**Timber Sled**

Sleds like this were used to haul timber through snowy areas for the reconstruction of Higashi Honganji in the late nineteenth century. The diorama next to the sled depicts a tragic accident that occurred in 1883 in what is now Niigata Prefecture, on the Sea of Japan coast. A local congregation was transporting a huge tree to be donated to the reconstruction effort through a mountain pass when an avalanche struck the procession. Twenty-seven people lost their lives, mostly elderly people and children who were unable to escape.