

# REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION OF IRON IMPLEMENTS FROM YAMATO TENJINYAMA KOFUN

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In general, when objects made of iron are excavated from the earth, they have often been greatly disfigured by rust etc., and are frequently scattered and found in fragments. In providing as accurate as possible information at the time of the process of their restoration, the influence they have as objects of study and their value as historical materials is enhanced. Aiding in this process is the responsibility of those directly involved in restoration and preservation, and theirs is truly a great responsibility.

The Gangōji Bunkazai Kenkyūsho (Gangōji Institute for Research of Cultural Property) had been given the responsibility of restoring and preserving metals objects such as the 23 faceted bronze mirror excavated at the Tenjinyama tumulus mound in Nara and various blades in the four years following 1998. A report on the work done in the first two years, from 1998 to 1999, on the restoration and preservation of the mirrors appeared in issue No. 4 of the research institute's journal. Among the metal objects restored for preservation in 2001, it was confirmed that the jumbled blade fragments were from *ken* (double-edged swords) and *katana* (single-bladed swords), and that the relative locations of these fragments were unnatural. As a result of restoration and preservation, many objects are now in a state at odds with the photographs and illustrations published in earlier reports. This article reports on the restoration and preservation, assigns a number to each object, and lists them in a chart with reference to the objects as described in earlier reports.