



Bullock Texas State History Museum

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MEDIA Images and Assets: <http://bit.ly/CollectorsGallery>

About the Exhibition:

Collectors' Gallery featuring the J. P. Bryan Collection through June 25, 2016

The Bullock Texas State History Museum has opened a new Collectors' Gallery that will showcase a rotating selection of significant artifacts from Texas collections. First to be featured is the Bryan Collection, owned by J. P. Bryan. One of the world's largest collections of historical artifacts, documents, and artwork relating to Texas and the American West and spanning more than 12,000 years.

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01. Title Wall – The Bullock Museum has launched a new Collectors' Gallery on the second floor of its downtown Austin location. The gallery space will feature rotating special exhibitions highlighting private collectors by displaying select artifacts from their collections.

02. J. P. Bryan – The first collection featured in the new gallery is that of J. P. Bryan, founder and chairman of Torch Energy Advisors and avid collector of significant Texas artifacts, many of which are housed at the Bryan Museum in Galveston.

03. Artworks – With approximately 70,000 items in total, the Bryan Collection includes 20,000 rare books, more than 30,000 documents in Spanish, German, French, and English, three dozen saddles, over 250 antique firearms, several hundred spurs, exceedingly rare maps, the works of Texas craftsmen, and a large collection of fine art, religious art, and folk art.

04. Spurs – On view at the Bullock Museum is a selection of spurs from the Bryan Collection dating from the 1600s to the 1900s showing an evolution of styles from numerous countries. Bryan's spur collection includes approximately 900 spurs from the 13th century to the present.

05. Saddle – A Mother Hubbard-style saddle by Charles S. Harmon (c. 1940) is featured in the Collectors' Gallery. Harmon was a farmer in east Texas when his hobby of fixing saddles grew into a full-time business. He opened a saddle shop in Chambers County in 1896 and quickly became the preferred saddle maker for Southeast Texas cattlemen. The "mother hubbard" style saddle first appeared during the 1860s. Originally a smaller, lighter version of the saddle seen here, it evolved into the favored saddle of early 20th century cowboys and ranch riders. Saddles made by Harmon in particular were valued for their comfort, custom rigging, and durability.

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