

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 8, Number 2, April 2010

Monday, April 26th Meeting
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
Louis J. Marchiafava, Ph. D.

**“Origins of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center’s
Oral History Program”**

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.

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

The day we all have been waiting for is here. The new archival wing of the Julia Ideson Building is open for business! It is the result of the congenial collaboration of many talented and determined people who share a common vision for the preservation of Houston's history. The Friends were represented in the very first meeting that was held to talk about the future use of the Julia Ideson Building. At that meeting we brought to the attention of the city the fact that the building's original plans called for a wing that was never built. We suggested that it could be built as a state of the art archival wing, and it is thrilling to see this come to fruition.

Very special thanks and congratulations go to a number of people, all of whom have worked together heroically to bring this about. Nothing could have happened without the dynamic team of Phoebe Tudor, Margaret Skidmore, Minnette Boesel, and Margaret Lawler who raised the funds. We were deeply saddened that Margaret Skidmore was unable to see the project realized, but her memory lives on in the lovely wrought iron well in the reading garden.

Barry Moore and his architectural team have done a beautiful job of creating a seamless transition between the interiors of the old building and the new one. They have used many of the original bookshelves and a number of other pieces of furniture which add great warmth and character to the new space. Where new furniture was needed, copies of the original 1920s furniture were produced. All of this was done according to Leed guidelines which will result in the building's receiving a silver certification.

Kemo Curry and her staff have accomplished the superhuman task of moving the archival materials from the old building into the new space, and they have lived to tell about it! Their achievement is awesome.

Now the restoration of the original building begins. While the restoration is under way, the entrance to the archival wing is through the lovely new reading garden at the corner of Lamar and Smith Street. Inside the iron fence, the garden is a beautiful, tranquil refuge from the bustle of the surrounding skyscrapers. Everything about the garden, the second floor loggia which overlooks it from outside the old Texas Room, and the warmth of the new Texas Room invites the researcher to settle in and enjoy learning about our city's past. Come be a part of this wonderful place.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't miss out! The Friends of the Texas Room is an active organization. The Friends' hour-long documentary, *In Search of Houston's History*, has recently appeared on television and is now for sale, the second annual Julia Ideson Award was given at our meeting on October 27th, 2009, and we have enjoyed wonderful speakers at our meetings. Your support has made all of this possible. Membership reminders were mailed out in December for 2010. Membership forms are also attached to this edition of *The Dispatch* and are available on our website. If you have not yet mailed in your dues, be sure to bring them to our April 2010 meeting.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25TH, 2010, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St., on January 25, 2010. After a brief reception and refreshments, the President, Dorothy Knox Houghton, called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. She welcomed special guests Dr. Mavis P. Kelsey, Mrs. Mickey Kelsey, members of the Kelsey family, and attendees from the Kelsey-Seybold Clinic. Houghton announced that the Friends of the Texas Room would donate a copy of the DVD, "In Search of Houston's History," to the new Texas Room in honor of Drs. Mavis and John Kelsey. She then introduced the speaker, Dr. William H. Kellar, author of several books on Houston history including, *Kelsey-Seybold Clinic: A Legacy of Excellence in Health Care*. Kellar gave a presentation entitled, "60 Years of Doctoring in Houston: A Brief History of the Kelsey-Seybold Clinic" in honor of Drs. Mavis P. Kelsey and John R. Kelsey.

Following Kellar's presentation, President Dorothy Knox Houghton asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting as printed in the January 2010 "Dispatch" newsletter. A motion was made and approved.

Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported a balance of \$2,231.921 in the checking account, \$11,170.91 in the savings account, \$20,000.00 in a 10-month CD for a total of \$33,416.14. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Several announcements were made including Barbara Eaves who announced that the next San Jacinto Symposium would be held at the University of Houston, April 17, 2010.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Kellar, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Kemo Curry, Manager, HMRC

Come Visit the Texas Room – It Ain't Your Grandmother's Attic Anymore!

I am pleased to report that the move of HMRC's collections from the Julia Ideson Building into its new Archival Wing is complete and the Texas Room has resumed business as usual. Except, please be forewarned that it ain't your grandmother's attic anymore!

HMRC Staff, Volunteers, and two specialty moving companies moved sixteen thousand boxes of archival collections, millions of photographic images (including two hundred and fifty boxes of glass plate negatives hand-carried one at a time), one hundred and twenty-five thousand architectural drawings, hundreds of circus posters and maps, and forty-thousand books.

Most of these items have been co-located in the new closed stacks of high density shelving and are enjoying perfect environmental conditions. The architectural archives have been removed to an excellent off-site storage facility and will return as soon as the second phase of JIB's renovation is complete in 2011. Within the new Texas Room you can find the basic reference books, HMRC's biography collection, archival and newspaper collections on microform, maps, Vertical Files, and a fun browsing corner of Texas high school yearbooks.

Beginning Saturday, April 17th, HMRC and its sister units of the Special Collections Division of HPL will be operating with new public service hours. Please visit <http://www.houstonlibrary.org/new-hours-of-operation> for complete details.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO MARKET DVD

Now that the documentary "In Search of Houston's History" is finished, the Friends of the Texas Room is seeking volunteers to help market the film to prospective purchasers such as schools, colleges, universities, and museums. Volunteers should contact President Dorothy Knox Houghton at her email address:

Dorothy_Houghton@SBCglobal.net.

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. We like to hear what our Friends are doing!

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 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 – Nancy Burch

Secretary –

Treasurer – Cathy Fitch

Directors: Carol Weaver, Sharon Dies, and Susan Teich

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

3405 Roseland

Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2010 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.

__ 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: _____



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(include copy of student ID)

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**Return to: Center for Public History - 547 Agnes Arnold Hall
University of Houston - Houston, TX 77204-3007**

houstonhistory@uh.edu -- 713-743-3123