The transoms (*ranma*) above the doors were carved by Osakabe Saemon Kunitsugu (dates unknown), a renowned artisan from Negoro (in present-day Wakayama Prefecture). His assistants did portions of the work, and the carvings become more refined toward the southwestern end of the hallway, which was used by the Date lords and their families. The names of the artists were found written on a doorframe in black ink during an extensive restoration of the building that began in 2008. Based on evidence found during the renovation, researchers now believe that color was added to thecarvings after the temple’s completion.