

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 5, Number 2, April 2007

APRIL 30th MEETING
6:30 Reception and Book Signing
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
LABOR, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND THE HUGHES TOOL COMPANY
WITH HISTORIAN
DR. MICHAEL R. BOTSON, JR.

MUSEUM OF PRINTING HISTORY
1324 W. CLAY

The Museum of Printing History is located at 1324 W. Clay Street between Waugh Drive and Montrose, one block south of West Dallas. Free parking is available in the lot across the street or in the small lot on the left, adjacent to the Museum building.

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FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM MEETINGS

This year all meetings will be held on Monday evenings at the Museum of Printing History unless otherwise reported. All meetings begin with a reception at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00. Please mark your calendars for future meetings: April 30th, July 23rd, and October 22nd.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

You are a very knowledgeable and talented group of people, and we need your input. A Community Outreach Committee is being formed to promote awareness of and interest in the HMRC/ Texas Room within the Houston community. Chaired by Friends Vice President Sims McCutchan, the committee is charged with developing a plan which will include working with the news media and making presentations about the historical resources in the HMRC/ Texas Room to community organizations. There are two positions open on the committee, and we would like to fill them with Friends members who are willing to give of their time and expertise. If you are interested, please e-mail Sims at smccutch@flash.net.

In addition, the committee would like to create a speakers bureau for which they would train Friends members willing to attend meetings of other community organizations to promote the HMRC/ Texas Room. If you would enjoy helping us in this way, please contact Sims.

The Architectural Archivist has asked the Friends to recruit a long-term volunteer willing to work a minimum of one day a week to enter descriptive information from architectural files into a Microsoft Access Data Base.

Also needed is a volunteer able to transcribe oral history tapes onto Microsoft Word documents.

If you are qualified to fill either of the above two volunteer jobs and one of them appeals to you, please e-mail Steve Hill at steve.hill@cityofhouston.net.

One more filming session is scheduled before the documentary enters the editing stage. This session will focus on existing landmarks which are on the sites of earlier buildings, photos of which will be featured in the documentary. In this way we will be able to tie the past history of our city to the present.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Dr. Michael Botson, our speaker for the membership meeting on April 30, was interviewed on KUHF public radio about the program he will present to the Friends. The interview will be aired on or before the meeting date.

Stay tuned!

Dorothy Knox Houghton

HISTORIAN DR. MICHAEL BOTSON TO SPEAK AT APRIL 30th MEETING

The speaker for our April 30th meeting is Dr. Michael R. Botson, author of *Labor, Civil Rights, and the Hughes Tool Company*. Dr. Botson conducted research for his book in the Texas Room and will be featured on the Friends of the Texas Room's upcoming documentary. A resident of Houston, Dr. Botson received his Ph.D. from the University of Houston and is currently a professor of History at Houston Community College. His book *Labor, Civil Rights, and the Hughes Tool Company* was the winner of the 2006 T. R. Fehrenbach Award presented by the Texas Historical Commission and is included on Princeton University's Noteworthy Books for 2006. Copies of Dr. Botson's books will be for sale, and Dr. Botson will be available to sign your copy.

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

by Steve Hill, Manager of the Texas Room and
Ann Otto, Assistant Manager of the Texas Room

This month the Julia Ideson Preservation Partners met to begin planning the capital campaign to fund the renovation and addition to the Julia Ideson Building. In February Mayor White met with the group to tour the archives. The group has also posted a web-based survey at www.ideson.org to collect input from visitors who have used the building.

A major new exhibit appears in the main foyer this month highlighting photographs of Houston's sister city, Shenzhen, China. In addition to photographs, the exhibit features traditional clothing and kites. The library hosted an opening for the exhibit, which was attended by the Houston Shenzhen Sister City Association, the Consulate General of The People's Republic of China in Houston, and other organizations. It will be on display through May 30th. A smaller exhibit of materials from the HMRC collections may be viewed on the second floor. The theme is the Chinese in Houston and Texas. It also will be up through May 30th.

Recently we have received research interest in the Whitmire papers. HMRC is the repository for the former Houston mayor's papers. The collection is large and documents the administration of Houston's first female mayor. We continue to work on fully processing the collection for use by future researchers.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22ND, 2007, MEETING

President Dorothy Knox Houghton introduced Minnette Boesel, one of the committee members, along with Margaret Skidmore and Phoebe Tudor, who will

be chairing a meeting about the plans for the extension of the Julia Ideson building of the Houston Public Library on Saturday, February 3, from 9:00 – 1:00, at the Ideson Building.

Jeff Lindemann presented Dr. Roger Wood, the speaker for the evening. Dr. Wood is an award-winning professor of English at Houston Community College and author of two books on Houston's music, including *Down in Houston* and *Texas Zydeco*. He spoke on "Digging the Houston Roots in Blues and Zydeco History."

Dr. Wood first expressed his appreciation of James Fraher, photographer and collaborator in his history of Houston music. He said he was also indebted to the Texas Room for research materials on Houston jazz, blues, and zydeco. He noted that zydeco, a fusion of the blues and the old Louisiana Creole "La La" music, was born in Houston, and he described the El Dorado Ballroom, which has been donated to Project Row Houses, as a metaphor for Houston as a musical crossroads.

Dr. Wood and Steve Hill, Manager of the Texas Room, both stressed the importance of archiving Houston's historical materials in Houston.

After thanking Dr. Wood, Dorothy Knox Houghton noted a correction in the minutes of the last general meeting (the Board approved \$4,500 for the documentary, if necessary, and \$4,777 for microfilm cabinets). A motion to amend the minutes was approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$19,753.72 in the checking account, \$10,000 in the savings, plus \$179.40 interest.

In other announcements, Mrs. Houghton said eight people had been interviewed for the documentary and that a conference on the future of libraries was to be held at Rice University under the auspices of the Glasscock School for Continuing Studies on March 5th – 7th, with speakers from the British Museum, the library at Alexandria, Egypt, and elsewhere.

The Friends of the Texas Room needs volunteers for its Hospitality Committee and for public relations. On February 5th the Texas Library Association will be in Austin to request an increased budget for all libraries in the state.

The membership now stands at 102.

The motion to adjourn was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Dix, Secretary

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* (jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu), 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 WEBSITE

The Friends of the Texas Room will soon have its website up and running to give our organization an Internet presence and increase membership. From several companies that had submitted bids, the Board chose Niche Marketing to design the site. When completed, the site will be hosted by the Houston Public Library. Among its many useful features, the site will contain an archive of all our past copies of our newsletter *The Texas Room Dispatch*.

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 IRS 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.

DUES REMINDER

Our membership year runs from January 1 - December 31. Please fill in the membership form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check to P. O. Box 27827, Houston, TX 77227-7827. Make your check payable to "Friends of the Texas Room." If you have friends who might be interested in membership, please submit their names and addresses and we will send them information. If you have email, please include it. This saves us mailing costs.

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 – Sims McCutchan

Secretary – Mary Dix
Treasurer – Cathy Fitch
Directors: Nancy Burch, Susan Keeton, Caro Walker, and Jim Parsons

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
1509 Monarch Oaks
Houston, Texas 77055

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Please spread the word and help us find new members. If you have access to a list of likely members, which you can share with us, we would appreciate it. The membership application on the next page can be emailed to your prospects or photocopied and faxed or mailed to prospective members.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

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.
- Website manager: Design and maintain an official site for the Friends of the Texas Room.
- 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: _____