

**Room 6: Calligraphy**  
***Record of Hōryūji and Biography of Prince Shōtoku and Poem Anthology:***  
**Rōei Yōshū**

**N-18: Record of Hōryūji and Biography of Prince Shōtoku**

During the first half of the thirteenth century, the Hōryūji monk Kenshin compiled this secret legends of Prince Shōtoku and the history of Hōryūji Temple in two volumes. In the first volume, Kenshin writes about secret anecdotes on the temple and Prince Shōtoku's biography that his master Ryūsen passed onto him. In the second volume, he records the biography of Prince Shōtoku's attendant named Chōshimaro, from whom he claims to directly descend himself. There are many traces of additions and revisions Kenshin made throughout these two volumes.

**N-20: Poem Anthology: *Rōei Yōshū***

This anthology comprises 70 poems, including ones from the *Wakan rōeishū* poetry anthology, which was compiled by the aristocrat Fujiwara no Kinto. The Chinese writing is supplemented with Japanese characters to facilitate reading.

## **Room 6: Textiles**

### **Kanton Twill Banners and Various “Banner Legs”**

This room currently features banners dyed in a wide variety of colors, with a focus on Kanton twill banners. These works give a glimpse into the rich colors that adorned temples in ancient Japan.

#### **N-304-1: Fragment of Kanton-*ban* (Buddhist Ritual Banner)**

In ancient times, this banner was used in ceremonies at Hōryūji Temple. Banners of this kind decorated ritual spaces and were often displayed inside and outside the halls of the temple complex. The top section (*tsubo*) of this banner is made of a plain-weave fabric with vertical geometric designs known as Kanton fabric.

#### **N-308: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*)**

This is a fragment of a banner made of plain silk dyed in various colors. It is a valuable example because it has retained almost the original proportions. It is rare among the Hōryūji collection of textiles, which mainly consists of partial fragments.

#### **N-319-19-1: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): “Banner Leg” with Pairs of Dragons, Vines, and Four-Petal Flowers in Circles**

This fragment of a “banner leg” made of twill is decorated with large circles. Inside each of these circles, fierce winding dragons facing one another can be seen, while the outside is adorned with vines and fine floral patterns.

#### **N-319-47-4: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): “Banner Leg” with Geometric Patterns**

This fragment of a twill “banner leg,” with a design of arrows woven into the yellow ground, is thought to be among the oldest works in the Hōryūji textile collection, because geometric patterns such as arrows are simple and relatively easy to weave on twill.

#### **N-319-61-3: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): “Banner Leg”**

#### **N-319-97: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): “Banner Leg”**

The rich, bright red of these “banner legs” has remained exceptionally vivid after a period of over 1300 years.

#### **N-319-90: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): “Banner Leg” with Turtles, Floral Vines, and Linked Hexagons**

This “banner leg” is adorned with a design of turtles and floral vines inside a hexagonal pattern.

Similar design is found on a bodhisattva sculpture (Northern Wei–Sui dynasty, second half of the 6th century) excavated at the Longxingsi Temple site in China's Shandong Province.

**N-319-100-1: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): "Banner Leg"**

**N-319-129-2: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): "Banner Leg"**

These fragments of "banner legs" dyed in dark blue are so well preserved that they still look as if they were dyed yesterday.

**N-319-114-2: Fragment of Buddhist Ritual Banner (*Ban*): "Banner Leg" with Linked Hexagons**

This twill fragment of a "banner leg" is decorated with a complex hexagonal design. The color is now light brown, but it is thought to have originally been light red.