

# JAPANESE SWORD CATALOGUE 17.5

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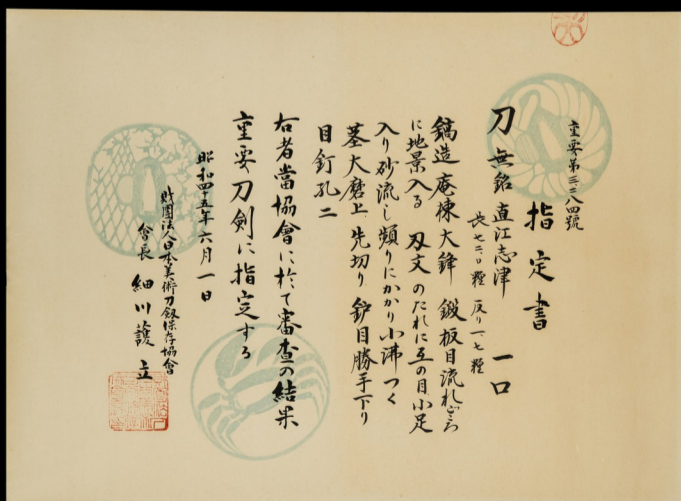
(COVER PHOTO)

ITEM# UJKA114

A NAOE SHIZU SCHOOL KATANA  
CIRCA MID-NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD  
(1338-1367)

19TH NBTHK JUYO TOKEN (1970)

DR. SATO KANZAN SAYAGAKI



# ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE (VOLUME 17.5)

FIRST RELEASED ON JUNE 18, 2015  
UPDATED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS AND IMAGES  
OF GENUINE ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS THAT WERE SOLD IN  
CATALOGUE 17.

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WELCOME! WE COMPLETELY RESPECT THE FACT IT TAKES A HUGE LEAP OF PERSONAL FAITH IN US TO COMMIT TO A PARTICULAR SWORD(S) GIVEN THE RELIANCE ON PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR SUCH A HIGHLY VALUED ITEM.

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DOMO ARIGATO!  
PABLO



ITEM# UJKA097

## A NAOMICHI KATANA

SIGNED WITH 'ICHI' & MARK OF 16-PETAL CHRYSANTHEMUM  
EDO PERIOD (CIRCA 1625-1661)

**Swordsmith:** Tango no Kami NAOMICHI (AKA KANEMICHI)  
**Location:** Settsu no Kuni (Osaka)  
**Length:** 69cm      **Curvature:** 1cm  
**Jihada:** Ko-Itame and mokume majiri, jinie  
**Hamon:** Konie-deki, notare, ashi (legs) in hachu  
**Nakago:** Ubu (uncut)  
**Certificate:** Fujishiro Kanteisho (a sword certified as Authentic by Former Living National Treasure Sword Polisher Mr. Matsuo Fujishiro)  
**Fujishiro:** Jo-Saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)  
**Asaemon:** Ryo-Wazamono (good sharp sword maker)

**SOLD**

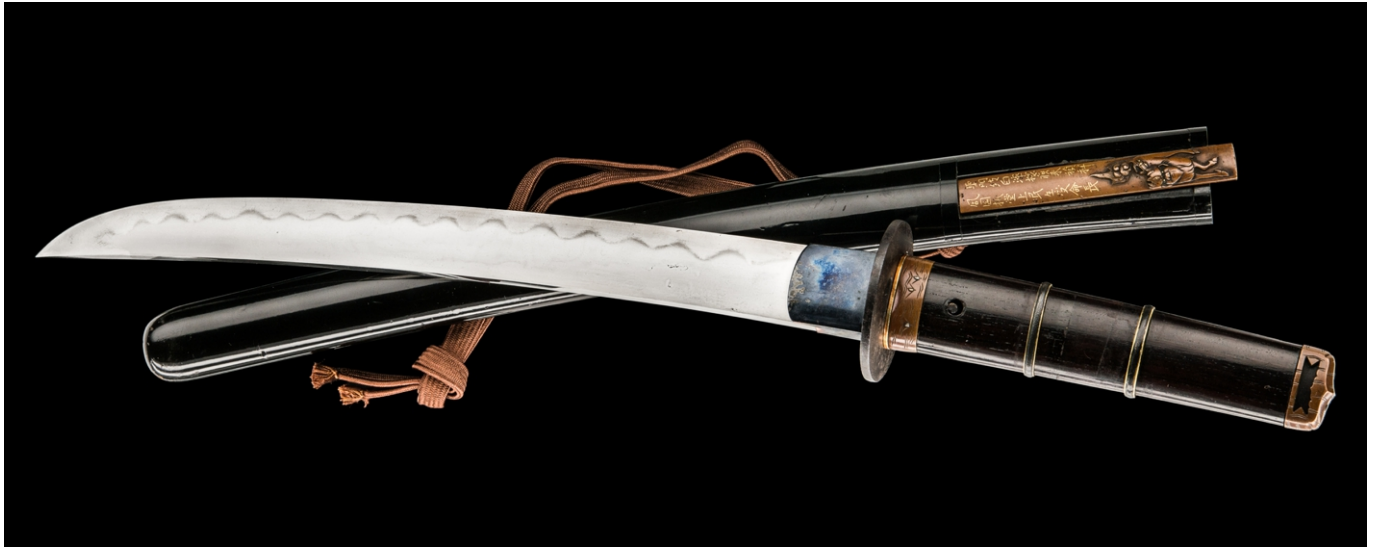
Kanemichi was the third son of the first generation **Kyo-Tanba** (Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi). He was born in 1602 and died in 1672 at the age of 70.

His early name was **Naomichi** and signed swords with this name. He received his title in 1625 and moved to Osaka to start the Osaka branch of the family known as **Osaka Tanba**.

Kanemichi was one of the very finest Mishina School smiths and was granted the right to sign swords with the 16-petal *kikumon* chrysanthemum symbol of the Imperial court. Mishina were famous for the *sudare-ba hamon* (a temper line resembling a bamboo curtain).

This splendid katana was forged when Kanemichi signed as Naomichi. It is a healthy sword featuring a gorgeous wavy *notare hamon* with *ashi*. Accompanied by a rare *Fujishiro* certificate.





ITEM# UJWA124

## A DAIMINKIN WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1672)

**Swordsmith:** DAIMINKIN (also read DAIMINKYO)  
**Location:** Izumo no Kuni (Shimane prefecture)  
**Length:** 32.3cm **Curvature:** 0.7cm  
**Jihada:** Tight ko-itame  
**Hamon:** Gunome midare with "Jizo boshi"  
**Nakago:** Ubu (uncut, original length)  
**Certificate #1:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword certified as being Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Certificate #2:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae sword fittings designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** Chujo-saku (ranked as an above average swordsmith)

**SOLD**

Born with family name *Kunishige* and also known by *Korei Yakuro*, swordsmith *Daiminkin* lived in the picturesque Samurai city of *Matsue* known as the "City of Water".

It is said that the *Daiminkin* family can trace its roots to the Korean peninsula much like the *Rai* School of the Kamakura period. There are three generations of *Daiminkin*. This is considered the work of the first generation, or *shodai*. The *ubu nakago* (unaltered tang) is signed with his name.

The *tsuka* (hilt) is made of beautifully aged antique rosewood from the Edo period. This is rare and would have been very expensive to produce at the time. Only a Samurai with great prestige could have afforded to commission such subtle luxury.

Delicately carved rowboats (much like Venician gondolas) are depicted on the *fuchi-kashira* paying tribute to the canals of *Matsue*. The wavy *gunome hamon* (temper line) compliments the water scene with the wooden hilt embodying a boat floating along its calm surface.

From blade to fittings, this is a unique find with two certificates of authenticity; the first is a vintage NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho from 1969 (granting the wakizashi *Especially Precious* status) and in 2014 an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification was bestowed for the *koshirae* (fittings).

Further images below; note the demon warding off evil spirits on the *kozuka* (utility knife).





ITEM# UJKA102

## A TERUSHIGE KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

**Swordsmith:** Bushu ju Shitahara TERUSHIGE (5th generation)  
**Location:** Musashi no Kuni (Tokyo) Shitahara school  
**Length:** 63.4cm  
**Curvature:** 1.0cm  
**Jihada:** *Itame, mokume majiri, masame*  
**Hamon:** *Gunome midare, ashi in hachu*  
**Nakago:** *Slight ha-machiokuri (shortened with signature), kakumune, iriyamagata*  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

**SOLD**

Some katanas just ooze invincibility. This is one of such sword.

Containing two significant and highly prized *kirikomi* (cuts in the spine of the blade from another sword when defending in battle), this unique fifth generation Terushige katana is a force to be reckoned with.

The balance is extraordinary. There is a definite air of invincibility holding this sword.

The length of the katana has been shortened slightly, but only along the cutting edge, not from the bottom of the *nakago*. This is called *ha-machiokuri*. In such a situation, the Samurai warrior made adjustments the blade to meet his fighting requirements. →

The signature, as such, is untarnished. It shows great respect for the swordsmith.

Sword has been awarded *NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon* certification authenticating the signature and confirming its physical and artistic importance.



A Terushige Katana with *kirikomi*, cutting marks on the spine of the blade by use in actual combat. Sword has earned NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification papers.



ITEM# UJWA125

## A SHIMADA GISUKE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENSHO ERA: 1573-1593)

**Swordsmith:** GISUKE (3rd generation of the Shimada School)  
**Location:** Suruga province (Shizuoka prefecture)  
**Length:** 37.9cm **Curvature:** 1.0cm  
**Jihada:** *Itame, nagare and masame*  
**Hamon:** *Gunome, tobiyaki, hitatsura*  
**Nakago:** *Ubu* (uncut, original length)  
**Certificate:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

**SOLD**

Swordsmith Gisuke was a skilled smith of Suruga province along with Sukemune, Hirosuke, and Yoshitsuna during the mid to late Muromchi Period (16th century). He is of the Shimada School that formed a close alliance with the Soshu tradition of sword making.

This commanding wakizashi carries all the hallmarks to cherish in a Soshu-driven blade. The blade exhibits a vivid combination of wavy *gunome hamon* with brilliant spots of *tobiyaki* and full-temper *hitatsura*. The sword is signed and in original condition (*ubu nakago*).

The sword is nestled within a superbly decorative *Toppei Koshirae*. This is a rare set of mounts that originated during the late Edo period based on designs of military sabres introduced from the West. A key feature is their long *jiri* (part that fastens over the tip of the scabbard).

Circular depictions on the hilt and *kozuka* (utility knife) are called *Dharmacakra*, or the Buddhist "Wheels of Life". This symbolizes the infinite cycle of human life and our ability to persevere through all obstacles. The *tsuba* (guard) is of a lotus flower representing that beauty is fleeting – a powerful reminder to always appreciate the moments that make up our daily days.

Of treasured importance is the *tsuka* (hilt), which is wrapped in *baleen* also known as “whale beard”. This is a highly prized binding found only on very special *koshirae*, often seen in museums of today. Baleen is composed of keratin, a fibrous protein that is flexible when wet.

*Toppei* can be translated to meaning “fighting with full force”. This is a deeply spiritual sword with a valuable set of warrior mounts that would have been held by the last of the elite Samurai class.





ITEM# UJKA108

## A NOBUSADA KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KAN'EI ERA: 1624-1644)

**Swordsmith:** Ise no Kami NOBUSADA  
**Location:** Mino no Kuni (Gifu prefecture)  
**Length:** 69.8cm      **Curvature:** 1.2cm  
**Jihada:** Kasudachi-like itame  
**Hamon:** Tight nioikuchi, kokoro, togari gunome, sanbonsugi, ashi in hachu  
**Nakago:** Ubu (original length), iriyamagata, ko-marumune, kesho sujikai yasuri  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Hozon (a sword Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

Swordsmith Ise no Kami (Lord of Ise province) Nobusada, born Ganmaku Ichirōsaemon, was a talented smith who flourished during the early 17th century. Swords of Mino province are renowned for their cutting ability and this sword is no exception. This is one very sharp Samurai katana that must be handled with the greatest of care.

The *hamon* carries an eye-catching *sanbonsugi* – a temper line that jumps at every third ‘cypress tree’ pioneered by Magoroku Kanemoto in the mid-Muromachi Period.

An NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Authenticity of the signature accompanies the sword. This sword is a candidate for a custom koshirae project.





ITEM# UJKA110

## A MASATADA KATANA

SIGNED (TWO CHARACTER), EARLY SHOWA PERIOD (CIRCA 1940)

**Swordsmith:** MASATADA (2nd generation)  
**Location:** Ibaraki prefecture (suburbs of Tokyo)  
**Length:** 67.8cm                      **Curvature:** 1.2cm  
**Jihada:** *Nashi-ji*                      **Hamon:** *Gunome midare (semi-circular waves)*  
**Nakago:** *Ubu (original length), kurishiri, kiriyasuri and kakumune*  
**Certificate:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

This superb gendaito katana was crafted by the son of 1st generation Masatada. Also known as *Shigeru Okajima*, Masatada II lived in Nishi Ibaraki Iwamamachi in the fringes of Tokyo.

The sword is blessed with a beautiful *nashiji hada* (steel that resembles the skin of a pear) and an elegant wavy *gunome-midare hamon*. A fine Edo period stone-lacquered *handachi koshirae* accompanies the sword. It's a pleasure to hold a modern-made sword housed in antique

Samurai fittings. Masatada was among the top 400 smiths working during WWII. It is highly probable that a Japanese officer once proudly carried this signed katana.

The blade has been granted NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification of authenticity, reaffirming that the sword a genuine Masatada creation crafted using traditional folding techniques.





ITEM# UJKA114

## A NAOE SHIZU KATANA

UNSIGNED, MIDDLE OF THE NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD  
(CIRCA 1338 – 1367)

**Swordsmith:** The Naoe Shizu School (attribution)  
**Location:** Mino province  
**Length:** 72.0cm (cutting edge)  
**Curvature:** 1.8cm  
**Moto-haba:** 3.2cm  
**Saki-haba:** 2.7cm  
**Length of kissaki:** 8cm  
**Motogasane:** 4mm  
**Sakigasane:** 3mm  
**Jihada:** Nagaregokoro (masame mixed with masame), chikei  
**Hamon:** Notare, gunome, koashi, sunagashi, ko-nie  
**Nakago:** O-suriage  
**Certificate:** NBTHK 19th Juyo Token (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword. Certificate issued in 1970.)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

It gives us great pleasure to offer an NBTHK 19th Juyo Token katana (*Important Sword*) attributed to *The Naoe Shizu School*.

In a word, the sword is spectacular. Her remarkable *o-kissaki* (long extended tip) and majestic shape captures the imagination. This sword was once a tachi of course, a formidable sword surely carried during the warring mid-Nambokucho period (1338-1367).

According to historical records swordsmiths populated Mino province in the *Hogen era* (1156-1159) during the Heian period. However, it's only once the very late Kamakura period (early 1300s) appeared that works by *Shizu Saburo Kaneuji* and *Kinju* have been confirmed.

To give a sense of context, Kaneuji is said to have moved from *Yamato* (Nara) to study under the great Masamune to become one of his ten finest pupils (*Masamune Jutetsu*).

Kaneuji eventually moved to Shizu district in Mino province and is largely considered the founder of the Mino tradition. Incidentally, *Shizu* means 'still' or 'calm' in Japanese.

As one would have expected, Kaneuji's works carry a strong mixture of *Yamato Tegai School* qualities (*a jihada of mokume hada with straight grain masame hada*) and the *Soshu tradition* with a *hamon* displaying *nie-deki* with plenty of *hataraki* such as *sunagashi* (streaks of sand), *kinsuji* (stripes of gold) and *inazuma* (crooked lightning bolts).

A noteworthy difference is that is that the *hamon* carries some *togari* (tapered peaks) in the *hamon*. As a basic rule, all Mino tradition swords have *togari* in the *hamon*.

Unsigned swords attributed to Kaneuji are known as *Yamato Shizu* (*Shizu* meaning 'Kaneuji').

### **The Naoe Shizu School**

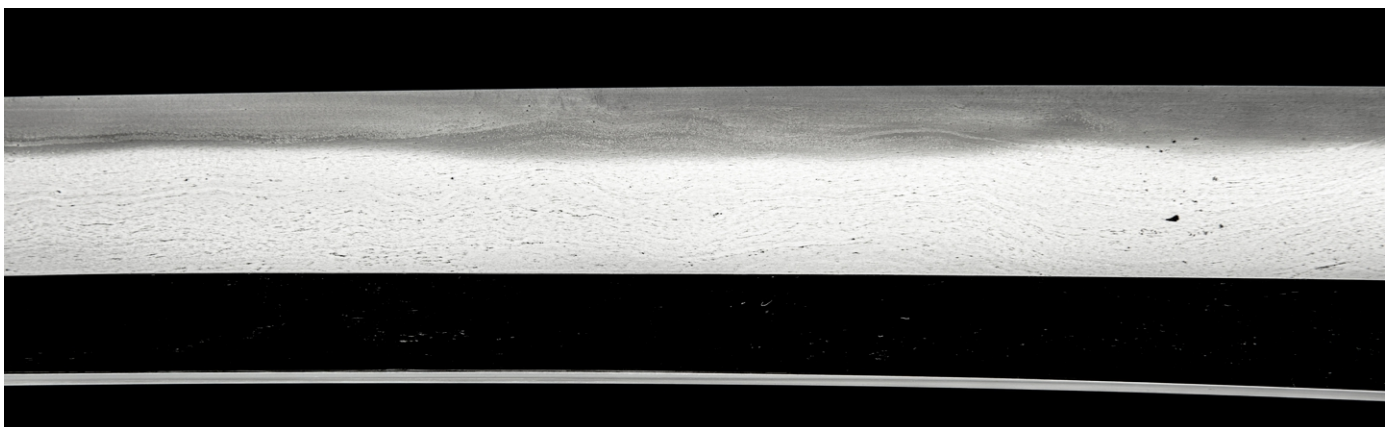
In the beginning, students of the *O-Shizu School* (founded by Kaneuji) and of the *Naoe Shizu School* moved to *Naoe* district also in Mino province to differentiate themselves.

Notable students include *Kaneyuki* (son of *Kaneshige*), *Tametsugu* (a disciple of either *Go Yoshiro* or *Norishige*), *Kanetoshi*, *Kanetsugu*, *Kanenobu* and later generations of *Kaneuji*.

What makes the *Naoe Shizu School* different from that of *O-Shizu* is that the *sugata* (shape) is superior; key traits being that of a wide *mihaba* and *o-kissaki*. Both of which, according to *Nagayama Kokan* of the *Connoisseurs Book of Japanese Swords*, "lend to a grand appearance".

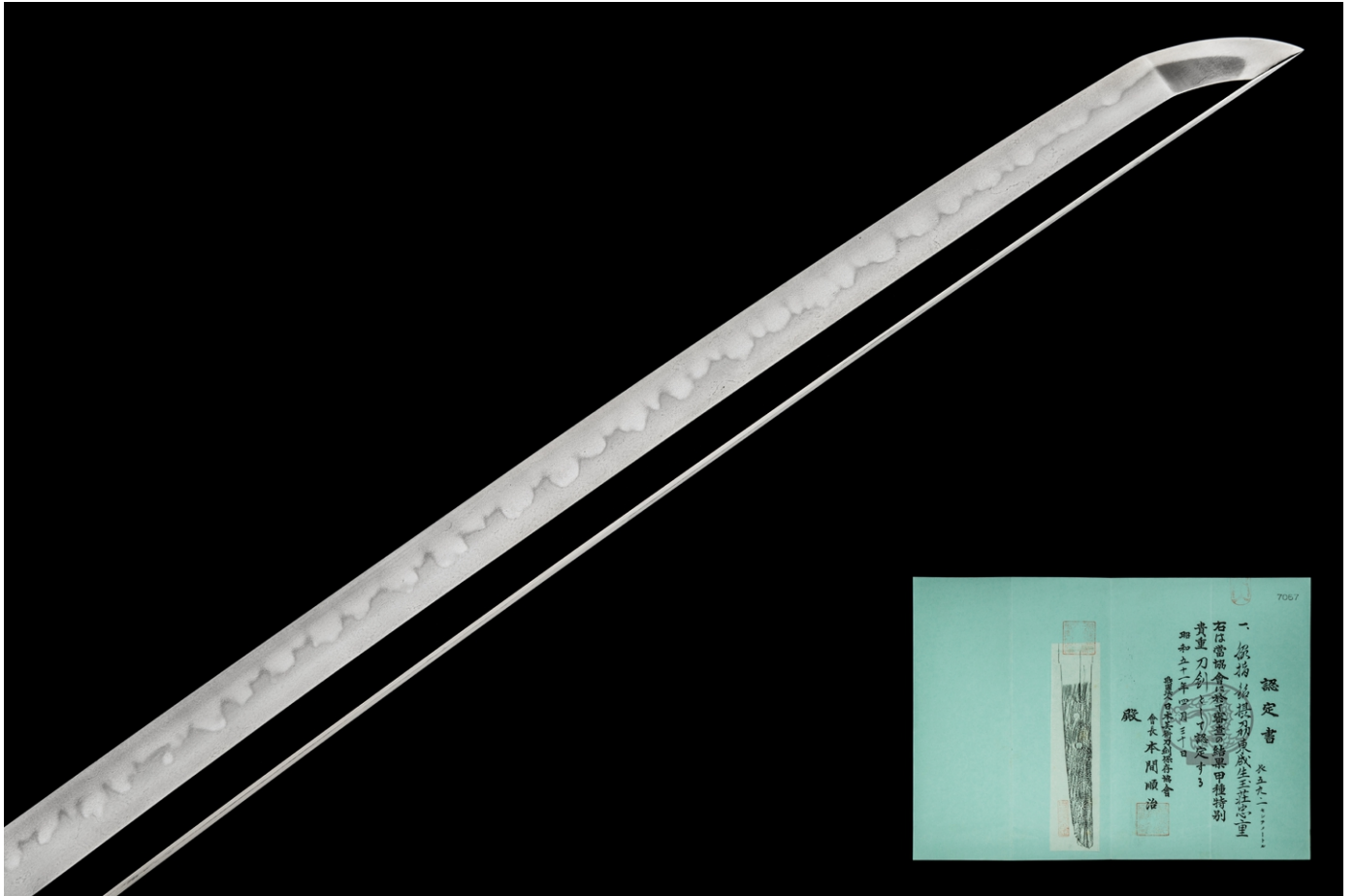
Of equal importance to note is that the *jihada* has *mokume-hada* with generous amounts of flowing *masame* (straight grain). This is especially evident near the *hamon* or in the *shinogi-ji*.

The folding pattern in the steel has a direct influence on the *hamon* - displaying *sunagashi* (parallel streaks of sand) in a wavy *notare hamon*. A close-up of the sword's *jihada* (grain)...



All such qualities of the *Naoe Shizu School* can be seen and enjoyed in this magnificent katana. It should be pointed out that the sword was awarded its vintage Juyo Token certificate in 1970. This is significant as there was no greater achievement at the time. Only the finest swords in Japan could have hoped to attain this level of prestige.





ITEM# UJWA130

## A TADASHIGE O-WAKIZASHI (RECENTLY POLISHED) SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

**Swordsmith:** Sesshu Ikutama no Sho TADASHIGE  
**Location:** Settsu province (Osaka)  
**Length:** 59.2cm      **Curvature:** 0.8cm  
**Jihada:** Ko-itame, light utsuri  
**Hamon:** Choji midare, tight nioikuchi, bright, sophisticated ashi in hachu  
**Nakago:** Ubu-nakago, iriyamagata, komarumune, kesho sujikai yasuri  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword certified as being Extraordinarily Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

This extra long *o-wakizashi* has just been beautifully polished in a traditional *sashikomi* polish. The *hamon* looks like it's on fire. *Sashikomi* is an older, more natural style of polish that uses special *tsuya* stones and *nugui* to make the *hamon* and its activity jump out from the blade. It is often the preferred method of polishing by afficiandos of Japanese swords.

Swordsmith *Tadashige* was a pupil of *Shodai Tadayuki* who was rated *Ryo-wazamono* for sharpness. His surname was *Inoue* and he lived in *Settsu*, now modern-day *Osaka*.

The sword has been granted *NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho* certification of authenticity (an Extraordinarily Precious sword), the coveted vintage blue certificate. This sword is a candidate for *NTHK-NPO Yushuto* (highest rank) and a potential custom *koshirae* project.





ITEM# UJWA131

## A TSUNANOBU WAKIZASHI SIGNED & DATED 13TH YEAR OF BUNSEI (AUGUST, 1830)

**Swordsmith:** Yonezawa ju TSUNANOBU  
**Location:** Owari province (Aichi prefecture)  
**Length:** 33.1cm  
**Curvature:** 0.7cm  
**Jihada:** Tight *ko-itame* and *mokume majiri*  
**Hamon:** *Suga yakidashi, kiku-choji midare* (chrysanthemum clove blossoms)  
**Nakago:** *Ubu-nakago, kesho, sujikai yasuri*  
**Certificates (x 2):** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword AND fittings designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

Behold a magnificent *hirazukuri wakizashi* made by the finest swordsmith of the *Yonezawa* domain, *Tsunanobu*.

Yonezawa was a feudal domain of Tokugawa Japan, controlled by the Uesugi clan. Sadly, the domain was once poor, disorganized and corrupt. However, in just a few decades it turned itself around and became a very prosperous one. In fact, Yonezawa was declared in 1830 by the Shogunate to be the model of a well-managed domain.

Interestingly, this wakizashi is dated to exactly this year, 1830. Clearly an important year for Yonezawa, this sword encapsulates this spirit of success, of realizing one's full potential.

It could be described as a sword that is in full bloom. An exquisite *kiku-choji midare hamon* (clove blossoms in the shape of chrysanthemums) is about as beautiful a temper line that can be seen on a Japanese sword. This is the art of sword making at it's finest.

The elegant matching *tsuba* and *fuchi-kashira* depict *Omi Hakkei* - the eight most scenic views of Omi, a neighboring province. Hiroshige as well as other *ukivo-e* artists first depicted the

sights. Both fittings are signed by *The Jakushi School* in *nunome-zogan* gold inlay on iron.

This was a cherished wakizashi surely held by an elite Samurai in Yonezawa. It is a loyal sword that would have never left his side. Fittings have also recently attained NTHK-NPO Kanteisho origami giving the sword two certificates of authenticity in total.





ITEM NO. UJWA133

## A SUKEKUNI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Bizen no Kami SUKEKUNI</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<i>Settsu province (Osaka)</i>
<b>Length:</b>	44.2cm <b>Curvature:</b> 1.2cm
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Ko-itame</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gorgeous gunome choji majiri with ashi</i>
<b>Nakago:</b>	<i>Ubu-nakago, o-sujikai yasuri</i>
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Kanteisho</b> (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

Sukekuni was one of the finest swordsmiths of the Kii Ishido School in Osaka. He studied under the highly respected smith *Bitchu no Kami YASUHIRO*.

This is a healthy sword that features a spectacularly skilled *gunome choji hamon* (a temper line comprising of clove blossoms waving in a random pattern).

It is in its original shape (*ubu nakago*) and fully signed by the craftsman.

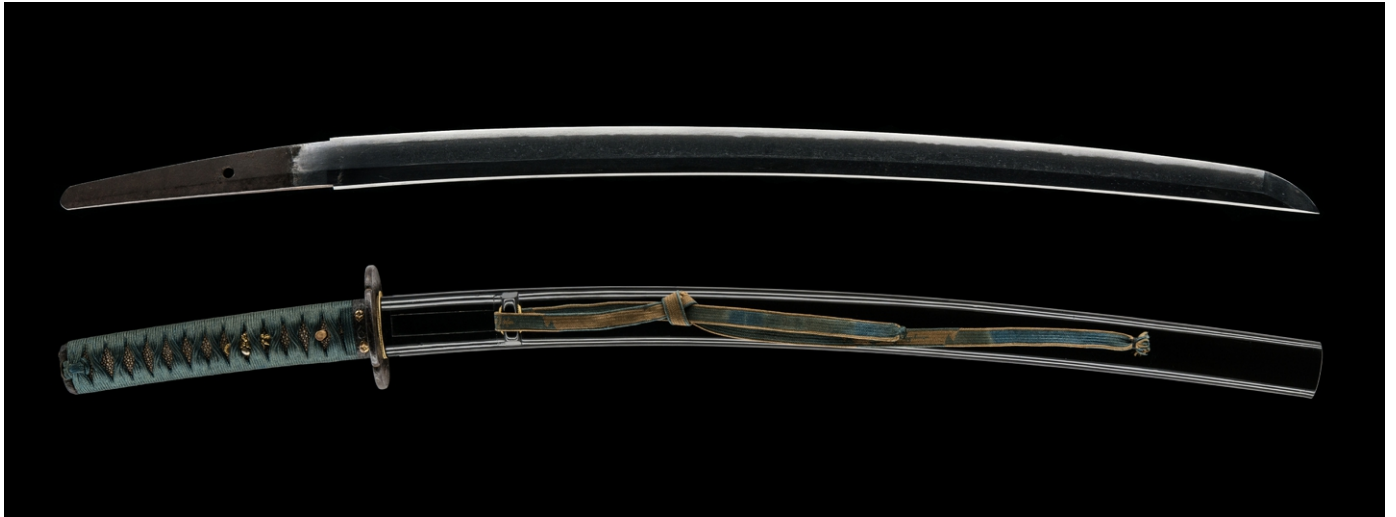
The outdoor *koshirae* is comprised of beautifully reinforced matching *shinchu* (brass) fittings. Collectively this type of *koshirae* is referred to as *dochuzashi* (*'dochu'* meaning "while on a journey", *'zashi'* is translated to "wearing it").

Especially built to better protect the sword and to serve as defence, this is a set of fittings destined for all types of weather and all forms of encounters. It is meant for a person who enjoys embarking on challenging journeys in life.

Only a Samurai of elite status or a merchant with great wealth could have afforded fittings in brass. Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc was more expensive than gold to produce during the Edo period.

Further images below; note the unique full moon depicted on the habaki.





ITEM# UJWA135

## A NAGAMUNE WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD (ENPO ERA: 1673-1681)

**Swordsmith:** Ogasawara NAGAMUNE 1st generation (attribution)  
**Location:** Musashi province (Tokyo)  
**Length:** 49.7cm  
**Curvature:** 1.2cm  
**Jihada:** *Itame*  
**Hamon:** *Naka suguha* (mid thickness straight temper line)  
**Nakago:** *Ubu nakago*  
**Fujishiro:** **Jojo-Saku** (ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)  
**Certificates x 2:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword AND fitting designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

The NTHK-NPO sword preservation society has attributed this sword to *Nagamune* who was ranked as *Jojo-saku* - a highly superior swordsmith known for his skill at forming straight *suguha hamon*. It is a long, slender wakizashi that is unsigned in *ubu nakago* (unaltered tang).

According to the Fujishiro brothers in their book *Nihon Shinto Jiten*, Nagamune of the Ogasawara clan lived on the edge of Tobu Shimoyaike, and was known as Sakyō and Shosai.

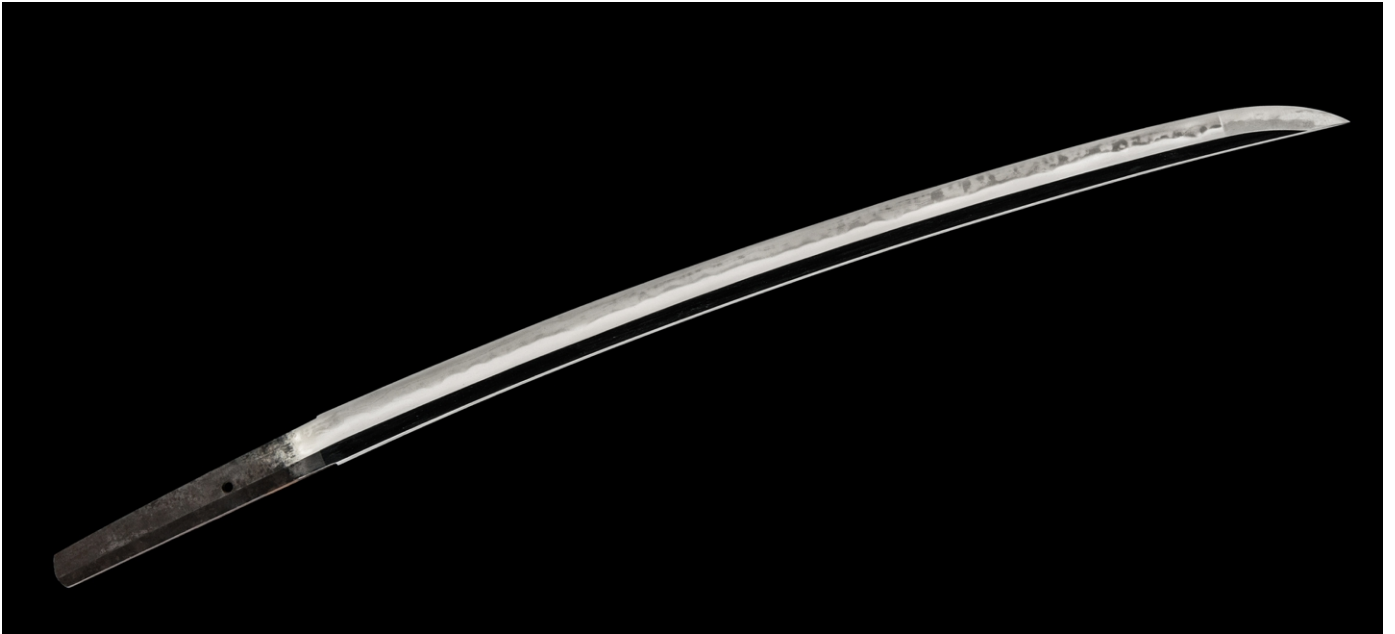
Fascinatingly, Nagamune is said to have originally made horse bits along with swords. He also ended his career that way, thus making what swords he did make relatively rare.

The elegant *koshirae* (fittings) have not been altered since the Edo period. The *koshirae* too has been certified by the NTHK-NPO granting the sword two certificates. The *tsuba* is from the Jakushi School of Saga province, which, in their iconic style depicts a beautiful mountainous

landscape. The artwork is in *nunome-zogan* gold inlay on an iron round plate.

The sword is in good condition that can be enjoyed in current state. However, investing in a fresh polish and new shirasaya for the sword will enhance its beauty and long-term vitality. We can help arrange this service for the new owner of this fine piece of Japanese history.





ITEM# UJWA137

## A CHIYOZURU SCHOOL O-WAKIZASHI UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (CIRCA 1338-1367)

**Swordsmith:** The Chiyozuru School (attribution)  
**Location:** Echizen province (Fukui prefecture)  
**Length:** 57.0cm      **Curvature:** 1.7cm      **Motohaba:** 3cm      **Sakihaba:** 2.5 cm  
**Jihada:** Ko-itame and masame  
**Hamon:** Gunome midare, bright and sophisticated kinsen, sunagashi in hachu  
**Boshi:** Midarekomi, saki, togari-kokoro and kaeri  
**Nakago:** O-suriage (shortened)  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword – vintage certificate issued in 1969)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

Koto period swords crafted with an imposing *o-kissaki* (large tip) and wide *mihaba* (width) were seen during the turbulent mid-Nambokucho period (1338-1367). Many long tachi produced in the 14th century have since been shortened as per this sword.

This outstanding long wakizashi carries an eye-catching *gunome midare hamon* packed with *hataraki* such as *kinsen* (lines of gold) and *sunagashi* (streaks of sand). Considering that it was shortened quite dramatically, it still maintains a strong, healthy and elegant curvature.

The vintage NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho certificate attributes the sword to the Chiyozuru School. The school first began with *Chiyozuru Kuniyasu* who apprenticed under *Rai Kuniyasu*. Kuniyasu left Kyoto to Echizen in 1337 seeking water suitable to forge his swords.

Chiyo-zuru was, in fact, Kuniyasu's nickname. Renowned smiths of the Chiyo-zuru School were the two generations of Kuniyasu, Morihiro, Morishige, Ieyasu, Iemasa and Ieyoshi. First generation Morihiro is said to be the son of *Rai Kuniyasu* therefore commonly referred to as "*Echizen Rai*". The number of works from this school of smiths is small making any find a happy little piece of Japanese treasure.

When the Samurai sword was banned from public wear at the start of the Meiji period (circa 1868), Echizen smiths shifted their skills towards making the finest and sharpest kitchen knives in the country. A tradition that proudly lives on to this very day...





ITEM# UJWA138

## A KANENAGA WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENBUN ERA: 1532-1555)

**Swordsmith:** KANENAGA (attribution)  
**Location:** Mino province (Gifu prefecture)  
**Length:** 53.9cm      **Curvature:** 1.3cm  
**Jihada:** Ko-itame  
**Hamon:** Gunome choji midare, togari-ba, bright and clear hachu  
**Nakago:** Ubu nakago, takanoha yasuri  
**Boshi:** Midarekomi, komaru and kaeri  
**Certificate:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

This masculine looking wakizashi, made almost 500 years ago in the Muromachi period, has been attributed to swordsmith *Kanenaga* of the Mino tradition.

A distinct feature of Mino swords is the presence of *togari-ba* (tapered points) in the *hamon*

resembling treetops. This fire-like *hamon* is a mixture of a bright *gunome choji midare* (wavy clove blossoms) with *togari-ba* that burns along the blade in captivating fashion.

The Edo period *koshirae* features a *fuchi-kashira* with bamboo representing prosperity given their sturdy roots. Traditionally the Japanese were told to run into the bamboo groves in the event of an earthquake, as the bamboo's strong root structure would hold the earth together.

Simple and unadorned, bamboo is also symbolic of purity and innocence. The beautiful *ishimeji* (stone lacquered) scabbard is reinforced with a *kojiri* (tip) adding strength.

The *sukashi* (open work) *tsuba* is of *matsu* (pine trees). Pine trees occur naturally in Japan and are prized for their practical uses and attractive appearance. The evergreen pine has come to represent longevity, good fortune and faithfulness.

The Japanese associate the pine with virtue, a principal symbol of long life and even immortality.





ITEM NO. UJWA091

## A NOBUKUNI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI PERIOD (OEI ERA: 1394~1427)

- Swordsmith:** Yamashiro Shikibunojyo Nobukuni (attribution)  
**Location:** Yamashiro province (present-day Kyoto)  
**Length:** 51.3cm  
**Curvature:** 1.5cm  
**Jihada:** *Itame*  
**Hamon:** *Small Gunome-Midare and Naka-Yakihaba (Yahazu midare), a family trait*  
**Certificate:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

## SOLD

This wakizashi is registered in the 26th year of Showa (1951), where only *Damiyo* families (great feudal lords) were invited to submit their swords. It is a mark of great distinction.

Son of *Saemonnojo Nobukuni*, *Shikibunojo Nobukuni* is a prestigious swordsmith ranked with the likes of Bizen's *Morimitsu* and *Yoshimitsu*. Early on he was known as *Nobusada*.

Works span from Oei to Eikyo (1394~1429). The *hamon* (temper line) is very distinctive, in some places two continuous *gunome* are fused together, becoming *yahazu* (fish-tail shaped). The Nobukuni School was considered one of the very best makers of *horimono* (engravings). This particular wakizashi has a striking long *bo-hi* (groove) extending the length of the blade.

The *fuchigashira* is formed of *shakudo* and *ishime-ji* and gold inlay in the design of a pine needle and family crest. The *menuki* is formed of *shakudo* and gold with the design of traveler on a ship on the wave of the sea.

The *mokko tsuba* is of *yamagane* with *sukashi* openwork in the design of paulownia flowers. Hundreds of tiny black lines thread their way around the red *saya* to form a lucky silk spool.



ITEM# UJWA144

(ON CONSIGNMENT)

## A HIZEN TADAHIRO II WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KAN'EI ERA: 1630~1641)

- Swordsmith:** HIZEN KUNI JU FUJIWARA TADAHIRO (second generation)  
**Location:** Hizen province  
**Length:** 47.5cm      **Curvature:** ~1.0cm  
**Jihada:** *Very tight itame leading to konuka hada*  
**Hamon:** *Classic suguha with ko-ashi*  
**Nakago:** *Ubu nakago, kiri yasuri*  
**Boshi:** *Ko-maru*  
**Certificate:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**SOLD**

Born Hashimoto Heishiuro in Saga, Hizen in 1614, renowned swordsmith second generation (Nidai) Tadahiro began working with his father, maestro Shodai (first generation) Tadayoshi at the tender age of ten.

Guided by his father and other great smiths such as Shodai Masahiro and Yoshinobu, Tadahiro took over leadership of the school at the age of nineteen when his father died in 1632. He then changed his name from Hashimoto Heishiuro to Hashimoto Shinsaemon.

Curiously, it is understood that his new name appears on a family document pledging to the Shogunate that the Hashimoto family would not sell swords for export to foreign countries.

As head of the Tadayoshi School, second generation Tadahiro always signed his name Tadahiro and never Tadayoshi. In July of 1641, after only nine years after taking over the Tadayoshi School, he was given the honorific title of "Omi Daijo". He was only 28.

Nidai Tadahiro died at the age of 81 in the sixth year of Genroku or 1693. His works span an incredible 60 years. The sheer quantity and quality of his work makes him one of the most prized artisans, legendary among Hizen smiths.

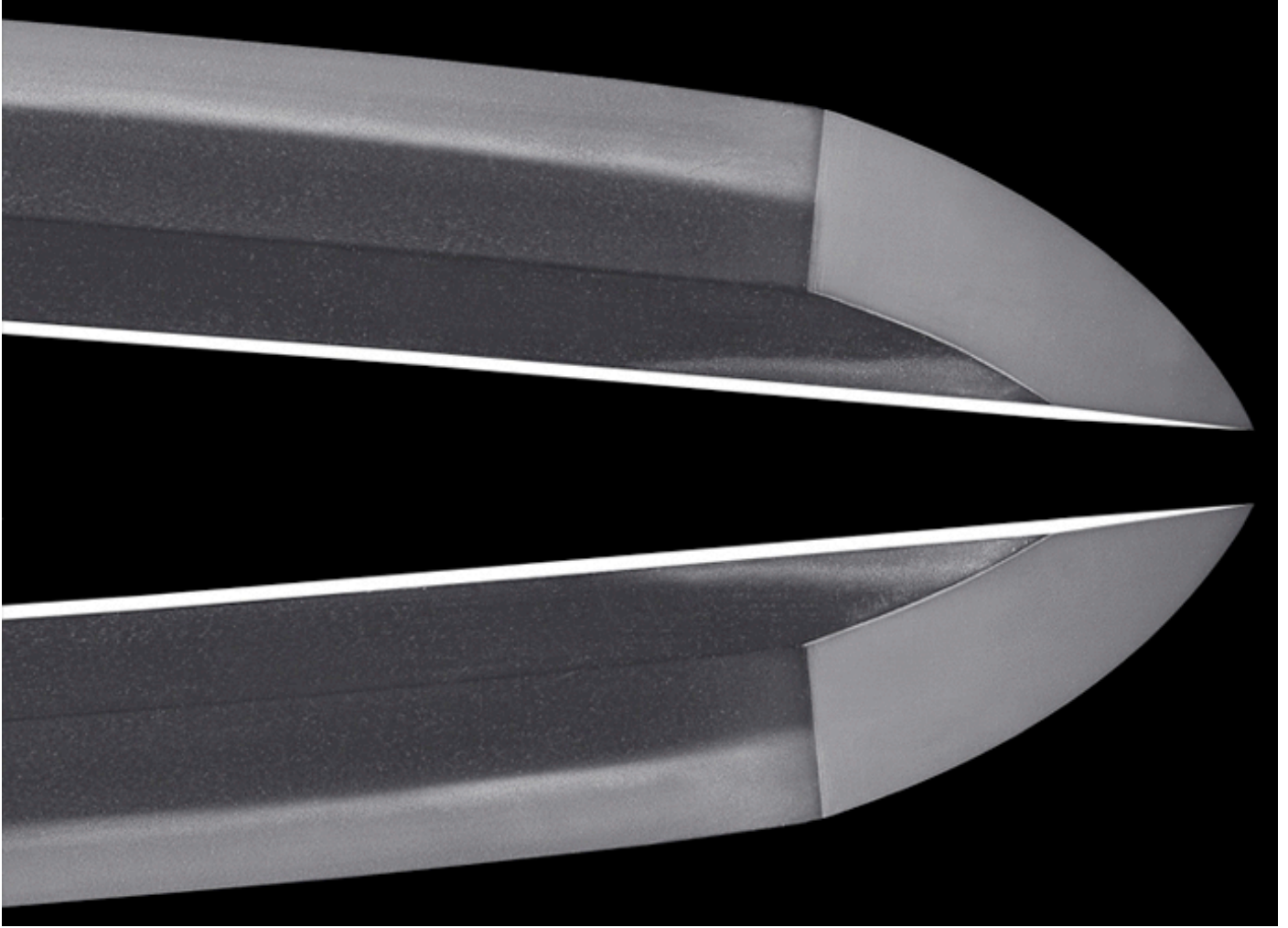
This signed wakizashi made prior to 1641 is everything you would hope for in a Tadahiro II sword. It features his masterful and iconic *suguha hamon* (straight temper line) coupled with a flawless body packed so tightly resulting in the much-desired *konuka hada*.

The delightful Edo-period koshirae pays respect to the long life and good fortune of the tortoise – as seen on the fuchi-kashira and *kozuka* (utility knife). There is also a finely carved octopus on the fuchi. The *tsuka* (hilt) is skillfully wrapped in a braided jabara-maki.

The menuki depicts a unique dragon turtle, which is a rather unusual find. It is said that the powerful dragon turtle will attract prosperity to one's business and bestow luck, security and protection. Unlike some menuki that gets lost under a wrap, this piece floats within the navy-blue silk thread.



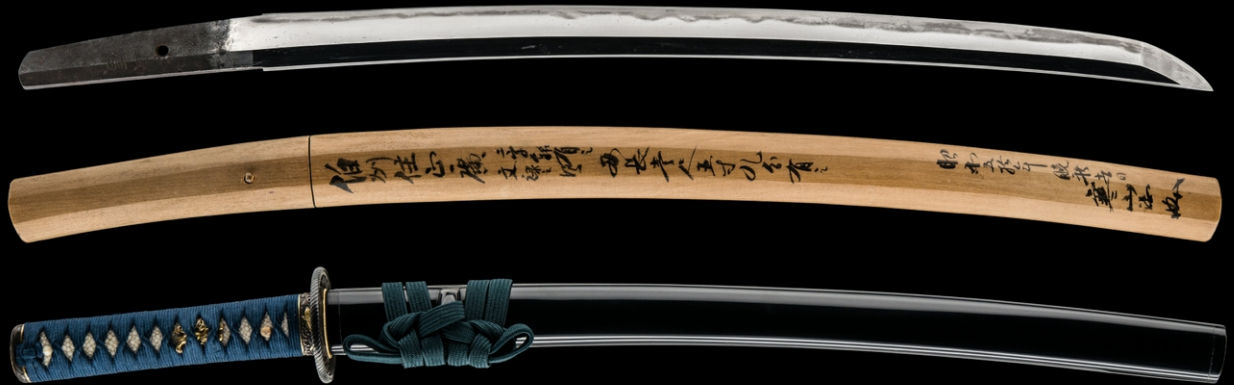
The beaded-design *sukashi* (openwork) iron tsuba gives the sword a tone of elegance and sophistication. This highly collectible wakizashi is currently in England and can be shipped globally. Sword will be duty-free for shipments within the European union.



## RECENTLY COMPLETED KOSHIRAE PROJECTS

Below are photos of swords that we have recently built a custom koshirae for. All projects are very rewarding. If you are interested in your own, please let us know!

A MASAHIRO WAKIZASHI  
BUNROKU (1592-1596)



A KUNITSUGU DAISHO  
EARLY EDO (17TH CENTURY)





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