

GROUNDBREAKING
When archaeologists
began excavating the
burial site, many of the
figures were broken
into dozens of pieces.

WHAT LIES BENEATH He may not have reigned for very long, but, boy, did China's first emperor make a lasting impression. After uniting the country in 221 BC, ending an era known as the "Warring States," Qin Shi Huang went on to establish uniform systems for currency, writing, and weights and measures. He's also credited with constructing the first Great Wall of China. Not content to simply rule a powerful empire in life, however, Qin Shi Huang created a massive underground burial complex guarded by an army of 8,000 larger-than-life terra-cotta sculptures. Opening this month at The Field Museum, *China's First Emperor and His Terracotta Warriors* showcases this significant archaeological discovery, which lay buried until 1974, when a farmer digging a well discovered it. Featuring more than 170 objects, including 10 of the famed terra-cotta figures, bronze artifacts and weaponry, the exhibition offers a glimpse into the life and death of one of world's great emperors. *March 4-Jan. 8, 2017, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, 312.922.9410, fieldmuseum.org –Lisa Shames*