

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 6, Number 3, July 2008

July 28th MEETING
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
“THE HOGG FAMILY AND PHILANTHROPY
IN HOUSTON”
WITH HISTORIAN KATE KIRKLAND
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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FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM MEETINGS

Currently, all meetings will be held on Monday evenings at the Museum of Printing History. All meetings begin with a reception at 6:30 followed by the program at 7:00. Please mark your calendars for future meetings: July 28th, 2008, and October 27, 2008.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

Mid summer 2008 finds your board preparing for a very exciting fall schedule. Vice President Sims McCutchan reports that we have fourteen entries competing for the first Julia Ideson Award which will be presented at our annual meeting on October 27. In addition to nine books, the entries include one student honors thesis, two DVDs, one virtual historical exhibit on line, and one quilt depicting Fourth Ward churches. A significant amount of the research behind each of these entries was done in the HMRC.

Sims has done an outstanding job of circulating the entries to the three judges: Dick Dickerson, Lee Pecht, and Don Carlton. He is monitoring the judges' progress to make sure that everything stays on schedule. We are most grateful to him for all of his hard work.

Please put the October 27 annual meeting on your calendar. It will be held on the second floor of the new Looscan Library, and we hope for a large attendance.

I am delighted to announce that the documentary is finished. As soon as Channel Eight sets a date for it to air, we will schedule a VIP preview to which all members of the Friends will be invited. Watch your mail for your invitation. I anticipate that this will happen in September.

Our hard-working refreshments committee (Ann Becker, Barbara Eaves, and Jo Lee Haddock) have done an outstanding job providing wine and hors d'oeuvres for our meetings over the last couple of years. As we anticipate the upcoming festivities associated with the documentary preview and the Julia Ideson Award I am hoping that a few more members might join them in providing refreshments for those two events. If you can assist us, please e-mail me at dorothy_houghton@sbcglobal.net.

I look forward to seeing you on July 28 to hear Kate Kirkland's wonderful talk about the Hogg family.

REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't miss out! The year 2008 will bring the Friends' hour-long documentary to public television, the first annual Julia Ideson Award in October, and wonderful speakers at our meetings. Your support has made all of this possible. We must hear from you soon, or we will have to drop your name from our mailing list. Membership forms are attached to this edition of *The Dispatch* and are available on our website.

HISTORIAN KATE KIRKLAND TO SPEAK AT JULY 28th MEETING

The speaker for our July 28th meeting is Kate Kirkland who will be speaking on the topic "The Hogg Family and Philanthropy in Houston." Kate Kirkland received her Ph.D. in History from Rice University. Her dissertation on the Hogg family was awarded the Longcope Prize in 2004.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28TH, 2008, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St., on April 28, 2008. After a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton introduced Jim Parsons who then introduced Jeffrey Mills, president of Documentary Alliance and the guest speaker for the evening. Mr. Mills gave an informative presentation that included slides and a preview of the documentary film, "Before the Curtain Rises," a history of the Interstate Theater chain.

Following Jeff Mills' presentation, President Dorothy Knox Houghton convened the general meeting. The members approved the Minutes of the previous meeting. Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported that there was a balance of \$34,989.31 in the checking account and \$10,441.79 in the savings account for a total of \$45,431.10. Cathy Fitch also reported that forms had been filed and the Friends of the Texas Room was in receipt of a letter from the IRS confirming the organization's 501(C)(3) status.

Jim Bailey provided an update on the Documentary and indicated that the project was in the final stages of editing and would likely be broadcast on KUHT television in September.

Dorothy Knox Houghton asked members to submit nominations for a new Board. She also reminded the members about the annual meeting on October 27, 2008, with Dr. Jesus "Frank" De la Teja as the guest speaker. President Houghton asked for a show of hands regarding members' preferences to meet at the downtown library or at the Looscan Branch, which also has more accessible parking. No one responded to the downtown location and most members raised their hands in favor of meeting at the Looscan Branch.

President Houghton then informed the members that a distinguished panel of judges had been selected for the first Julia Ideson Award. The panel included Don Carleton, UT-Austin; Lee Pecht, Rice University; and Richard Dickerson, UH. Mr. Dickerson was present and was introduced to the members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
William Kellar

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Kemo Curry, Manager, HMRC

My second quarter as Manager of HMRC has been even more exciting than my first!

We have gained two new staff members with Marguerite Radhakrishnan as Archivist I and Tim Ronk as Library Services Specialist (LSS). Jo Collier has transitioned from Clayton and Ingrid Grant has moved into her position at The Gregory School. Unfortunately, we have also seen the retirement of Fred Parris, Librarian II, and the resignation of Ron Drees, Archivist II. However, neither of these positions will stay vacant long.

Tim Ronk, our new LSS, is very skilled at creating attractive displays and exhibits. In the few short months he has been with us he has installed and planned for:

Tools of the Book Conservator's Art: 6/23/2008 - 8/3/2008

A display of the tools and materials used by HPL's book conservator for repairing, rebinding and restoring old, often rare, volumes to their former beauty.

Exhibit, Jesse Holman Jones: 7/10/2008 - 7/31/2008

As the renovated Jones building reopened on May 31, 2008, HMRC honors "Mr. Houston", the man who built 35 of the city's first skyscrapers and helped to make the city a seaport and the biggest city in the South.

Harris County Court Documents: 8/4/2008 - 9/3/2008

Documents from the 1840s, on loan from the Harris County District Clerk's office, include a former slave's fight to regain her freedom in 1847 and a property dispute between Republic of Texas Presidents Sam Houston and Mirabeau B. Lamar.

Houston's Green Spaces and Waterways: 8/11/2008 - 10/11/2008

In collaboration with Betty Chapman and in celebration of the city of Houston's birthday on August 30, 1836, an exhibit of photographs and landscape architectural drawings from HMRC's archival collections highlights the ways in which, over the past 100 plus years, Houstonians have worked and played in our many parks and on the bayous that run through them.

The TXR inventory being conducted by our volunteer corps is proceeding apace. I am very pleased to report that this valiant team has processed over half of the collection.

In April, KPRC interviewed and filmed Phoebe Tudor, Betty Chapman and Kemo Curry for a 5 p.m. news hour segment which presented HMRC and its holdings in a positive light.

The Julia Ideson Building 50% Construction Documents were reviewed by the entire staff and comments submitted to our lead architect, Barry Moore. The 95% Construction Documents will be reviewed on August 11th.

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. 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.

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 – William Kellar

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
3405 Roseland
Houston, Texas 77006

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

2008 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: _____