

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Begin promotion: March 30, 2009
Kill date: June 5, 2009



BRAZOS VALLEY
MUSEUM of Natural
History

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The Shogun Age in Japan, 1603-1853
and
The Brogdon Hotei
at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History
April 6-June 5, 2009

Opening Reception, Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 5 PM

BRYAN, TX --- The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History announces the upcoming exhibitions ***The Shogun Age in Japan, 1603-1853*** and ***The Brogdon Hotei***, on display concurrently from April 6 to June 5, 2009. The community is invited to attend the opening reception for these exhibits at 5 pm on Thursday, April 16, at the Museum. This event offers visitors a chance to preview the exhibit, enjoy the Museum's permanent displays, and sample an array of snacks and beverages – at no cost!

Organized and managed by Humanities Texas, the regional branch of the National Endowment for the Humanities, ***The Shogun Age in Japan, 1603-1853***, is a statewide touring exhibition featuring text panels that demonstrate the exotic splendor of feudal Japan's shogun warrior tradition. For over 250 years, between 1603 and 1868, the island nation of Japan was a closed society, remote, exotic and mysterious. The military shogun, or chief warlord, ruled over this society, imposing order and unity. The images and text panels featured in the touring portion of this exhibit will be augmented with materials on loan from private collections, including a Japanese bronze Samurai warrior statuette and an assortment of authentic Samurai swords.

To accompany the Shogun display, the Museum will exhibit one of its exquisite permanent collections, ***The Brogdon Hotei***. Donated to the Museum by lifelong collector Aline Brogdon, the Museum's 150 Hotei are a stunning assemblage of statuettes fashioned of diverse and often exotic

materials like soapstone, lapis, and onyx. Hotei is one of the *Shichifukujin*, the seven Japanese gods of good fortune. Often depicted in artwork featuring a large belly and contented expression, the Hotei has been an important aspect of Japanese culture for over 100 years. The display of this collection offers the Museum visitor unique access to the culture and ideology of the Japanese people, offering a revealing artistic counterpoint to the warrior culture represented in the Shogun exhibit.

Admission to these exhibits and the Museum's permanent galleries is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children 4-17, students, and seniors. Children 3 and under are free. The Museum, located in the Brazos Center on Briarcrest Drive, is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm.

These presentations were made possible, in part, with a grant from the Arts Council of Brazos Valley. For additional information about this and other Museum events and exhibits, call 979.776.2195 or visit our website at www.brazosvalleymuseum.org.

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