

Anonymous

Processional Mask of Guardian Deity

Japan, Heian period, 1086

Wood, lacquer, polychrome

Gift of Mr. Arnold Grant, 1961

(2999.1)

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Processional Mask of Guardian Deity *Rasetsu-Ten*

(*Rakshasa*)

Japan, Heian period, 1086

Wood, lacquer, polychrome

Gift of Mr. Arnold Grant, 1961

(2998.1)

Masks such as these were worn in Buddhist processions. These two come from an original set of twelve, seven of which are now located in the Kyoto National Museum, and have been designated as Important Cultural Properties. Frequently depicted in painting and sculpture, the Twelve Devas are normally shown as a group with individual characteristics. The bulging eyes and protruding teeth help to identify (2998.1) as belonging to the guardian deity Rasetsu-Ten (Rakshasa). The other (2999.1) remains unidentified.

**Anonymous
Ritual Object**

Japan, Kamakura period, 13th-14th century
Gilt Bronze

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Griffing, Jr., in memory of Mrs.
Theodore A. Cooke, 1971
(3797.1)

Anonymous

Ceremonial Flower Basket

Japan, Heian period, 12th century

Bronze, gold, silver

Wilhelmina Tenney Memorial Fund, 1955

(2114.1)

This elegant gilded bronze *keko* (ceremonial flower tray) was used for strewing flower petals (usually lotus) at memorial services in Buddhist temples. Commonly used at the time, today only twenty baskets such as this are known to exist. Sixteen of them are registered as National Treasures in Japan. This is the only one outside of Japan. The delicate *hosoge* floral pattern is reminiscent of Tang Chinese gold and silvery artistry. The three dimensional quality lends a sophisticated atmosphere of motion.