



ITEM# UJDI007

A TOPPEI-KOSHIRAE DAISHO

SIGNED KATANA, MUMEI WAKIZASHI (EARLY EDO & LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD)

KATANA (DAI)

Swordsmith: *Bushu-ju Fujiwara Mitsuoki (Edo Ishido school)*

Measurements: **Length:** 68.8cm (ubu) **Curvature:** ~1.2cm

WAKIZASHI (SHO)

Swordsmith: *Sue-Bizen School*

Measurements: **Length:** 37.7cm (o-suriage) **Curvature:** ~1.0cm

Certificates: **3 x NBTHK Hozon** (both swords and kozuka designated Worthy of Preservation)
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (daisho koshirae designated Authentic)

Included: Two shirasayas, daisho koshirae, fabric bags, stands, kit, etc.

SOLD

The traditional samurai *daisho* of the Edo period and the modern *gunto* (military sword) koshirae look very different. This transition did not happen all at once. In between, there were fittings known as *Toppei-koshirae*. It gives us great pleasure to introduce a rare *daisho* that was inspired in design by French military officers [and the introduction of trousers] in the Edo period.

Your Personal Custom Koshirae and Samurai Daisho



Many fine antique samurai swords today come stored in a *shirasaya* only. A shirasaya acts like a humidior, protecting the steel for the long term.

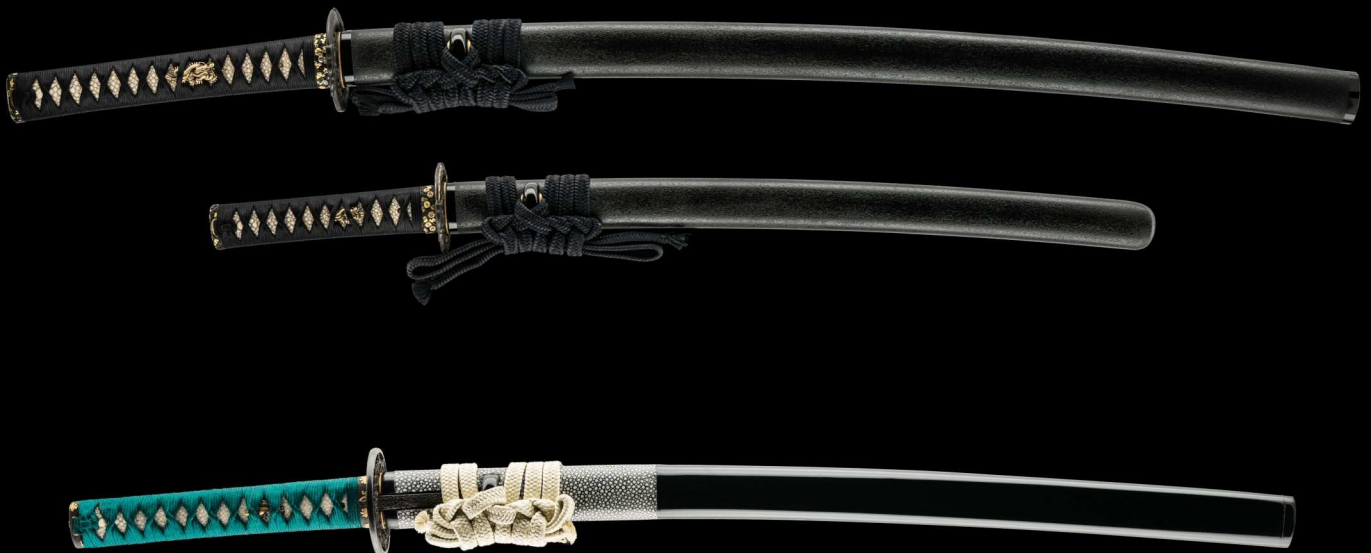
Just as the samurai would have ordered a custom *koshirae* (outdoor mounts) during the Edo period, you too can have a traditional set of koshirae crafted for your sword like a tailored suit in a theme that connects with your spirit.

At Unique Japan, we have proudly created dozens of custom koshirae projects for our clients over the years - each with their own style and energy.

The *tsuka* (hilt), *saya* (scabbard), *samekawa* (ray skin), silk, and lacquer is all handcrafted by skilled craftspeople in Japan. The *tsuba*, *fuchi-kashira*, *menuki* and other fittings are carefully sourced samurai antiques largely from the Edo period. This unique blend of modern life meeting traditional history is what makes each creation so personally rewarding for every client.

The investment required ranges from \$4,000 to over \$10,000 depending on the quality of the fittings and the complexity of the lacquerwork. Each project also demands patience as many will take one year to complete.

Please contact Unique Japan for further details. It is a pleasure to serve you.



As Markus Sesko describes in his reference book “Encyclopedia of Japanese swords”:

When Japanese uniforms were adapted from the French, relative wide trousers, the so-called *danbukuro* were introduced to which the sword was carried in a leather frog hanging vertically from the belt. For this carrying method, the swords had to become shorter to prevent them from touching the ground when hanging this way – blade length from 60 to 65 cm were common – and the *sayajiri* became quite tapering to slip easily through the leather frog.

This tapering butt end reminded of a so-called *toppai-kabuto* (lit. “helmet with tapering helmet bowl”). *Hai* became *hei* and so these *koshirae* were called *toppei-koshirae* (突兵拵). And as they were worn as mentioned with trousers (Jap. *zubon*, ズボン), also the name *zubon-sashi* existed.

Many *toppei* hilts were wrapped with a *katate-maki* (片手巻), an interpretation where just at the *fuchi* and *kashira* some *same* lozenges (*hishi*, 菱) are visible but the middle part of the hilt does not show these *hishi*. The *menuki* sits centrally on this middle part.

The *dai* (katana) was crafted by *Mitsuoki* of the *Edo Ishido school*. *Mitsuoki* worked in the *Genroku era*, circa 1688-1704 in typical *Ishido* style, faithfully honoring the *Bizen* artistry centuries back to the *Kamakura Ichimonji school*.

The *sho* (wakizashi) is an actual *Sue-Koto Bizen* piece, made during the late *Muromachi* period when Japan was in full-blown civil war. It is reminiscent of the works of *Sukemitsu* and *Sukesada*, crafted with a bright *koshibiraki-hamon*. Both swords are in good polish and are noticeably light - meeting the requirements for them to be comfortably housed in their *toppei-koshirae*.

On a personal note, I have seen a few *toppei-koshirae* before, however this is truly unique and my first *toppei-daisho*. There are many details to appreciate. The *kurigata* (knobs on the scabbard) in the design of the Japanese rising sun flag suggest this *daisho* was carried by a member of the Japanese Imperial Navy. The matching silver inlay in the scabbards is also a classy touch. The redwood hilts with iron fittings juxtaposed with dragon *menuki* gives it further character. Both the swords and *daisho koshirae* are with me in the UK. - PK



Kyokujitsu-ki - The Japanese Rising Sun Flag

Saki-kasane: 4.5mm

Kissaki: 2.80cm
Saki-haba: 1.8cm

Nagasa: 68.8cm

Omosa: 601g

Sori: ~1.2cm

Moto-kasane: 7.0mm

Moto-haba: 2.9cm

Nakago: 23.7cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



Saki-kasane: 5.0mm

Kissaki: 3.20cm
Saki-haba: 21cm

Nagasa: 37.7cm

Omosa: 327g

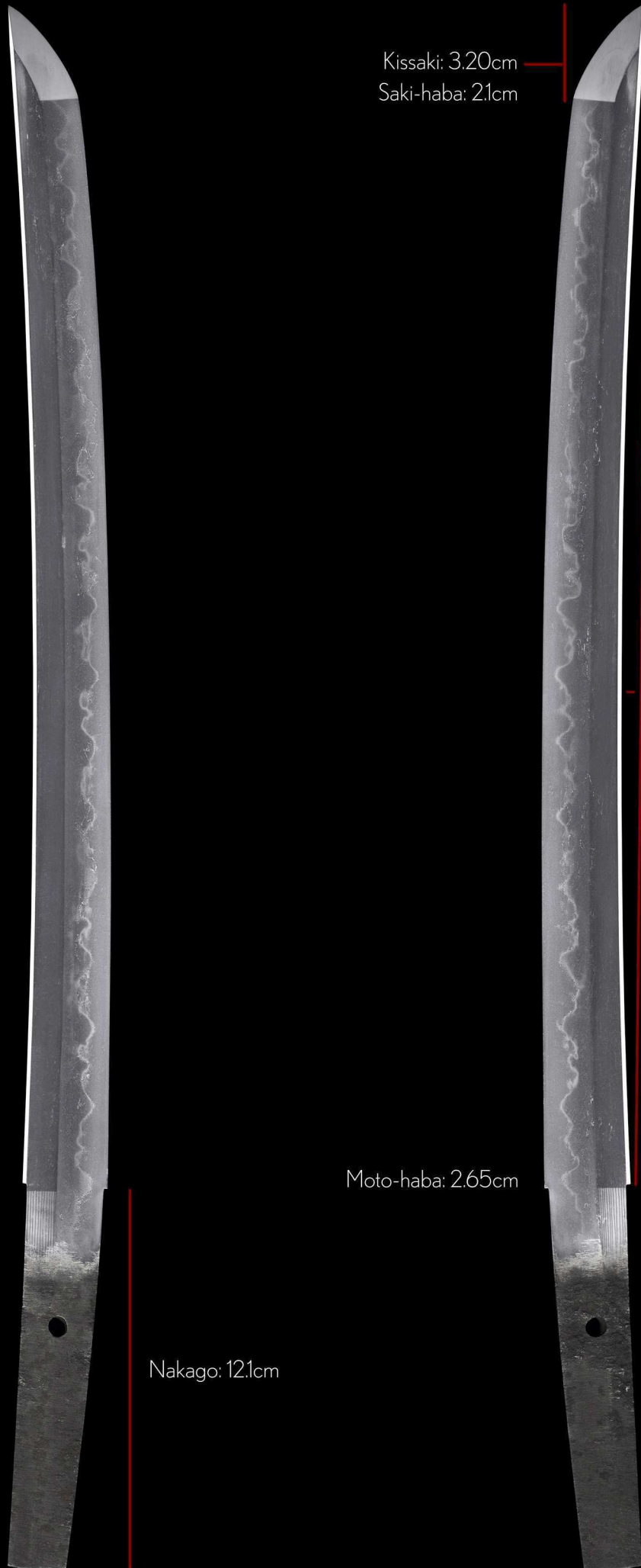
Sori: ~1.0cm

Moto-kasane: 6.0mm

Moto-haba: 2.65cm

Nakago: 12.1cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



特許
27301501



No 3008105

鑑定書

一刀 銘 武州住藤原三與作(石堂)

長二尺二寸七分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と
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



埼玉 教育委員会
第 2901 号
昭和26年 9月13日

NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *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)

Bushu-ju Fujiwara Mitsuoki saku (Ishido)

Nagasa (length)

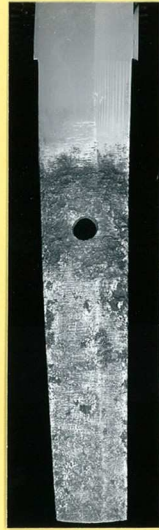
2-shaku 2-sun 7-bu (68.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

徳 森
27201501



No 3008110



鑑 定 書

一、脇指 無銘 (末備前)

長一尺二寸三分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十七年三月二十六日

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NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *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, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)
Sue-Bizen

Nagasa (length)
1-shaku 2-sun 3-bu (37.7cm)

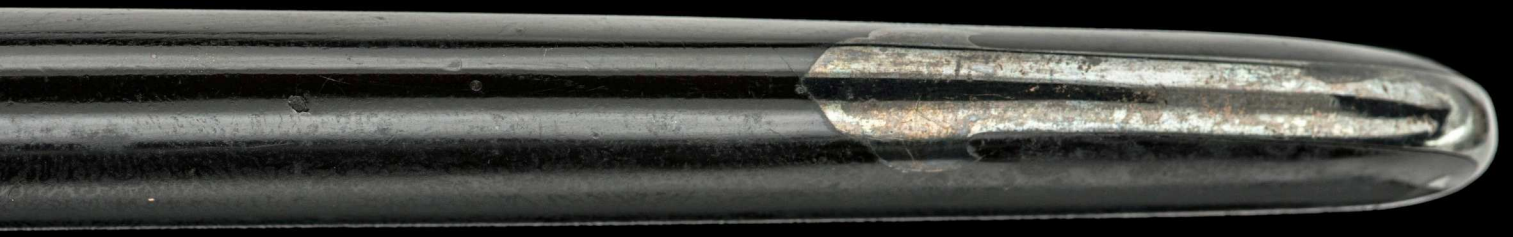
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

Dai (katana)

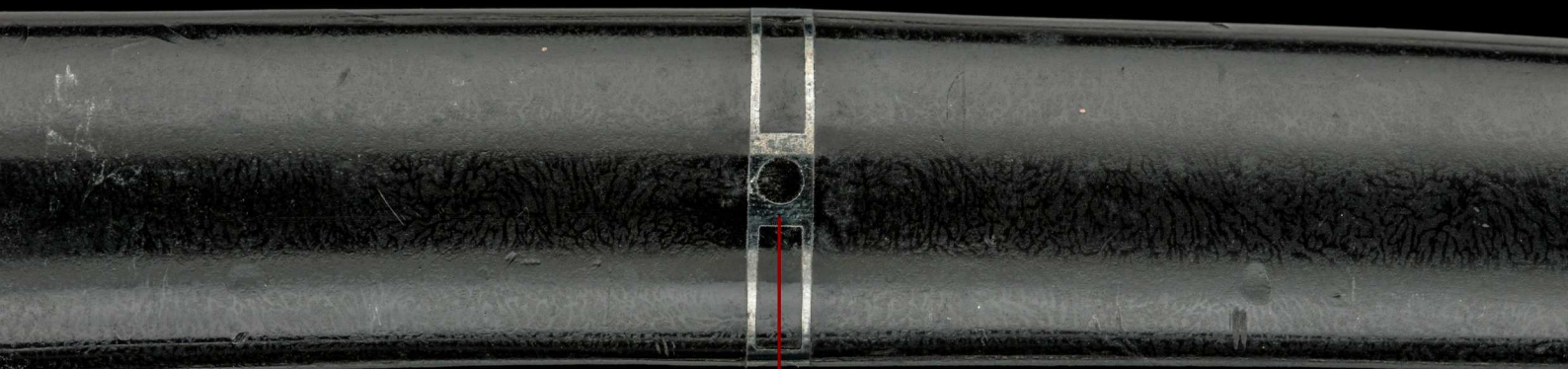


sho (wakizashi)

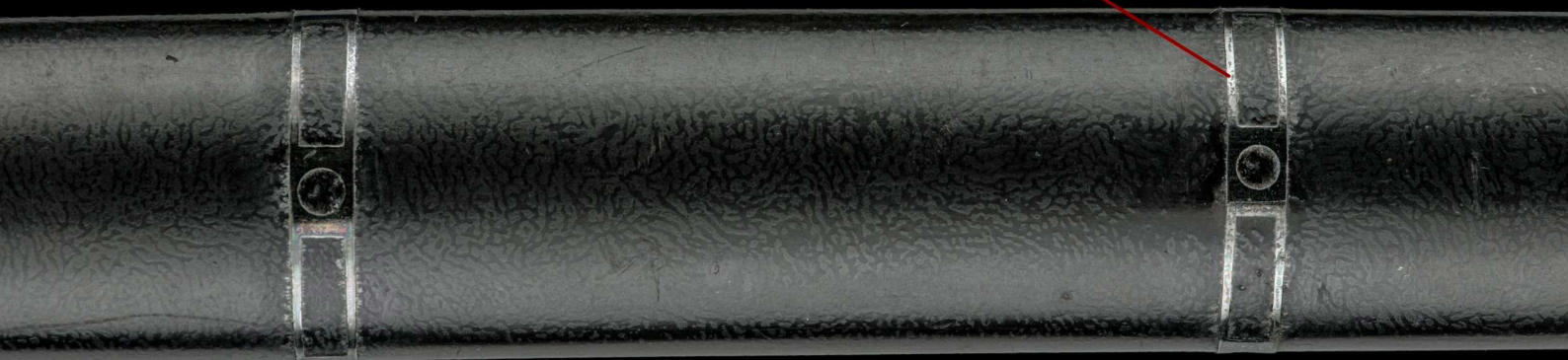




The name '*toppei-koshirae*' comes from how the end of the scabbard resembles a *toppai-kabuto* (a tapered helmet bowl).



beautiful silver en-suite fittings



ukyo-tsuka (matching hilts made of redwood)

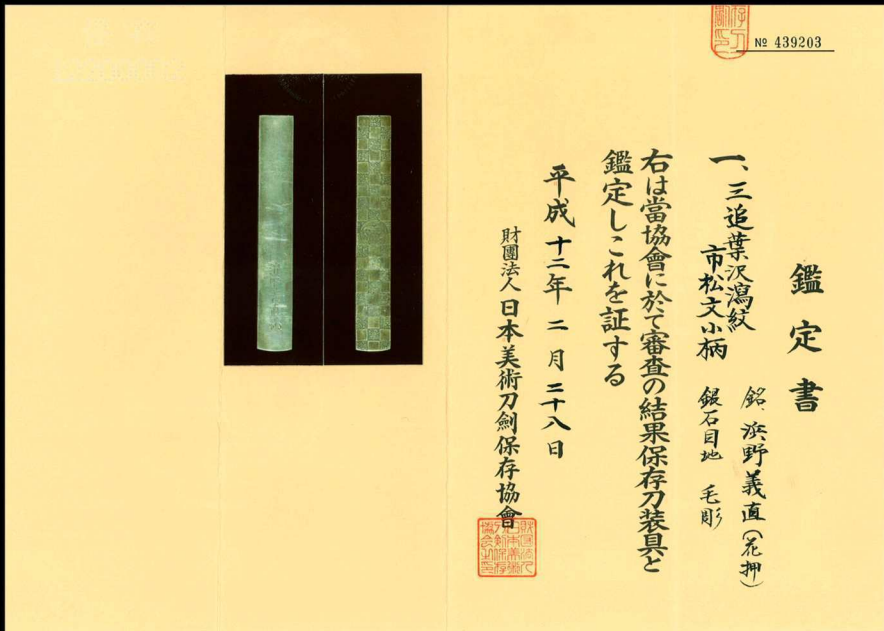




A *daisho* set of tsuba made of iron with *Amida-yasurime* file strokes that resemble the corona or sun rays attached to the back of an *Amida-Nyorai Buddha* statue.

Amida (Amitabha) is called "*The Buddha of Immeasurable Light and Life*", known for longevity.





Mitsu-tsuiha omodaka-mon ichimatsu-mon kozuka
(一、三追葉沢瀉市松文小柄)

A *kozuka* (utility knife) depicting the three-arrowroot-leaves crest on a checkerboard pattern.

Signed by *Hamano Yoshinao + kao*





fearless.

Thinking about how to best display?

Clients can select from one of three types of complimentary sword stands to proudly showcase their work of art.



traditional double-hook black wood sword stand



acrylic 'floating' type



small stand for tanto