

Room 4: Decorative Arts of the Early Modern Period

N-130: Jewel-Shaped Railing Post Finial

This jewel-shaped ornament was originally attached to the top of railing post. The jewel flares out and then tapers into a point. The inscription between the nail holes mentions the date of production, donor, and place of use at Hōryūji Temple, giving this piece historical and cultural significance.

N-93: Toiletry Case with Cartwheels in Stream

This is an Edo-period (1603–1868) reproduction of a similar box originally made in the Heian period (794–1192). However, the design and the decoration techniques are slightly different. The original case was likely made as a storage box for sutras, rather than a toiletry case.

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

N-13: Storage Box for the *Sutra of Brahma's Net*

Some of Hōryūji Temple's treasures were transported from Nara to Edo (present-day 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 decorated with gold powder, with the wild-ginger crest of the Tokugawa clan and the nine-diamond crest of Keishōin's family.

N-299 • 298: Boxes for Ceremonial Vestments, Implements, Documents, etc.

During Buddhist lectures or rituals, a monk places a special box—similar to one of these boxes—on a low table by his side. The box holds ritual tools, robes, and texts related to the ritual. The boxes here are made of wood with gilt-bronze plating. The box N-299 is inscribed with the date 1628.

N-293: Vase

It is said that this item, along with the flower stand (N-295), was passed down from the Imperial Palace to Hōryūji Temple's West Round Hall in the early 19th century. Some features of this vase, such as the tortoise-shaped handles, represent a unique adaptation of ancient Chinese bronze vessels.

N-295: Stand for Vase

This hexagonal stand is made of mulberry wood. The sides are also perforated with hexagonal patterns. This piece, along with the vase (N-293) and other items, was likely passed down from the Imperial Palace to Hōryūji Temple's West Round Hall in the early 19th century.

N-131: *Gosho* Doll

Gosho dolls represent naked children with a large, round faces. They became popular among court nobles in Kyoto around the early 1700s. This doll was probably given as an offering to the Buddha Yakushi, enshrined at the West Round Hall of Hōryūji Temple by the Imperial Palace in the early 1800s.

N-100: *Inrō* with Fireflies and Mantis

N-101: *Inrō* with the Character *Ju*

An *inrō* is a small medicine case that is hung from one's sash when wearing a kimono. These *inrō* are decorated with insects and the character for *kotobuki* (meaning “good fortune” and “longevity” in Japanese), respectively, using the *maki-e* technique. *Inrō* became more decorative with time.