
THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume No. 1, No. 4, October 2003

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, October 25, 2003 * 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room
Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library Downtown

Our speaker will be James Glass, FTR Board Member, who has done extensive research on Houston in the years 1836-1837 and has produced several historical maps based on his research.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING FTR MEETINGS

Meetings are set for different days and times throughout the year to make it possible for as many people as possible to attend at least one meeting.

Saturday, October 25, 2003, 10 a.m.-Noon, Reynolds Room, Ideson Building
Wednesday, January 21, 2004, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Location to be announced.
Saturday, April 17, 2004, 10 a.m.-Noon, Location to be announced.
Tuesday, July 20, 2004, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Location to be announced.
Saturday, October 23, 2004, 10 a.m.-Noon, Location to be announced.

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am delighted to report that the Friends have achieved several significant milestones since the July newsletter. First and foremost, we have received our official 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Our fiscal year runs from January to December. Between now and January we hope to attract many more new members, and we are hoping that our current members will help us get the word out. A membership form is included with each newsletter. We encourage members to send this form to friends or to e-mail it along with the newsletter to lists of groups who might be interested. We also are in the process of designing a new membership brochure.

We have Friends volunteers working in the Texas Room and in the Houston Metropolitan Research Center archives. The first group to work in the archives was trained by former HMRC Archivist, Louis J. Marchiafava. They have been assigned to process the papers of former City Councilman Jim Westmoreland. This is a significant and extensive collection which will be very useful to researchers when the processing is finished. More volunteers are needed. If you would like to be trained as a regular volunteer, please call Ann Sloan at (713) 869-6671.

Two more archivists have been added to the staff of the HMRC. Dennis Moser has been hired at the Archivist II level, and Laura Finger has been hired at the Archivist I level. They are processing collections, working in reference, and recently have helped mount the current exhibit highlighting major Houston archival collections.

Those who attended the July membership meeting in the Julia Ideson Building had a great treat. Will Howard put together a spectacular exhibit just for us to demonstrate the breadth and depth of the Texas Room/HMRC collections. Among the items on display were the Sansom map entitled "Le Nouveau Mexique et La Floride" dated 1656, showing California as an island; an original copy of *The Red Book of Houston: A Compendium of Social Professional, Religious, Educational, and Industrial Interests of Houston's Colored Population* dated approximately 1915; an original copy of *Philip Dru, Administrator: A Story of Tomorrow, 1920-1935*, a pseudonymous novel by native Houstonian and confidant to President Woodrow Wilson, Edward Mandell House, 1912, which explores a wide range of radical ideas, including social security and unemployment insurance; a program intended to be used at a reception honoring President John F. Kennedy on the evening of his assassination; and twenty years of the Houston Police Department's crime statistics. We are most grateful to Will for the time and thought that he put in to this wonderful sampling of the materials which we are working so hard to preserve.

Finally, I want to thank Trevia Wooster Beverly for the extraordinary effort which she put in to launching the newsletter over the past year. She has brought us to where we are today, and now she is passing the torch to Sandra Lord who begins publishing the newsletter with this issue.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES, FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM, JULY 19, 2003

Friends of the Texas Room met July 19, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in the Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room of the Houston Public Library's Julia Ideson Building with 24 in attendance. President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

The president reported that we currently have 118 members and that volunteers have begun working in the Texas Room. In August Dr. Louis Marchiafava will train four volunteers to process archival materials. Betty Chapman, chair of the History Committee for the library's centennial observance in 2004, announced that an exhibit on the Julia Ideson Building will be installed in the building in January and asked that anyone interested in working on that to contact her. Anne Sloan, Volunteer Coordinator for the Texas Room, reported that additional volunteers were still needed. All volunteers were reminded that they must be interviewed by Marlana Mitchell, Houston Public Library Volunteer Coordinator. Free parking will be provided for volunteers, although we have been informed that the library's parking system will soon change to automated machines.

After a discussion, it was decided that the Newsletter will continue to be sent by both email and postal mail, depending on the recipient's preference. It was pointed out that emailing is certainly more cost effective, but a postcard will be mailed prior to the next quarterly meeting to ensure that all members receive notice of the meeting date. Dorothy Johnson, Membership Chair, reported that membership forms had been placed at Clayton Library.

Nancy Burch was introduced as the Parliamentarian, having been appointed by the President. The minutes of the April 29 membership meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter. Treasurer Marks Hinton gave a financial report, stating that we currently have a balance of \$3798 in our account, which was opened at Bank of Texas at Tanglewood. He added that we were able to secure an account requiring no fees. Marks presented the proposed budgets for the next three years-a requirement of the IRS in filing for our tax-exempt status. The president reiterated that no funds will be given directly to the Houston Public Library, but that we will supply them with services and goods obtained with our funds.

Plans for future meetings were discussed. It was decided that we will hold two weeknight meetings and two Saturday meetings. Montrose and Jungman libraries were mentioned as possible Saturday locations. Elizabeth Whitlow indicated that The Heritage Society facility would continue to be available at night. October 25 was discussed as a tentative date for the next meeting.

Vernon Gillette has offered to maintain a website for us if we can use the Houston Public Library as our host site. He will investigate this possibility.

The business session was adjourned and the president introduced Will Howard, Assistant Manager of the Texas and Local History Department, who conducted a tour through the building that included several stations at which a variety of materials were on display. The tour ended in the Texas Room where members were able to remain and pursue their individual areas of interest.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty T. Chapman, Secretary

BOARD PROFILE: JAMES L. GLASS

Jim Glass is a native Houstonian who brings strong credentials to the Board in the arts, humanities, and history. After graduating from The Kinkaid School, he pursued studies at the Ecole du Louvre, Mexico City College, the Feather & Feather School of Design, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's School of Art. He graduated from the University of Houston with Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a minor in art history.

He has served on the boards of directors of the Contemporary Arts Museum and various design and arts organizations, and was chairman and member of the Houston Municipal Arts Commission, where he was responsible for publishing a report on "Public Art in Private Spaces." Jim is a founder, past president, and first Fellow of the international Society for Environmental Graphic Design, based in Washington, D.C. Among other service, he devoted many years to the boards of the Alliance Francaise de Houston, the Armand Bayou Nature Center, the Museum of Printing History, the Harris County Heritage Society, and the Friends of the Houston Public Library.

Glass is co-founder and member of the Kelvin Group, a mini-colony of creative professionals who have operated out of special-purpose studios in southwest Houston since 1960. He is married to Gail Maurice; they have five children.

Glass's interest in local history started when he was asked to design an exhibition of Houston history for a local bank in 1978. He became so interested in handling 19th-century artifacts that he began to research Houston's founding

years with a cutoff date of December 1837. He has also consulted with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and with local television stations and newspapers to provide backgrounders for media reports. He recently designed a widely-acclaimed exhibition entitled The Austin Colony, 1821-1836 for the Brazoria County Historical Museum. He is a life member of the Harris County Historical Society and has been appointed to the Harris County Historical Commission.

Jim has published many articles in publications of Entex, Division of Arkla; the American Title Company; the French-American Chamber of Commerce; and in scholarly journals representing history, cartography, folklore, and archaeology. For the last three years, he has been adapting his voluminous research for a book on the founding of Houston and Harris County from the 1820s through December 1837.

NOTE: James Glass will be the speaker at FTR's October 25 meeting. He will present a status report on his forthcoming book and give a preview of a section of the "Lost Ports of Houston," both maritime and overland, illustrated by several maps and drawings that result from his unique career as artist, cartographer, and avocational historian. After his presentation, Jim will welcome questions from the membership about Houston's first years.

Of special interest to our readers: We have Jim to thank for the design of the new logo for the Friends of the Texas Room.

AREA ARCHIVES ON DISPLAY AT THE IDESON BUILDING

The October display at the Ideson Building should be of special interest to our members. Archives: Houston's Best-Kept Secret -- An Exhibit of the Archives of the Houston Area is sponsored by the Archivists of the Houston Area.

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 - George Werner

Secretary - Betty Chapman

Treasurer - Marks Hinton

Board members-at-large: Jim Glass, Marvin Rich, Anne Sloan, Elizabeth Whitlow

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the address below:

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 sent to the Texas Room Dispatch Editor at the address below.

Sandra Lord
Texas Room Dispatch Editor
P. O. Box 230183
Houston, Texas 77223-0183
(713) 222-9255 * Fax: (713) 921-1510
Email: SandraSLord@aol.com

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 below can be emailed to your prospects or photocopied and faxed or mailed to prospective members.

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: _____

Volunteer Interests:

Please circle items below if you would like to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

Collections Volunteer: Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research activities.

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:
