

# THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room  
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)  
Volume 15, Number 2, April 2017

**Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Meeting**

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

**6:00 – 7:00 Reception**  
**7:00 Program**

## PROGRAM

Joe Holley,  
long-time journalist who currently writes the “Native Texan” column for  
the *Houston Chronicle*, will speak on the topic

“What Happened in Miss Hattie’s Parlor:  
A Story about Family Secrets”

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](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org)

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## **THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Dear Friends,

Did you know that on the first Saturday of each month the HMRC staff offers guided tours of the restored Julia Ideson Building? It is the perfect opportunity to share a delightful cultural experience with your children and your friends. Downtown Houston is quiet on Saturday mornings, and you can concentrate on being surrounded by beautiful architecture in all directions. Across McKinney Avenue from the Ideson Building you can visit Houston's Art Deco City Hall. Across Bagby Street you can visit the restored historic houses in Sam Houston Park. A number of the skyscrapers within easy walking distance are architecturally significant.

If you cannot make it on the first Saturday of the month, you still can tour the Ideson Building using the cell phone audio tour which your Friends membership dues made possible. You can visit the Texas Room and study the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps on the map stands which your dues made possible. You can copy pages from a rare book on the copier that your dues made possible, and you can study the 1869 Wood Map of Houston which your dues paid to encapsulate and copy. In so doing you should feel a sense of pride that your membership in the Friends of the Texas Room has benefited the HMRC so significantly.

Bring your friends to see what the Friends have accomplished and urge them to join our ranks. The more members we have, the more we can do to enhance the HMRC.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

### **MINUTES OF THE January 25th, 2016, GENERAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Dorothy Knox Houghton.

Minutes of the prior quarterly meeting were presented and approved.

President Houghton next introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Dan Michael Worrell, Member of the Harris County Historical Commission, who spoke on the topic "Pleasant Bend: Upper Buffalo Bayou and the San Felipe Trail in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century"

His presentation was very well received and prompted many questions and poignant remarks and reminiscences from audience members.

The meeting concluded around 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maynard, Secretary

## NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney Chavez, HMRC Manager

### The Texas Room, Julia Ideson Building



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

In February, HMRC welcomed its new Photography Archive Supervisor, Andrew Mancuso. He succeeds Tim Ronk, who has recently retired from his library career to spend more time writing and fulfilling other creative pursuits. Tim plans to return to volunteer with HMRC in the near future.

Andrew is charged with serving as a project manager for photo reproduction and digitization projects. He will lead HMRC's digital preservation program and process photo-related collections. He will also play an active role in capturing, editing, reformatting, describing, and uploading images online.

In May of 2014, Andrew graduated from Dominican University in River Forest, IL with a Master of Library & Information Science with a focus on metadata, archives, and digitization. Since then he has continued his education by taking course such as Care of Paper Artifacts, Book Repair Techniques for Special Collections, and Introduction to Organic and Inorganic Materials from the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies. He also received a Certificate in Artifact Collection Care from the University of Chicago in September 2015. He has worked as a Metadata Assistant at the McDonald's Corporation, a Document Imaging Specialist at the Hyatt Corporation - Chicago, IL, a Digitization Specialist/Project Archivist/Imaging Technician with The Digital Archive Group - Chicago, IL, and was a 2016 Mary and Samuel Somit Preservation Intern at the University of Chicago.

Andrew has already embraced his new role with vigor. He has worked diligently to address some of the challenges we face in managing the large numbers of photo reproduction orders and digital project initiatives and providing reference assistance for our customers researching our massive, complex archive of images. He has worked to add more networked digital content storage space to store preservation-quality image files, reconciled and merged photo databases to enable us to provide broader access to collection information online, recommended equipment to provide a better quality digital products and increased efficiency, and is troubleshooting project processes and workflows and in resolving problems. He is also quickly becoming familiar with our photo collections and is assisting with grant writing, social media promotion, and photo-related programming.

### **Programs and Events**

#### **Open House- May 3, 2017, 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

We will have materials on the display, behind-the-scenes tours, demonstrations, and exclusive access to non-public areas to learn about what we do at HMRC. Featured areas include archival stacks, Architectural Archives, HMRC Imaging Lab, the Norma Meldrum Children's Room, and the Conservation Lab. Visitors can observe archival processing activities, conservation and repair work, image digitization and reproduction, and our state-of-the-art storage areas.

#### **Julia Ideson Building Tour- May 6th, June 3rd, 11:00 am**

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.

#### **Texas Room Orientation- May 20th, June 17th, 11:00 am**

On the third Saturday of every month, HMRC will offer a Texas Room orientation. In our monthly orientation, patrons can learn about the variety of resources available through the Texas Room and the types of collections and materials available through HMRC. Find out how to get started with your research and ways to get the most out of your research. No reservations required. Please allow time for signing in and checking personal items.

## **Preservation Week: April 23 - April 29, 2017**

HMRC invites everyone to join in celebrating Preservation Week 2017. This is a week dedicated to the many methods of preservation and their importance to libraries and special collections, both public and private. During this week, the HMRC will host a series of public events, talks, and programs to share the ways the world preserves its knowledge and cultural heritage and how these practices can be implemented with your personal collections.

### **Aquatic Rescue: Paper Edition, Wednesday, April 26 6:30-7:30 pm at Clayton**

For Preservation Week 2017, the HPL Special Collections will be hosting a workshop on water damaged books and documents. Whether the water damage comes from rain, flooding, or extensive humidity, the effect on your important records can be severe. This workshop will cover typical sources of water damage and how to prevent and respond to this damage. There will also be a practical demonstration on how to properly care for books and documents that are still wet. This talk is part of a series of presentations put on by HPL Special Collections to celebrate Preservation Week 2017.

### **Preservation 101 Wednesday, April 26 6:30-7:30 pm at JIB Meldrum**

HPL Special Collections invites everyone to join us in celebrating Preservation Week 2017 with a Preservation 101! program. This event will cover preservation fundamentals, how and why the library preserves its collections, and give some ideas that might be useful in your own home. Learn best practices and tips for storage and handling of family documents and photos. Please join us on Wednesday, April 26 at the Julia Ideson Building. This talk is part of a series of presentations put on by HPL Special Collections to celebrate Preservation Week 2017.

### **Through the Lens of History: An Exploration of Photographic Processes, Saturday, April 29 10:30-11:30 am at JIB Auditorium**

Today, many of us understand photography as a digital process. When we want to capture something interesting, a moment in time we want to remember, the mechanism for doing so is conveniently sitting in our pockets or purses and the images we create are stored as 0's and 1's. Until very recently, creating a photograph was not so easy of a task. In celebration of Preservation Week 2017, the Special Collections Division of the Houston

### **Architecture Orientation, May 10, 2017, 6:30-8:00 pm**

HMRC is hosting an Architectural Orientation of the Texas Room to introduce the public to our collections and how to access them through the reference desk. This program

goes beyond our monthly Texas Room Orientation to focus primarily on HMRC's architectural collections. Guided by Architectural Archivist, Samantha Bruer, customers will learn about architectural drawings, archival collections, books, and other materials that are useful in historic building research. Parking is available under the Central Library building, with entry on Lamar Street. For questions, please contact Samantha Bruer at [samantha.bruer@houstontx.gov](mailto:samantha.bruer@houstontx.gov) or 832-393-1376.

## **2017 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](mailto: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 the 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**

Monday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Tuesday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

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 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.

### **2017 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, Randy 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](mailto: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**

**2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership Year: 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017

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:** \_\_\_\_\_