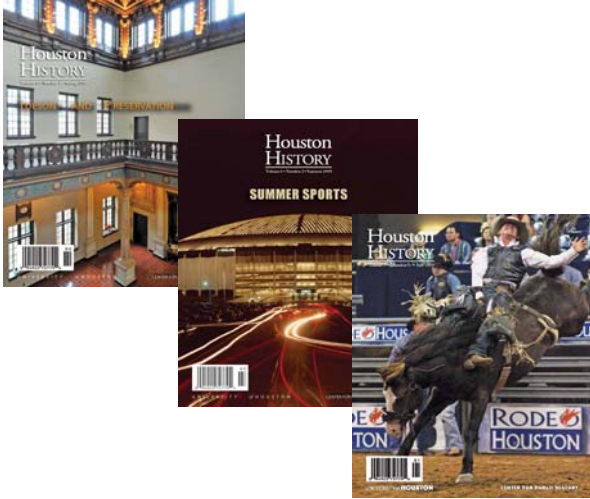
__ Hospitality: Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

__ 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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