

### **Treasure House**

The Treasure House is the repository for approximately 30,000 artifacts dating back 1,250 years, including one National Treasure (a group of 59 handscrolls), 51 Important Cultural Properties, and seven Important Art Objects. The gallery holds regular exhibits of about 50 artifacts at a time, in addition to special exhibitions. The Treasure House was built in 1984 on the site of the former Honbō, which was the abbot's residence and the main administrative quarters of the temple.

### **Fūjin and Raijin**

Fūjin, the wind god, and Raijin, the thunder god, are siblings and usually depicted as a pair. They are thought to protect Senju Kannon and to cause, as well as protect against, storms and disease. These statues are from the seventeenth century. They originally stood in the bays of the Yōmeimon Gate of Tōshōgū Shrine and later in the Nitenmon Gate of the Taiyūin Mausoleum.

### **Senju Kannon (Important Cultural Property)**

Senju Kannon (Thousand-Armed Bodhisattva of Compassion) is one of the three main deities venerated at Rinnōji and is said to be incarnate in the form of Mt. Nantai. This image is thought to have been the Buddhist half of a Shinto-Buddhist pair, and it may have been the reverse side of a mirror. It was cast from a copper alloy in the twelfth century. The design of trailing vines and chrysanthemums was common on mirrors from that time but was rarely incorporated into the halo of light which surrounds a Buddhist deity as it is here.

### **Shōyōen Garden**

This garden dates from the early seventeenth century. It was originally part of the Honbō, or abbot's quarters, when Rinnōji's abbots were imperial princes. The pond was designed to evoke Lake Biwa, northeast of Kyoto. It would have presented a familiar sight for the abbot and monks of Rinnōji, since Lake Biwa is near Mt. Hiei, which is the location of Enryakuji, head temple of the Tendai school of Buddhism. The design incorporates views of Mt. Nakimushi to the south, Mt. Nantai to the west, and Mt. Nyohō and Mt. Akanagi to the north. After a major renovation in 1815, the garden underwent further renovations in the Meiji era (1868–1912).