

JAPANESE SWORD CATALOGUE 24.5

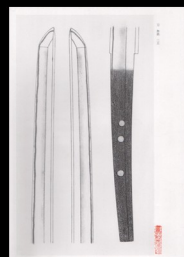
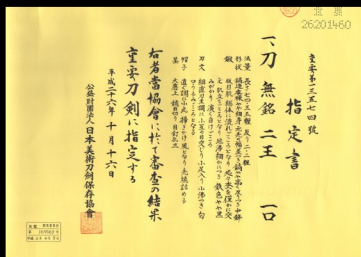
FIRST RELEASED:
MARCH 16/2016

(COVER PHOTO)

ITEM# UJKA200

A NIO SCHOOL KATANA
LATE KAMAKURA PERIOD

60TH NBTHK JUYO TOKEN
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY



ANTIQUÉ JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE (VOLUME 24.5)

RELEASED: MARCH 16, 2016 TO VIP CLIENTS ONLY

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS AND IMAGES OF GENUINE ANTIQUÉ JAPANESE SWORDS THAT WERE SOLD IN CATALOGUE 24. THIS IS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT.

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM TO BECOME INFORMED ON OUR LATEST ACQUISITIONS AND YOUR NAME WILL BE ADDED TO OUR VIP EMAILING LIST.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU.

WE HAVE SERVICE OFFICES IN TOKYO, JAPAN AND NEAR LONDON, ENGLAND.



PABLO KUNTZ
FOUNDER, UNIQUE JAPAN

UNIQUE JAPAN, FINE ART DEALER
ANTIQUES LICENSE ISSUED BY MEGURO CITY
TOKYO, JAPAN (No.303291102398)

FEEL THE HISTORY.™
UNIQUEJAPAN.COM

Hello everyone, thank you for downloading Catalogue 24.

I just finished reading a book I wish I had read years ago. Then again, perhaps it would not have resonated with me as it does at this stage of my life.

The book is called *The War of Art* by **Steven Pressfield**. In a nutshell the author dissects the inner barriers to own personal creativity. We are all born with our own unique genius. "**Resistance**" as he writes, *lies between the life we live and the unlived life within us.*

The warrior and the artist live by the same code of necessity, which dictates that the battle with resistance must be fought anew every day. And it's this **commitment** that marks the difference in successful people.

I've touched upon this subject in my *7 Points to Consider when Choosing Your Japanese Sword* article - whereby it's the *personal commitment* that I admire in my clients regardless of their chosen profession.

Whether you are a pilot, a physician, an entrepreneur, an artist, or a member of the Armed Forces, **the Japanese sword stands for the unwavering commitment towards personal growth and our responsibility to adding positive value in this world.**

The Japanese sword is a symbol of a warrior. To overcome resistance. To become a professional. To love. To serve. To be committed. To make this world a better place for our children.

Good swords are made by smiths who were passionate about their work work. There is an energy with them as there is an energy burning within us. **A quality Japanese sword ignites a fire within our very core and becomes an inspirational piece of history that spurs us on.**

Modern-day warriors understand this and will fight resistance to the end. *I'm going to do this or die trying.* If you want a book about Japanese sword, read this book. May the ongoing battle towards positive personal and community growth continue in your life.

I'm incredibly proud of this catalogue. We have nine swords from almost every major era of Japanese sword making. From a beautiful tachi from the golden Kamakura period, to the fighting Nambokucho and Late Muromachi periods to the Momoyama renaissance. There are also swords from the early Shinto period, the Shinshinto (Late Edo period), and even a brilliant gendaito from 1974. A number of introductory videos were made showcasing the swords, enjoy!

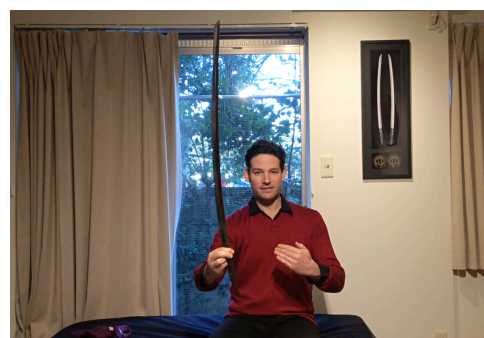
Thank you to all who have joined our VIP email list and to the many who claimed swords in Tokyo via a private meeting. Contact us at service@uniquejapan.com for all inquiries.

Feel the history and create your history.

Warm regards,



Pablo Kuntz
March 2016



A Nio School Tachi, Kamakura Period (ujka200)

INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORDS & FITTINGS

ITEM#	SWORDSMITH & TYPE	CM	CERTIFICATE	ERA / PERIOD	PRICE
ujka135	A MORITSUGU KATANA	66.4	Tokubetsu Hozon	Kanbun (1661-1673)	SOLD
ujwa187	A HIROFUSA WAKIZASHI	40.5	Koshu Toku Kicho	New Year's Day 1858	SOLD
ujka180	A MINAMOTO JUO KATANA	72.5	NTHK Kanteisho	July 1974	SOLD
ujwa191	A YOSHIMICHI WAKIZASHI	41.1	Tokubetsu Hozon	Genroku (1688-1704)	SOLD
ujka123	A DAIMICHI KATANA	74.5	Tokubetsu Kicho	Momoyama (~1596)	SOLD
ujka192	A KO-UDA KATANA	70.9	Tokubetsu Hozon	Genroku (1688-1704)	SOLD
ujwa198	A KANEFUSA WAKIZASHI	59.3	Tokubetsu Kicho x 2	Tensho (1573-1592)	SOLD
ujka198	A TSUGUHIRO KATANA	79.5	Tokubetsu Hozon	February 7, 1666	SOLD
ujka200	A NIO SCHOOL KATANA	74.3	NBTHK Juyo Token	Kamakura (1329~1331)	SOLD

ALL PRICES ARE IN US DOLLARS

To access previously sold swords in Catalogue 23, please copy and paste this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/uj-catalogue-23-sold>

TO ONLINE VISITORS AROUND THE WORLD...

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.

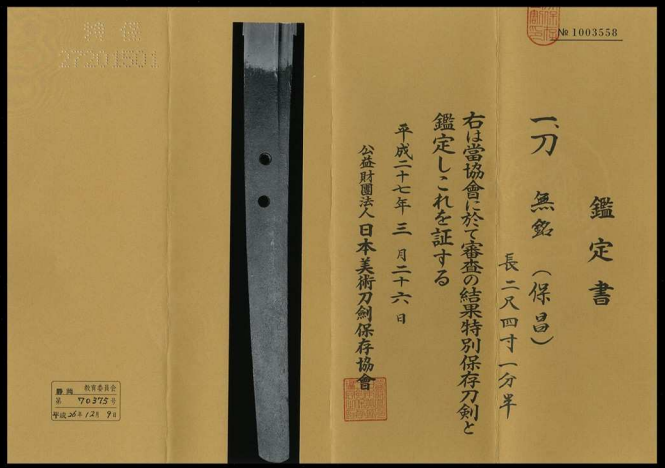
IT IS OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS ALL YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY. IT'S IMPORTANT TO US THAT YOU FEEL COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THAT THE SWORD YOU CHOOSE (AND CHOOSES YOU) IS DESTINED FOR YOUR FAMILY TO CHERISH AND PRESERVE.

PLEASE TAKE REASSURANCE THAT ALL SWORDS FROM UNIQUE JAPAN ARE GUARANTEED AUTHENTIC AND COME WITH A **3-DAY WORRY FREE INSPECTION PERIOD** UPON ARRIVAL TO YOUR HOME.

WE ACQUIRE SWORDS ON A REGULAR BASIS AND CAN SOURCE SWORDS FOR COLLECTORS SEEKING A SPECIFIC SMITH AND/OR SCHOOL.

PLEASE INQUIRE ABOUT OUR LATEST ARRIVALS THAT MAY NOT BE LISTED IN THE CATALOGUE.

DOMO ARIGATO!
PABLO



Recently sold...

A Hosho School Katana
circa Kamakura Period
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon

Pure *masame*.
Pure joy.

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SWORDS

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS OF AUTHENTIC AND CERTIFIED JAPANESE SWORDS THAT ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR OWNERSHIP OR ON HOLD.

PLEASE CONTACT US AT SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM TO FOR FURTHER IMAGES AND INFORMATION INTO SWORDS OF INTEREST.

ALL SWORDS ARE OFFERED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

EVEN IF A SWORD IS LISTED AS BEING “ON HOLD”, BE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AS IT MAY COME AVAILABLE.

DESCRIPTIONS AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

THANK YOU!



PABLO KUNTZ
FOUNDER, UNIQUE JAPAN

SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM

+44 7954 102 277 (MOBILE, ON BRITISH TIME)

PHOTOS TAKEN BY ERIC BOSSICK FOR UNIQUE JAPAN.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



ITEM# UJKA135

A CHIKUZEN MORITSUGU KATANA SIGNED, EDO PERIOD, ENPO ERA (1673-1681)

- Swordsmith:** *Chikuzen no Kuni Fukuoka Ju MORITSUGU*
Location: Chikuzen province (Fukuoka city)
Length: 66.45cm **Curvature:** 1.2cm **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
Jihada: *Ko-Itame (tight wood grain pattern) with shirake utsuri*
Hamon: *Gunome choji midare (wavy temper line with clove blossom pattern)*
Nakago: *Ubu nakago*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*A Sword Especially Worthy of Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)
Certificate x 3: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*A tsuba, fuchi-kashira, and menuki, all designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)
Fujishiro: *Jo-saku (a superior swordsmith)*
Included: Custom koshirae, shirasaya with sayagaki, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

This gorgeous katana is the work of one of the finest smiths working in the Bizen tradition during the early Edo period, *Chikuzen Moritsugu*. Moritsugu is the cousin of founder of the Fukuoka Ishidō school, *Koretsugu*, who studied under *Ishido Korekazu*. A recently completed custom koshirae that pays tribute to the glory of rice - complete with three certified Edo-period fittings. The sword itself is certified NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon.

Saki-kasane: 4.7mm

Moto-kasane: 7.0mm

Saki-haba: 1.8cm

Nagasa: 66.4cm

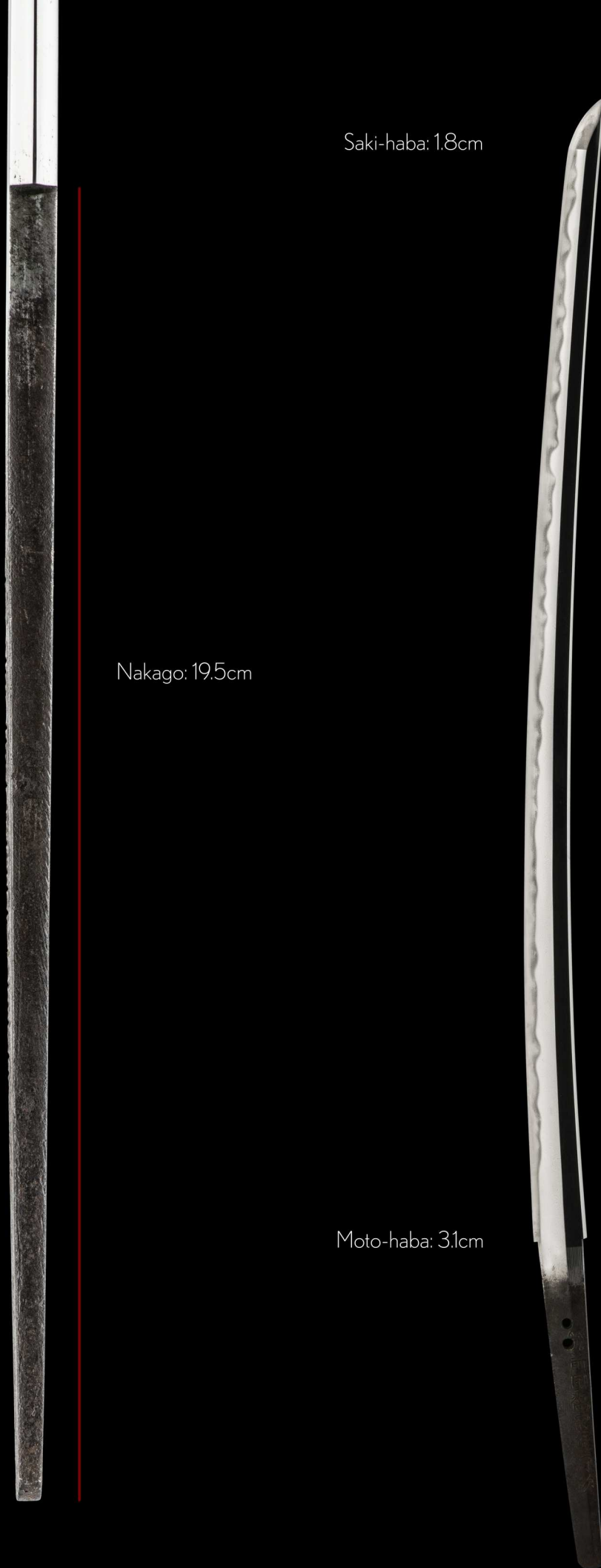
Nakago: 19.5cm

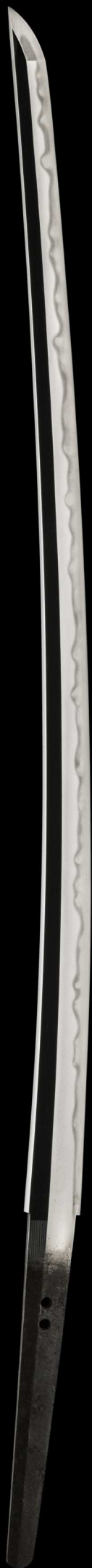
Sori: 1.2cm

Omosa: 710g

Moto-haba: 3.1cm

Mekugi-ana: 2





Province: *Chikuzen no Kuni*

City: *Fukuoka*

Swordsmith: *Moritsugu*



Chiku

zen (no)

Kuni

Fuku

oka

Ju

Mori

tsugu

*The *Fukuoka Ishido School* became famous for their unique rounded writing style when chiseling characters on the *nakago*.

27201501

No 1003397



鑑定書

一刀 銘 筑前国福岡住守次

長二尺一寸九分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十七年三月二十六日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



東京 教育委員会
第 288982号
平成 15年 4月 15日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 27th year of Heisei (2015), March 26th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Chikuzen no Kuni Fukuoka Ju Moritsugu

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 1-sun 9-bu (66.45cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

Ko-nie and Sunagashi

Tiny crystals in a *sand-swept* appearance known as *sunagashi* dances within the hamon

Jihada

Tightly forged *itame hada* that resembles a wood grain surface with traces of *masame* (straight grain).

Zoom into image for a closer look.

In accordance to the Bizen tradition, clear *utsuri* (shadow hamon) can be enjoyed on this fine katana.

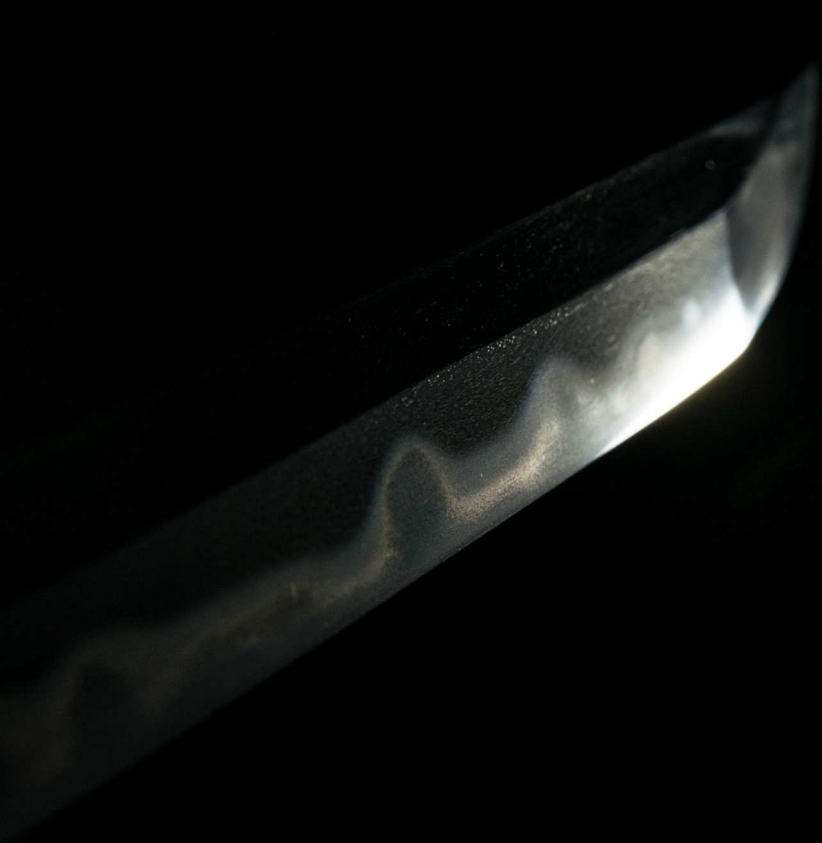
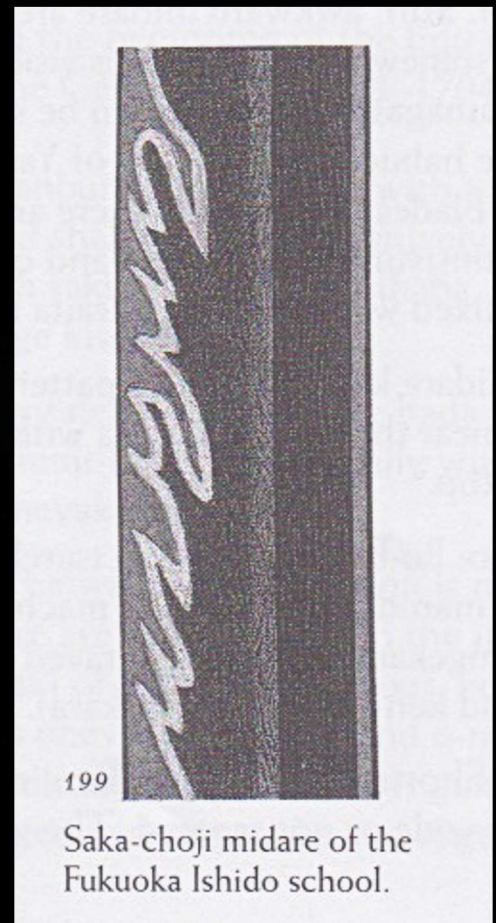


Illustration from *The Connoisseurs Book of Japanese Swords* by Nagayama Kokan.



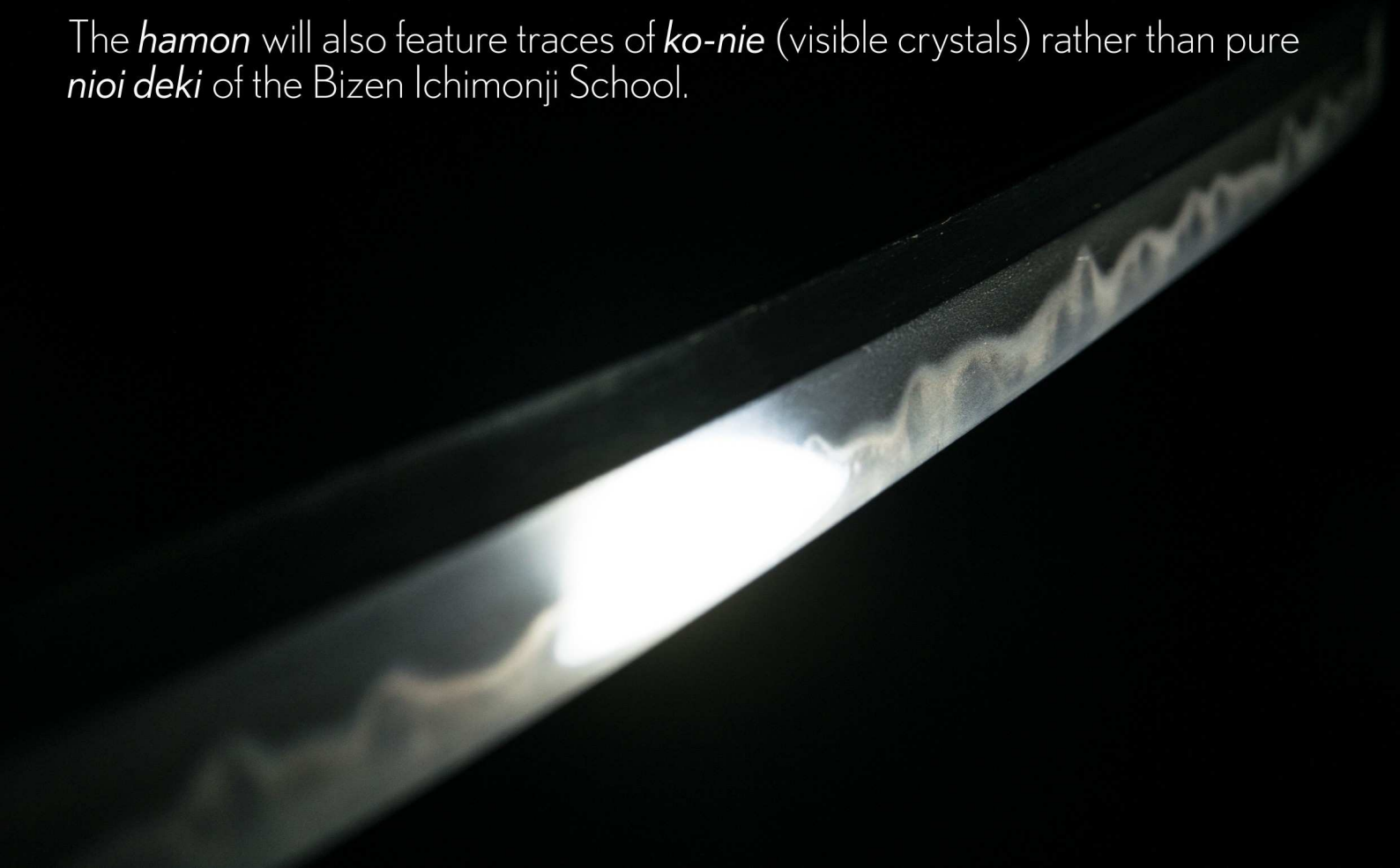
199

Saka-choji midare of the Fukuoka Ishido school.

Hamon

The Fukuoka Ishido School is known for a stunning *choji-midare* that resembles that of the great Bizen Ichimonji School. The main differences are that the *hamon* slants (*saka*) and, in parts, forms unique 'squid-like' peaks.

The *hamon* will also feature traces of *ko-nie* (visible crystals) rather than pure *nioi deki* of the Bizen Ichimonji School.





Shirasaya with sayagaki

Chikuzen (no) Kuni Fukuoka Ju Moritsugu

Enpo Koro
(sword crafted in the Enpo era, 1673-1681)

Hacho (length)

2-Shaku 2-Sun Ari Kore (66.4cm)

Heisei 12-nen 3-gatsu Kaizaya Den Ishiemon

Written in March, 2000 by Ishiemon





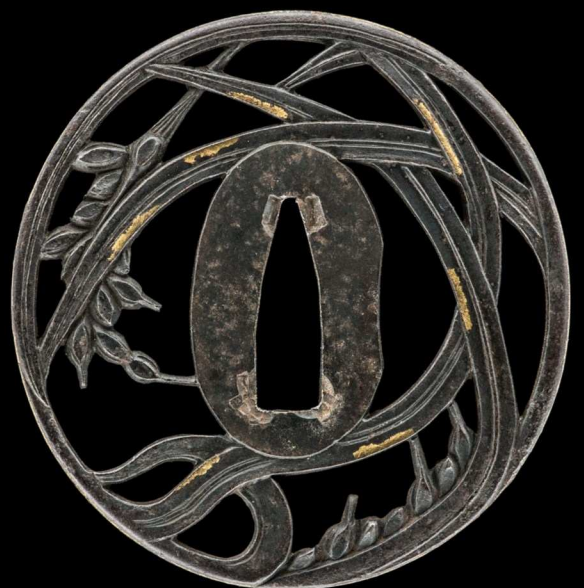
A Tribute to Rice

This beautiful open-work tsuba was crafted in the middle Edo period (1700s), signed by *Masakata* living in *Bushu* (modern-day Tokyo).

The design is that of a rice plant. Rice has been an agricultural fixture in Japan for more than 2,000 years. It is a symbol of the country's spiritual connection with nature, the gods and gifts within the community.

Rice has always been valued highly in Japan. In fact, during the Edo period, salaries and daily wages were calculated in rice.

Rice is sometimes called *chikara* (a homonym for "strength"), meaning "divine grain." This *tsuba* is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho papers.





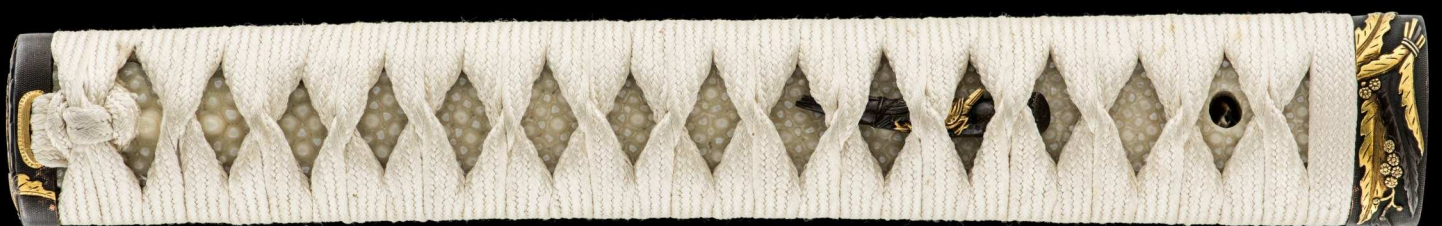
Kashira (pommel)

The celebratory rice theme continues. This lovely *kashira* was also crafted in the middle Edo period (circa 1700s).



The *menuki* depict sparrows on a bamboo shoot - a symbol for happiness and prosperity. As the lucky sparrow thrives on discarded grains of rice, it denotes a bountiful harvest.

White woven silk on the white *samekawa* (ray skin) base represents purity and sacredness. The *menuki* are made from a base material of *shakudo*, certified *Kanteisho* (authentic) by the NTHK-NPO crafted during the middle Edo period.





ITEM# UJWA187

A HIROFUSA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED & DATED, ANSEI 5-NEN (NEW YEAR'S DAY 1858)

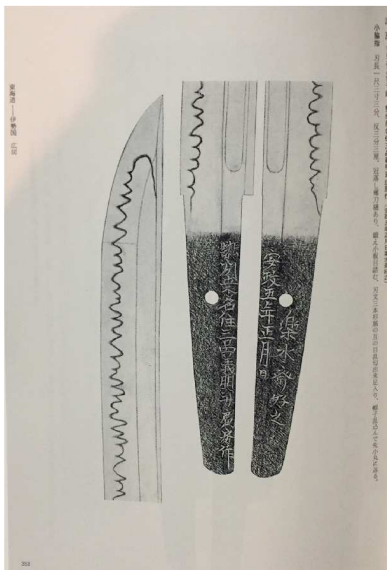
- Swordsmith:** *Seshu Kuzwana Ju Sanpon Gimeisai HIROFUSA*
- Structure:** *Kamuri otoshi zukuri with naginata hi (groove)*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 40.5cm **Curvature:** 1.0cm **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
- Jihada:** *Itame (wood grain pattern), nereru*
- Hamon:** *Choji midare habuchi shimari kokoro hachu ni ashi*
- Nakago:** *Ubu nakago, o-sujikai (big acutely slanted file marks)*
- Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho** (a sword designated as Extraordinarily Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
- Certificate #2:** **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (a sword designated as Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Certificate #3, 4:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Publication:** Sword is published on pg 353 of *Nihonto Zuikan: Shinto by Kataoka*
- Included:** Custom koshirae, shirasaya with sayagaki, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

Shinshinto period swordsmith *Gimeisai Hirofusa* was a working resident of the *Kuwana domain* (fief) in Ise province, modern-day Mie prefecture in the mid-1800s. According to Fujishiro's *Nihon Shinto Jiten* he was called *Mishina Hanbei* and also lived in Iga province.

His talents were primarily served in the reproduction of masterpieces of the past, particularly forging in the Bizen tradition.

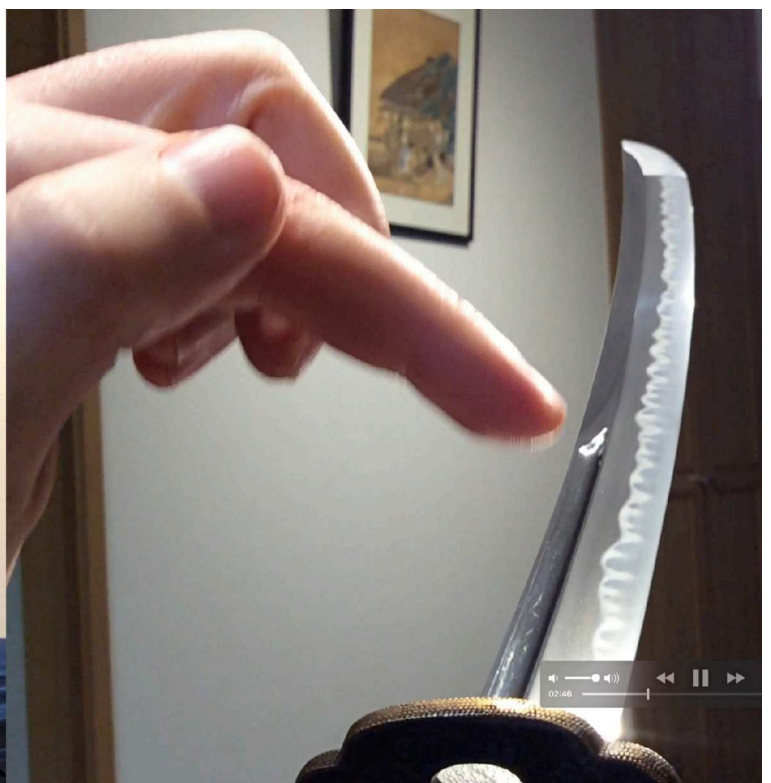
Signed swords by Hirofusa are rare, making this piece such an interesting find. This wakizashi, dated New Year's Day 1858, is surely one of Hirofusa's greatest accomplishments - a work of extraordinary skill. Her powerful construction is called *kanmuri otoshi* (bevels along the spine) and carries a beautifully constructed *naginata* groove. The *kissaki* is a massive 6.3cm long.



The hamon is a classic Bizen *koshibiraki choji midare* that literally jumps off the blade. This very sword has gained many well-deserved accolades.

First, it is published in the prestigious *Nihonto Zuikan Shinto book* by *Kataoka* (left). Secondly, it achieved NBTHK's **Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho Token** (Extraordinarily Precious certificate) and just last December attained *Yushusaku* (Highly Excellent), the top certificate at the NTHK-NPO.

An elegant custom-made koshirae was built for the sword that carries a positive and persevering "*never give up*" message. It's a gem of a sword with immense personality that will light up any room, anywhere. Enjoy.



Please watch presentation video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujwa187-hirofusa>

Saki-kasane: 5.5mm[^]

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 415g

Nakago: 13.2cm

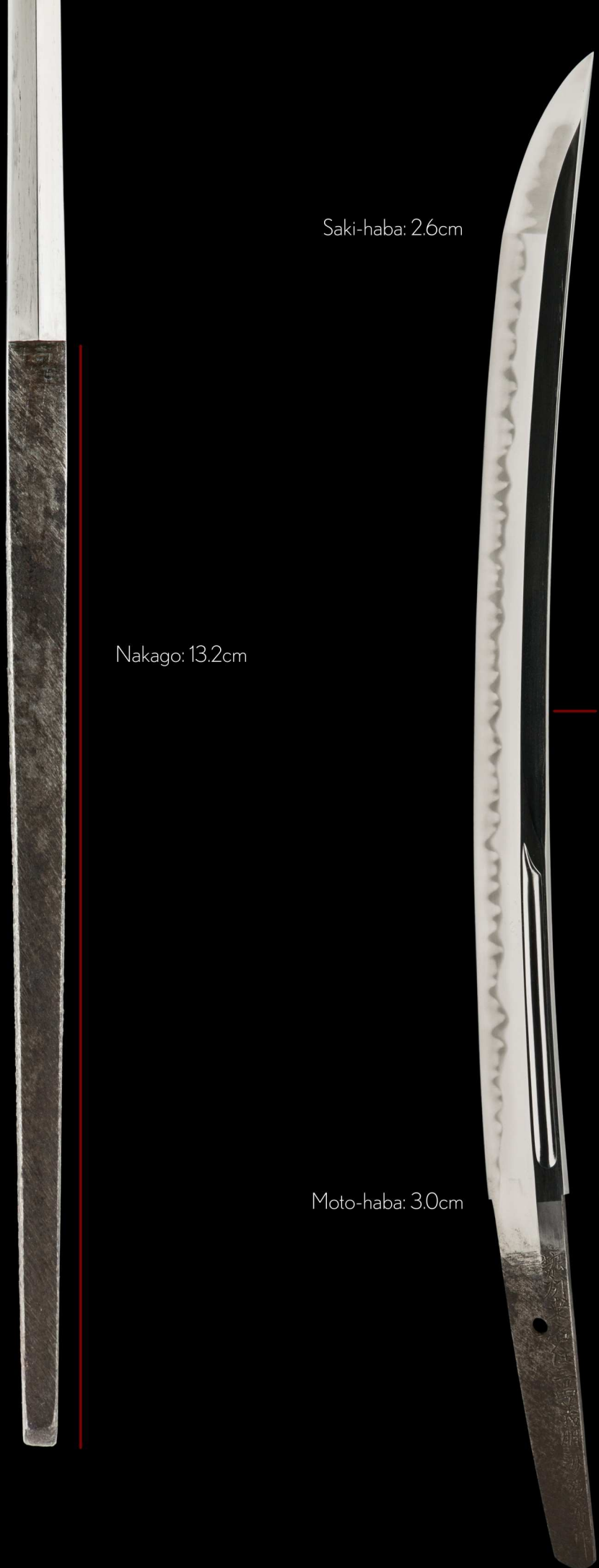
Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Saki-haba: 2.6cm

Nagasa: 40.5cm

Sori: 1.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 1







School: *Mishina*

Location: *Kuwana, Sesshu province*

Swordsmith: *Gimesai Hirofusa*

Se

shu

Kuwa

na

ju

Mi

shina

Gi

mei

sai

Hiro

fusa

Saku

This sword is dated to
New Year's Day on the
5th year of Ansei
(January 1, 1858)



*This sword is well-liked
by Rakusuisai.*

An
sei
5
nen
Sho
gatsu
hi

Raku
sui
sai
Konomu
Kore



認定書

長一尺三寸三分

一 振指 銘

勢洲宗名住三品義朋齋廣房作
安政五年正月日

右は當協會に於て審査の結果甲種特別

貴重刀剣として認定す

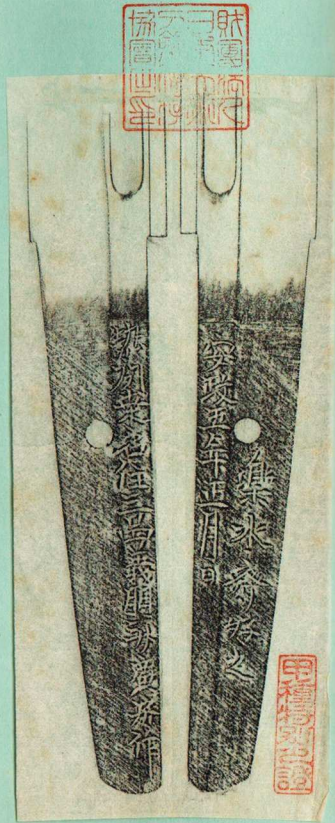
昭和五十年二月四日

財團法日本美術刀剣保存協會

會長 本間 順 治



真下達也殿



NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho Token Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Extraordinarily Precious* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 50th year of Showa (1975), February 4th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

Seshu Kuwana Ju Mishina Gimeisai Hirofusa Saku

Ansei 5-nen Shogatsu hi Rakusuisai Konomu Kore

Nagasa (length)

1-shaku 3-sun 3-bu (40.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)

Hamon

A sublime *koshibiraki choji midare* (rhythmically patterned clove blossoms)





捺 審 査 印 員	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 柄	形 り	銚 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 七 〇 九 七 号
				目釘穴 一個 鍔 化粧付 三分切		表裏 廿五 刀櫃	乱れ込 中込 返り 横子 牙	二 三 一段 と 將 開 さ り 牙 乱 れ		小 板 身	冠 落 し 造 り	越 前 州 桑 名 匠 三 品 義 明 宗 辰 房 作 安 政 五 年 正 月 日 樂 永 齋 好 之	

NTHK-NPO Yushusaku Certificate of Authenticity

This wakizashi was designated as *Yushusaku* (Highly Excellent) by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

*Seshu Kuwana Ju Mishina Gimeisai Hirofusa Saku
Ansei 5-nen Shogatsu hi Rakusuisai Konomu Kore*

Nagasa (length)
40.5cm

Issued in 27th year of Heisei (2015), December 13th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)

This sword has reached the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO.
Five judges have stamped their names to the certificate.



Shirasaya



Yujo-habaki
(silver rain pattern)



The Koi and the Waterfall

Koi (or *nishikigoi* meaning *brocaded carp*) are decorative varieties of domesticated common carp.

They have long been respected and greatly loved in Samurai culture since they were introduced to Japan by the Chinese.

*An ancient legend tells of a huge school of golden koi swimming upstream the Yellow River in China.

Gaining strength by fighting against the current, the school glimmered as they swam together through the river.

When they reached a waterfall at the end of the river, many of the koi turned back, letting the flow of the river carry them away.



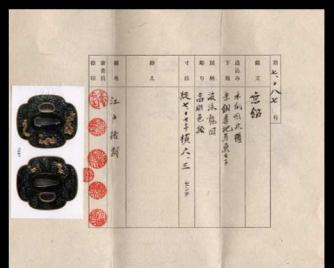
The remaining koi refused to give up.

Leaping from the depths of the river, they attempted to reach the top of the waterfall to no avail. Their efforts caught the attention of local demons, who mocked their efforts and heightened the waterfall out of malice.

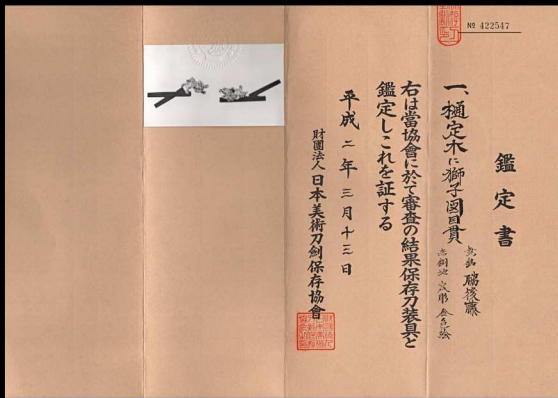
After a hundred years of jumping, one koi finally reached the top of the waterfall. The gods recognized the koi for its perseverance and determination and turned it into a golden dragon, the image of power and strength.

Thus the expression "*Toriyumon*" (climbing the dragon's gate) was born.

The *koi* (carp) turns into a golden dragon upon reaching the top of the waterfall.



NTHK Kanteisho Certificate to *Mino School*, Edo Period.



Menuki

Uniquely designed gold *shisa lion menuki* balancing on sticks of *shakudo* flank both sides of the *tsuka* (hilt).

These guardian *menuki* have NBTHK Hozon certification to *Mino Waki-Goto*.





ITEM# UJKA180

A MINAMOTO JUOU KATANA SIGNED & DATED, SHOWA 49-NEN, 7-GATSU (JULY 1974)

Swordsmith: *Minamoto JUOU*
Measurements: **Length:** 72.5cm **Curvature:** 3.06cm **Moto-haba:** 3.1cm
Jihada: *Itame (wood grain pattern)*
Hamon: *Notare ni ko-choji komidare ashi nagaku (freshly polished)*
Nakago: *Ubu nakago*
Certificate x 3: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword, tsuba and koshirae all designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Edo-period koshirae, shirasaya, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

Behold a freshly polished and striking *gendaito* (modern katana) by swordsmith *Minamoto Juou* dated to July, 1974. Juou is a descendent of grandmaster swordsmith *Taikei Naotane* and known as *3rd generation Naohiro*. The sword's majestic shape was influenced by the works of the Nambokucho period (14th century). An *o-kissaki* (large tip) and *bo-hi* (groove) captures attention.

This sword is complemented with a handsome *koshirae*, equipped with Edo-period fittings. The highly collectible *tsuba* (guard) is certified as being crafted by the *Jingo family* of Higo province. Note all the wonderful *hataraki* (activity) in the *hamon*. A healthy sword with a vigorous spirit.

Saki-kasane: 5.1mm[^]

Moto-kasane: 6.7mm

Saki-haba: 2.2cm

Nagasa: 72.5cm

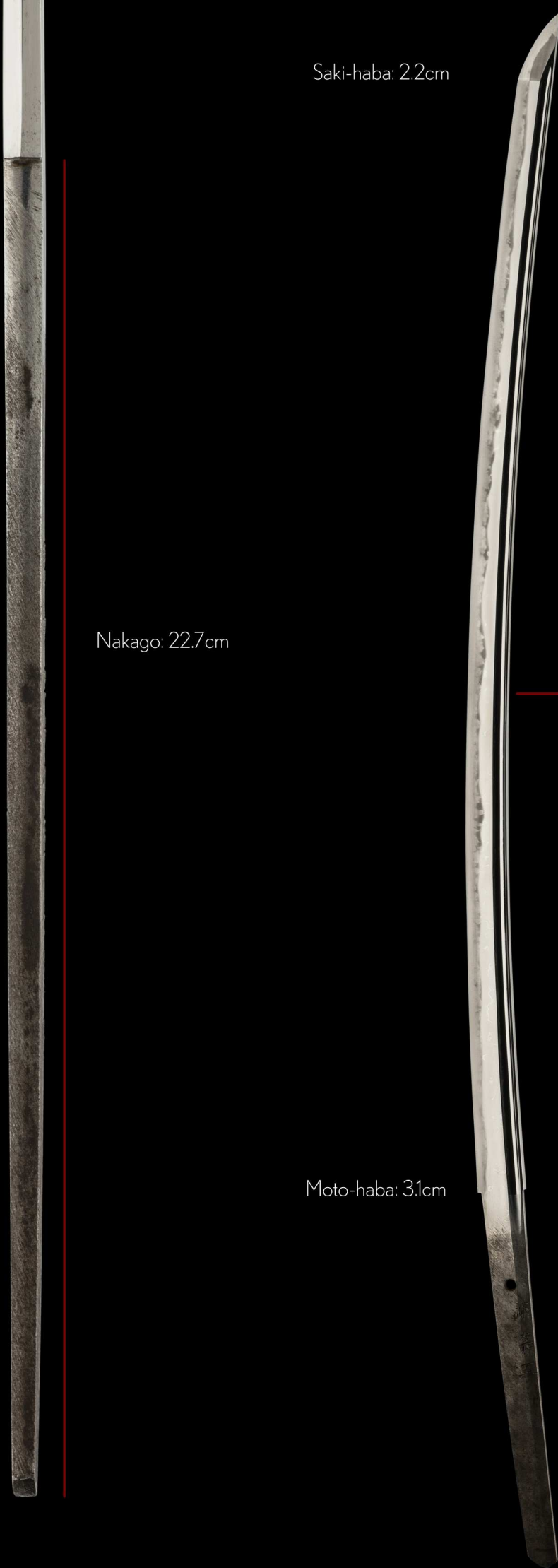
Nakago: 22.7cm

Sori: 2.0cm

Omosa: 685g

Moto-haba: 3.1cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Prefecture: *Saitama*

Clan: *Minamoto*

Swordsmith: *Juou*



Minamoto

Ju






ou

This sword is dated to the
7th month of the 49th
year of Showa period.
(July, 1974)

Sho
wa
4(x)
10(+)
9
nen
7
gatsu
hi



第六五七号

捺 審 査 印 員	備 考	中 心	彫 刻	鉈 子	刃 紋	鍛	造り 込 み	銘 文
    	大慶直胤の末孫、 柳川直弘の晩年銘	目釘穴 一個 鐘 竹助五達	表裏 榎穂中心の孫三流シ	直心 <small>（小丸）</small>	浅い滑れ小丁子小丸、足長に入る	小極目錬水	鑄造了、倉庫	源寿王 昭和四十九年七月日



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Minamoto Juou
Showa 49 nen 7 gatsu hi (July 1974)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 9-bu (72.5cm)

Issued in 27th year of Heisei (2015), June 14th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)



Jihada

Tightly forged *itame hada* that resembles a wood grain surface.

Note the gorgeous streaks of *chikei* (black gleaming lines of *nie* crystals) in the body of the sword.

In parts, the *chikei* resembles the claws of a crab.

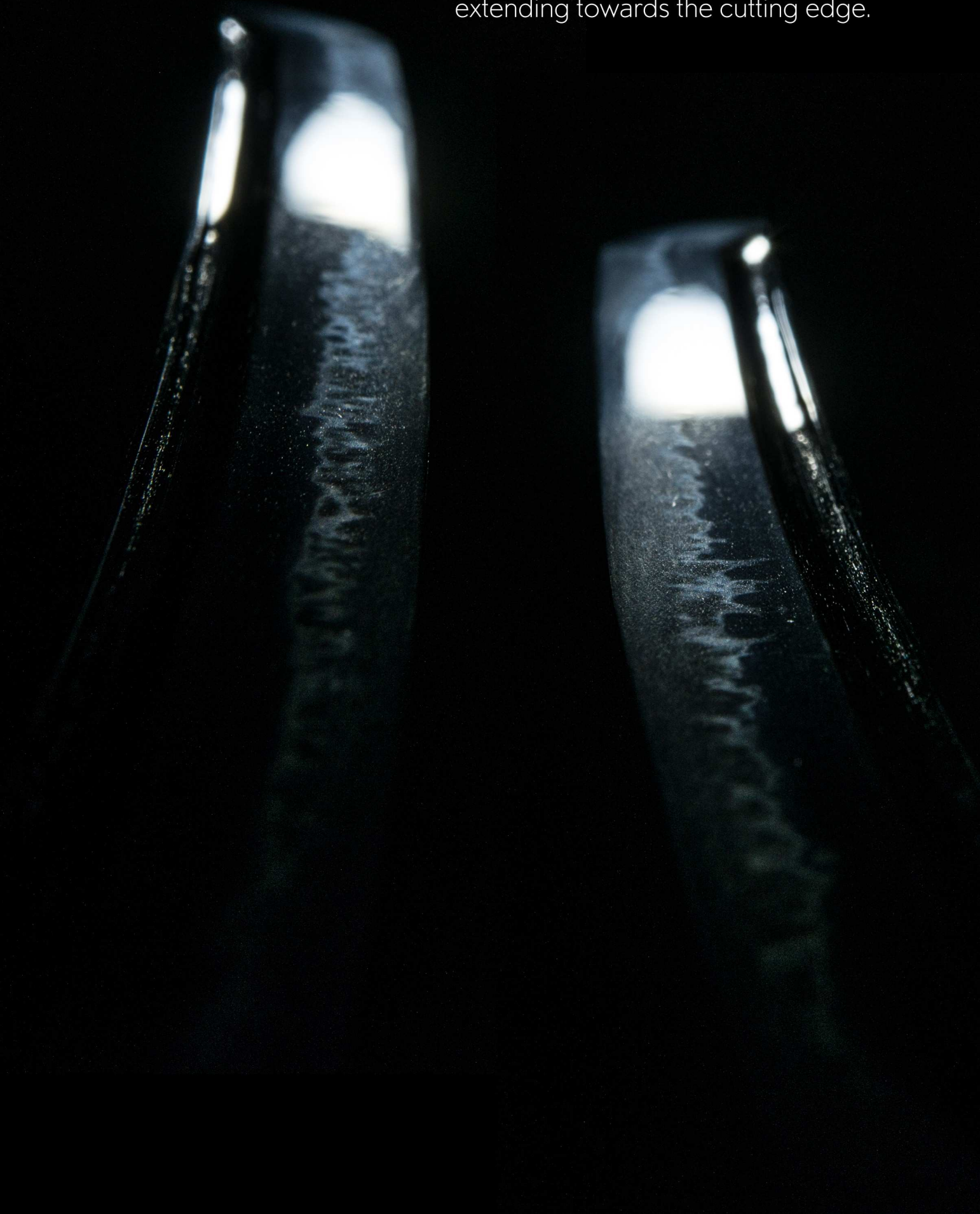
Yo (literally "leaf") can also be seen - these are spots or *ashi* that are separate from the hamon.

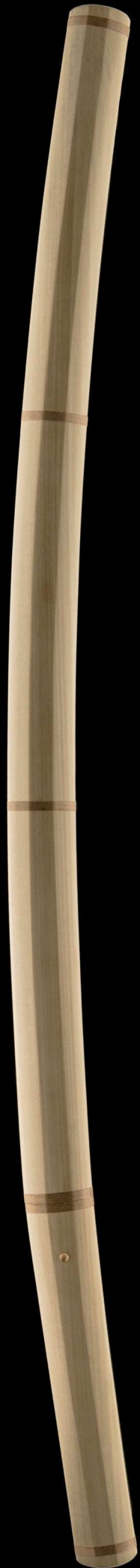
Chikei

Yo!

Hamon

A lovely *notare gunome ko-choji midare* (lightly meandering temper line with small clove blossom buds) with long *ashi* (legs) extending towards the cutting edge.





Shirasaya



Gin-habaki
(silver with rain pattern)



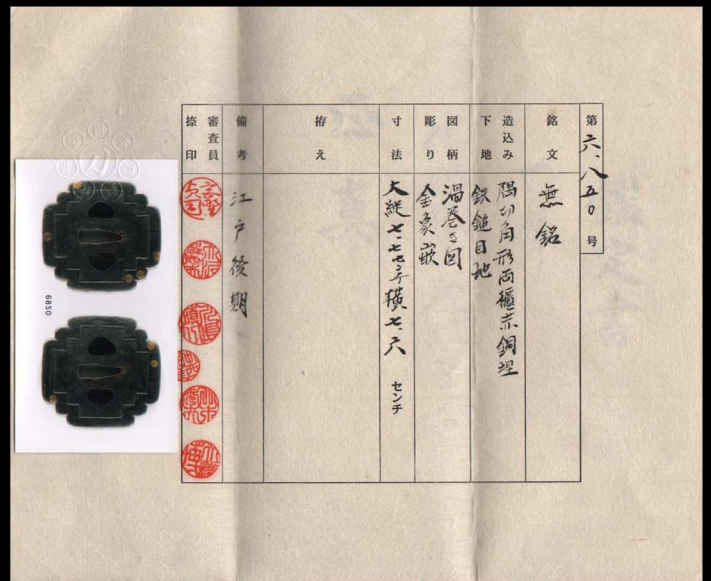
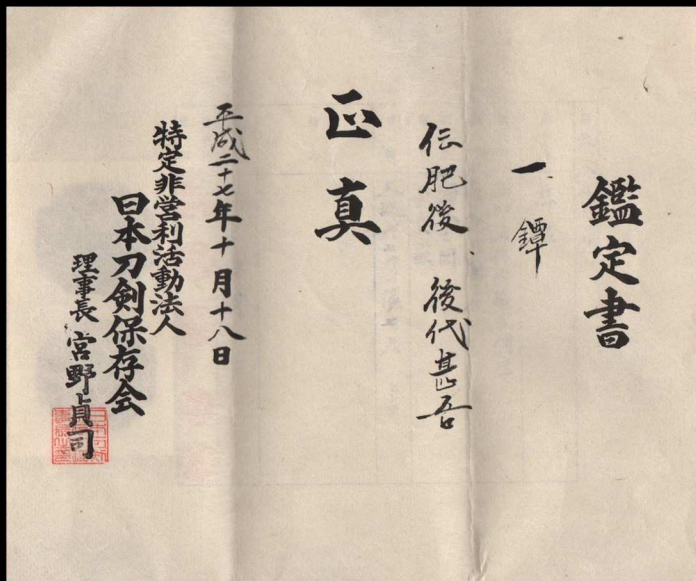


A Jingo Tsuba

This beautiful *tsuba* (guard) has been attributed to the respected *Jingo Family* of the *Shimizu School* that worked in Higo province on Kyushu island. It is certified as having been crafted in the Late Edo period (early to mid 1800s).

The tsuba is formed of a hammered iron base decorated in gold inlay. The unique shape is called *uzumaki*, meaning "whirlpool" in Japanese.

The Shimizu school was founded by Hirata Hikoza's nephew *Hirata Jinbei*. Jinbei's son and successor *Jingoro* (2nd generation Shimizu) was born in 1650. He began using the name *Jingo* and thus became known as first generation Jingo. This tsuba would have been made by the 5th or 6th generation Jingo. It is accompanied with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This tsuba was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, *Tsuba*
Den Higo, Koudai Jingo

Issued in 27th year of Heisei (2015), October 18th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)

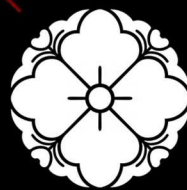


suede leather wrap



A *Kaga Zogan fuchi* (collar) with *mon* (crest) designs.

Kaga Zogan were first made when the second Lord of Kaga province, *Maeda Toshinaga*, invited the third Chikuzyo of the Goto family, a specialist in metalwork from Kyoto, to develop ornamental techniques in the fiefdom.



One of the repeated crest patterns resembles the *Hanakaku mon*.





Kashira (pommel)

A flower and plant design,
celebrating nature and
personal growth



ITEM# UJWA191

A TANBA YOSHIMICHI WAKIZASHI SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (GENROKU ERA: 1688-1704)

- Swordsmith:** *Tanba no Kami YOSHIMICHI (3rd generation Osaka branch)*
- Location:** Settsu province (Osaka prefecture)
- Measurements:** **Length:** 41.1cm **Curvature:** 0.6cm **Moto-haba:** 2.8cm
- Jihada:** *Itame (wood grain pattern), nereru*
- Hamon:** *Yakidaka and wonderful sudare-ba (bamboo blind) in sashikomi polish*
- Nakago:** *Ubu nakago, o-sujikai (acutely slanted file marks)*
- Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
- Certificate #2:** **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (a sword designated as Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Certificate #3, 4:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Included:** Edo-period koshirae, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

Certain swords exude an air of sophistication and elegance; this is one such sword.

One of the most pleasing hamon forms is the *sudare-ba*. It is a temper line that was pioneered by *Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi* in the early 1600s in Kyoto, and faithfully reproduced by the family for several generations.

Sudare is a bamboo curtain, and the unique rolling multi-layered pattern is said to resemble it.

This pleasing wakizashi was crafted by the *third generation Yoshimichi* from Settsu province, modern-day Osaka. He is ranked as *Chujo-saku*, an above average swordsmith by Fujishiro.

Of notable mention is the fact the blade has been polished in traditional *sashikomi*. This type of polish gives the blade a more natural appearance. When the sword is placed under the light, the *sudare-ba* hamon gleams in a kind of playful dance.

The blade has been certified **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** and recently achieved the prestigious certificate **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (a highly excellent sword).

A refined set of matching Edo-period koshirae has protected this sword for well over 150 years. It feels as if the sword has been frozen in time since the 1800s. Surely this piece was once part of a Samurai daisho. Both the koshirae and the beautiful *tsuba* from the notable *Nara School* have been certified Kanteisho by the NTHK-NPO.

A *kozuka* (utility knife) with a dragon design fits neatly into the *saya* (scabbard). Rather cleverly, Yoshimichi has depicted the *moon and the sun* on either side of the *kissaki* (tip) reminding us that we all twirl together in this vast universe we call home.



Please watch presentation video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujwa191-yoshimichi>

Saki-kasane: 4.0mm[^]

Moto-kasane: 5.7mm

Saki-haba: 2.6cm

Nagasa: 41.1cm

Nakago: 14.1cm

Sori: 0.6cm

Omosa: 335g

Moto-haba: 2.8cm

Mekugi-ana: 1







Tan

ba (no)

Kami

Yoshi

michi

Title: *Tanba no Kami* (Lord of Tanba province)

Location: *Settsu province* (Osaka)

Swordsmith: *Yoshimichi*

27201507



No 1004345



鑑定書

一、脇指 銘丹波守吉道(大阪)

長一尺三寸五分半

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀劍と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十七年八月十七日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



新潟 教育委員会
第 32760 号
昭和44年 5月 15日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

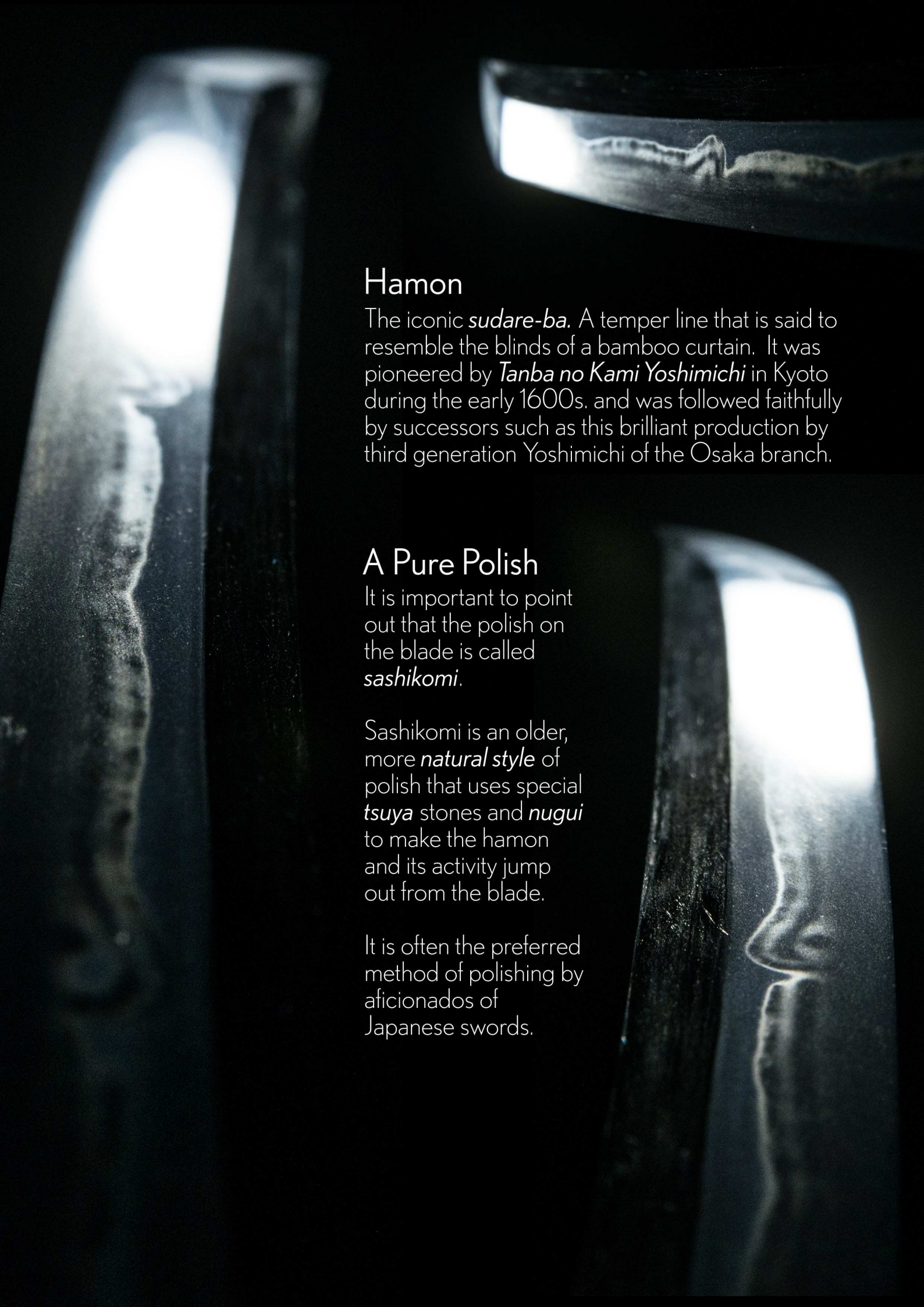
Issued in the 27th year of Heisei (2015), August 17th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)
Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi (Osaka)

Nagasa (length)
1-shaku 3-sun 5-bu (41.1cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

A close-up photograph of a Japanese sword blade, focusing on the hamon (temper line). The blade is dark, and the hamon is a lighter, wavy line that runs along the edge. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and the curve of the blade. The background is dark, making the blade stand out.

Hamon

The iconic *sudare-ba*. A temper line that is said to resemble the blinds of a bamboo curtain. It was pioneered by *Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi* in Kyoto during the early 1600s, and was followed faithfully by successors such as this brilliant production by third generation Yoshimichi of the Osaka branch.

A Pure Polish

It is important to point out that the polish on the blade is called *sashikomi*.

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 aficionados of Japanese swords.



Celestial Balance

Note how sword smith Yoshimichi has cleverly produced a circular spot of *tobiyaki* on both sides of the *kissaki* (tip).

This represents the **sun** and **moon**, suggesting that we all live within a cyclical universe. Having respect for the power and balance of nature is at the heart of Samurai culture.







A Nara Tsuba

This lovely *suika* (pure copper) *tsuba* (guard) has been attributed to the Nara School, one of the most influential schools in the Edo period.

Craftsman of the Nara School worked for the shogunate and much their work glorifies scenes of nature. In this fine arrangement, flying plover birds soar amongst clouds.

The tsuba is accompanied with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity dating the tsuba to middle Edo Period (1700s).

Note the large number of individually hand-punched dots of *nanako*.





Kashira (pommel)



The *fuchi* and *kashira* of the sword's *koshirae* (fittings) are made of iron and lacquered in *urushi* to protect and preserve the pieces.

The elegant and understated criss-cross design is known as *ajiro*, meaning bamboo weaved wickerwork.

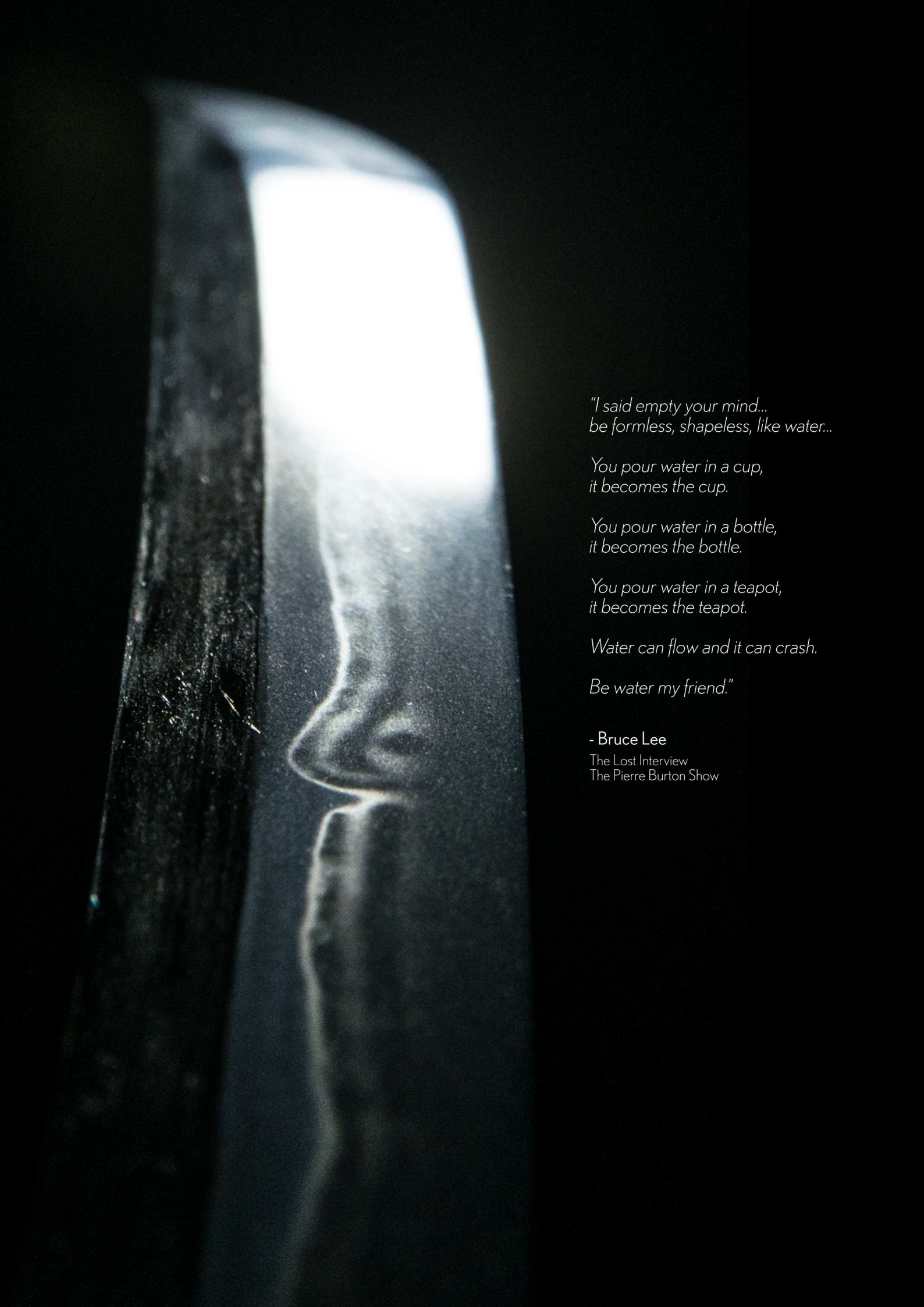
Bamboo, lacquer and Japanese culture are synonymous with one another. To left is a Japanese woman practising *Ikebana* (the art of flower arrangement), positioning the flowers into an *ajiro* basket.



The *menuki* (decorative grips on the hilt) carry a variation of the *kiri-mon*.

The *kiri-mon* is one of two imperial badges of Japan consisting of three leaves of the paulownia flower surmounted by three budding stems.

The powerful *Toyotomi family* of Osaka adopted this crest as their family crest known as *kamon*. This *tsuka* (hilt) is an antique in her own right, having last been wrapped in the late 1800s during the Edo period. It is in wonderful condition.



*"I said empty your mind...
be formless, shapeless, like water..."*

*You pour water in a cup,
it becomes the cup.*

*You pour water in a bottle,
it becomes the bottle.*

*You pour water in a teapot,
it becomes the teapot.*

Water can flow and it can crash.

Be water my friend."

- Bruce Lee

The Lost Interview
The Pierre Burton Show



ITEM# UJKA123

A DAIMICHI (DAIDO) KATANA

SIGNED, MOMOYAMA PERIOD (KEICHO ERA: 1596-1615)

- Swordsmith:** *Daimichi (two-character signature)*
Location: Mino province (Gifu prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 74.5cm **Curvature:** 1.2cm **Moto-haba:** 2.8cm
Jihada: *Itame (wood grain pattern)*
Hamon: *Gunome yakidashi firing into a long suguha*
Nakago: *Ubu nakago*
Certificate: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Fujishiro: *Jo-saku (a superior swordsmith)*
Sayagaki: *Dr. Sato Kanzan*
Included: Shirasaya with sayagaki, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description. Blade is currently in QLD, Australia.

SOLD

This is a katana that has stories to tell. Signed with a strong two-character signature, *Daimichi* (or Daido), meaning “big path/way”, this is long blade that was crafted during the turbulent **Azuchi Momoyama Period** – a 30-year transitional pivot point towards the long and relatively peaceful Edo Period. Daimichi also signed *Minamoto Mutsu no Kami Daimichi*.

The cutting edge is **74.5cm** with *ubu nakago* (original length) and a curvature of 1.2cm, typical of the time period. It features a remarkable *hamon* that begins with a wavy *gunome yakidashi* and then shoots up to the sky in a *suguha* (straight) fashion. This unique rising temper element in the *habaki* area is referred to as *koshiha* and the *Mino yakidashi*.

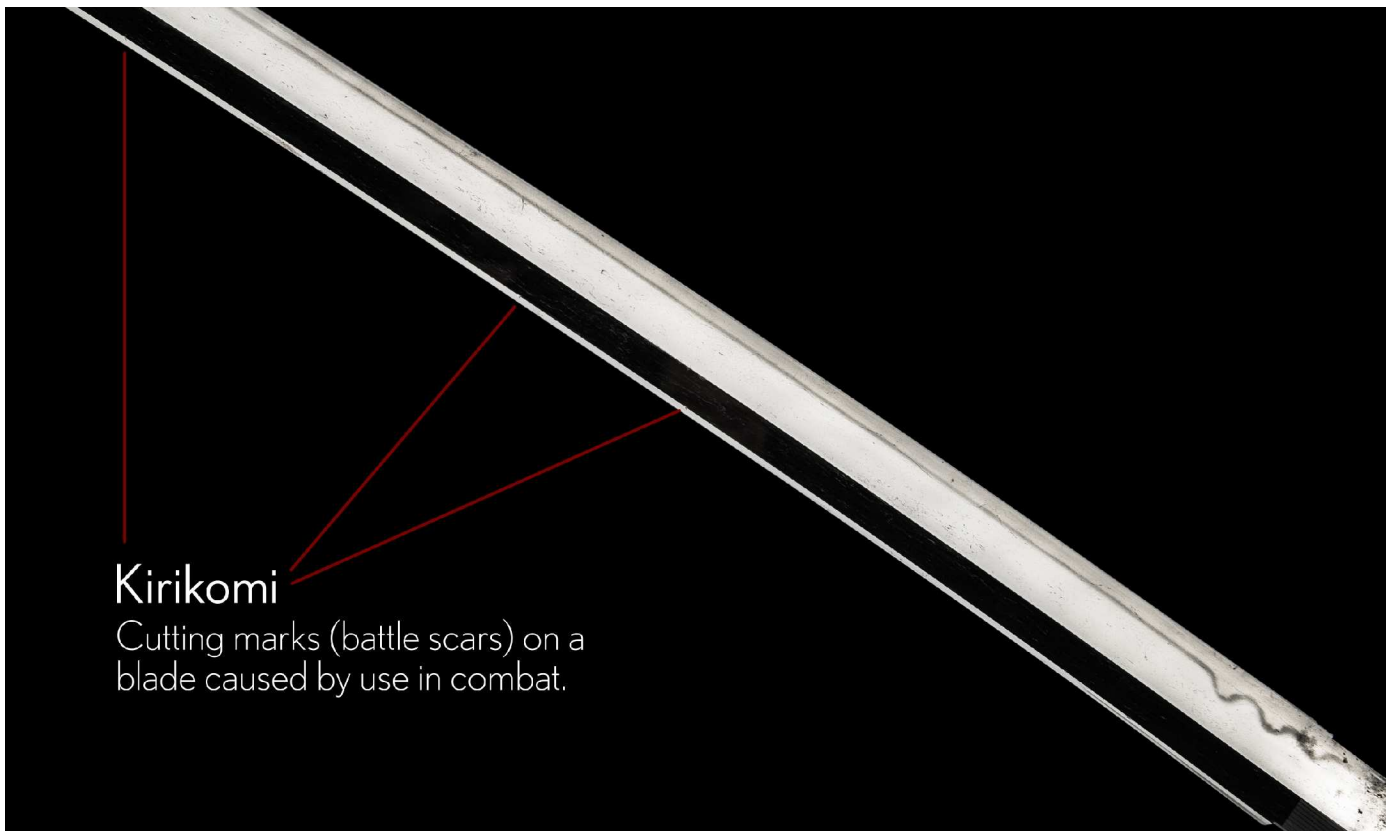
This is a sword with plenty of character. On the spine of the blade there are numerous *kirikomi* (prized battle scars) from coming into contact with other blades in combat. As a matter of respect and common practice, sword polishers never remove kirikomi. Surely this peace maker has seen plenty of action in the past.

The sword was given a significant restoration polish in the 20th century. The integrity of the steel and clear hamon remain strong and vibrant. *Fujishiro* in the famous *Nihon Shinto Jiten* book of swordsmiths ranks Daimichi as a *Jo-saku* (superior smith).

The sword is accompanied with a vintage **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Token** certificate of authenticity and certified by *Dr. Sato Kanzan* as the shirasaya has his *sayagaki* from the 1960s.

There is a fascinating theory that *Daimichi* and *Seki Kanemichi*, founder of the great *Mishina School* in Kyoto are the same swordsmith. It is said that in 1603, the Emperor gave Seki Kanemichi the character 大 (**Dai**), thus changing his signature to *Daimichi* (大道).

This sword is currently in QLD, Australia. Shipment can be made to a new caretaker in Australia would be ideal although the blade is willing to hit the road for a new adventure.





Location: *Mino province*
Era: *Momoyama*
Swordsmith: *Daimichi*

Dai
michi



認定書

一、刀 銘 大道 長二尺四寸五分 一口

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別貴重
刀劍として認定す

昭和三十六年十一月五日

財團法日本美術刀剣保存協會
會長 細川護立

高橋利郎殿

NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Epecially Precious*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 36th year of Showa (1961), November 5th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Daimichi

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 4-sun 5-bu (74.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

Jihada

A mixture of *itame* and *mokume* (swirling wood grain patterns) with a definitive *masame* (straight grain) in the *shinogi-ji*.

Hamon

Gunome yakidashi (wavy temper line) at the *habaki* area is known as *koshiha* or the *Mino yakidashi*. After these three waves, the hamon turns into an impressive *suguha* (straight temper line).







Shirasaya with Sayagaki

by Dr. Sato Kanzan
former director of the NBTHK



Mito-habaki
(silver)



ITEM# UJKA192

A KO-UDA SCHOOL / TAMETSUGU KATANA UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (OAN ERA 1368~1375)

- Swordsmith:** *Ko-Uda School / Etchu TAMETSUGU*
Location: Etchu province (Toyama prefecture)
Length: 70.9cm
Curvature: 2.0cm
Moto-Haba: 3.0cm
Jihada: *O-hada with traces of masame hada*
Hamon: *Notare gunome with brilliant nie structures, plentiful sunagashi*
Nakago: *O-suriage, four holes in nakago*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #3-5: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro: *Jo-saku (Tametsugu is ranked as a superior swordsmith)*
Included: Edo-period handachi koshirae, shirasaya, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

This is a powerful katana crafted in *Etchu province* during the stormy *Nambokucho Period*, circa mid-14th century (650 years ago). Etchu is on the northern coast of Honshu, the main island of Japan, and overlooks the Sea of Japan.

The NBTHK has reviewed this sword twice. The original **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** certificate from 1969 attributes the blade to *Etchu Tametsugu*, the son of one of the most important swordsmiths in Japan's history *Go Yoshihiro*. Go Yoshihiro is considered the finest of the *Juttetsu* (ten great students) that studied under *Masamune*.

Tametsugu was an excellent smith with dozens of swords attributed to him that have achieved **NBTHK Jujo Token certification**. Upon the death of his father, he joined the *Go Norishige School* and worked with master Norishige. Tametsugu learned well from both "Go"s producing swords with plentiful Soshu tradition driven *hataraki*, abundant *nie* structures, *sunagashi*, *chikei*, *kinsuji* that this sword absolutely enjoys.

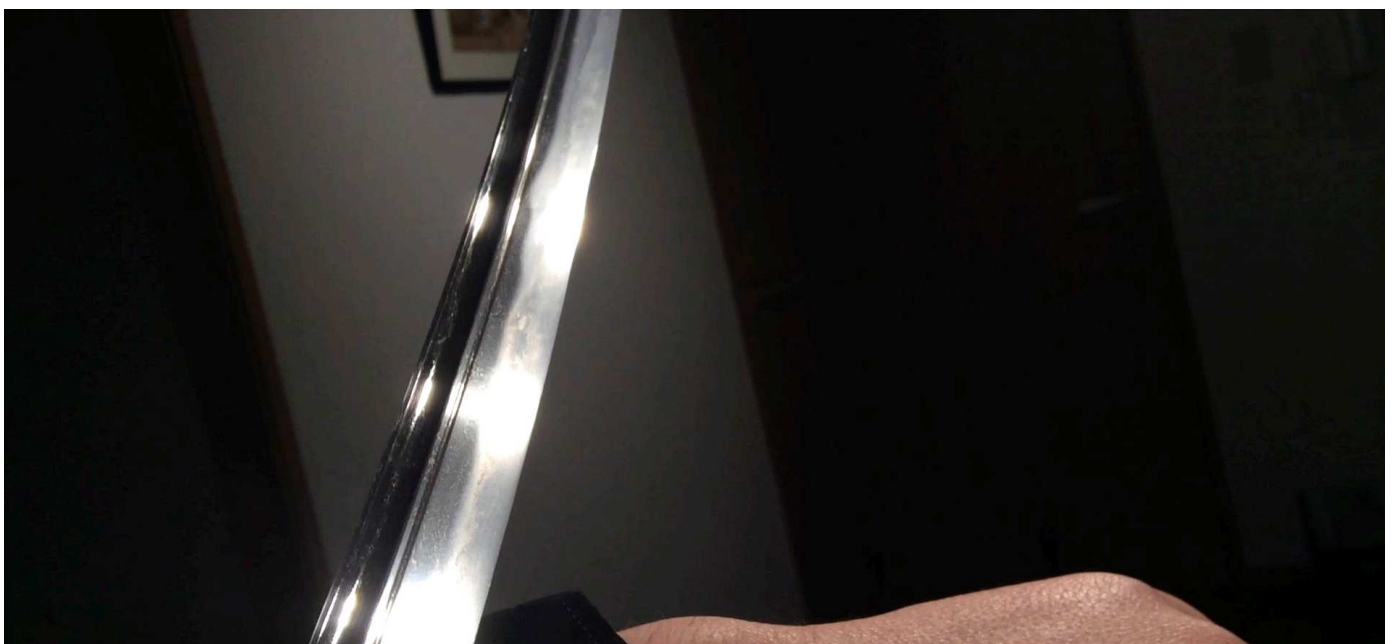
The NBTHK further reviewed the sword in 2014 and attributed the blade to the **Ko-Uda School**, also of Etchu province. *Kunimitsu* is considered the founder, originally from the *Uda district* of **Yamato Province** circa 1317 at the end of the Kamakura Era.

As remaining works by Kunimitsu are non-existent, his students, *Kunifusa* and *Kunimune*, both said to be students of Go Norishige School, are thought to be the true founders of this school.

This is a terrific sword with boundless personality and history. The workmanship is a gleaming mixture of Soshu, Yamato and Bizen traditions all working in harmony. Every time one picks up a katana of this age and character, something new in the steel hits the eye of the beholder.

A very attractive Edo-period *handachi koshirae* further compliments the sword. The fittings include a splendid 400-year-old *Heianjo School tsuba* from the Muromachi period and an *aoigai* (mother-of-pearl) lacquered *saya* (scabbard), both with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.

Five certificates of authenticity in total accompany the sword.



Please watch an introduction video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujka192-ko-uda>

Saki-kasane: 2.1mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 6.6mm

Omosa: 670g

Saki-haba: 2.1cm

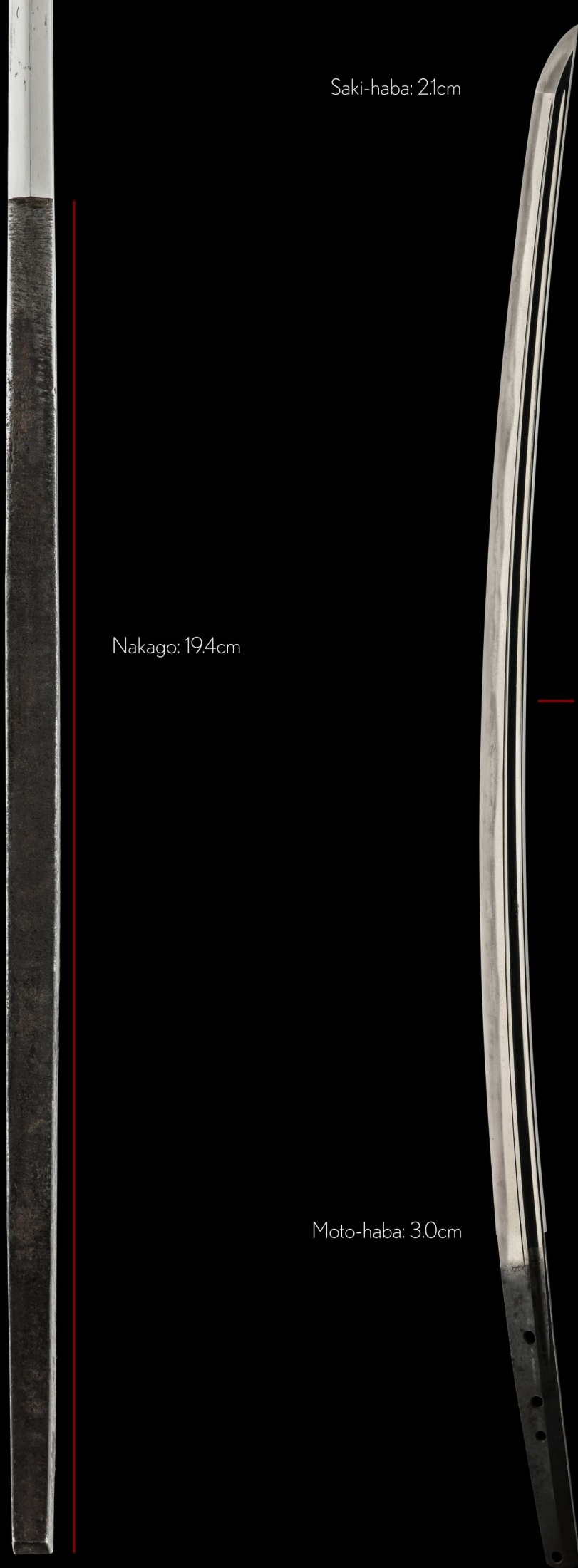
Nakago: 19.4cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 70.9cm

Sori: 2.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 4







No 1001828

特保
25201311



鑑定書

一刀 無銘 (古字多)

長二尺三寸四分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十六年一月三十一日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



富山 教育委員会
第 10086 号
昭和 38 年 10 月 21 日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

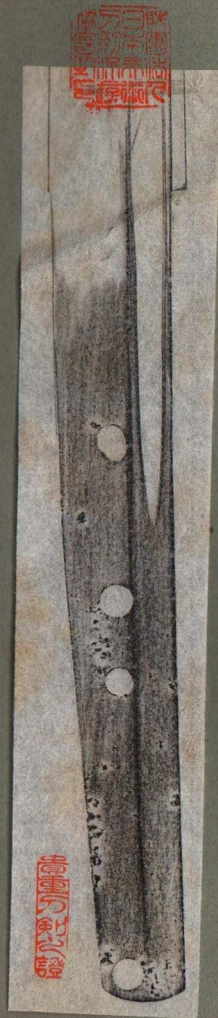
Issued in the 26th year of Heisei (2014), January 31st

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Mumei (Ko-Uda)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 4-bu (70.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



杉岡善蔵殿

幾園 日本美術刀剣保存協会



認定書
 一、刀 無銘（為継）一口
 長二尺三寸四分
 右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別貴重
 刀剣として認定す
 昭和四十四年二月十六日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Token Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Precious*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 44th year of Showa (1969), February 16th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Mumei (Tametsugu)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 4-bu (70.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



4.3cm

O-Kissaki

A large *kissaki* (tip), very typical of swords from the warring Nambokucho period (circa 1333-1392).

kaki-nagashi

bo-bi

soe-bi

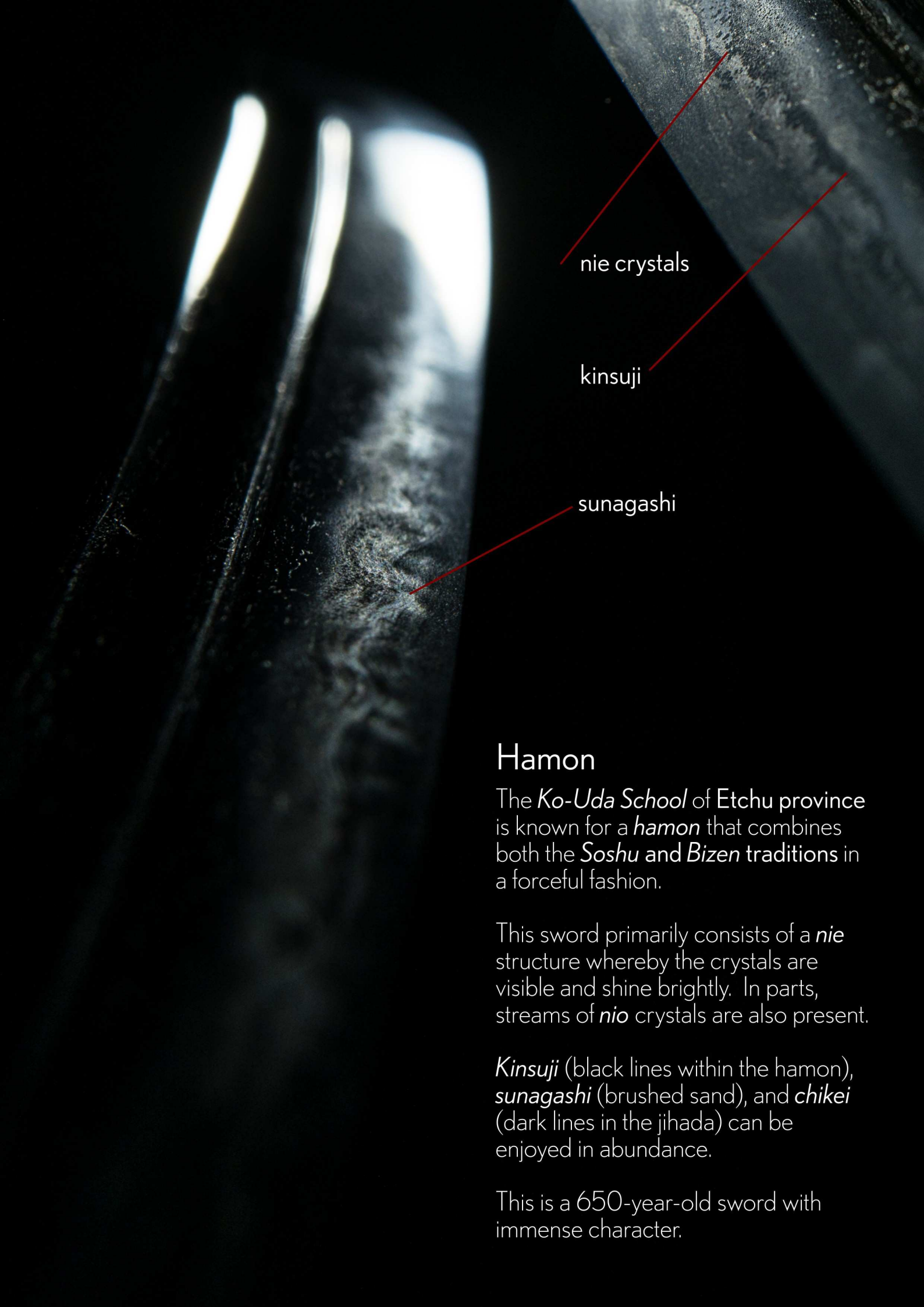
Hi (groove)

A *hi* (pronounced "hee") is a groove engraved on the *shinogi-ji*, the surface between the *mune* (spine) and the *shinogi* (ridge line) or the *hira-ji* (area between the *hamon* and *shinogi*).

There are many types of grooves.

On this sword, there is a *bo-bi* with *soe-bi*, a wide groove with a second, thinner groove.

The groove then becomes pointed and tapers about halfway down the *nakago* (tang). This is known as *kaki-nagashi*.



nie crystals

kinsuji

sunagashi

Hamon

The *Ko-Uda School* of Etchu province is known for a *hamon* that combines both the *Soshu* and *Bizen* traditions in a forceful fashion.

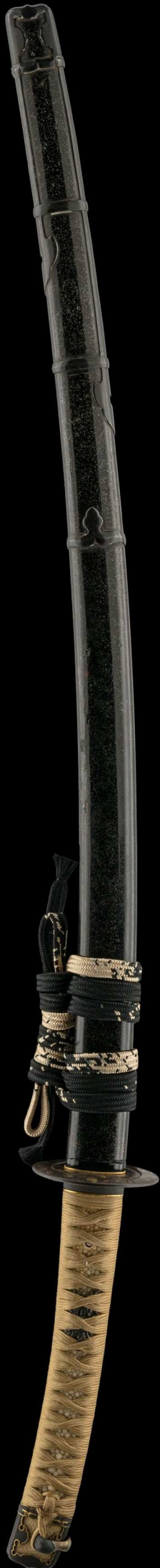
This sword primarily consists of a *nie* structure whereby the crystals are visible and shine brightly. In parts, streams of *nio* crystals are also present.

Kinsuji (black lines within the hamon), *sunagashi* (brushed sand), and *chikei* (dark lines in the jihada) can be enjoyed in abundance.

This is a 650-year-old sword with immense character.

Shine on you crazy diamond...







A Heianjo-Zogan Tsuba

This is a classic *Heianjo-Zogan School* tsuba made of beautifully polished iron with brass inlay in a golden *hyotan* (gourd) motif. In Japan, the gourd symbolizes "signified happiness or success to people".

Hideyoshi Toyotomi (1537-1598), the preeminent daimyo and supreme general, who once a peasant, not of noble birth, adopted the lowly water gourd as his emblem in circa 1575. He added gourd for every victory he gained, until the number grew into a large bunch. He was called *The Lord of the Golden Water Gourds*.

This tsuba is certified with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate attributing the tsuba to the *Late Muromachi Period*, at the same time Hideyoshi was in command.





Guardian Menuki

Nio-son or *Kongorikishi* are two wrath-filled and muscular guardians of the Buddha standing today as Deva statues at the entrance of many Buddhist temples.

They are *dharmapala* manifestations of the bodhisattva *Vajrapani*, the oldest and most powerful of the Mahayana Buddhist pantheon.



Vajrapani, coloured clay Deva statue
Todaji-temple Nara 8th century

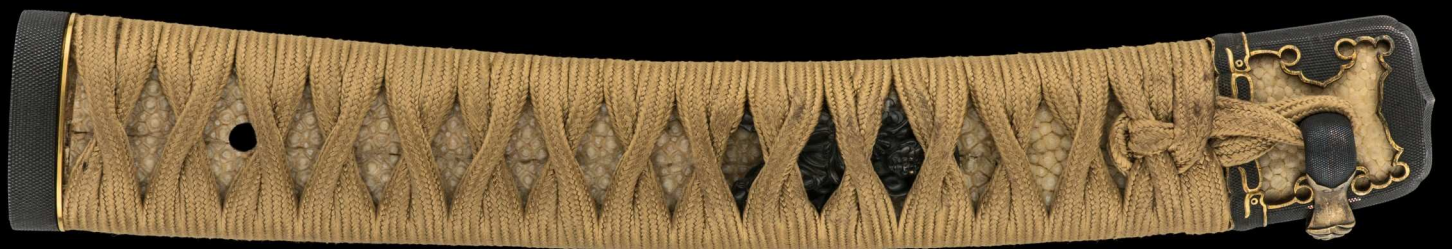


A *tachi kanagushi* (fittings for tachi) in rich *shakudo nanako*. Note the level of exacting detail.



This unique design is of multiple square rulers used by a skilled carpenter.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity accompanies the *fuchi-kashira*. It was crafted during the Late Edo period.







ITEM# UJWA198

A NOSHU KANEFUSA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENSHO ERA: 1573-1592)

Swordsmith: *Noshu Seki Ju KANEFUSA*

Measurements: **Length:** 59.3cm **Curvature:** 2.1cm **Moto-haba:** 2.9cm

Jihada: *Mokume (burl wood grain pattern)*

Hamon: *Togari gunome midare*

Nakago: *Suriage (slightly shortened)*

Certificate x 2: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (*a sword and koshirae both designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)

Included: Edo-period koshirae, shirasaya, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description. **Sword is currently in the UK.**

SOLD

This is superb one-handed fighting sword (known as *katate-uchi*) by Mino swordsmith Kanefusa from the very end of the Muromachi Period - crafted about 425 years ago. It was once a katana and shortened at some point in its life to slightly over 59cm thus technically becoming an *o-wakizashi* (long wakizashi). It carries all the desired hallmarks of the Mino tradition.

The sword is housed in a handsome *uchigatana koshirae* from the Edo period with an attractive *horse theme*. Both the blade and koshirae have been certified with vintage *NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho* papers. The sword is consignment in the UK.

A 15-minute introduction video can be accessed here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujwa198-kanefusa>



ITEM# UJKA198

A TSUGUHIRO TAMESHIGIRI KATANA SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD (FEBRUARY 7TH, 1666) CUTTING TEST: ICHI NO DO [OCHIRU]

Swordsmith: Echizen Ju Shimosaka TSUGUHIRO (1st generation)
Measurements: Length: 79.5cm Curvature: 2.0cm Moto-Haba: 3.3cm
Jihada: Itame (wood grain pattern)
Hamon: Gunome midare (random wavy temper line pattern)
Nakago: Ubu nakago
Certificate #1: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2, 3: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a tsuba and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, koshirae, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD



This incredible katana by Wazamono swordsmith *Omi no Kami Tsuguhiro* of the **Yasutsugu School** has *Tameshigiri* (a certified test cut) whereby the sword severed cleanly through a cross-section of a human body just below the armpit area. This cutting test is called *Ichi no Do*.

The sword has a remarkable **79.5cm length**, housed in a handsome koshirae with a *Choshu tsuba* from the early Edo period. Blade has deservedly attained **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification**. This is a big time Samurai sword, one of Tsuguhiro's greatest achievements.

Watch presentation video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujka198-tsuguhiro>



Saki-kasane: 4.7mm

Moto-kasane: 7.3mm

Saki-haba: 2.3cm

Nakago: 21.5cm

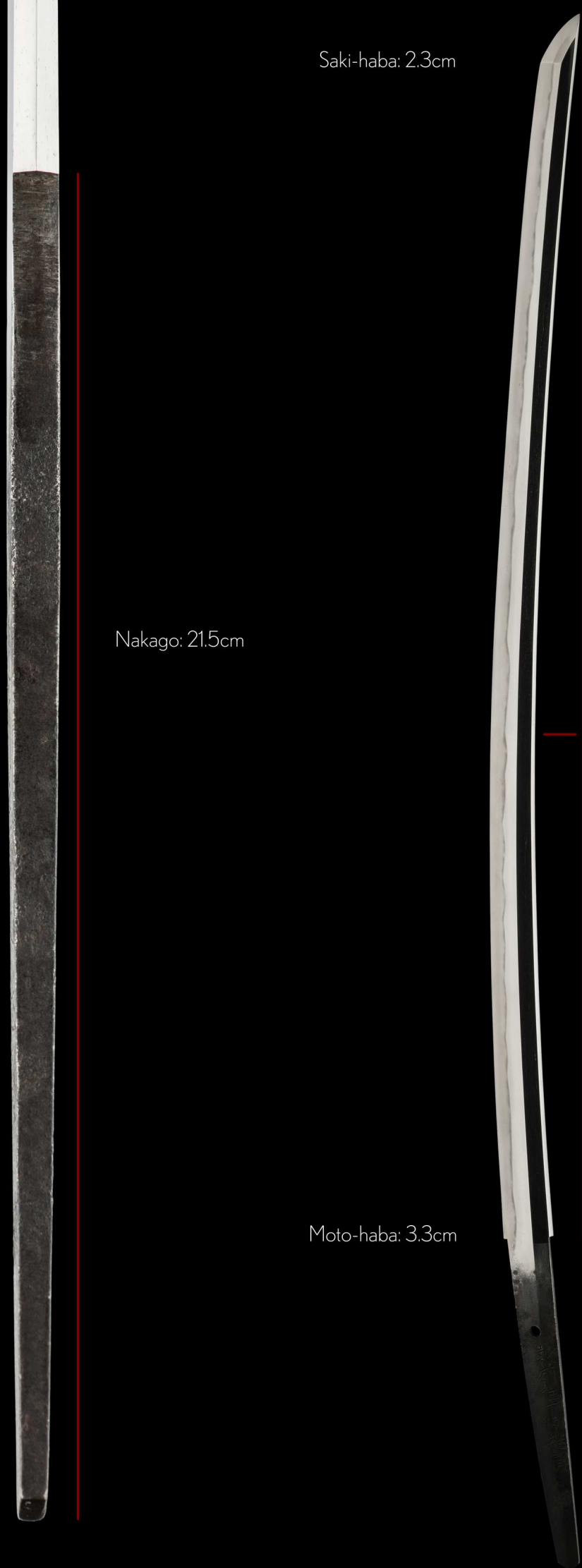
Nagasa: 79.5cm

Sori: 2.0cm

Omosa: 955g

Moto-haba: 3.3cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





This sword is dated to the 7th day of the 2nd month in the 6th year of Kanbun period. (February 7th, 1666)

Tameshigiri (a cutting test) was performed with this katana in which it successfully severed the first torso (*Ichi no do*) of a human being in one stroke.

Ochiru means to drop off or fall away.

Ichi
no
dou

Ochi
ru



Kan
bun

6-nen

2-gatsu

7-nichi



鑑 定 書

長二尺六寸二分

一 刀

銘

越前住下坂継広
寛文六年二月七日

志之洞巻ル

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成五年七月二十三日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon
Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 5th year of Heisei (1993), July 23rd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Echizen Ju Shimosaka Tsuguhiro
Kanbun 6-nen 2-gatsu 7-nichi
Ichi-no-dou Ochiru

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 6-sun 2-bu (79.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

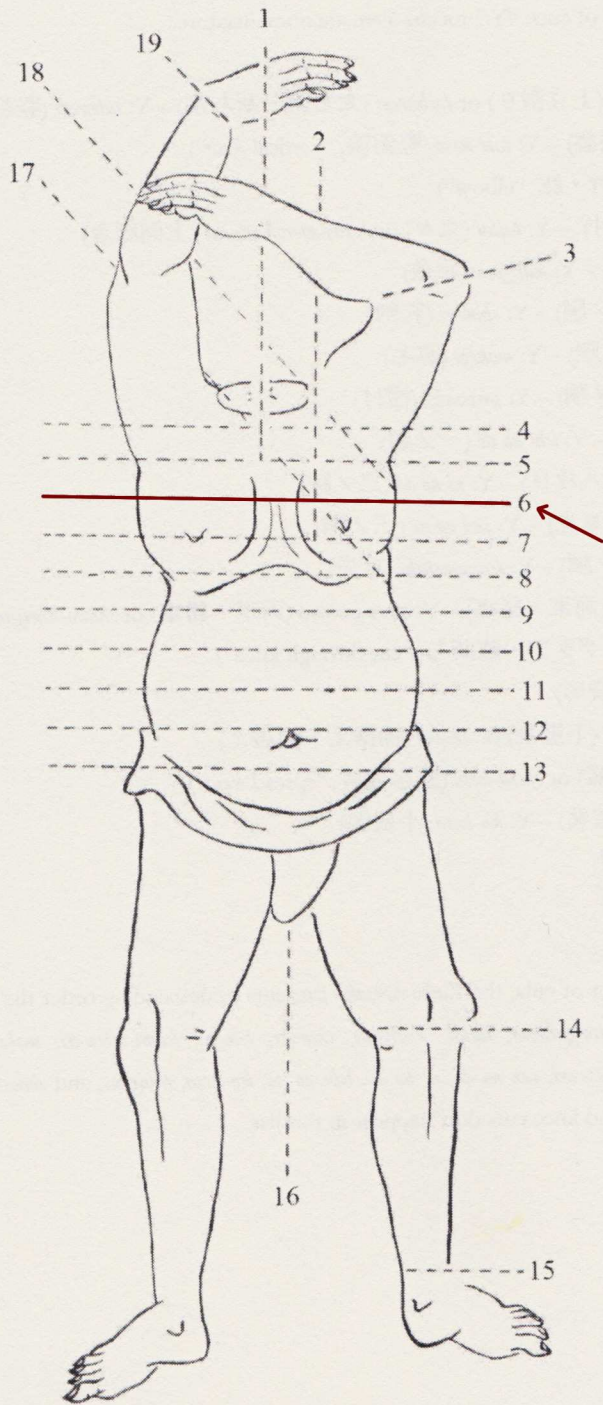
Tameshigiri

The *Ichi no do* cutting test performed on this katana is located at the number 6 position on the diagram.

The primary purpose of *tameshigiri* is to test a sword and/or swordsman's cutting ability.

Shodai (first generation) *Tsuguhiro* is well known for producing swords that can cut well, earning him the title of *Wazamono*, maker of "sharp swords".

This sword severed the first torso (*Ichi no do*) of a human being in one stroke.



An official *shinnin-tameshi* (standard cutting test) being performed.

Images from Markus Sesko's book 'TAMESHIGIRI', The History and Development of Japanese Sword Testing.



Hamon

A clear, bright and consistent *gunome midare hamon* (irregular wavy temper line) makes its way along the darkish jihada, characteristic of the Echizen region.



Shirasaya



Kiri-filed habaki
(brass)





Inden Leather

The *tsuka* (hilt) is traditionally wrapped with special *inden* (deerskin leather).



Koshu Inden is a Japanese craft made of lacquered deerskin with more than 400 years of history. The techniques and patterns were originally developed to produce certain parts of **samurai armour**.





Kashira (pommel)

The *fuchi* and *kashira* of the sword's *koshirae* (fittings) are made of *suaka* (refined copper) .

The geometric design is known as *ajiro* - bamboo weaved wickerwork.

*Be like bamboo,
bend but don't break.
Be flexible,
yet firmly rooted.*

<http://tinyurl.com/be-like-bamboo>



ITEM# UJKA200

A NIO SCHOOL KATANA

UNSIGNED, LATE KAMAKURA PERIOD (GENTOKU ERA: 1329-1331)

- Swordsmith:** *The Nio School (attribution)*
Location: Suo province
Length: 74.35cm (o-suriage)
Curvature: 2.2cm
Moto-haba: 2.9cm
Saki-haba: 1.7cm
Ko-Kissaki: 2.3cm
Hamon: *Hoso suguha ko-gunome ko-ashi ko-nie tsuki nioi-guchi urumi gokoro*
Jihada: *Beautiful itame, with jinie and shirake utsuri*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK 60th Juyo Token** (a sword designated as Profound by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword. Achieved in October 2014.)
Certificate x 3: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a koshirae, tsuba and fuchi-kashira all designated as Authentic by the Non-Profit Japanese Sword Appraisal Association)
Fujishiro: *Jo-saku (3rd gen. Kiyotsuna & Kiyohisa ranked as superior swordsmiths)*
Included: Edo-period koshirae, shirasaya, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, NBTHK magazine, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

It gives us great pleasure to introduce a very special katana from the *Nio School*. The sword was crafted during the **Late Kamakura Period**, circa 1329. It attained prestigious **NBTHK Juyo Token Certification** in October 2014.

Words are hard to describe the aura this blade exudes. There is a serenity and elegance to her shape and steel. The sword is also fitted with a lovely set of Edo-period period koshirae.

The Nio school (二王) of Suo province (modern-day Yamaguchi prefecture) were active between the Kamakura period through to the late Edo Period. The founder of the school is said to be *Kiyozane* circa 1249, having travelled from *Yamato* or *Chikuzen* province. His grandson, *Kiyotsuna I* is generally regarded as the founder of the school with a sword from circa 1265 that is registered as *Juyo Bunkasai* (Important Cultural Object), see image below.



A Nio statue, Todaiji Temple in Nara

The origin of the school name has very interesting background stories. It is said that a tachi by first generation Kiyotsuna cut a chain that locked the door of the Nio-do temple and helped to rescue Nio-son (a statue of Deva) from a raging fire.

The NBTHK states on the Juyo white paper that the Nio name comes from the location in which they settled to called Niho. Many spiritual temples are located in the area.

Nio, meaning “Benevolent Guardian Kings of Buddhism” was inscribed on the nakago of latter generation smiths of the school.

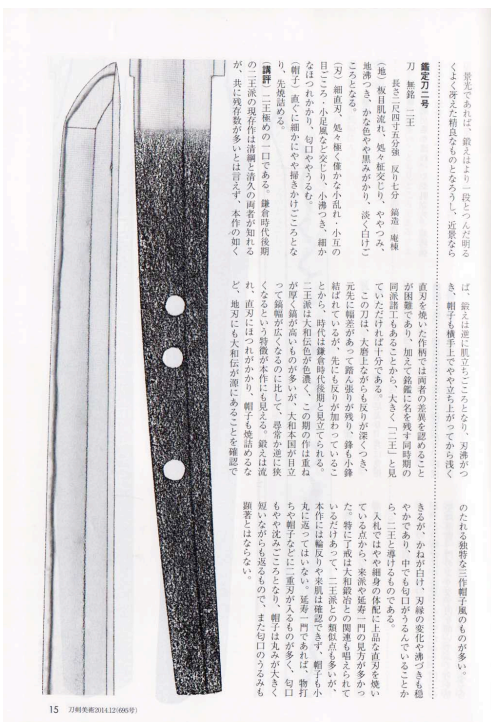


A Nio Tachi by 1st gen. Kiyotsuna, Juyo Bunkasai (~1265, Kamakura period). Length: 80.8cm

***“This katana holds all the fine qualities of the Nio School.
It is an admirable sword with healthy jiba [steel].”***

A Nio School Katana
60th NBTHK Jujo Token Certificate

The NBTHK highlighted this very sword in the **December 2014** edition of their official monthly *Token Bijitsu* magazine. Below is a translation of the article that provides a fine overview for this remarkable piece of Japanese history.



This is a sword from the Nio school. There are a small number of Nio school swords crafted by Kiyotsuna and Kiyohisa from late Kamakura period. This sword carries a suguha hamon.

It is hard to determine whether this sword was created by Kiyotsuna [3rd generation] or Kiyohisa. What is easy to say is that this is Nio school sword.

The sword's features include; o-suriage, deep curvature, funbari, ko-kissaki, curvature at tip, indicating the sword is from the late Kamakura period.

Nio school is similar to the Yamato tradition. There are swords from this time period with thick Kasane and high shinogi. This sword shows many Yamato tradition features that are standard width or narrower than standard width. The kitae (forging structure) is wavy. Hamon is suguha. Boshi is yakizume.

Jiba also shows Yamato tradition qualities with shirake utsuri, changes in habuchi, and calm nie. Most importantly, nioiguchi is watery (urumu) so this easily leads to a conclusion that this is Nio.

There were those who said this could be from the Rai school or Enju school. Ryokai especially, as he has a very similar style to Nio school. However, this sword doesn't have Rai hada nor does the boshi have a small round shape and curled back. If Enju, there would be niyu-ba, shizumi gokoro nioiguchi, more round boshi and curled back. The nioi-guchi would have a less remarkable watery pattern.

Parting notes

This former Samurai tachi is a rare and valuable sword with a strong spiritual energy. The next owner must ensure that it continues its inspiring journey in a faithful manner.

The following pages provide a glimpse into the beauty of this masterpiece along with information on the fine koshirae. Please contact me, Pablo, at service@uniquejapan.com for further information, photos and interest in ownership. Thank you.

Please watch introduction video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujka200-nio-juyo>

Saki-kasane: 4.6mm[^]

Moto-kasane: 7.2mm

Omosa: 755g

Saki-haba: 1.7cm

Nakago: 21.6cm

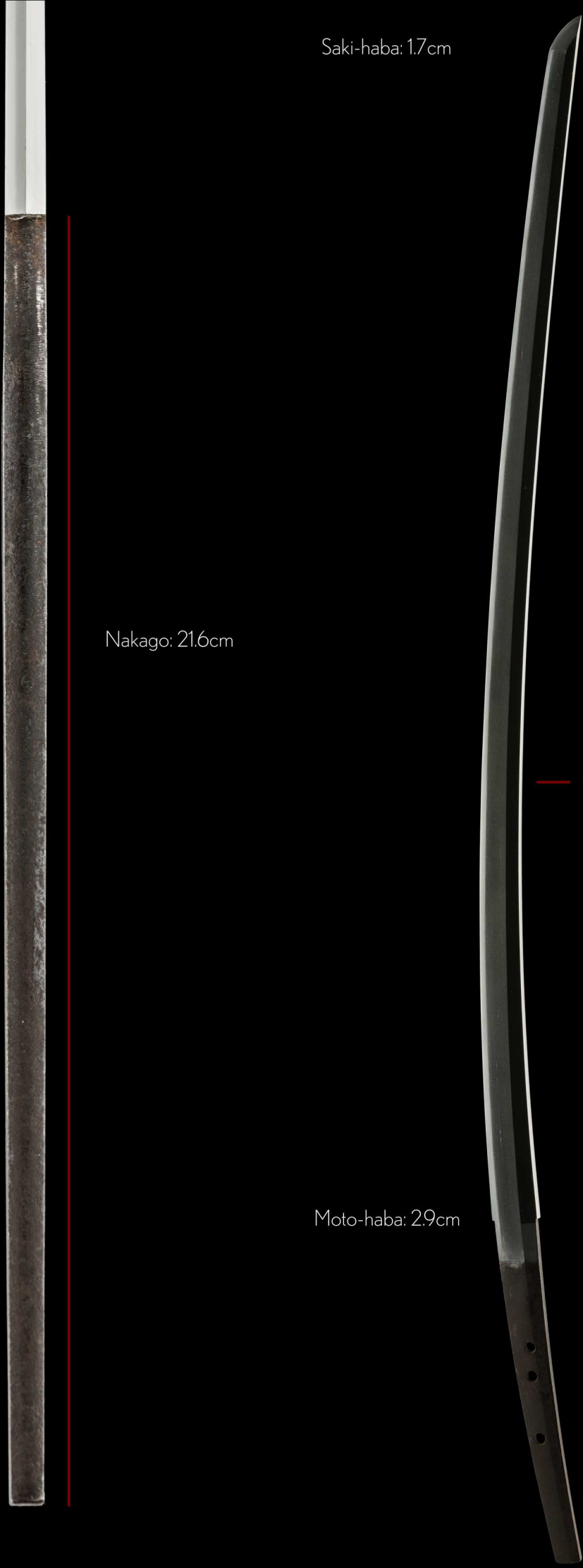
Moto-haba: 2.9cm

Kissaki: 2.3cm

Nagasa: 74.35cm

Sori: 2.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 3





Koshizori

(curvature at the waist)

This term is used to describe swords with its deepest point towards the base of the blade.

Swords of the *Heian* and *Kamakura* periods generally carry *koshizori* shape as these swords were carried on horseback as *tachi* 'wrapping' around the waist of the Samurai.

Funbari

is a term that describes significant tapering over the first 4~5cm from a wide *moto-haba*

Funbari is a desired characteristic on swords, typically seen on antique *tachi* of the *Kamakura* period of earlier.

重要第三五七四號

指定書

一 刀 無銘 二 王 一 口

法量 長さ七四・三五釐 反り二・二釐
形状 鑄造庵様やや細身元先の幅差つき鑄や高く反りつき中鋒
鍛 板目肌総体に流れごころとなり処々杢を僅かに交え肌立ちごころとなり地沸細かにつき鉄色やや黒みかかり淡く白けごころ

刃文 細直刃主調に小互の目交じり小足入り小沸つき白口うるみごころとなる

帽子 直ぐ調に小丸掃きかけ風となり先焼詰める
茎 大磨上 鑢目切り 目釘孔三

右者當協會に於て審査の結果
重要刀剣に指定する

平成二十六年 十月 十六日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



大阪 教育委員会
第 107069号
平成 3年 4月 9日

NBTHK Juyo Token
Certificate of Designation

a sword designated as *Important (profound)*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 26th year of Heisei (2014), October 16th

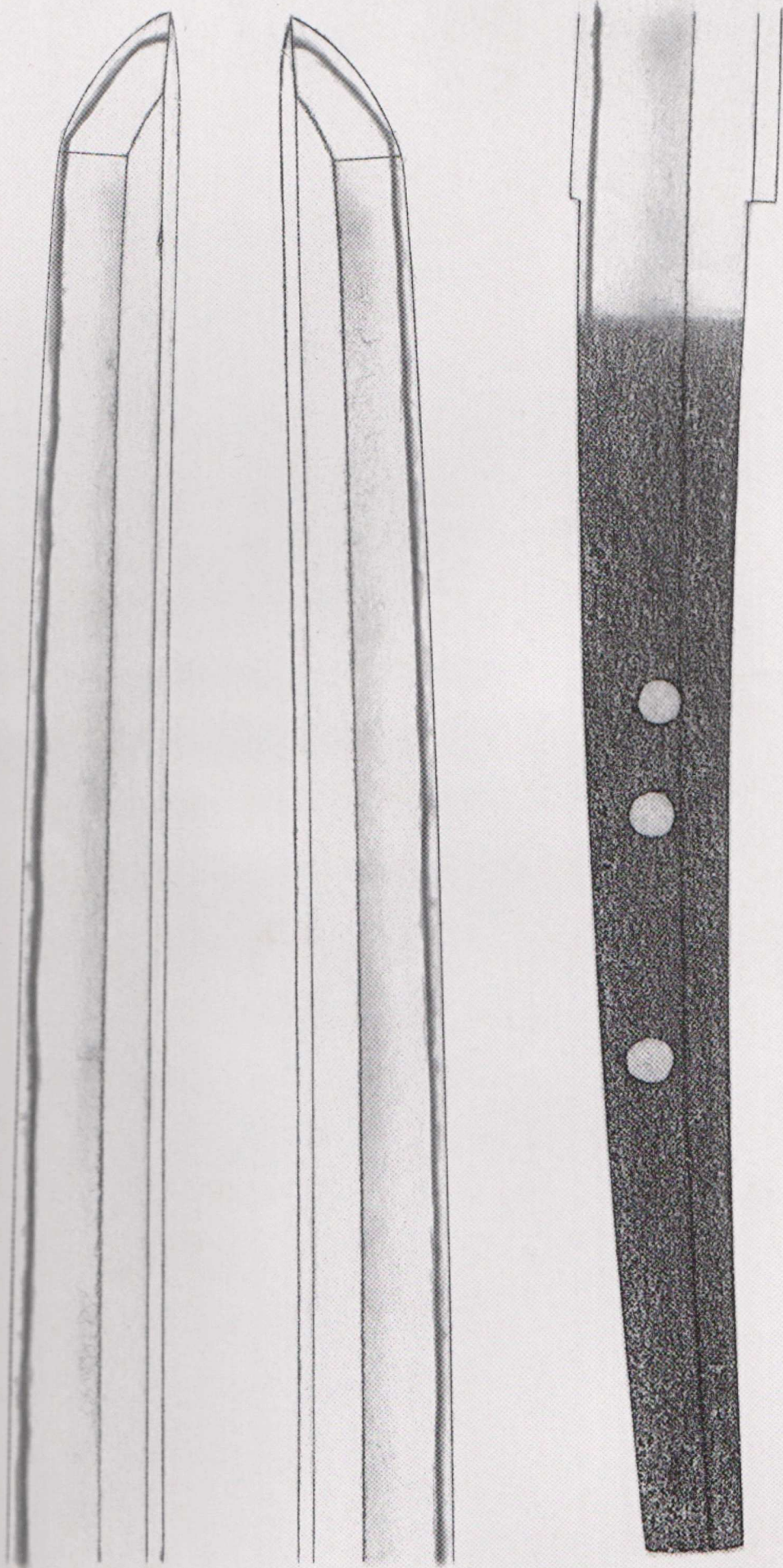
One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Mumei (Nio)

Nagasa (length)
74.35cm

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

刀 無銘 二王



東京大学蔵

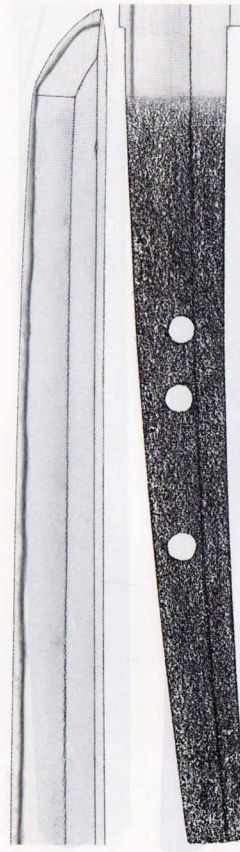
刀剣美術

十二月号

昭和四十一年十一月二十日創刊
昭和四十一年十一月二十日創刊
昭和四十一年十一月二十日創刊
昭和四十一年十一月二十日創刊



公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協会



15 刀剣美術2014.12(695号)

景光であれば、鍛えはより一段とつんだ明るくよく育った精良なものとなり、近景なら鑑定刀二号

刀 無銘 二王
長三尺四寸五分強 反り七分 鍛造 庵極
(地) 板目肌流れ、旭々疵交じり、ややつみ、地沸つき、かな色や黒みがかり、淡く白けこころとなす。

(刃) 細直刃、旭々極く僅かな小乱れ、小互の目こころ、小足風など交じり、小沸つき、細かなほつれかかり、匂口やうらむ。

(鞘) 直ぐに細かにやや締まかけこころとなり、先焼詰める。

ば、鍛えは逆に肌立ちこころとなり、刃沸がつき、鞘も横手上でやや立ち上がってから浅く直刃を焼いた作柄では両者の差異を認めることが困難であり、加えて銘鑑に名を残す同時期の同派諸工もあることから、大きく「二王」と見ていただければ十分である。

この刀は、大筋上ながらも反りが深く、元先に幅が広がって踵も張りが残り、鋒も小鋒結ばれているが、先にも反りが加わっていることから、時代は鎌倉時代後期と見立てられる。二王派は大和伝の色色濃く、この期の作は重ねが厚く鋼が高いものが多いが、大和本国が目立つて鋼幅が広くなるのに比して、尋常か逆に狭くなるという特徴が本作にも見える。鍛えは流れ、直刃にはつれがかかり、鞘も焼詰めるなど、地刃にも大和伝が源にあることを確認

のたれる独特な三作鞘子風のものが多く、きるが、かねが白け、刃縁の変化や沸つきも穏やかであり、中でも匂口がうるんでいることから、二王と推けるものである。

入札ではやや細身の体配に上品な直刃を焼いている点から、来派や延寿一門の見方が多かった。特に丁戒は大和鍛冶との関連も唱えられているだけあって、二王派との類似点も多いが、本作には輪反りや束肌は確認できず、鞘子も小丸に返つてはいない。延寿一門であれば、物打ちや鞘子などに二重刃が入るものが多く、匂口もやや沈みこころとなり、鞘子は丸みが大きく短いながらも返るもので、また匂口のうるみも顕著とはならない。

NBTHK Token Bijitsu Magazine

this Juyo Token katana by the Nio School was featured on page 15 of the December 2014 edition of the sword museum's official monthly magazine.

The article features information on the blade itself, from the key measurements to the qualities of the steel.

A translation of the text is contained within this document.

A copy of the magazine will be presented to the new caretaker of this precious sword.

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

A close-up, diagonal view of a sword blade. The blade is dark, almost black, with a fine, wavy pattern of light-colored lines running across its surface, characteristic of the jihada pattern. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and the sharp edge of the blade.

Jihada

The structure of the steel is a gorgeous combination of wavy *mokume* (burl wood grain pattern) and *masame* (straight grain) that demonstrates a clear Yamato tradition heritage.

It is probable that the Nio School is connected to the Yamato smiths by way of the **Naminohira School** on nearby Kyushu island.

Note the fine dark lines of *chikei* twisting within the jihada.

Hamon

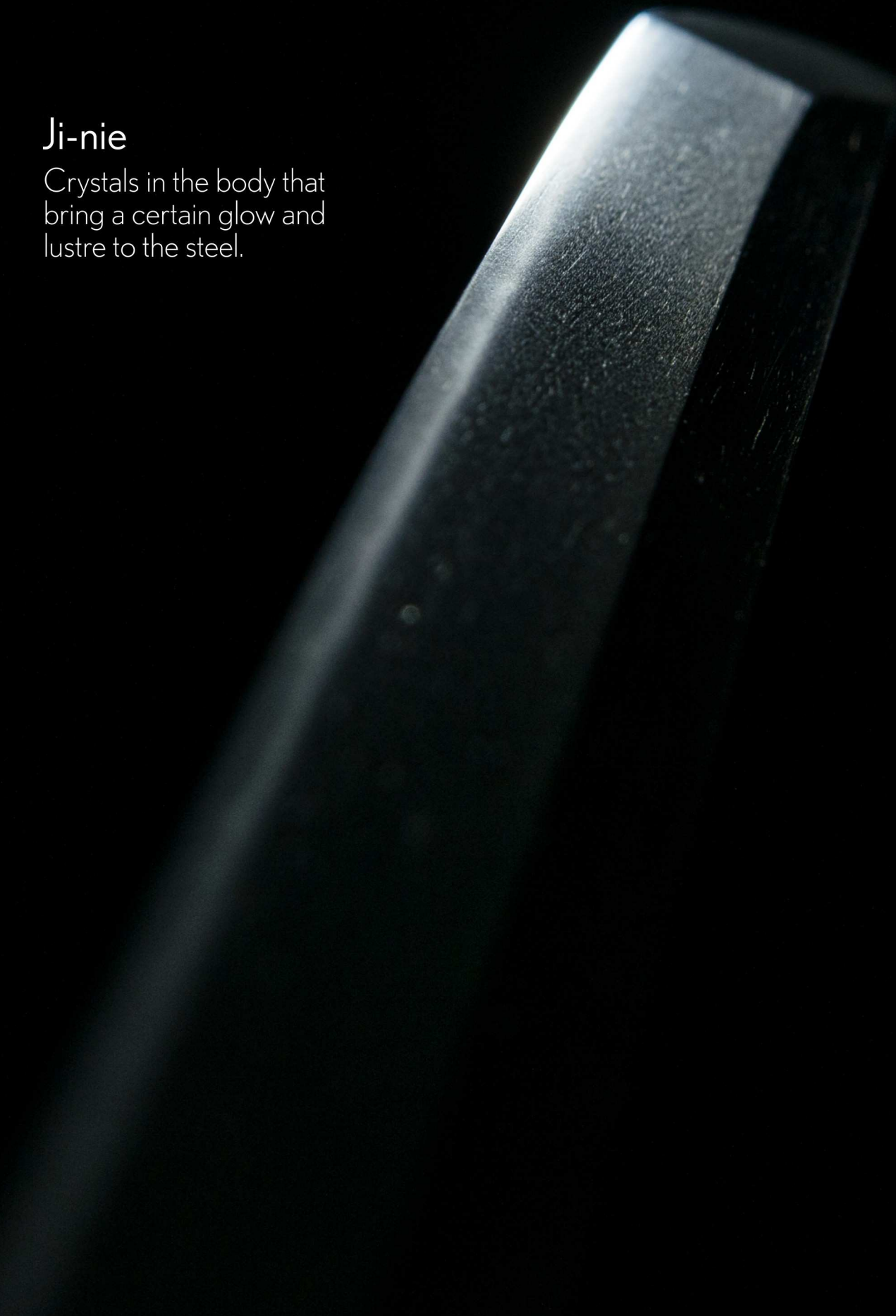
The *Nio School* of Suo province (modern-day Yamaguchi prefecture) is famous for producing a striking *hamon* (temper line) in which the *nioguchi* (crystals that make up the hamon) is described as being *urumu* meaning "watery" or "hazy" in appearance.

The hamon is based on *hoso-suguha* (thin and straight) with an elegant tightly woven *ko-gunome* pattern with short *ashi* (legs) extending to the *ha* (cutting edge).



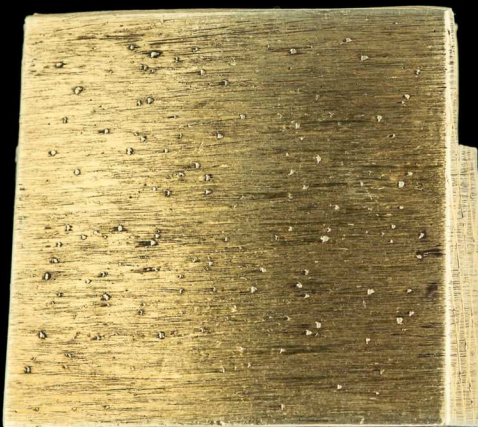
Ji-nie

Crystals in the body that bring a certain glow and lustre to the steel.





Shirasaya



Yokoyasuri-habaki
(brass)





Namban Tsuba

A large and formidable *Namban tsuba* crafted in Nagasaki on Kyushu island during the late Edo period. It is formed of polished iron (*tetsu suriji*) in *sukashi* (open work) construction.

The beautiful design is of *Chabana* - seasonal flowers for the Japanese Tea Ceremony.

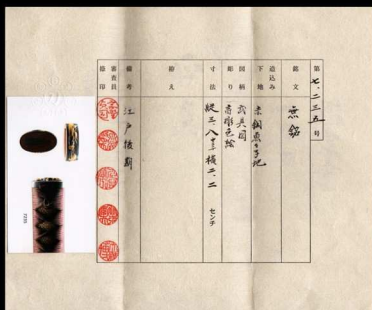
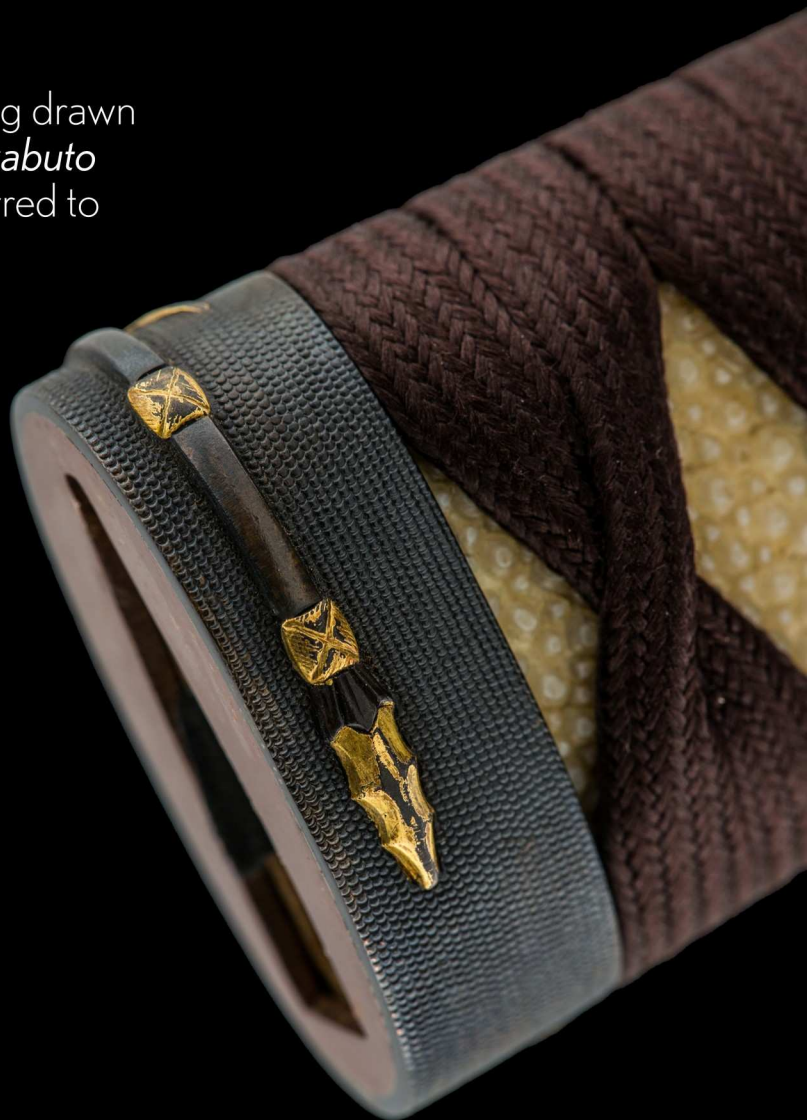


An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity accompanies the tsuba.





A vicious dragon with a *hoko* (spear) being drawn from his snarling teeth. Together with the *kabuto* (helmet) on the *kashira*, this design is referred to as *Bugu Zu* (weaponry).



Accompanied with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the fuchi-kashira as the work of the *Den Kyo, Goto School* made in late Edo period.



Kashira (pommel)

An elaborately detailed
Samurai *kabuto* (helmet)



Hello Nio.

ARIGATO!

THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING OUR CATALOGUE.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU.

PLEASE JOIN OUR VIP MAILING LIST TO BE INFORMED OF RECENTLY
ACQUIRED SWORDS.

EMAIL US AT SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM



*Never give up.
Never, ever give up.*

UNIQUEJAPAN.COM