

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 4, Number 4, October 2006

OCTOBER 24TH ANNUAL MEETING
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
Video of "A Vision for the Gregory School"
and
Preview of Documentary on Collections at the HMRC by Jim Bailey

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.

OCTOBER 25th
5:30 pm
Reception and book signing for Godfrey Hodgson, author of
Woodrow Wilson's Right Hand, The Life of Colonel Edward M. House

Czech Cultural Center
4920 San Jacinto @ Wichita
RSVP if accepting
713-468-6771

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

On October 23RD, the Friends will hold their 2006 annual meeting during which we will elect the board for the next two years. You will find the Nominating Committee's report elsewhere in this newsletter.

There will be a two-part program that evening. A representative from the Office of the Director of the Library will show "A Vision for the Gregory School," a short video recently developed to educate the public about the plans to renovate the Gregory School located in historic Freedman's Town. Following that presentation, Jim Bailey of Sunset Productions will give us a brief preview of the documentary he is producing on the collections at the HMRC. Both programs will be very enlightening, and we are hoping for a large turn-out from the membership.

On October 25TH, the Friends will co-host a reception and book-signing at the Czech Cultural Center with the Harris County Historical Commission, the Rice Historical Society, and the Yale Club of Houston honoring Godfrey Hodgson, author of Woodrow Wilson's Right Hand, The Life of Colonel Edward M. House. By now you should have received a separate invitation to this event.

Colonel House was born in Houston in 1858, the son of former Houston mayor and prominent Houston businessman, Thomas W. House. He was one of the earliest Houstonians to achieve legendary political power in Washington, D. C. The Friends voted at our last meeting to purchase a copy of this book and give it to the Texas Room. The book has been purchased, and we will ask Mr. Hodgson to autograph it at the party before we present it to the Library.

Finally, your board has voted to spend \$4,777.32 to purchase three cabinets for storing microfilm in the Texas Room. The Texas Room staff is purchasing a large amount of additional newspapers on microfilm for which they need storage cabinets. In addition, several of their existing cabinets need to be replaced. We are very happy to be able to accommodate this request.

I look forward to seeing you on October 23RD and October 25TH !

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE JULY 24TH, 2006, MEETING

Friends of the Texas Room met July 24, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay. An informal reception was held before the business meeting. President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order

at 7:15 p.m. after which she thanked the Museum of Printing History for providing a meeting place for the organization.

The president introduced Mayor Bill White, who reminded the group that library systems are changing and that new information sources are constantly becoming available. He suggested that our challenge is to embrace these changes as we also protect the library's historic properties including the Julia Ideson Building and the collections of historic materials. Mayor White stressed the importance of the library's Archives in studying Houston one hundred years from now. We can become a model for other cities as we relate our history, but both public and private funding will be necessary for this to occur. Mayor White entertained several questions at the conclusion of his remarks.

The president then introduced Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Director of the Houston Public Library. Dr. Lawson stated that the Houston Public Library has the necessary ingredients to become a great system but that process will require change. She introduced the library theme adopted for 2007-2008: E to the 6th Power, which includes Equitable access to information; Extraordinary customer service; Enhanced programming; Extended outreach in forming partnerships; Exceptional service to families, children, and teens; and Exciting promotion of services, collections, and programs. Dr. Lawson reported that some changes are already underway, specifically the renovation of the Julia Ideson Building auditorium, the \$9 million renovation of the Jesse Jones Building, the formation of a City of Houston Archives, the forthcoming groundbreaking for the Gregory School project, the campaign to renovate the entire Clayton Library complex, and the ongoing efforts to create a wireless component throughout the system. Dr. Lawson concluded her remarks by saying that the Texas Room is an invaluable part of the Houston Public Library and that she supports strengthening its role.

The president opened the business session by introducing Steve Hill, the new manager of the Texas and Local History Department, after which the minutes of the April 24, 2006, meeting were approved as printed in *The Dispatch*. The organization's bylaws, which had been revised by a special committee and printed in *The Dispatch*, were approved for adoption by the membership. It was announced that Sandra Lord will serve as Volunteer Coordinator for the Friends. The president announced the completion of the retrospective conversion of 1,092 collection maps, which the Friends funded. She also reported that work is well underway on the Houston Metropolitan Research Center documentary and introduced Jim Bailey, the producer of the film. Jeff Lindemann is currently securing a designer to create a Friends website; it will, hopefully, be in place by the end of the summer.

Treasurer George Werner reported that we currently have \$22,131.17 in our checking account and \$10,070.71 in our savings account. We paid \$1,925.36 on the maps project and have expended \$335.59 on the documentary, leaving us with \$6,664.41 in committed funds for the documentary project. The president

thanked Dorothy Johnson and George Werner for funds given by ExxonMobil in recognition of their volunteer activity with the Friends. The John McKnitt Alexander Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has also encouraged its members to contribute to the Friends.

Al Davis, Chairman of the Harris County Historical Commission, announced that a biography of Col. Edward Mandell House has been published and that a copy will be placed in the Texas Room. Members voted to co-sponsor an appearance by the author when he visits Houston.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Chapman, Secretary

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the Friends of the Texas Room submits the following slate of officers and directors for 2006 - 2008:

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

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 has selected Jim Parsons to build a website giving 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY

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.

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 - 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 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/maiden last name* _____ *first name middle/maiden 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: _____