

Sorinto, Buddhist stupa

This tower is in the form of the finial typically found on the roof of a pagoda. It was constructed by the monk Tenkai (1536–1643), the chief priest of the Nikkōsan temple complex in the early 1600's when the Toshogu Shrine was built. The Sorinto houses a collection of Buddhist sutras and has great religious significance. The nine rings represent the five Wisdom Nyorai Buddhas and the four Bodhisattvas.

The design for this monument was inspired by Saichō (767–822), the founder of the Japanese Tendai sect of Buddhism. He had six such finials built across the country to provide Japan with the divine protection of the Buddhist Law. Tenkai built this finial to protect eastern Japan, to ward off evil spirits, and to maintain peace within the realm.