

## Room Four: Buddhist Implements

### N-242 Stupa-Shaped Reliquary

According to a record left by one of the monks at Hōryū-ji Temple, this reliquary was repaired in 1138. It may have been created at the end of the 11th century or the beginning of the 12th century.

### N-71 Sutra Box with Marquetry Decoration

This lidded box is decorated inside and out in marquetry (wooden inlay) made from aromatic wood that was traditionally used for incense. Allegedly, the box once contained the eight scrolls that comprise the *Lotus Sutra* (N-12) in the Collection of Hōryū-ji Treasures.

### N-300 Box

This box is woven from arrowroot bark and was dyed red using brazilin, a pigment obtained from the tropical sappanwood tree. It was then coated in lacquer and once had a lid, though it is lost now. The box is believed to have been used to store *Kesa* (*Priest's Robe*) (N-35).

### N-279 Bowl

Unlike regular lacquerware, in which the surface is built up in layers of lacquer, layers of cloth were repeatedly pressed against a mold and affixed with lacquer to shape this bowl, a bit like papier-mâché. Called “dry lacquer,” this technique was also frequently used to make Buddhist statues during the 8th century.

### N-278 Bowl

A lathe was used to shape this wooden bowl. Layers of cloth were then applied with a glue-like adhesive to build up its surface. The cloth was then coated in lacquer. According to temple legends, this bowl belonged to the Indian monk Bodhidharma.

### N-284 Scepter

Scepters like this were held by monks when giving sermons and were used as ritual implements to evoke an air of dignity. Scepters during the 8th century typically had smaller heads that came to be fashioned into cloud shapes later on.

### N-241-1 Hyakumantō (One Million Miniature Memorial Pagodas)

Following an uprising led by Fujiwara no Nakamaro in 764, Empress Shōtoku (reigning from 764 to 770) had one million of these three-tiered miniature wooden stupas made and distributed to temples. The act was an expression of her prayers for national stability and eradication of sin. The *One Million Pagodas and Dharani Prayers* are the world's oldest printed materials with a known creation date. They were once contained in the cylindrical holes in the upper sections of these stupas, though all the texts were lost from the forty-eight stupas in the Collection of Hōryū-ji Treasures.