

## Room 6: Calligraphy

### Ancient Records of Hōryūji Temple

#### **N-18: Record of Hōryūji and Biography of Prince Shōtoku (*Kokon mokurokushō*)**

A monk at Hōryūji Temple, named Kenshin, compiled this record in two volumes in the first half of the 13th century. The scrolls contain legends and records pertaining to the life of Prince Shōtoku (693–622) and the history of Hōryūji Temple.

#### **N-21: Records of the Head Administrators of Hōryūji Temple (*Bettōki*)**

This record, which consists of three volumes in total, concerns administrators posted at Hōryūji Temple. It records the names of these administrators and important events that occurred during their tenures.

#### **N-22: Records of the Functions and Events at Hōryūji between 1305 and 1364 (*Kagenki*)**

This record was maintained by the monks at Hōryūji Temple from 1305 to 1364. It focuses on matters pertaining to building administration and annual functions.

## Room 6: Textiles

### A Banner Head Made of Interlaced Cords and Colorful Banner Legs

Ritual banners called *ban* were used to ornament Buddhist temples. These banners each have three parts: the top, middle, and bottom, which are called the “head,” “body,” and “legs,” respectively. The current exhibition presents the *Banner Head with Arrowhead Pattern* along with colorful banner legs. In a painting called *Prince Shōtoku with Two Attendants*, owned by the Imperial Family, Prince Shōtoku (574–622) is wearing a sash made of interlaced cords similar to the ones on display, making these cords a valuable reference for the study of ancient clothing. Banner legs in different colors are also on display to highlight the colorful world of ancient textiles.

#### **N-28-1 : Banner Head with Clouds, Vines, and Lions; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

This is called a banner head, as it is the upper section of a silk ritual banner. The patterns include vine-like clouds and imposing Chinese lions facing each other, each raising a front leg.

#### **N-50-2: Banner Head with Chevron Pattern; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

This section of a banner head was made by combining thin cords of different colors into a symmetrical chevron pattern. These kinds of cords were often used to make sashes. A sash with similar pattern is depicted in *Prince Shōtoku with Two Attendants*, a portrait of Prince Shōtoku (574–622) owned by the Imperial Family.



Detail of sash from the painting *Prince Shotoku with Two Attendants*

#### **N-311: Fragment of Banner Leg with Grape Vines; Nara period, 8th century**

These fragments were originally part of the bottom section of a ritual banner. A twill-weave pattern of scrolling vines and grapes is woven into a vibrant red ground.

#### **N-319-74-2 : Fragment of Banner Leg with Nested Diamonds; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

This twill-weave textile has a pattern of nested diamonds. Many early textiles are twill-weave fabrics

featuring geometric patterns like this one.

**N-319-39-1: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

This banner fragment was dyed using indigo.

**N-319-39-2: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

This silk cloth is unusual for the special type of weaving, which uses threads that had been firmly twisted. Among the textiles passed down at the Hōryūji Temple, few similar examples have survived to present day.

**N-319-39-3: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

Green dyes did not exist when this textile was made. Instead, the cloth was first dyed yellow with pigment extracted from the bark of the Amur cork tree or a type of grass, and then dyed blue with indigo.

**N-319-39-4: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

The gentle coloring of this fragment is quite rare as most ancient textiles were dyed in vibrant primary colors.

**N-319-39-5: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

This textile is worn with age but still retains its vibrant color as though it were dyed recently.

**N-319-39-6: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

This fragment retains its original shape to a remarkable degree. The left and right sides have double-fold hems.

**N-319-42-1: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

Yellow banners were most likely displayed for forty-nine days to pray for the repose of deceased individuals.

**N-319-71-2: Fragment of Banner Leg; Asuka–Nara period, 7th–8th century**

Please refer to the description for work N-319-39-1.