

Design and Structure of Buddhist Pagodas In the
Early Modern Age —Ruins in Tōhoku and Kantō—

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This paper, the second from the author's study of the design and structure of Japanese pagodas built in the early modern age (Momoyama and Edo Period), focuses on ruins remaining in Tōhoku and Kantō (The author's first paper discussed ruins in Chūgoku, Shikoku, and Kyūshū, and was published in the volume 11 of this museum bulletin).

In these two regions are still found 6 five-story pagodas, 17 three-story pagodas, 7 Tahoutou pagodas, and 1 Houtou, a total of 31 buddist pagodas were built in early modern times. The paper reports and interests the results of the field survey conducted on all of these pagodas (excepted the one and unique Houtou) on such points as carpenters in charge of their construction, surface size and column length on each story, style and method used for each part, interior look, structure of beams, detail ornament, etc.

The common characteristics of these remains is, firstly, that there are many sculptured decorative pagodas. These pagodas had not only additional ornamental parts, but even their structural parts were sculptured to be decorative. Secondly, the remains have some pagodas and three-stories-pagodas. The pagodas have the same ceilings and buddha-stages as buddha-halls have. And each side wall of three-stories-pagodas has its own peculiar designs.