



鏡池 *Kagami-Ike The Mirror Pond*

In front of the *Sanjin Gosaiden* at the peak of Mt. Haguro is a small pond known as *Kagami-Ike*. In the early 20th century, the pond was drained for construction, and mysteriously, hundreds of ornate, bronze mirrors were discovered at the bottom. Over 600 of these mirrors have since been found, and 190 are kept at the Dewa Sanzan Historical Museum. Others can be found in museums across the world such as the British Museum in London, and the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. How did they come to the pond in the first place?

Research shows that these mirrors were cast into the pond by worshippers. People believed the pond was an object of worship, and casted their various wishes into

the mirrors which were submerged into the pond. The name *Kagami-Ike* (Mirror Pond) comes from this tradition, and the pond itself acts as a mirror placidly reflecting the main shrine building. Even though the pond is on top of the mountain, somehow the water level never changes. Nobody knows where the water comes from.



Bronze Mirror