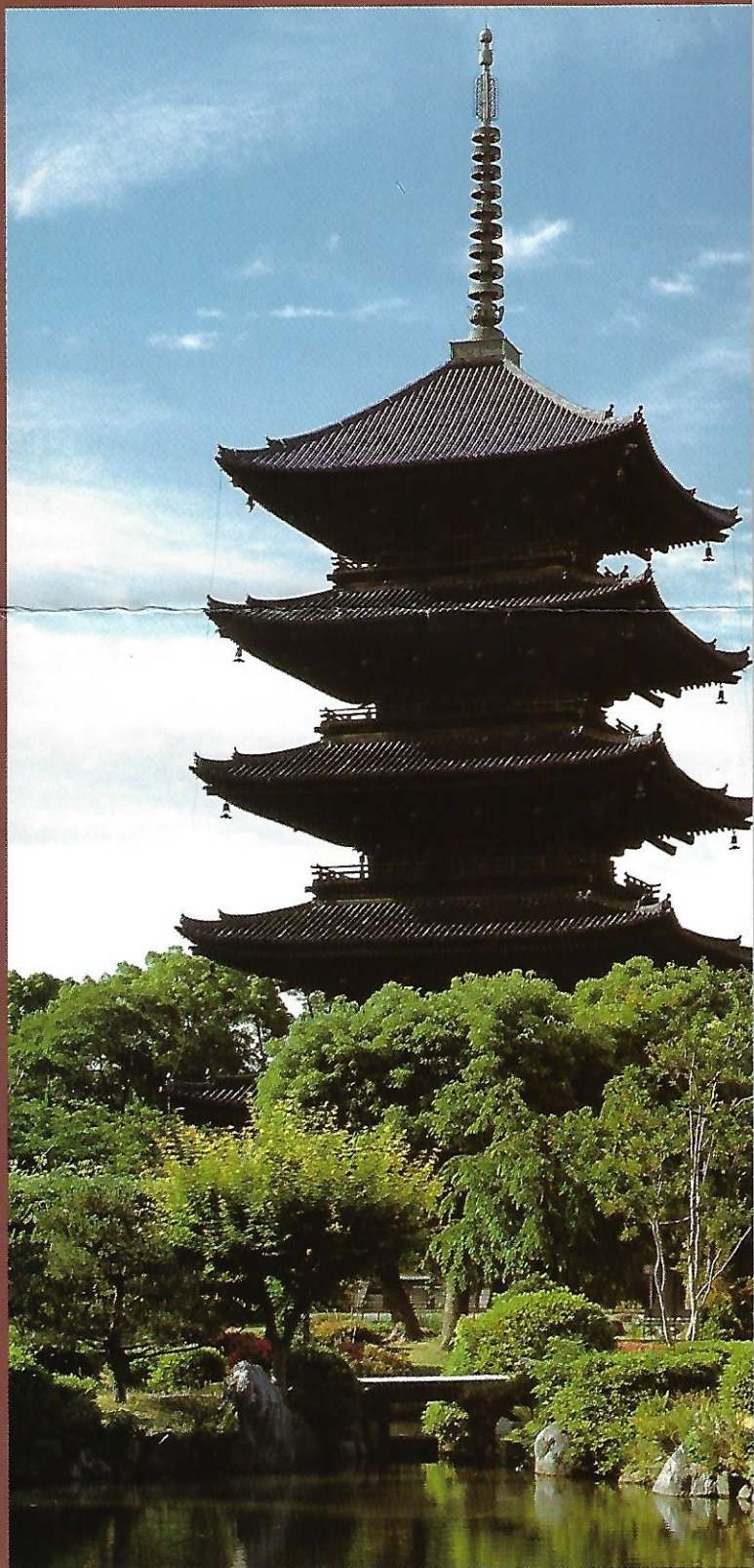
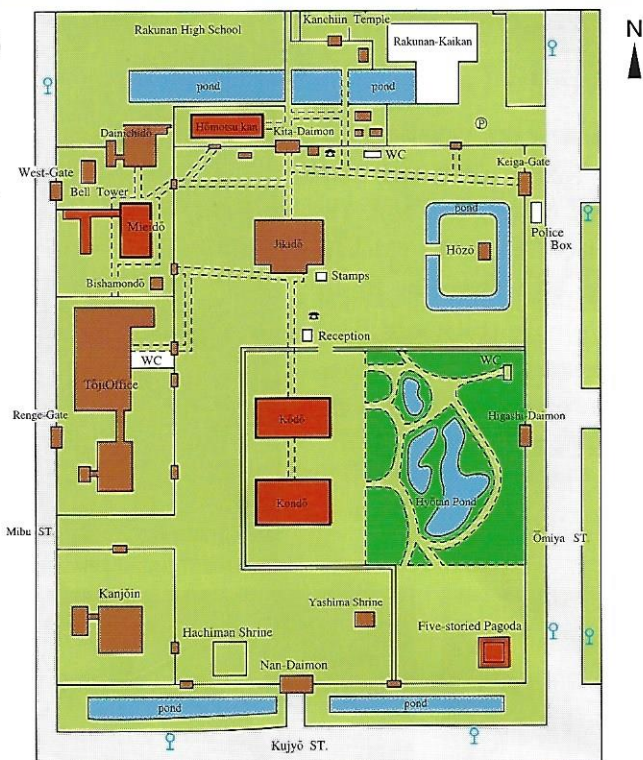


Tōji-Temple

English edition

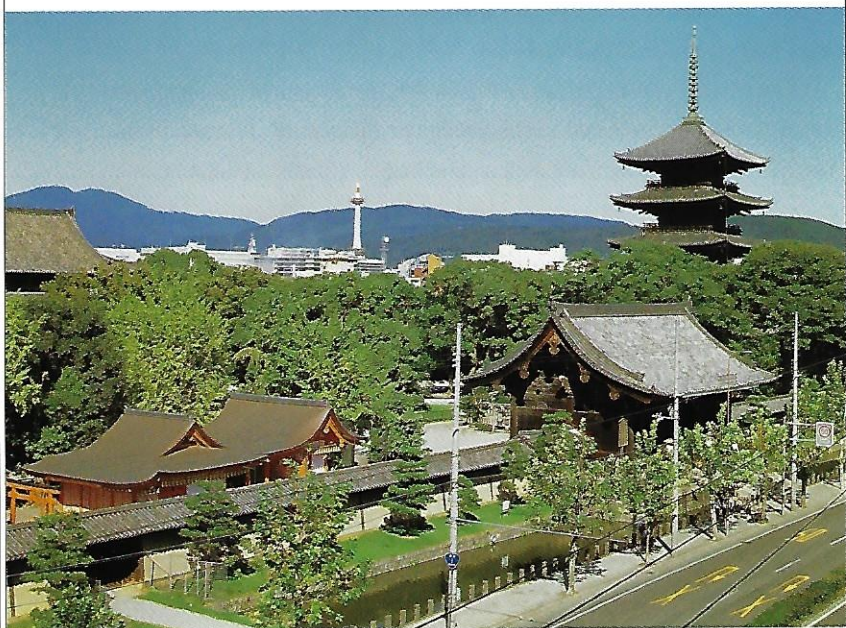


Map of Tōji



Ceremony

- Mieiku (Kōdō market)
21st every month
- The Fusatsu ceremony
The 15th of every month
- Antique market
The first Sunday of every month
- Special Exhibition (Hōmotsukan)
Spring; March 20-May 25
Autumn; Sept. 20-Nov. 25
- The Bon Festival dance
August 15



Perspective of precinct viewed from south

Tōji-Temple (Kyō-ō-gokokuji Temple) Hours; Open 9:00A.M.
Kujyō-chō 1, Minami-ku, Kyōto 〒601-8473 Close 4:30P.M.
Phone: (075) 691-3325 FAX: (075) 662-0250 (Enter by 4:00P.M.)

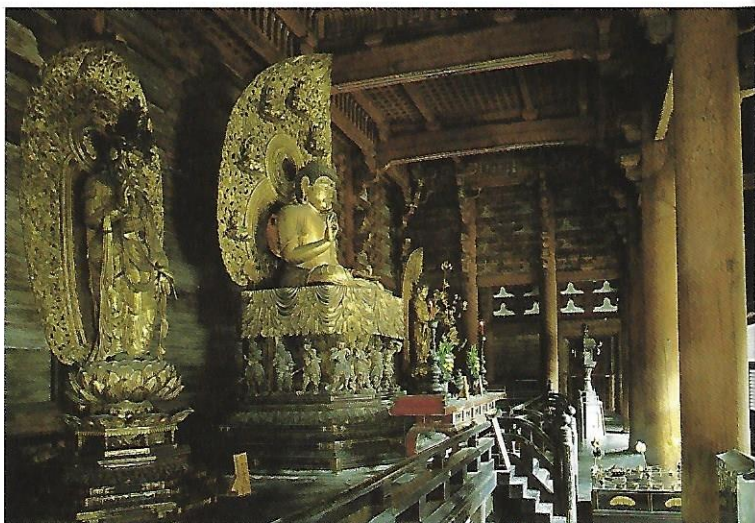
Tōji-Temple (Kyō-ō-gokokuji Temple)

In the 13th year of Enryaku(794)the Emperor Kammu transferred the capital of this country from Nara to Kyōto and he built, after the model of Changan, the then capital of China, two huge guardian temples on the east and the west side of the Rajyō-mon which was the south gateway to Kyōto. They are Tōji Temple(East Temple)and Saiji Temple(West Temple).

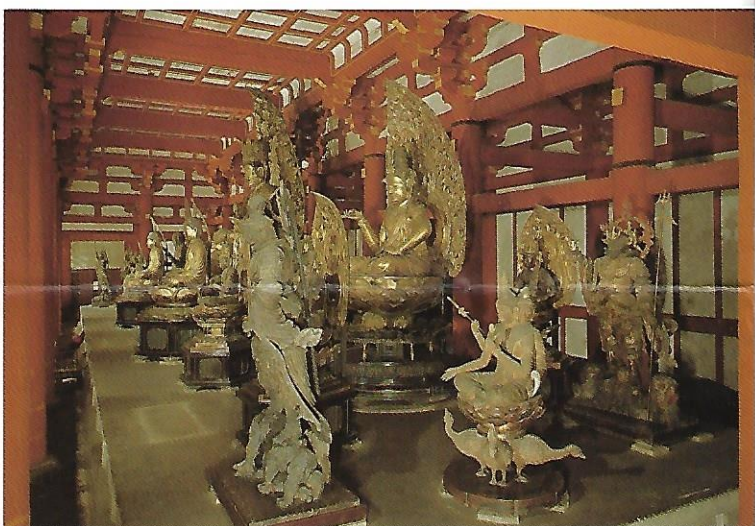
About thirty years later the Emperor Saga honoured Kūkai(774~835; founder of Shingon Buddhism) with Tōji Temple and gave it the official name Kyō-ō-gokokuji, which means the temple that guards the capital and the land by virtue of Ninnō-gokoku-kyō(the main sutra of the Shingon sect). Kūkai made Tōji the central seminary of Esoteric Buddhism and added various other buildings to it. It retains its original layout and architectural style and is known as a treasure house of Esoteric Buddhist art, due to its large number of cultural assets brought back from China such as old Buddhist statues, carvings, magnificent paintings, artistic handicrafts, etc.



Buddhas of Tōji-Temple



Yakushi-nyorai (Bhaiṣajyaguru) Triad in the Kondō-Hall



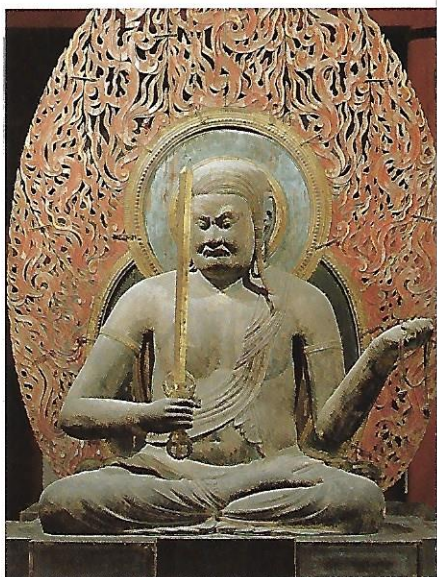
A set of twenty-one Vajrāyanistic statues installed in the Lecture Hall

Five-storied Pagoda

●National Treasure, Edo period

The five-storied pagoda is so famous that it reminds all Japanese of Kyōto and Tōji. It is the highest pagoda in Japan, measuring 187 feet. It was built by Kōbō-daishi in 826 and burned down four times after being struck by lightning. The present pagoda was built by the third Tokugawa Shōgun Iemitsu in 1644.

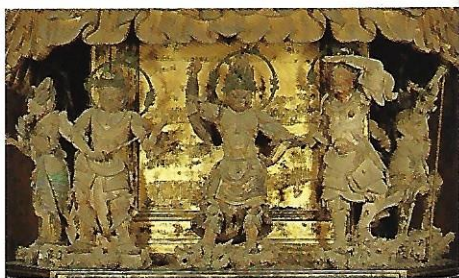
Inside are placed the images of Four Buddhas and their followers, the eight great Bosatsu.



●Fudō-myō-ō (Acalanātha)

Kon-dō, Yakushi Triad and Twelve Heavenly Generals

The statues of the Yakushi Trinity (Yakushi-nyorai and his two attendants, Nikkō and Gakkō Bosatsu) look filled with mercy to heal the sick in body and soul. The statues of the Twelve Sacred Generals placed under the “Mokakeza” (the seat of Nyorai), are said to have been carved by Kōshō, the 21st generation sculptor of Buddhist images after Jōchō, and are representative master-pieces of the Momoyama period.



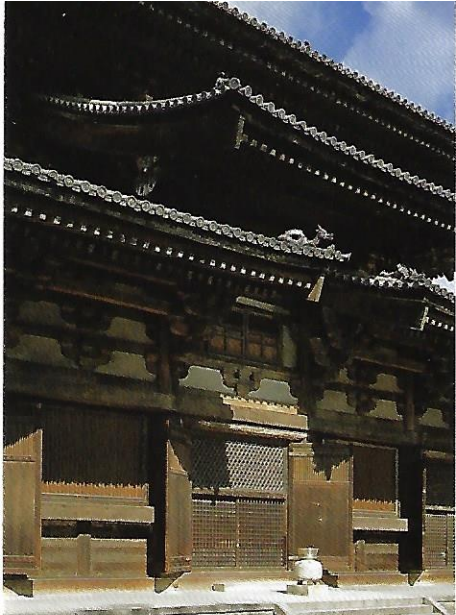
©Twelve Heavenly Generals

Set of twenty-one Buddhist statues installed in the Lecture Hall

Twenty-one Buddhist statues are arranged according to the Mikkyō Maṇḍala described in the main sutra of Esoteric Buddhism, with the principal one, Dainichi-nyorai in the center. The Esoteric Buddhist statues which were brought from China by Kūkai can be observed in the Kō-dō (Lecture Hall). One characteristic is the special arrangement of the figures in the hall. On the Shumi-dan platform, Tathāgatas of the five wisdoms are placed in the center, five Bodhisattvas are on the right side, five Fearful Kings are on the left, and Brahmadeva, Sakrodevānām-indra, and the Four Guardian Kings are arranged around them.

The grouping of the 21 figures is in the formation of the Karman Maṇḍala. Unlike the usual arrangement of figures in ordinary Buddhism, the arrangement itself has a meaning in Esoteric Buddhism.





Kon-dō (Main Hall)

● National Treasure, Momoyama period

This building was first erected in 796. It was burnt down in 1486, and reconstructed by Toyotomi Hideyori in 1603.

The double roofed irimoya-style Kon-dō is the biggest building in Tōji. The raised central part of the lower roof offsets the regularity of the front view of the building. Here the Tenjiku (old Indian) style is introduced into the traditional Japanese architectural style.



Kō-dō (Lecture Hall)

● Important Cultural Property, Momoyama period

This building was started by Kūkai in 825, and completed in 835.

It was heavily damaged by typhoons and earthquakes, and repaired many times. It was burnt down in 1486, but reconstructed by Toyotomi Kitanomandokoro during the Keichō period (1596-1615); it retains its original elegant appearance.



● Indra

Miei-dō (Nishino-in, Daishi-dō)

● National Treasure, Muromachi period

Kūkai (the founder of Shingon Buddhism) lived in this hall. It is also called Fudō-dō, because Kūkai used to pray to the Fudō-Myō-ō (Secret Buddha, a national treasure) for all people every day. This hall was burnt down in 1379, and was rebuilt the following year. 10 years later, a statue of Kūkai was installed.

On the 21st of every month (the day of Kōbō-Daishi, Kūkai's posthumous title), no less than three hundred thousand pilgrims visit here to worship before the image of Kōbō-daishi in the Mieidō (Founder's Hall). The hall on the north side is irimoya-style, the center gate is kirizuma-style, and the gentle slope of the roof is hiwada-buki style. They are very graceful.