

## Room 4: Arms and Armor

### N-133: Bow

This bow was made by stripping the bark from a thin cherry birch tree, then coated with lacquer. The temple legends record that Prince Shōtoku used this bow and the arrows (N-134, N-135, N-136) in a battle against a rebelling clan leader, Mononobe no Moriya. The legend was compiled by the first half of the 12th century.

### N-134: Arrow with Sound-Making Device (*Kabura*)

This type of arrow is called a *kabura* arrow, after the bulb (*kabura*) just below the large triangular arrowhead. The animal-horn bulb is perforated with six holes, and makes a loud sound when the arrow is fired. The arrow nock, which holds the arrow steady on the bowstring, was carved from an animal tooth. The bamboo shaft is coated with a thin layer of lacquer.

### N-135: Arrow

Arrows called *itatsuki* were used for practice. This example has a pestle-shaped attachment on its tip that is 1.6 cm in diameter and is made from animal horn. A chisel-shaped arrowhead was inserted into the deep notch in the tip.

### N-136: Arrows

All five arrows have the same shape, with small, triangular arrowheads. Both ends of the shafts are coated in black lacquer sprinkled with gold powder. The ends of the shafts have faint traces where three feathers were once attached as fletchings.

### N-139, N-140: Stirrups, with heart-shaped horse ornaments with buckles

These are iron stirrups that may have originally been coated with lacquer. These stirrups would have been attached to the saddle to place the foot to get on a horse. The heart-shaped ornaments might have been used in combination with the stirrups and harness.

### N-141: Saw

This crosscut saw has teeth that splay out slightly to the sides. It is uncertain whether this saw was meant for practical or ritual use. Together with one of the sickles in the collection (N-142), it is one of the oldest tools of its kind to be passed down to the present day.

### N-142: Sickle

This sickle is shaped like a crescent moon. The temple legends suggest that Prince Shōtoku used it during the construction of Hōryūji, and a similar sickle is attached to the finial of the temple's five-story pagoda and serves as a lightning rod. This sickle too might have served a role in the construction of Hōryūji.

**N-137: Quiver with Painted Decoration**

This is a quiver into which arrows were inserted with the heads pointing down. Although most of the pigment has peeled off, this quiver was originally decorated with floral motifs in brilliant colors. According to the temple legends, the quiver once held the arrows in this collection (N-134, N-135, N-136).