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GILT-BRONZE BODHISATTVA

A fine example of the small bronze Buddhist statues cast in Japan during the Asuka period or early seventh century. Although thought to be a representation of Miroku Bodhisattva, the costume and coronet resemble closely those of the Yumedono style Kannon Bodhisattva in the Hōryū-ji Treasure Museum. The face has a solemn air, with the lappets of the coronet, studded with Mani jewels, hanging to the shoulders. The right foot is raised and rests on the left knee. Instead of being lifted to the chin in the ponder gesture characteristic of Miroku Bodhisattva, the right hand is raised in the gesture of fearlessness. The stylized folds of the skirt fall to the lotus base, with a lotus pedestal for the pendant left leg. *Height 41.7 centimeters*

Courtesy of the Tokyo National Museum