

JAPANESE  
SWORD  
CATALOGUE 33  
"PREVIEW"

RELEASED:  
DEC 19/2019



(COVER PHOTO)

ITEM# UJDI008

A SHODAI TADAYOSHI DAISHO  
KEICHO PERIOD (CIRCA 1596~1615)  
NBTHK TOKUBETSU HOZON X 2  
NTHK-NPO KANTEISHO X 4

## INDEX OF AVAILABLE JAPANESE SWORDS & FITTINGS

ITEM#	SWORDSMITH & TYPE	CM	CERTIFICATE	ERA / PERIOD	PRICE
ujdi008	A TADAYOSHI DAISHO	69/53	Tokubetsu Hozon	Keicho (1596~1615)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka324	A YASUSADA KATANA	74.8	Tokubetsu Hozon	Genbun (Aug. 1739)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka345	A RAI KINMICHI KATANA	70.8	Tokubetsu Hozon	Keiô era (June 1865)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka342	A KANETSUGU KATANA	74.0	Tokubetsu Hozon	Heisei era (June 1995)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka358	A KO-KONGOBYOE KATANA	70.2	Tokubetsu Hozon	Nambokucho (1300s)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka359	A MORIKANE KATANA	68.5	Tokubetsu Hozon	Eiroku (1558~1570)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka356	AN EMURA KATANA	66.5	NBTHK Hozon	Shôwa (WWII~1941)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka333	A MOTOSHIGE KATANA	67.8	JÛYÔ TÔKEN	Kenmu (1334~1338)	<b>SOLD</b>
ujfk099	A SHÔUNSAI FUCHI-KASHIRA		Tokubetsu Hozon	Edo period	<b>SOLD</b>
ujme112	A KO-KINKÔ SET OF MENUKI		Tokubetsu Hozon	Muromachi period	<b>SOLD</b>
ujka363	A SADAKATSU KATANA	68.2	Sadatoshi Sayagaki	December 1933	<b>SOLD</b>

**ALL PRICES ARE IN US DOLLARS**

To access current and previous catalogues, please visit:  
<http://new.uniquejapan.com/currently-available-swords-at-unique-japan>

## 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.

ALSO, BE SURE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO TOKYO AS WE CAN BOOK A PRIVATE MEETING TOGETHER AT OUR STUDIO IN EBISU.

DOMO ARIGATO,  
PABLO

# CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SWORDS & FITTINGS

RELEASED: DECEMBER 5, 2019 TO VIP CLIENTS ONLY

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF AUTHENTIC AND CERTIFIED JAPANESE SWORDS AND FITTINGS THAT WERE SOLD IN CATALOGUE 33.

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT [SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM](mailto:SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM) FOR FURTHER IMAGES AND INFORMATION INTO ITEMS OF INTEREST.

ALL SWORDS AND FITTINGS ARE OFFERED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. EVEN IF AN ITEM 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,

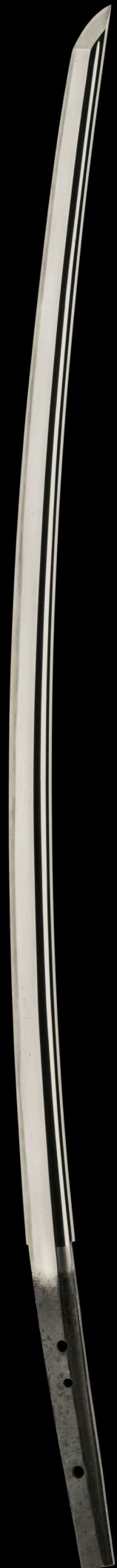


PABLO KUNTZ  
FOUNDER, UNIQUE JAPAN

[SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM](mailto:SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM)

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

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Recently sold...

A Ko-Aoe Katana  
46th NBTHK Juyo Token  
mumei, unsigned  
with Dr. Sato Kanzan sayagaki

Length: 74.2cm  
*koshizori* to *torii-zori*

A beautiful katana attributed one of the premier schools in Bitchû province dating from the *end of Heian* to *early Kamakura period* (late 1100s to early 1200s).

# JAPANESE SWORD CATALOGUE 33

## PREVIEW EDITION

### ITEM# UJDI008 A SHODAI TADAYOSHI DAISHO



Swordsmith: *Hizen no Kuni Tadayoshi* (first generation)  
Early Edo Period (Keicho era: 1596~1615)

Katana: nagasa: 69.2cm (ubu) sori: 0.9cm omosa: 640g

Wakizashi: nagasa: 53.4cm (ubu) sori: 1.3cm omosa: 505g

2 x NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (both swords)

4 x NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (swords, koshirae, tsuba and flk)

Fujishiro: *Saijo-saku* (a grandmaster swordsmith)

Cutting ability: *Saijo-owazamono* (supreme sharpness)

A beautifully presented matching daisho in a dragon theme by the founder and grandmaster of the *Hizen Tadayoshi school*.

**SOLD**

### ITEM# UJKA324 A CHIKUZEN YASUSADA KATANA



Swordsmith: *Chikushû Minamoto Nobukuni Tsunehirô Yasusada*  
Middle Edo Period (dated in Genbun era, August 1739)

Nagasa: 74.8cm (ubu) sori: 2.8cm omosa: 1,130g (!)

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (designated as authentic)

In shirasaya only

A long, impressive katana signed and dated by *Nobukuni Yasusada*. Uniquely forged with the water in front of *Sawa no Miya* shrine in Echizen. A rare find with a great story. Custom koshirae potential.

**SOLD**

### ITEM# UJKA345 A RAI KINMICHI KATANA



Swordsmith: *Iga no Kami Rai Kinmichi - Nihon Kaji Sôshô*

Late Edo Period (dated in Keiô era, June 1865)

Nagasa: 70.8cm (ubu) sori: 0.7cm omosa: 730g

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)

4 x NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic sword, koshirae, tsuba & flk)

Shirasaya and Edo period koshirae

Authentication: *sayagaki* by *Tanzan-sensei*

A wonderful katana by the 11th and final generation *Rai Kinmichi* of the prestigious *Mishina school*. The Edo period koshirae depicts a *fuchi-kashira* with a snowflake design. A katana with heart and soul.

**SOLD**

### ITEM# UJKA342 A KANETSUGU KATANA



Swordsmith: *Kiyomarô Utsushi Higo Akamatsu Taro Kanetsugu*

Gendaito (dated in Heisei era, June 1995)

Nagasa: 74.0cm (ubu) sori: 2.0cm omosa: 895g

Shirasaya and koshirae

Authentication: *Sayagaki* (a living swordsmith)

A healthy and powerful gendaito katana by *Kanetsugu* of the *Akamatsu Taro school*. A master *Kiyomaro utsushi* (honourable recreation). A gorgeous *choji hamon* to enjoy with classy koshirae.

**SOLD**

# JAPANESE SWORD CATALOGUE 33

## PREVIEW EDITION

### ITEM# UJKA358 A KO-KONGOBYOE KATANA



Swordsmith: *The Ko-Kongobyoe School (attribution)*  
Late Kamakura to Nambokucho Period (circa mid-1300s)  
Location: Chikuzen province  
Nagasa: 70.2cm (o-suriage) sori: 1.0cm omosa: 790g  
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)  
3 x NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic koshirae, tsuba & fk)  
Authentication: *sayagaki to Naminohira school*

The *Kongobyoe school* dates back to the Kamakura period in Chikuzen province where warrior monks battled the Mongol invasions with these powerful swords. Comes with an attractive set of *Satsuma gunto koshirae* with matching *kamon* (family crest).

**SOLD**

### ITEM# UJKA359 A MORIKANE KATANA



Swordsmith: *Minamoto Morikane (Kongobyoe school)*  
Muromachi Period (Eiroku era, 1558~1570)  
Nagasa: 68.5cm (ubu) sori: 2.4cm omosa: 640g  
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)  
2 x NBTHK Hozon (tsuba & fk worthy of conservation)  
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae designated as authentic)  
In shirasaya and koshirae

Here is another brilliant *Kongobyoe school* katana, this time signed by *Morikane* from the late Muromachi period. A lovely *raden-fuemaki aogai* lacquered *koshirae* compliments beautifully.

**SOLD**

### ITEM# UJKA356 A CHÔUNSAI EMURA KATANA



Swordsmith: *Chôunsai Emura saku*  
Showa Period (WWII, circa 1943)  
Nagasa: 66.5cm (ubu) sori: 1.4cm omosa: 730g  
2 x NBTHK Hozon (sword & fk worthy of conservation)  
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic tsuba)  
In shirasaya and koshirae

Emura was originally from *Kôchi*, former *Tosa province*. A self-taught swordsmith, Emura operated an inspiring sword-making school while he was head of a prison in Okayama having trained several prisoners. Comes with a handsome set of custom koshirae.

**SOLD**

### ITEM# UJKA333 A MOTOSHIGE KATANA



Swordsmith: *Osafune Motoshige (attribution)*  
Nambokucho Period (circa Kenmu era: 1334~1338)  
Nagasa: 67.8cm (o-suriage) sori: 1.0cm omosa: 645g  
30th NBTHK Jûyô Tôken (a profound and important sword)  
3 x NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic koshirae, tsuba and fk)  
Fujishiro: *Jojo-saku* (a highly superior swordsmith)  
Cutting ability: *Saijo-owazamono* (supreme sharpness)

A magnificent katana attributed to *Bizen Motoshige*. Blade comes with precious origami from *Hon'ami Kôchû* dated 1709.

**SOLD**



ITEM# UJFK099  
**A SHÔUNSAI FUCHI-KASHIRA**

Metalsmith: signed, *Shôunsai* [Tani Motosada], polished *shibuichi*  
One, *fuchi-kashira* depicting three brothers (*Liu Bei*, *Guan Yu*,  
*Zhang Fei*) from "Records of the Three Kingdoms."

Edo Period, early 1800s

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)

*Liu Bei* (161-223) was a warlord in the late Eastern Han dynasty who founded the state of Shu Han in the Three Kingdoms period and became its first ruler. Beautiful artwork, such intricate detail.

**SOLD**



ITEM# UJME112  
**A KO-KINKÔ SET OF MENUKI**

Metalsmith: *Ko-Kinkô*, *shakudo* with gold accents

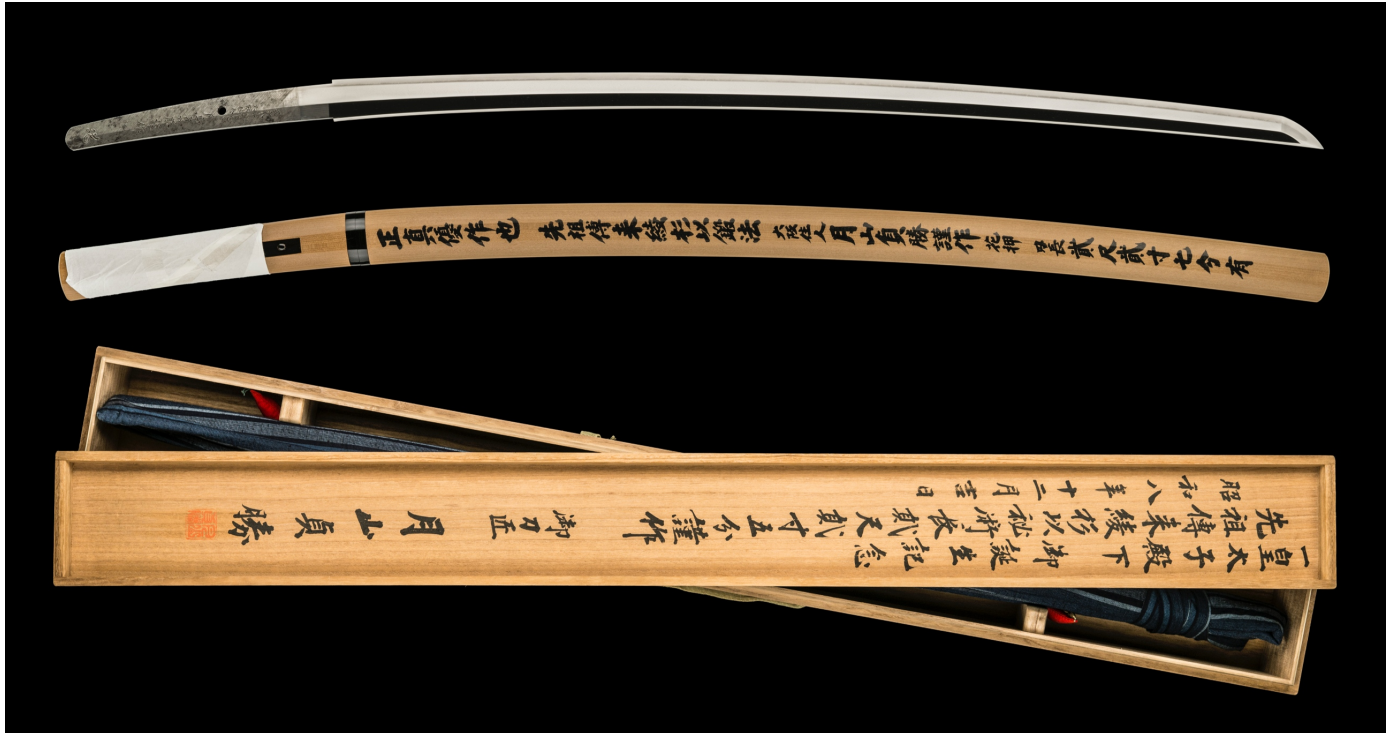
One set of *menuki* depicting a collection of seashells

Muromachi Period

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)

A gorgeous set of *menuki* for those with a love of the ocean.  
Attributed to *Ko-Kinkô*, broad term for metalsmiths pre-Edo period.

**SOLD**



ITEM# UJKA363

## A GASSAN SADAKATSU KATANA

SIGNED & DATED BY GASSAN SADAKATSU, RESIDENT OF OSAKA  
DATED A LUCKY DAY IN DECEMBER 1933 IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
BIRTH OF HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE [AKIHITO]

**Swordsmith:** *Gassan Sadakatsu* (月山貞勝)  
**Dated:** *8th year of Showa era (December 1933)*  
**Measurements:** **Length:** 68.7cm (ubu)      **Curvature:** 1.9cm      **Moto-haba:** 2.82cm  
**Jihada:** *Exquisite ayasugi-hada with chikei and sunagashi*  
**Hamon:** *Clear and bright chu-suguha with plentiful kinsuji and ko-ashi*  
**Authentication:** **Sayagaki by Gassan Sadatoshi** (grandson of Gassan Sadakatsu)  
**Hakogaki by Gassan Sadakatsu** (writing on original box)

**SOLD**

*Gassan Sadakatsu* (1869-1943) was the first son of the *Meiji era's* master swordsmith *Gassan Sadakazu*. He was a dedicated student and tireless assistant during his father's productive years. He succeeded the headship of the *Osaka Gassan School* in 1918 upon the death of Sadakazu. In 1921, Sadakatsu became acquainted with *Baron Kitokuro Itsuki*, then Minister of the Imperial Household, that brought him the opportunity to create swords for the Emperor, the Imperial Army, the Imperial Navy and the Imperial Family. He was the swordsmith of Emperor Hirohito's Grand Field Marshal Sword (大元帥刀) as well as his enthronement *tachi* plus imperial military swords (恩賜の軍刀) given to top graduates of the elite Imperial War College upon graduation.

This rare and elegant katana was crafted in commemoration of the birth of his Imperial Highness, the *Crown Prince Akihito*, dated December 1933. It is a sword that personifies the class and generosity of Prince Akihito. The Gassan school's iconic *ayasugi-hada* has been captured with pure crafting brilliance. His grandson, *Sadatoshi*, head of the Gassan family, authenticated this katana in *sayagaki* as being *shōshin yūsaku nari* (正真優作也) - an authentic and masterful work of art.



Saki-kasane: 5.2mm

Moto-kasane: 6.6mm

Kissaki: 3.05cm  
Saki-haba: 1.91cm

Nagasa: 68.7cm

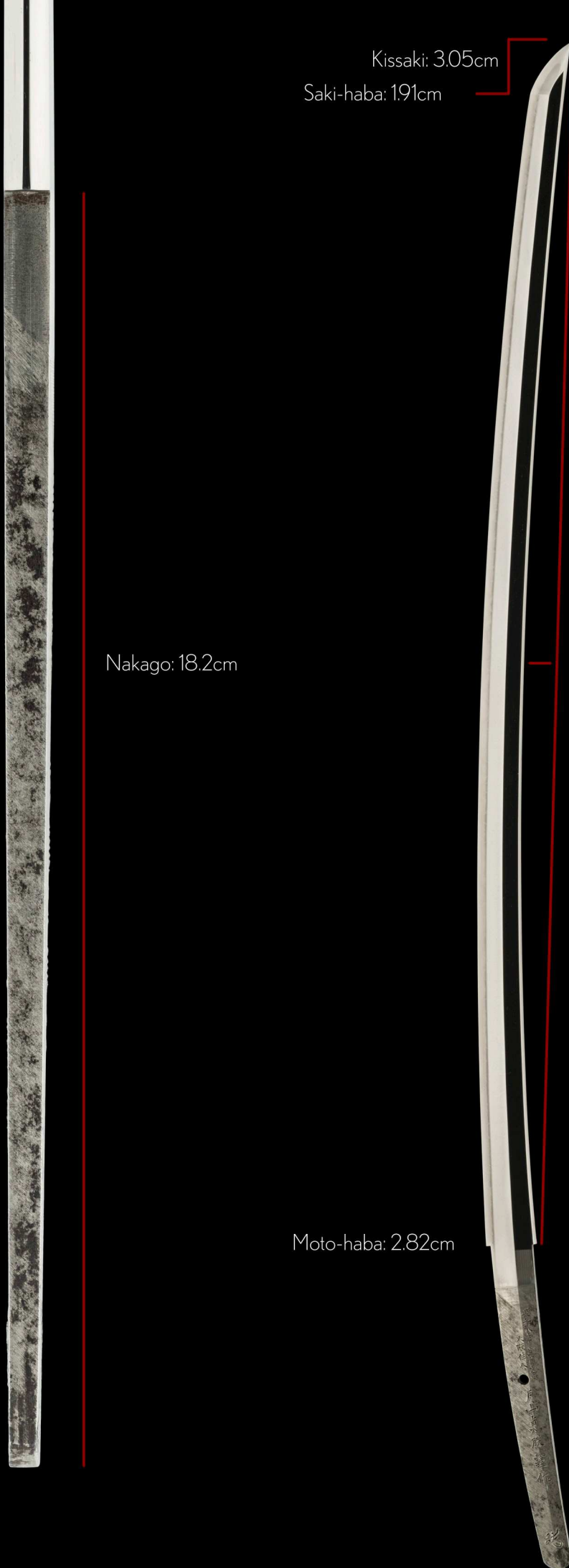
Nakago: 18.2cm

Sori: 1.6cm

Omosa: 670g

Moto-haba: 2.82cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



This graceful katana was crafted by *Gassan Sadakatsu* and dated to a lucky day in December 1933 in commemoration of the birth of his Imperial Highness the *Crown Prince Akihito*.

Akihito became Emperor on January 7, 1989 after the death of his father, *Emperor Hirohito*.

Akihito was enthroned on November 12, 1990. His reign was designated the *Heisei period*, or "Achieving Peace."

Swords crafted for such an important occasion were normally *tanto* (short sword).

A katana marking this celebratory event was extremely rare, only a handful were made.



Newly born Crown Prince Akihito  
*EPA/Imperial Household Agency*





昭 (Shô)  
和 (wa)  
八 (hachi)  
年 (nen)  
大 (Ô) 十 (jû)  
阪 (saka) 二 (ni)  
住 (jû) 月 (gatsu)  
人 (nin) 吉 (kichi)  
日 (jitsu)

月 (Ga)  
山 (ssan)  
貞 (Sada)  
勝 (katsu)  
謹 (kin)  
作 (saku)

Location: *Ôsaka*  
Family name: *Gassan*  
Swordsmith: *Sadakatsu*

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)  
*kessho-yasurime* (artistic file marks)

*Shôwa hachinen jûnigatsu kichijitsu - Ôsaka jûnin*  
*Gassan Sadakatsu kinsaku + kaô*  
Respectfully made by Gassan Sadakatsu, resident of  
Ôsaka, on a lucky day in December of 1933  
+ stylized Gassan signature

*Kôtaishi-denka go-tanjô kinen*

On commemoration for the birth of His  
Highness the Crown Prince [Akihito].

(Kô) 皇  
(tai) 太  
(shi) 子  
(den) 殿  
(ka) 下

(go) 御  
(tan) 誕  
(jô) 生  
(ki) 記  
(nen) 念

皇太子殿下

御誕生記念





Sadakatsu's stylized signature, note the numerous strokes of his chisel to produce this effect.



Gassan Sadakatsu's character can be best described with the Japanese term '*majime*'.

It means one who is serious, diligent, hard-working - a perfectionist. His personality is reflected in his tidy, exacting signature.

This is a sword that culminates decades of patience and devotion to the craft. Sadakatsu was 64 years of age when this katana was forged - at his prime, brimming with confidence, .



Gassan Sadakatsu (月山貞勝)

Born as the first son of maestro *Gassan Sadakazu* in Yariyamachi, Osaka in 1869, *Sadakatsu* was privately named *Eitarô* and started his professional training under his father in early childhood.

Sadakatsu's first signed work came in 1921, an *ayasugi-hada* wakizashi preserved in *Dewa Sanzan Shine*.

Gassan Sadakatsu became a master of the school's emblematic *ayasugi-hada*, which this katana so exquisitely embodies.

After the death of Sadakazu, Gassan Sadakatsu crafted numerous swords for the imperial household, royal families and for the Emperor himself.

The Gassan school derives from Mt. Gassan in the old province of Dewa (present-day Yamagata prefecture).

Mt. Gassan had been a training area of mountain priests since olden times and swordsmiths who used the smith name of Gassan existed there since the Heian Period, though, there is no signed work of Gassan before the end of the Nanbokucho Period (1394).

Now abdicated Emperor Akihito was, and continues to be, a highly respected symbol of post-war (peaceful) Japan.

His first son, Emperor Naruhito leads the new *Reiwa era*, meaning 'beautiful harmony.'



Emperor Naruhito and his father, Akihito



protective traditional *washi* paper

正真優作也

*Shôshin yûsaku nari*

Authentic & Masterful Artistry

先祖傳來綾杉以鍛法

*Senzo denrai ayasugi o motte tanpô-su*

Forged in the traditional Ayasugi technique unique to the Gassan family

大阪住人月山貞勝謹作花押

*Ôsaka-jûnin Gassan Sadakatsu kinsaku kaô*

Respectfully made by Gassan Sadakatsu, resident of Ôsaka  
+ stylized Gassan signature

刃長貳尺貳寸七分有

*Hachô ni-shaku ni-sun shichi-bu ari*

Blade length ~ 68.7 cm



皇太子殿下御誕生記念

*Kôtaishi-denka go-tanjô kinen*

Commemoration of the birth of his Imperial Highness the Crown Prince [Akihito]

昭和八年十二月吉日

*Shôwa hachinen jûnigatsu kichijitsu*

On a lucky day in December of 1933

平成寿年季春

*Heisei junen kishun*

Written in March of 1998

嫡孫貞利誌「花押」

*Chakuson Sadatoshi shirusu + kaô*

Authenticated by the legitimate grandson Sadatoshi  
+ stylized Gassan signature



皇太子殿下御誕生記念

*Kôtaishi-denka go-tanjô kinen*

Commemoration of the birth of his Imperial Highness the Crown Prince [Akihito]

先祖傳來綾杉以秘術

*Senzo denrai ayasugi hijutsu o motte*

Forged in the traditional secret ayasugi technique unique to the Gassan family

長貳尺貳寸五分謹作

*Nagasa ni-shaku ni-sun go-bu no kinsaku*

Respectfully made in the length ~ 68.7cm

昭和八年十二月吉日

*Shôwa hachinen jûnigatsu kichijitsu*

On a lucky day in December of 1933

御刀匠 月山貞勝

*On tôshô Gassan Sadakatsu*

By swordsmith Gassan Sadakatsu with red *hanko* (official seal)

*Inside, one katana...*

*inner box*

刀

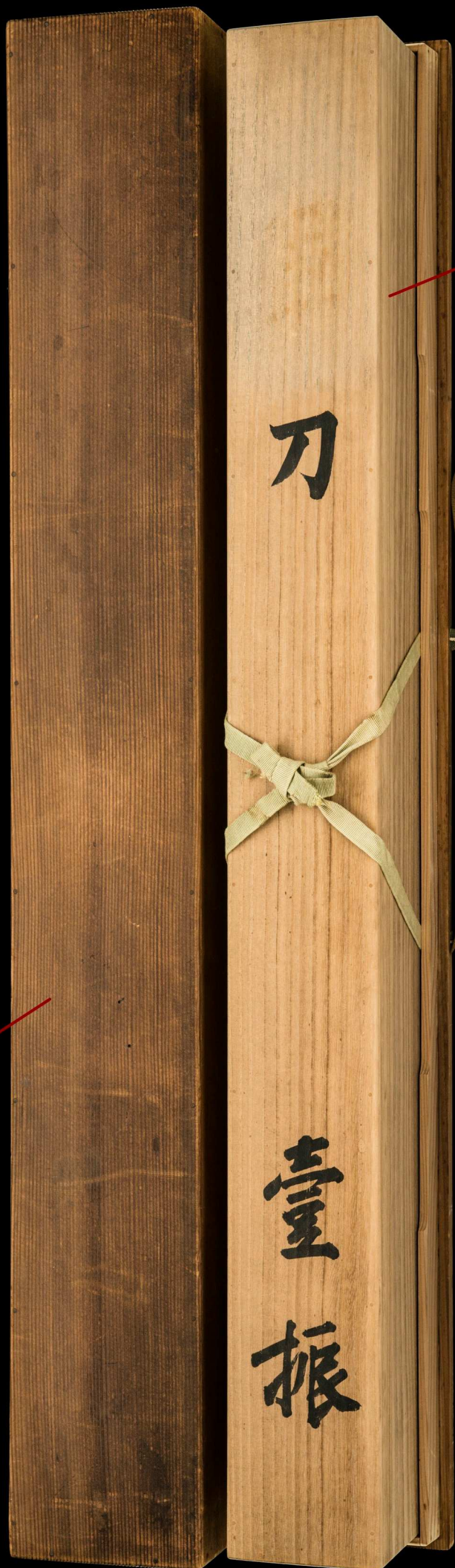
刀 (Katana)

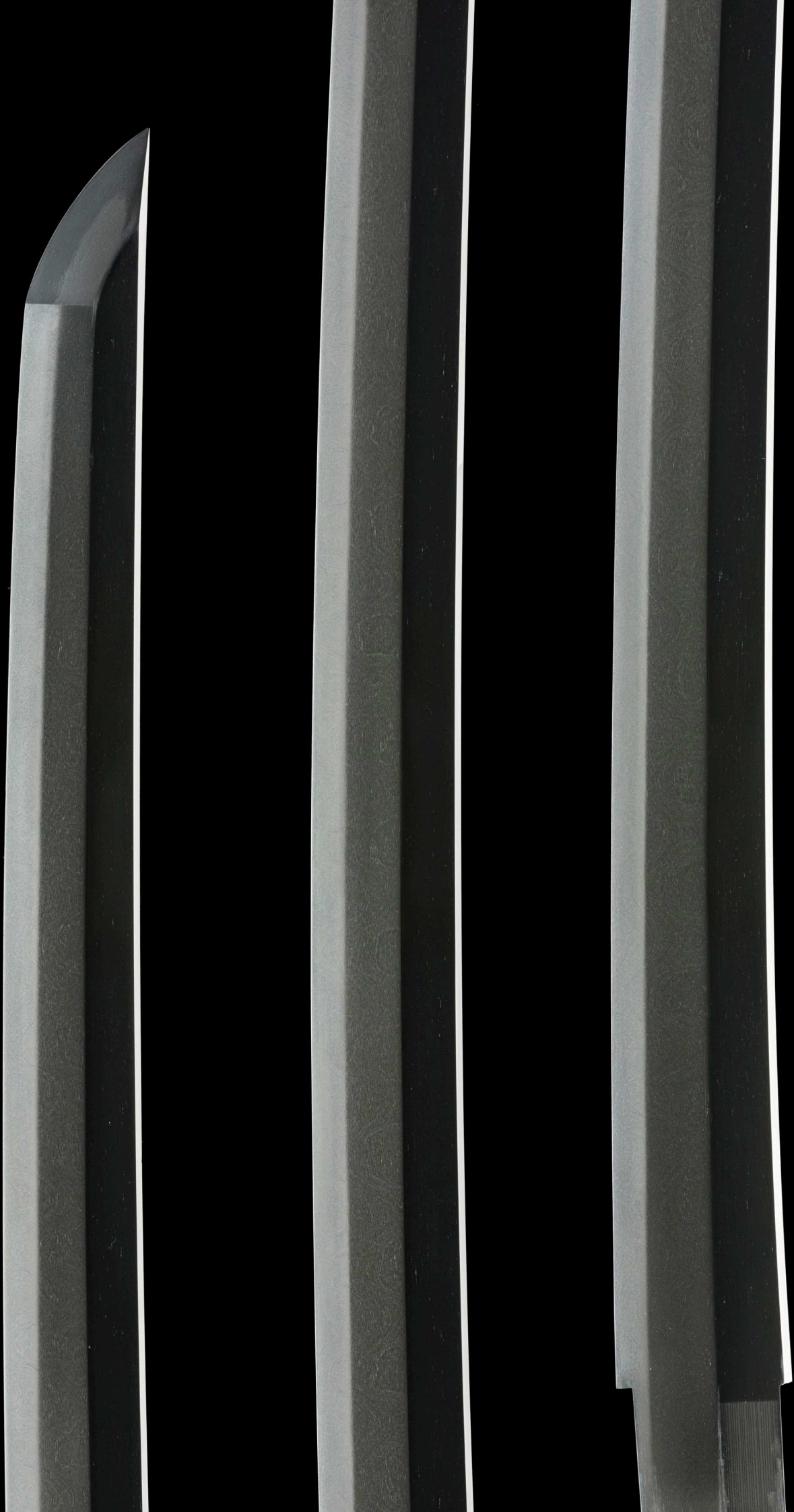
*outer protective shell*

壹  
振

壹 (hito)

振 (furi)








This unique wavy grain pattern in the steel is called *ayasugi-hada*. Also known as *Gassan-hada* (月山肌), this forging structure has remained the trademark of this iconic school for centuries.

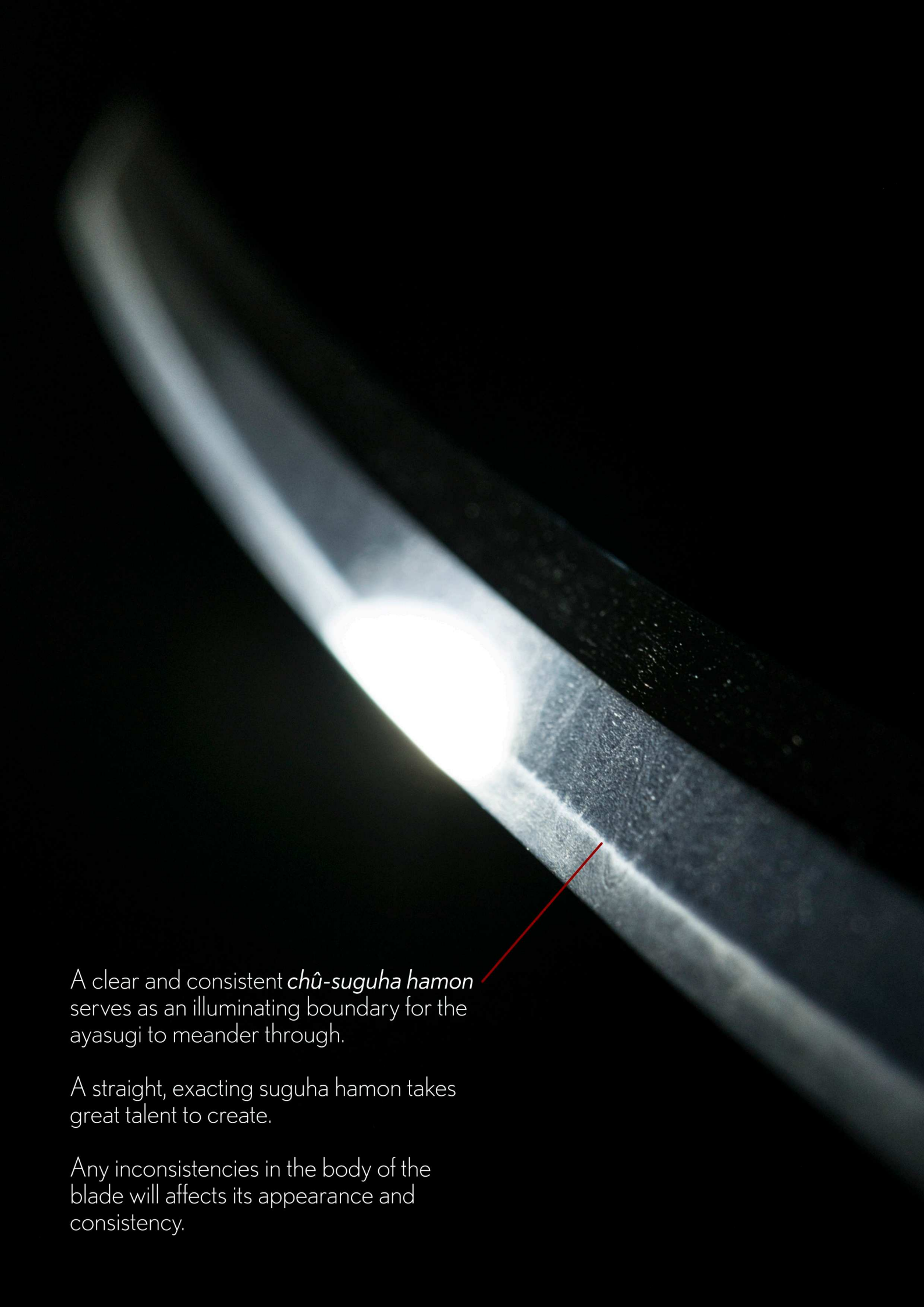
Interestingly, this pattern is named after the special wavy carving pattern on certain *koto* or *shamisen* music instruments which enhances its resonance.



**Koto**  
traditional Japanese musical instrument



*ayasugi-hada*

A close-up, low-angle photograph of a sword blade against a black background. The blade is illuminated from the side, creating a bright, glowing line along its edge. This line, known as the hamon, is the focus of the image. A red line points from the text below to a specific section of this hamon.

A clear and consistent *chû-suguha hamon* serves as an illuminating boundary for the ayasugi to meander through.

A straight, exacting suguha hamon takes great talent to create.

Any inconsistencies in the body of the blade will affect its appearance and consistency.

There is a timeless quality embedded within this katana.

The *ayasugi* flows effortlessly within the *yakiba* (hardened area) and into the *ji* (body) displaying both *sunagashi* and *chikei*.

*chikei*  
dark swirls of nie crystals



*sunagashi*  
sweeping sands



The owner of the sword is a long standing acquaintance of Mr. Gassan Sadatoshi. Due to the owner's overseas posting, until recently, this katana was kept under the entrusted care of Mr. Gassan. Sadatoshi sensei had mentioned to the owner in the past that this sword was crafted using the *very finest grade of tamahagane*.

This stock was most likely from the Gassan family's special inventory of high quality tamahagane dating back to the Edo period, which has been completely depleted since then.


The *jigane* (steel surface) exhibits a beautiful, bluish hue and appears 'wet', as seen on the finest swords from all eras in Japan's swordmaking past.






*Mitsu* (three) *mune* (spine/ridge) is a rare construction whereby the spine has three surfaces (the top is flat, not pointed).

It is generally found in the blades of smiths working in the *Sosho tradition* as well as the *Yamashiro school* of the Koto period.



A sweeping *hakikake boshi* that curls back (*ko-maru*) beautifully.






*kinsuji* (golden lines slice through the hamon)



Rarely seen *uchinoke* in the shape of small *crescent moons* appear above the *hamon*.

Uchinoke is an admirable quality on Koto period swords from the *Rai family*, *Yamashiro Sanjo* and *Yamato Tegai* schools.

The Gassan name (月山) means "*moon mountain*."

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a woven fabric. The image is dominated by a diagonal line of light that runs from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The fabric's texture is highly detailed, showing individual threads and the intricate weave pattern. The lighting creates a gradient from a bright, almost white highlight on the right side of the diagonal to deep shadows on the left, emphasizing the three-dimensional quality of the material. The background is a solid, dark black, which makes the fabric's texture stand out sharply.

*weaved to perfection*