Japanese Print Virtual Tour

Japanese Print Virtual Tour: Fighting the Evil of Smallpox

The current exhibit in the First Floor Gallery of the Kalmanovitz Library, Fighting the Evil of Smallpox, opened on February 14th, 2005. The seventeen Japanese woodblock prints represent the work of several masters of the ukiyo-e genre and range from the early to late 19th century.

The dominant theme of this exhibit is one which is prominent throughout the collection, the recurring epidemics of smallpox in Japan. One print also deals with the sister scourge, cholera. The prints depict the various efforts to deal with the epidemics and include massive hygienic endeavors and appeals to the gods to ward off the disease. Both efforts are frequently depicted as battles between good and evil.

Printer: Utagawa, Yoshikazu, fl. 1848-1863
Date: 1858