

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room

Volume 7, Number 4, October 2009

Tuesday, October 27th Meeting

6:00 Reception

6:30 Program

PROGRAM:

Dr. Michael R. Botson, Jr.

Author of *Labor, Civil Rights, and the Hughes Tool Company*

And Recipient of the 2009 Julia Ideson Award

to be honored at

The Carriage House (Next to the Clayton Branch Library)

5300 Caroline Street

Dr. Botson to Speak on Using the Texas Room for Research

In addition,

Michael Vance, Creator of the Television Series

Postcards from Texas

to receive Honorable Mention

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

Many of our members enjoyed the special private showing of the exhibit, "Lee Grant," at the Museum of Southern History on Saturday, September 12. We owe particular gratitude to our member, Joella Morris, for arranging this exceptional event for the Friends and for providing the delicious refreshments which followed. Many, many thanks to Joella.

For the second year in a row, the Library has received a Texas Treasures Award, this time for \$25,000, from the State Library and Archives Commission. The Friends partnered with the Library and the HPL Foundation to apply for the award which funds the preservation of, transcription of and digital access to the HMRC's collection of oral history recordings which are otherwise unusable. This year the Friends again contributed \$5,000. The HPL Foundation contributed \$5,000, and the mayor's Houston Oral History Project contributed \$3,000 bringing the total available to the project this year to \$38,000.

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the second Julia Ideson Award is Dr. Michael R. Botson, Jr. for his book, *Labor, Civil Rights, and the Hughes Tool Company*. This year we have an Honorable Mention, Michael Vance, for his television series, *Postcards from Texas*. I hope everyone will join us at our annual meeting at the Clayton Library's Carriage House, 5300 Caroline Street, where we will present the awards and hear from the recipients. The reception will begin at 6:00 p. m., and the presentation will be at 6:30 p. m. Please note that this is thirty minutes earlier than usual because the Library closes at 9:00 p. m.

Finally, our wonderful hospitality committee could use two or three more members. The more committee members there are, the less work any one member has to do. This is the most fun job in our organization. If you would like to help, e-mail me at dorothy_houghton@sbcglobal.net.

I look forward to seeing you on October 27.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

THE JULIA IDESON AWARD

The Julia Ideson Award recognizes projects that contribute to local and Texas history and culture, completed using the resources of the Houston Public Library's Texas Room/Houston Metropolitan Research Center. The award honors the memory of the library's first director. The Friends of the Texas Room, a nonprofit organization, supports

the archival and special collections of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, which are housed in the library's historic Julia Ideson Building.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Botson, a steelworker turned historian who spent nine years as an industrial union worker, has taught history at Houston Community College since 1999. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. His book has received several honors including the T.R. Fehrenback Award presented by the Texas Historical Commission and inclusion on Princeton University's Noteworthy Books for 20006.

In addition to Dr. Botson's award, the judges also selected Michael Vance's *Postcards from Texas* to receive honorable mention for the Julia Ideson Award. A weekly 30-minute television show on KTBU Channel 55, the documentary-style series focuses on the history of Houston and Southeast Texas.

REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't miss out! The Friends of the Texas Room is an active organization. The Friends' hour-long documentary, *In Search of Houston's History*, has recently appeared on television and is now for sale, the second annual Julia Ideson Award will be given at our meeting on October 27th, and we have enjoyed wonderful speakers at our meetings. Your support has made all of this possible. Membership reminders will be mailed out in December for 2010. Membership forms are attached to this edition of *The Dispatch* and are available on our website.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 27TH, 2009, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St., on July 27, 2009, and after a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Sims McCutchan introduced the guest speaker, Burton Chapman, who gave an informative presentation about his book, *Telephone Road, Texas: A History and Guide to Telephone Road and Southeast Houston*.

Following Chapman's presentation, President Dorothy Knox Houghton read a revised version of the Minutes of the April 27, 2009, members' meeting. A motion was made and the Revised Minutes were approved.

Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported a balance of \$4,984.52 in the checking account, \$11,155.01 in the savings account and that interest earned from the \$20,000 CD had been transferred to the savings account. The CD was renewed for a new ten month term. Total funds: \$36,139.53. The Treasurer's Report (copy attached) was approved as presented.

Dorothy Johnson, Membership Chair, reported that there were 156 members who were current in FTxR. She noted that those who had not renewed would no longer receive the *Dispatch* or any announcements from FTxR.

Dorothy Knox Houghton announced that the Annual Members Meeting would be held on Tuesday (instead of the usual Monday), October 27, 2009, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Clayton Library. In an effort to encourage more participation from FTxR members, she asked if anyone supported moving the Members' Meetings to Saturday mornings. No one was in favor of this idea. President Houghton also announced that Joella Morris, a founder of the Museum of Southern History, had invited members of the FTxR to the museum's new exhibit, "Lee and Grant" at the museum's new home on the campus of Houston Baptist University, Saturday, September 12, 2009, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The following announcements were made: Betty Chapman announced that the Houston History Association would sponsor a Neighborhood History Workshop on Saturday, September 12, 2009, from 9:00 to Noon, at the Carriage House at Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline. It is free but reservations are requested. She also mentioned the Continuing Studies Class at Rice which will focus on Houston's Six Wards. It starts September 22 and runs for 6 consecutive Tuesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30. Dorothy Johnson suggested that FTxR donate a copy of Burton Chapman's book to the Texas Room. The members indicated their support for this idea.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Kellar, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Kemo Curry, Manager, HMRC

There is much to report; so I will be telegraphic and point to several electronic resources:

Collections

More than 13,000 bar codes were attached to items during the recent inventory of our archival collections. These records can be searched by HPL staff and will be made available to the public after we have moved into the new archival storage wing.

Digitization at HMRC is proceeding apace. Recent important additions to our fledgling Digital Library collection include the Houston City Directories from 1866-1922, *Houston Town Book*, and *Bringhurst Field Notes*. I will send a notice when these items are easily accessible.

Enjoy HMRC's new Web site!

<http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/hmrc>

The next *HMRC Gazette* will be coming out by mid-November. Please subscribe, if you haven't already by choosing the Texas and Houston History newsletter on the [NextReads](#) page.

Our oral history collections were highlighted in a front page article of the Houston Chronicle. Please see:

http://www.chron.com/CDA/archives/archive.mpl?id=2009_4793474

Staff

Amber Seely received a promotion to Manager of the Cataloging Department and Liz Sargent will be assuming many of the Lead Archivist's duties. Liz holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech/Theatre and a Master of Education in Curriculum/Instruction from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Library Science from Texas Woman's University. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Library Science from Texas Woman's University focusing on the status and role of special collections and archives within public library systems. Before joining HMRC, Liz was a High School Teacher, a Librarian/Cataloger for Questia Media, and a Librarian/Archivist for the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service.

TXR Volunteers continue to prove that they are the BEST! HMRC would like to thank all of its volunteers – both the old-timers and the newcomers who donate their skills and time to make our collections more accessible to the public. The dedication shown by this group stands as a tribute to Houston's history and its citizens. We have begun several important new projects: organizing and re-housing the Vertical Files to be more user-friendly, digitizing photo collections, evaluating the adult and juvenile special collections, creating a map database to be used for an inventory, and transcribing oral histories.

Renovation

Can you hear the jackhammers? The construction progress on the new archival storage wing is very impressive. There is a splendid photographic history of the project on the Web site of the Julia Ideson Library Preservation Partners:

<http://www.ideson.org/construction.php>

We are still on track for a ceremonial celebration of the new Julia Ideson wing on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 11 AM. The wing is expected to open to the public in early 2010.

A final note regarding our increasingly reduced services in anticipation of the Great Move:

November 1, 2009 – Opening: By appointment only, Tuesdays and Thursdays
http://www2.hpl.lib.tx.us/services/eref_form.html.

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 – William Kellar

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: _____

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.

__ 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.

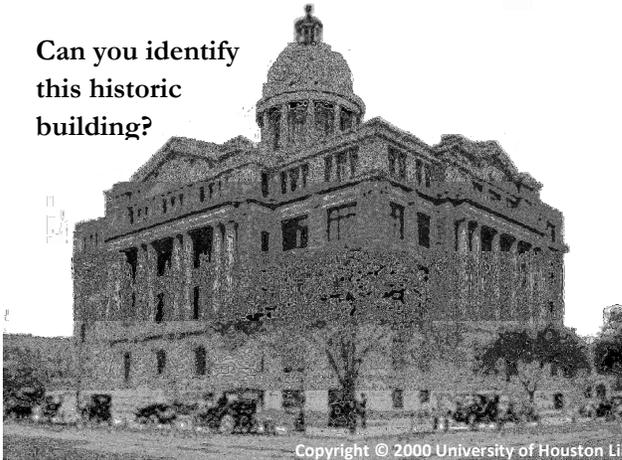
__ Programs: Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

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

__ Special Projects

__ Other: _____

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this historic
building?



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