**National Treasure Hall**

**Statue of Hibakara**

**National Treasure**

Hibakara wears armor like most of the other figures in the set of Eight Kinds of Mythological Beings, but unlike the others it does not have a boyish face. Instead, it has a full beard.

Hibakara is associated with a class of beings from Hindu mythology referred to as *mahoraga*, which are sometimes described as snakes, or musicians with snakelike attributes. In Japanese Buddhism, the name Hibakara is unique to Kofukuji and is more commonly called *magoraga*.

This work is dated to 734 and was made by the hollow-core dry-lacquer sculpting technique.