



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

For Release: Immediate

For Information Contact:

Becky E. Adamietz – 817-255-9411

817-980-0688 – cell

badamietz@fwmslh.org

NEWS RELEASE

July 31, 2009

**Fort Worth Museum of Science and History To Exhibit
Gordon W. Smith North American Indian Collection**

Through cooperative sharing program with Houston Museum of Natural Science

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History will exhibit artifacts from the Gordon W. Smith North American Indian Collection through a cooperative sharing program with the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The Houston Museum recently acquired the Collection with support from the Lillie and Roy Cullen Endowment Fund. The Fort Worth Museum will open a special exhibition featuring highlights from the Smith Collection when its new building opens in late November 2009.

“The Museum of Science and History is honored that Gordon has chosen to share his unique collection of Native American artifacts with us,” said Museum President Van A. Romans. “He is a good friend of the Museum and was an active member of our Board of Trustees during two consecutive terms. We are quite pleased to have this important partnership with the Houston Museum of Natural Science that adds a vital historic component to our role as a significant Science and History museum,” Romans added.

This nationally-significant collection of more than 600 objects comprises a wide range of artifacts of the material culture of all the major North American Indian groups, including dozens

more

Gordon W. Smith North American Indian Collection
add one

of examples of beautifully hand-crafted American Indian necklaces and stunning examples of American Indian clothing. Items range from beaded dresses and vests, to beaded moccasins from the far corners of the country, weapons, musical instruments, and important examples of basketry and pottery of the Southwest.

“It has been of the utmost importance to my father and our family to have a significant ongoing presence for his collection in Fort Worth, where he was born and has lived his entire life,” said Dee Smith. “We are extremely gratified that we can continue our long family relationship with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History through the collection sharing arrangement – and that the citizens of two great Texas cities will be able to experience the collection on a continuing basis.”

Gordon Smith began his collection of beautiful and fascinating American Indian artifacts in the 1920s. He had a unique relationship with several American Indian tribes. These friendships drove his collection, as each visit brought more gifts and a sense that these amazing relics should be preserved. Artifacts include a leather rattler given to Smith at the age of five – the very first piece he acquired; striking, painted story bison skins of the Sioux; exquisite War Bonnets, created by members of the Lakota and Northern Cheyenne Indian nations.