

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27th, 2002)
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The Monday, July 29th, 2019, Meeting

has been cancelled!

The Julia Ideson Building
is now closed on Mondays.

We will keep you informed concerning the day
for the October 2019 meeting.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!
www.friendsofthetexasroom.org



The Julia Ideson Building

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

Minutes of the April 29th, 2019, General Meeting, by Charles Maynard, Secretary
News from the Texas Room by Mikaela Selley, Hispanic Collections & Oral History
Archivist

Friends of the Texas Room Policies

Cultural Matching Gifts

Friends of the Texas Room: Who We Are

How to Contact Friends of the Texas Room

How to Contact the Texas Room Dispatch

Membership Application

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29th, 2019, GENERAL MEETING

By Charles Maynard, Secretary

Susan Teich, Vice President, called the Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Per her request, the Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on January 28th were approved.

She then introduced John Choate, who stepped in for our scheduled speaker hospitalized with a sudden illness. John, a proud graduate of Texas A&M University, gave a fascinating presentation on the great grandfather and grandfather of his wife and former board member, Calanne: Edward Hopkins (E.H.) Cushing and his son, Edward Benjamin (E.B.) Cushing, who in 1877 matriculated at the then Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, founded just a year earlier.

E.H. Cushing, a Vermont native and an 1850 alumnus of Dartmouth College, was a migrant to Texas, arriving in Galveston shortly after graduating where he taught for one year at a Presbyterian Church there. He moved along to teaching positions in Columbia and Bryan, Texas, and became a journalist, writing first for the *Democrat Planter* published in Columbia and the *Weekly Telegraph* in Houston until 1862. He owned newspapers and other businesses. E.B.'s enrollment at A&M ended in 1879 owing to his father's untimely death forcing him to return home and to support his family. He went to work for and had a long and significant career at Southern Pacific Railway, eventually becoming the Superintendent of Maintenance and Way for the Sunset Line between New Orleans and El Paso.

But his attachment to A&M persisted and he eventually received his degree in civil engineering from A&M College in 1899, joined the board in 1912 and played a crucial role in preserving the school as an independent institution by personally guaranteeing the school's debts when its existence was in jeopardy following a catastrophic fire that destroyed the old main building and led to calls that it be relocated to and combined with the University of Texas. He received a commission, served on the staff of General

John Pershing and was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his service in the first world war. On his death, he bequeathed his collection of engineering books to A&M and today the University library bears his name.

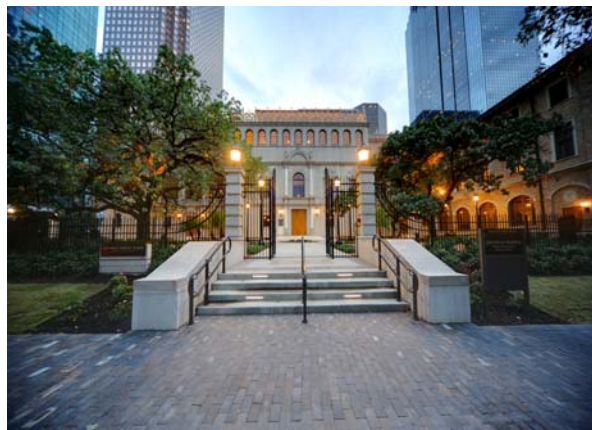
It was, of course, mention of his commitment to the establishment of an official library at A&M College that produced the warmest round of applause from those in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maynard, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney Chavez, HMRC Manager



McKinney Entrance to the Julia Ideson Building, Photo by Joel Draut

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Mikaela Selley, Hispanic Collections & Oral History Archivist

HMRC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Música!



Each fall, HMRC celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, the 30-day period from September 15th to October 15th. (Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15th is to commemorate independence of several Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua.)

This year, we invite you to experience the sights and sounds of Houston's Latino music history with our exhibit: Música! A History of Hispanic Sounds in Houston. From

the heydays of the Shamrock Hotel to nights at the Pan American, this exhibit will feature archival photographs, posters, and oral histories that reflect a diverse and significant contribution to Houston music.

Among the featured musicians in this exhibit is Patricio Gutierrez (1896-1985). Patricio was born in San Antonio, but moved to Houston with his family at an early age. In his youth, he was the organist at Holy Rosary Catholic Church and First Presbyterian Church. He later played piano and French horn with the early Houston Symphony Orchestra, and he was one of its first soloists.

Patricio was a member of the Houston Professional Musicians Association, Local 65 for most of his life. When he joined this union in 1907, he was their youngest working member and, at his death, the oldest. He played chamber music at the Brazos, Rice, and Lamar Hotels, and even at the movies. In his own words:

“I used to play silent movies, you know? I used to play between the movies, they had a little show. Amateur show. And I was a pianist, see? But that was a union job for me. ...But I started playing in the movie house ...And I was getting \$18 a week, boy, and I was in heaven! Eighteen dollars. For 25 cents, I could go and get myself a treat ...” [1]



Patricio came from a musically talented family. His father, Jesus, was a bassist, and his brother, Fred, played violin in the Houston Symphony. His brother Joe played clarinet, and his Uncle Joe played the trombone. Patricio recalls lessons with his father: “My daddy used to tell me when he played violin, ‘I’m going to play, I’m the leader. Watch me, what I do. Play the way I want you to learn.’ ...He’d slow down the tempo when it got there, and like accelerate when it got there, you’d listen. So sure enough, he would-- he’d do something and bingo, he had to have it recorded. This is --with his little bow, he hits me in the head, ‘You got to listen!’ So that’s my training.” [2]

Patricio’s wife, Edith Gutierrez, taught piano in Houston for many years and together founded Greenbriar Music Studios. His stepdaughter, Pauline Oliveros, is a renowned composer and accordionist.

Hispanics have contributed to the Houston music scene in every genre and every decade. Patricio Gutierrez represents one of the early Mexican American musicians who played a significant role in the classical and jazz music scenes in Houston. Visit our fall Música! exhibit to learn more about Patricio and the significant history of Hispanic musicians in the Bayou City.

Photo Credits:

Pictures feature archival materials from the Patricio Gutierrez Collection (SC 1310).

[1] OH 0293 Patricio Gutierrez, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, interviewed on January 27th, 1980.

[2] ibid.

Programs and Events

Where's the Book on My House? - Thursday, August 22nd, 2019 | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.;
Julia Ideson Building, Meldrum Room

Curious about your home's history? Don't know where to start? HMRC's Architectural Archivist will give a basic overview of how to research a historic property, highlighting useful resources in HMRC collections. This program includes a tour of the Texas Room to introduce the public to our collections and how to access them through the reference desk.

Rare Books Room Showcase - Thursday, September 5th, 2019 | 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.;
Julia Ideson Building, Texas Room

HMRC will showcase rare, interesting, and unique items from the Rare Books Room/HMRC Vault. This event will offer exclusive, insider access to materials that are normally restricted for preservation purposes. This is a rare opportunity for our customers to see, touch, and learn about some of the most precious treasures in our collection.

¡Música! Exhibit Festival and Mercado - Saturday, September 28th, 2019| 1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Julia Ideson Building and Barbara Bush Literacy Plaza

A day-long celebration of story, song, and cinema, featuring exhibit tours and discussions, live entertainment, an outdoor market with books, multimedia, food and crafts, youth activities, and a movie on the library plaza!

Julia Ideson Building Tour - August 3rd, September 7th, and October 5th | 11:00 a.m.

Join us on the first Saturday of every month for a tour of the historic Julia Ideson Building. Formerly Houston Public Library's "Central" Branch, the Julia Ideson Building is a beautiful Spanish Renaissance Revival (Plateresque)-style building in the heart of downtown. Learn about the history and use of the building, the renovations and additions, as well as the significance of its art and architecture. Free one-hour tours of the Ideson Building begin at 11:00 a.m. at the reception desk in the lobby. If you would like to schedule a tour for a group of 10 or more, please contact 832-393-1662.

2019 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2019 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:

- 5x7 print (\$12.50 normally costs \$6.25)
- 8x10 print (\$18.00 normally costs \$9.00)

Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

Volunteers

HMRC can use volunteers who want to help going through archival collections box by box to determine what is in them. HMRC can also use volunteers who want to help create lesson plans incorporating primary sources from HMRC's collections. HMRC is also still seeking talented individuals to serve as tour guides and volunteer educators to ensure that all visitors to the HMRC and Julia Ideson Building have an enriched experience.

We are looking for docents who are:

- Passionate and Curious about Texas and Houston history.
- Committed to engaging the visitors to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and the Julia Ideson Building in a rewarding and educational experience.
- Well-prepared for diverse questions and expressions of interest regarding the history of the Julia Ideson Building and HMRC's various collections.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Walking tours of the Julia Ideson Building and grounds

- Orientations to the Texas Room, Reading Room, and/or Exhibit Hall
- Instruction on history topics
- Guided informational visits to exhibits and installations

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact Laney Chavez (Laney.Chavez@houston.tx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.
- Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.
- Free parking (using a code to be sent through email about five days before the meeting) in the Houston Public Library underground parking lot for FTxR General Meetings.
- Preservation consultation sessions with the HMRC staff members on preserving family documents and memorabilia. Sessions are conducted twice a year on Fridays when the Texas Room is normally closed.
- Research Lock-Ins twice a year on a Friday. HMRC staff members will provide one-on-one research consultation to FTxR members.
- Five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:
 - 5x7 print (\$6.25/normally costs \$12.50)
 - 8x10 print (\$9.00/ normally costs \$18.00)

(Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.)

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of the FTxR newsletter *Dispatch*, at <lindemann@SBCglobal.net> 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 POLICIES

The FTxR policies relate 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 FTxR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTxR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTxR may obtain a grant from

your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTxR 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.

2019 Board of Directors:

President: To be announced

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, Carol Haddock, Jeff Lindemann, Catherine McCulley, Randall McKinney II, and George Werner

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* NEWSLETTER

Submissions and comments for the *Texas Room Dispatch* should be emailed to the editor, Jeff Lindemann, at lindemann@SBCglobal.net or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann, Editor
Texas Room Dispatch
4910 Houston Drive, Galveston, TX 77551

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2020

Mail with dues to:

P.O. BOX 27827 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

Or apply and pay with PAYPAL online at: **www.friendsofthetexasroom.org**

DATE: _____

Check applicable: _____ RENEWING APPLICATION _____ NEW APPLICATION

FIRST PERSON: _____ SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS (if applicable): _____

first name, middle, last name

first name, middle, last name

MAILING ADDRESS (include street or P.O.): _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, EMAIL

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND 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

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.

Additional contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution): \$ _____

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS: Please check below 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.

___ **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:** _____