

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 14, Number 1, January 2016

Monday, January 25th, 2016 Meeting

The Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, first floor auditorium,
500 McKinney Avenue

6:00 – 7:00 Reception

7:00 Program

PROGRAM

James Gast,
Member of Authors in Architecture,
will speak on

“The Astrodome: Building an American Spectacle”

Nomination of Carol Haddock as member of the FTxR Board of Directors

Free parking, with validation at the meeting, is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. Parking is also available in the Smith Garage located at 1100 Smith Street next to Pappas restaurant. The garage entrance is on Smith Street. A flat parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 p.m.

Free parking is also available on the nearby streets after 6:00 p.m.

All attendees need to enter the Julia Ideson Building from the main entrance across the plaza from the Central Library.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

The Friends of the Texas Room website (www.friendsofthetexasroom.org) is the vehicle through which our organization communicates with the world. It is designed to be the repository of our organization's history and the source of information about all of our programs, activities, and accomplishments. In particular, *The Texas Room Dispatch* Newsletter Archive comprises a history of our organization going back to our first year (2002-2003). The Board History documents many of the people who have been most active in building our organization. The list of gifts we have made to the HMRC documents the fulfillment of our mission "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."

As we begin our fourteenth year, we are looking for ways in which we might better serve our membership through improvements to the website. We would like to hear from you. What would you like for us to include that is not presently there? We want to make the website as user friendly and as informative as possible.

If you have not had a chance to renew your membership for 2016, I hope you will do so today. We have wonderful programs coming up this year, and the HMRC has needs for state of the art equipment which we purchase for them with your membership dues.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26th, 2015, GENERAL MEETING

President, Dorothy Knox Houghton, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of the general meeting on Monday, July 27th, 2015 were approved as circulated.

On behalf of the Board of the Friends of the Texas Room acting as a Committee of the Whole, Mrs. Houghton presented the slate of nominees for new two-year terms on the board:

Vice President: Susan Teich

Director: Linda Fosseen

Director: Nancy Burch

The nominees were duly elected.

Mrs. Houghton then announced the winner of the Julia Ideson Award, Barrie Scardino Bradley, for her book, *Houston's Hermann Park: A Century of Community* and the

Honorable Mention, Steven Fenberg, for his book, *Unprecedented Power: Jesse Jones, Capitalism, and the Common Good*. Neither author could be present to receive their award.

Then Mrs. Houghton introduced FTxR board member, Jeff Lindemann, Professor of English at Houston Community College, who gave the program, "Frost Town: Houston's First Subdivision."

The program concluded at 7:50 p.m., and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Knox Houghton for Secretary, Charles Maynard

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney McAdow, HMRC Manager

The Texas Room, Julia Ideson Building



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

The HMRC staff is continuing work on various projects to improve our services and outreach efforts to our customers and the general community. We have begun to have all staff process archival collections on Fridays when we are closed to the public. This group project is designed not only to push to get more collections processed more quickly, but also to cultivate a sense of a shared mission, build camaraderie and collaboration, and to help develop news skills for staff that have little or no previous experience with archival processing. We had our first group processing day on January 8th and will continue working on group projects like this one every other week. As we move forward we are likely to work together as team on clipping and filing vertical files, labeling, rehousing, inventorying, shelf-reading, and transcribing as these things are needed.

We will be kicking-off the Student Historian Internship Program (SHIP) in the next couple of months. This program began in 2013 and this will be our fourth year offering this program to local students. SHIP is a program designed to help familiarize high school age students with what it's like to work with history in an archive. The tentative plan for the students five week course is to teach them oral history interviewing techniques and allow them to capture and describe a short oral history interview. Next, they will be training on archival processing best practices and receive hands-on experience in processing a small sized collection. Finally, we would like to have them meet with some of our volunteers to see what they do to help at HRMC and work with them in a mentorship-like capacity.

Ultimately they will have a glimpse into what it is we do at HMRC, how to conduct scholarly research using our materials, how we develop, describe, and maintain our collections, the ways we promote our collections, and help them prepare for careers in the library, archives, history, and related fields.

Joanna Collier with the help from HPL's Cataloging and Metadata unit has begun working with a site called HistoryPin (<https://www.historypin.org>). The Houston Area Digital Archive (the content management site for HPL's digitized collections) is a member of the site. Searching by member institutions will display the online exhibits we have posted.

Programs and Events

December 1st, 2015 – March 15th, 2016 Exhibit: Asian-Americans in Houston: Images from the HMRC Collections Julia Ideson Building, North Gallery, 1st and 2nd floor display cases 550 McKinney St., 77002

This exhibit was created by HMRC photo archivist Tim Ronk to complement the Heritage Society exhibition and Houston History magazine article.

Late January - Mid April 2016

Highlights from the Architectural Collection

The exhibit focuses on the architectural projects of prominent Houston architects and features notable Houston building projects. Included are works by Alfred Finn, John Chase, and others held in the HMRC collections.

March 7th, 2016 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. Event: City of Houston Flag unveiling Julia Ideson Building, 77002

Join Houston Public Library and City of Houston officials for the unveiling of the newly restored 1915 City of Houston flag. Forgotten for nearly a century, the flag was discovered by Frank Descant in the garage of a cousin whose father was an avid

memorabilia collector. Descant donated the flag to Preservation Houston, who, in conjunction with a \$500 grant from the North American Vexillological Association, raised the funds necessary for conservation work to be conducted by Jessica Hack of New Orleans.

Mayor Ben Campbell initiated the design contest, and the winning selection was submitted by Major W. A. Wheeldon, and drawn by Mrs. J. W. Greenhill, Jr (Violet Stanuelli Greenhill?). The original design for the 3 x 5 dark blue flag featured a single star and the coat of arms of the Sam Houston family; however, the judging panel replaced the heraldic component with the city seal. The prototype was produced by Levy Brothers Department store, and the official iteration, produced in New York City, was first flown on July 4th, 1915.

Mid-April 201- July 30, 2016

Exhibit: Designing America: Spain's Imprint on the US

Curated by Spanish architects Juan Miguel Hernández León and Francisco Arques Soler and designed as an open cross-sectional tour through architecture, urban planning and the territory, Designing America: Spain's Imprint in the U.S. enlightens the historical, political and cultural events that have marked the course of 500 years of common history between the United States and Spain.

2016 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2015 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.McAdow@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 of volunteers 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 McAdow (Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10:00 am – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 am – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 am – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.

Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.

Preservation consultation sessions with 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 copies per year of digital scans from the HMRC photograph collection for half price.

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.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM POLICIES

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: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Kathleen Colt, Linda Fosseen, Catherine McCulley, and Jeff Lindemann

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, at lindemann@SBCglobal.net or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann, Editor
The Texas Room Dispatch
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership Year: 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

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:** _____