

Room 4: Decorative Arts of the Early Modern Period

N-64: Storage box for the *Five Vidyarajas*

N-13: Storage box for the *Bonmo kyo (Sutra of Brahma's Net)*

In order to raise funds for the repair of buildings at Hōryūji, some of the temple's treasures were transported from Nara to Edo (present-day Tokyo) and exhibited at Ekō-in Temple in 1694. On this occasion, Keishōin, the mother of the fifth Tokugawa shogun, Tsunayoshi, donated black-lacquered storage boxes for these treasures. The boxes are ornamented in gold powder (*maki-e*) with the triple hollyhock crest of the Tokugawa clan and the nine linked diamonds that form the crest of Keishōin's family, the Honjō clan.

N-299, 296, 297: *Suebako* (Boxes for Ceremonial Vestments, Implements, Documents, etc.)

During Buddhist lectures or rituals, a monk would place a special box, like these boxes, on a low table by his side. The box held ritual implements, robes, and texts related to the ritual to be performed. These boxes are made of wood with gilt-bronze plating. The box N-299 has gold dharma wheels affixed to its side and is inscribed with the date Kan'ei 5 (1628).

N-131: *Gosho* Doll

This type of doll, which depicts a child with a large, round face, became popular among court nobles in Kyoto beginning in the Kyōhō era (1716–34). This doll is dressed in an embroidered, silk-crepe red apron and wears a gold crown decorated with red peonies. In his right hand, he grasps a military fan for signaling troops on the battlefield. His left leg is curled under him and his right is flung in front of him in a pose known as “madness.” Taken together with his crown and military fan, the doll is seen to embody a spirit of conquest. This doll was supposedly given as an offering to the Buddha Yakushi enshrined at the Saiendō Hall of Hōryūji Temple by the Sentō Imperial Palace during the Bunka era (1804–18).