

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 Temple, some of the temple's treasures were transported from Nara to Edo (now Tokyo) and exhibited at Ekōin 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 boxes held ritual implements, robes, and texts related to the ritual to be performed. These boxes are made of wood and decorated with gilt-bronze plating. The box N-299 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 from the early 18th century. It was supposedly given as an offering to the Buddha Mine-no-Yakushi enshrined at the Saiendō Hall of Hōryūji Temple by the Sento Imperial Palace at the beginning of the 19th century.

N-100 Inro (Medicine case) Dragonfly and mantis design in *maki-e*.

N-101 Inro (Medicine case) With auspicious character design in *maki-e*

An *inro* is a portable medicine case that is suspended from the *obi* (sash) worn around the waist when wearing a kimono. One these two *inro* is decorated with a dragonfly and another insect, while the other one is adorned with the auspicious Chinese character for "longevity" in different scripts, both using the *maki-e* lacquering technique. *Inro* gradually became more ornamental with the passing of time.