

Tōfukuji.

In 1236 A. D., Kujō Michiie erected on this site a temple, which was regarded as the most beautiful one in Kyoto. Though it was mostly destroyed by the Ōnin disturbances, the Toyotomi and Tokugawa Families repaired the building and restored it to its former appearance. However, in 1881, a great fire destroyed many of the buildings, and those which now remain are but a faded remnant of its former grandeur.

The site of the temple has been very much celebrated for its maples.

Sammon, the two-storeyed main gate, was rebuilt in the Muromachi Period, probably late in the 14th century or early in the 15th century.

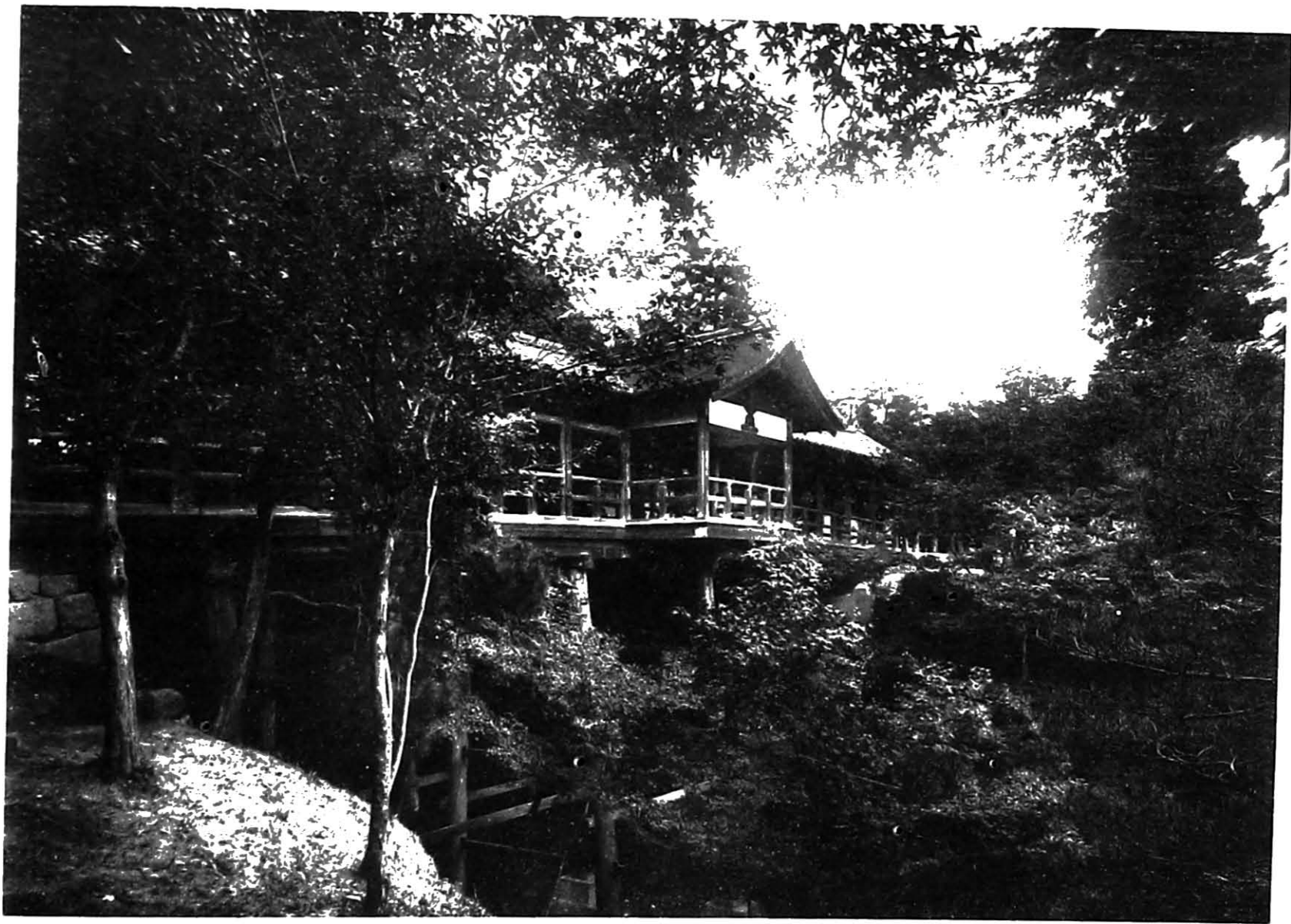
It consists of 5 bays with 3 arches facing south.

The style is a mixture of the Chinese and Indian and presents a perfectly harmonious combination, grand in scale and well proportioned.

In Kyoto and its environs, it is the oldest and the greatest of the gate-buildings of the Zen style.

The interior of the second floor is decorated with designs and coloured paintings by Choden-su and Kandens-su.

A corridor bridge, called Tsuten, spans a ravine full of maples and commands a splendid view especially in autumn.



Inari Jinsha.

This is a shrine of the god and the goddess of harvest, who are supposed to have appeared on the top of Inari Hill in 711 A. D. At first the shrine was on the top of the hill, but later it was brought down to the foot by Kōbō Daishi. The present main hall, of Nagare-zukuri style, thatched with hinoki bark, presenting the characteristics of the Momoyama Period, was built in 1590 A. D.; but recently it has been much repaired. Of the other buildings, Gonden, Kaguraden and Emado are the principal ones. On the way to the top of the hill there stand innumerable gateways—torii painted vermilion, all contributed by faithful believers.

They make, as it were, a long tunnel of gateways. The gay colouring of the shrine stands out beautifully among the evergreen trees.

On the annual festival day in April, an elaborate parade of the golden ark is made, and thousands of people come to worship.

On this day, on the way back home, the people who attend are accustomed to carry away a branch of cryptomeria from the hill, as it is Mishirushi-no-Sugi, or the cryptomeria of purification.



Myōshinji.

This fine old Buddhist temple was originally a villa which belonged to Kiyowara Natsuno (732—837 A. D.) and which afterwards became the favourite retreat of the Emperor Hanazono. He presented it to the priest Kwanzan Kokushi, who converted it into a temple.

The buildings were all burnt to the ground during the disturbances of Ōnin; but, between 1469 and 1486, the abbot Sekkō restored the ruined temple to its former appearance.

The primitive architecture, as it has been preserved, represents the style used for imperial residences during the early days of Kyoto.

The buildings with their surroundings are thoroughly charming in every way.

Chokushi-mon, or the Gate for the Imperial Ambassador, was built in 1610; San-mon, the Main Gate, north of the Chokushi-mon, had been built in 1599.

Butsuden, the main hall, was built in 1830, 5 bays on a side, double roofed in the irimoya-zukuri style.

Hattō, north of the main hall, was built in 1657.

It retains the style of the early Tokugawa Period.

The picture of a dragon on the ceiling is noted for having been drawn by Kanō Tanyū.

In the Belfry hangs an old bell cast in 698.



Sitting Statue of Amitabha in Hōō-Dō-Phoenix Hall.

(National Treasure)

Owned by Byōdōin, Uji.

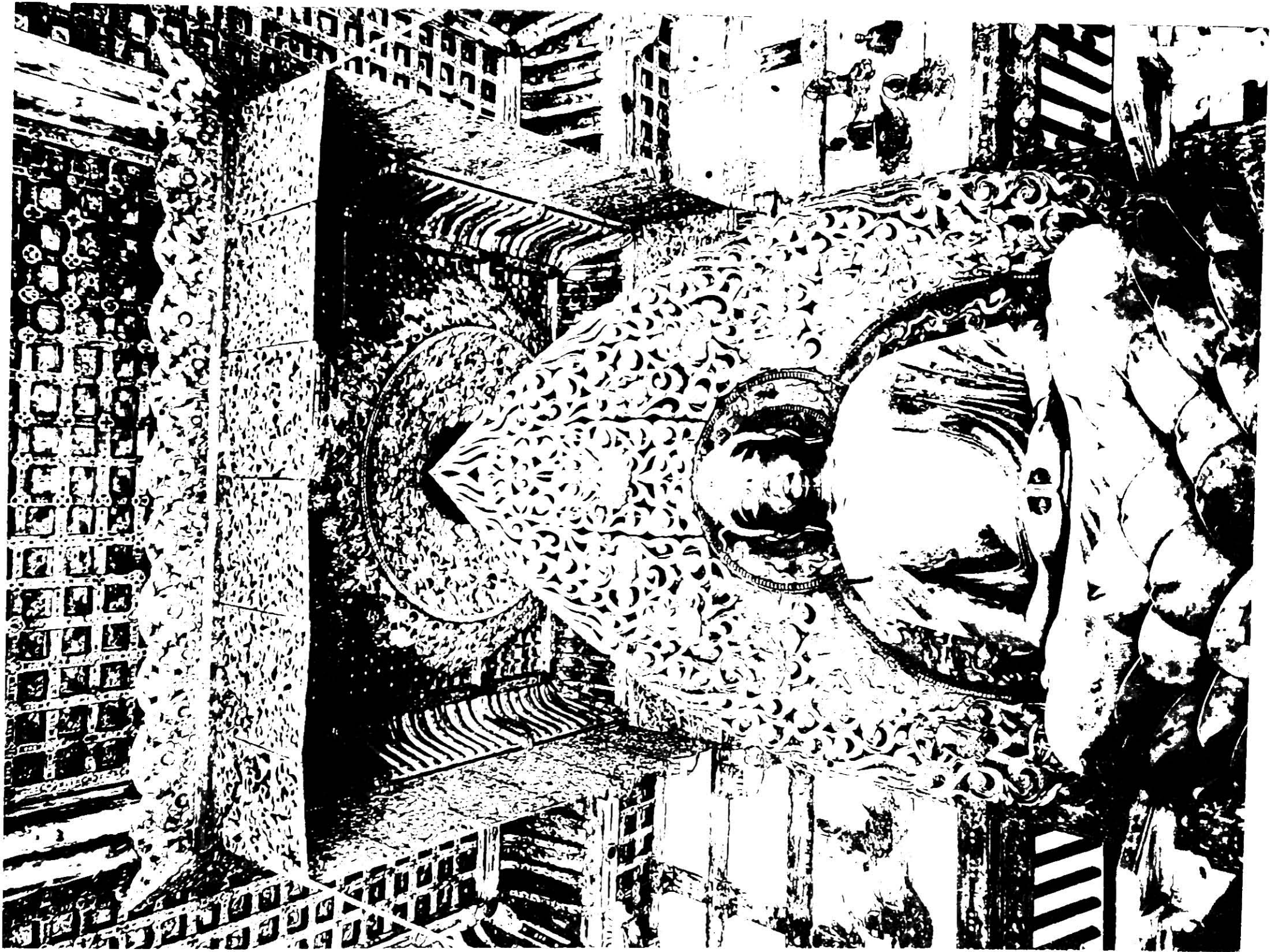
Carved by Jyōchō in the Fujiwara age,
2.948 m. high.

This is a marquetry sitting covered with gold foil and has a height of 16 feet.

People say that the statue was carved by the famous sculptor, Jyōchō, and it is exceedingly noted among the images in the Kyūtai Hall, Jyōruriji, and in the Amitabha Hall, Hōkaiji.

The features have an able expression, and the smooth, elegant carvings, canopy, rear lights, and stand, are all perfectly attached to the image and lend dignity thereto.

Moreover these things are in complete harmony with the structure of the Phoenix Hall, and therefore the image will be recognized as the best in the masterpieces of Buddhist statues in the Fujiwara age.



Ninnaji.

This temple, once a very palatial one, was founded in 886 A. D. by the Emperor Kōkō, who retired thither after his abdication in 893 A. D.

After that time up to the Meiji Restoration, it was a temple for the Imperial Princes who had taken holy orders.

Though it had more than 60 subordinate temples, all were destroyed by fire during the years of Ohnin and Bunmei (1498—1486).

The present buildings were built in 1913.

The temple belongs to the Shingon Sect.

Sammon, the south gate—a national treasure—is painted vermilion.

The five-storeyed pagoda was built in 1637 in 3 spaces each way; it is more than 108 feet high.

Kondō, the main hall, was removed from the Imperial Palace in 1637.

Micidō, of the hōgyō-zukuri style, is west of the main hall and also was given from the Imperial Palace in 1634.

A spacious park filled with very beautiful cherry- and cryptomeria-trees, is the playground for thousands of Kyoto people during the cherry season.

The broad highway which runs past the massive gateway leads to Jingoji, a temple which is famous for its beautiful grounds filled with gorgeous maple-trees.



Jingoji, Takao.

Jingoji is a Buddhist temple on a hill called Takao, a noted place for maples. The temple stands most picturesquely among the beautiful maple-trees. Originally it was built in Kawachi Province by Wake Kiyomuro, but was brought up here in 824 A. D. It was quite neglected for some time and was much damaged; but it was repaired in 1182 A. D. One of the buildings, called Daishi-do, is supposed to have been the living room of Kōbō, the founder of the Kōyasan monastery. The bell was made in 873 A. D. and is considered one of the three best bells in Japan.

The neighbourhood of the temple is called Takao, a place famous for innumerable maple-trees, which present a scene of gorgeous beauty in autumn.

At Makinoo, north-east of Takao, stands Saimyōji, a temple of the Shingon Sect.

The present buildings were built between 1688 and 1703.

Toga-no-o, north east of Makinoo, another place noted for maple-trees, is the site of the temple Kōzanji of the Shingon Sect.

