

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27th, 2002)
Volume 16, Number 1, January 2018

Monday, January 29th, 2018, Meeting

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

6:00 – 6:30 Reception

6:30 Program

PROGRAM

Mr. Randolph K. Tibbits,
independent curator and researcher specializing in Houston art history of the early
twentieth century,
will speak on the topic
"Emma Richardson Cherry: Houston's First Modern Artist."

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 the Pappas restaurant. The garage entrance is on Smith
Street. A flat parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 pm.

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

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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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30th, 2017, GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vice President Susan Teich.

Minutes of the prior quarterly meeting were presented and approved. Vice President Teich next presented the slate for the 2018 officers for election. The FTxR members voted on and approved the 2018 slate. Vice President Teich next presented the Julia Ideson Awards to Dr. Tyina Steptoe for *Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City* and Honorable Mention to Dr. Dan M. Worrall for *Pleasant Bend: Upper Buffalo Bayou and the San Felipe Trail in the 19th Century*.

Vice President Teich next introduced the evening's speaker, Carol Vance, former District Attorney of Harris County from 1966 to 1979, who spoke on the topic "Fighting Crime in Houston During the 1960s and '70s." After his presentation, Vance answered questions.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.

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

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center's Norma Meldrum Juvenile Special Collection contains children's books dating from 1810 to the present and is stored in the Norma Meldrum Room and in closed stacks in the Julia Ideson Building. One of the earliest descriptions found in Houston Public Library's institutional archives refers to the collection as the Gift Case Collection. The collection bore this name until the formation of the HMRC and the opening of the Jesse H. Jones Central Library, when it was divided into a series collection, a Julia Ideson Stack Collection, the Texas Room children's books, and the Historical Juvenile Collection (also known as the Old-Fashioned Book Collection). All of these collections were later merged in the 2000s in

preparation for the restoration of the Julia Ideson Building and became officially known as the Norma Meldrum Juvenile Special Collection.

The Meldrum collection was reevaluated and appraised from 2015 to 2017 with the help of the former Manager of Central Youth Services at the Central Library. The collection was assessed using a set of accepted criteria to determine its strengths and value with the purpose of developing a collecting scope to assist in acquisitions-related decisions. The evaluation also served to provide key insights into preservation and collections maintenance issues concerning affecting these materials.

Significant components of the collection include classic fiction titles from 1810-present, picture books from 1880-present, folk and fairy tales from 1810-present, Mother Goose and other rhymes from 1850-present, fables from 1818-present, Texas authors and illustrators from the late 1880s-present, music for children, turn of the century textbooks and readers, and special interest nonfiction.

It is possible to follow the evolution of the storytelling and the history of the art of illustration through the fables, folk, and fairytale books in the Meldrum collection; beginning with a copy of Aesop's Fables from 1818. The holdings contain a magnificent collection of Aesop, Anderson, Grimm, and Perrault, many of which are first editions with incredible illustrations.

First editions of classics such as Ragged Dick by Horatio Alger, On the Plantation by Joel Chandler Harris, and Little Women by Louisa May Alcott are included, as well as series titles by GA Henty, examples of Tom Swift, and westerns by Altsheler. A large collection of Alice in Wonderland with stellar examples of illustration, and early examples of Jules Verne and Robert Louis Stevenson can also be found in the collection. The oldest picture book in the collection, ABC of Objects for Home and School, dates to 1889. Others from the late 1800's are printed on cloth and treated with some sort of resin to give the pages substance. The textbook component includes a large number of McGuffey Readers, history texts, and tracts from religious publishers common for school children in the late 1800s

This collection shows the evolution of children's literature over 200 years and includes many exceedingly rare titles. When this collection is combined with the collection in closed stacks at the Central Library, this makes up perhaps the most significant and valuable collections in the state of Texas. For instance, the folk and fairytale component of the collection is larger than most universities across the country, and some of the earliest titles in the collection cannot be found elsewhere in North America.

Since this assessment, HMRC staff have worked to reorganize the collection by author, illustrator, or title to improve retrievability. Uncataloged books are being cataloged and records with errors are being corrected as they are discovered. Future plans for the collection include increased promotion and the digitization of select titles for addition to the library's digital archive, the Houston Area Digital Archive (HADA). Improved shelving

is also a priority for the collection to minimize theft and damage to the collection. Once significant progress has been made in the previously mentioned endeavors, we will work the Central Library to add significant fiction, picture books, and fables folk and fairytale titles from their holdings in closed stacks to the Meldrum collection to add further value and prestige to this already remarkable and rare collection.

Programs and Events

Houston Metropolitan Research Center Showcase: Thursday, January 25th, 2018, 6:30-7:30pm, Texas Room, Julia Ideson Building

The 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.

African-American History Month Lecture, Thursday, February 1st, 2018, 6:00pm-7:30pm, The African-American Library at the Gregory School

In celebration of African-American History month, the HMRC and the African- American Library at the Gregory School will discuss how life in Freedman's Town, the historical center of African-American cultural and professional life in Houston, is saved in several of our archival collections through the personal and family papers, photographs, and mementos of General S. and Mary Johnson, the Reverend Jack Yates, and Olee Yates McCullough amongst others. Parking is available outside of the African-American Library at the Gregory School. For questions, please contact HMRC at TXR.Reference@houstontx.gov or the Gregory School at 832-393-1440.

Julia Ideson Building Tour: February 3rd, March 3rd; 11:00am

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 a.m. at the reception desk in the lobby. Tours are available on a first come basis and are limited to 20 people. If you would like to schedule a tour for a group of 10 or more, please contact 832-393-1662.

Women's History Month Lecture: Thursday, March 15th, 2018, 6:00-8:00pm, Norma Meldrum Room, Julia Ideson Building

This evening will introduce customers to the Betty Jo Jones Collection, currently the only architectural collection at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center featuring the

work of a female architect. Jones, born Betty Jo Lackey, was a 1947 graduate of the Rice Institute. Creating her own firm in the 1950s, Betty Jo Jones was one of Houston's earliest female architects. Her collection is primarily comprised of architectural drawings for small residential properties, typically in the suburbs surrounding Houston. This presentation will highlight some of her work in the area, as well as her role in a male-dominated field.

The Texas Revolution: The Other War of Secession: Thursday, March 22nd, 2018, 6:00-7:45pm, Norma Meldrum Room, Julia Ideson Building

Please join us in celebrating Texas History Month with a lecture by Dr. Raul Ramos from the History Department at the University of Houston. This talk reconsiders symbols and heroes of the Texas Revolution in light of the recent backlash towards Confederate monuments and leaders.

2018 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2017 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@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Thursday: 12:00 – 8:00

Friday: 10:00 – 5:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 5:00

Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.
- Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.
- 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 *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

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.

2018 Board of Directors:

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton

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

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
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018

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:** _____