

【Exhibition from the Collections】

Shibusawa Eiichi and Ex-Bakufu Officials

150 years since Eiichi became a retainer of the Hitotsubashi family comes a look at the network of ex-bakufu officials that survived long past the Meiji Restoration

From June 14 to September 7, 2014, the Shibusawa Memorial Museum will hold a special exhibition of items from its collections, entitled “Shibusawa Eiichi and Ex-Bakufu Officials.” The exhibition marks 150 years since Shibusawa Eiichi became a retainer of the Hitotsubashi family in 1864. Thereafter Hitotsubashi Yoshinobu became what was to be the last Tokugawa shogun, Eiichi became a retainer of the bakufu, and then the Meiji Restoration ended the bakufu.

Eiichi became friends with many ex-bakufu officials including other bakufu retainers and their younger family members. Among them were those who had overseas experience and advanced skill-sets as well as many who had extensive practical experience. Thus, even after the Meiji Restoration and the overthrow of the bakufu, Eiichi cooperated with or offered employment to many of them in the establishment and promotion of banks and other companies, in public sector diplomacy, in education and social welfare, in public works projects, and in other ways and means in the course of his career building the foundations of the modern Japanese economy.

This exhibition will showcase the connections between Eiichi and other ex-bakufu officials and retainers in addition to examining Eiichi’s thoughts on his role as an ex-bakufu retainer through various documents and materials from the collections of the Shibusawa Memorial Museum.

“Shibusawa Eiichi and Ex-Bakufu Officials”

Organized by:	Shibusawa Memorial Museum
Dates:	Saturday, June 14 – Sunday, September 7, 2014
Hours:	10:00 – 17:00 (last entry by 16:30)
Closed:	Mondays (except for July 21) and Tuesday, July 22
Venue:	Special Exhibition Hall, Shibusawa Memorial Museum (2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo)
Admission:	Adults 300 yen, children (up to 18 years) 100 yen Group rates and other discounts available

Exhibition Outline:

- Prologue
- Chapter 1 – Eiichi’s Connections with Other Ex-Bakufu Officials
- Chapter 2 – Within the Meiji Government
- Chapter 3 – In Relation to Various Projects
- Epilogue – Eiichi as an Ex-Bakufu Retainer

Items to be Exhibited (Proposed)

- Letter from ex-bakufu retainer Fukuchi Gen’ichiro to Shibusawa Eiichi (29th day of the 1st month, 1871)
- Calligraphy sent to Shibusawa Eiichi by Tokugawa Yoshinobu (“Seisha ten no michi nari” by Tokugawa Nariaki)
- Documents related to the Shizuoka Education Society established with the goal of encouraging the younger relatives of ex-bakufu officials retainers to study (early Taisho period)