



ITEM# UJKA079

A FUJISHIMA SCHOOL KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY TO MIDDLE MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA 1400'S)

Swordsmith: *Fujishima School (attribution)*
Location: *Kaga province (Ishikawa prefecture)*
Measurements: **Length:** 71.24cm (o-suriage) **Curvature:** 1.55cm **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
Jihada: *Gorgeous hadamono mix of itame, mokume, masame with plentiful chikei*
Hamon: *Gunome-midare with kinsuji and sunagashi*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Hozon** (a sword Worthy of Conservation)
Certificates #2-4: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated Authentic)
Included: Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

SOLD

The *Fujishima school* began in the early 1400s with *Tomoshige* in *Kaga province* on the *Hokurikudo* trade route in the northern territory that faces the Sea of Japan. As the winters are long and harsh, swordsmiths needed to produce blades that would perform well in frigid temperatures. The result was a unique *jigane* called *hadamono* - a swirling mix of *itame*, *mokume*, *masame* and *o-hada* that proved superior in flexibility, strength and sharpness to tightly forged grain patterns.

Complementing the eye-catching qualities of the steel is a handsome *mid-Edo period koshirae* with an *aoi-gai* lacquer finish and fittings with a warrior theme that speak to the fighting *Muromachi* period when this katana was surely used. This centuries-old soldier has great stories to share.

Saki-kasane: 3.7mm [^]

Kissaki: 3.6cm

Saki-haba: 1.93cm

Moto-kasane: 5.9mm

Nagasa: 71.24cm

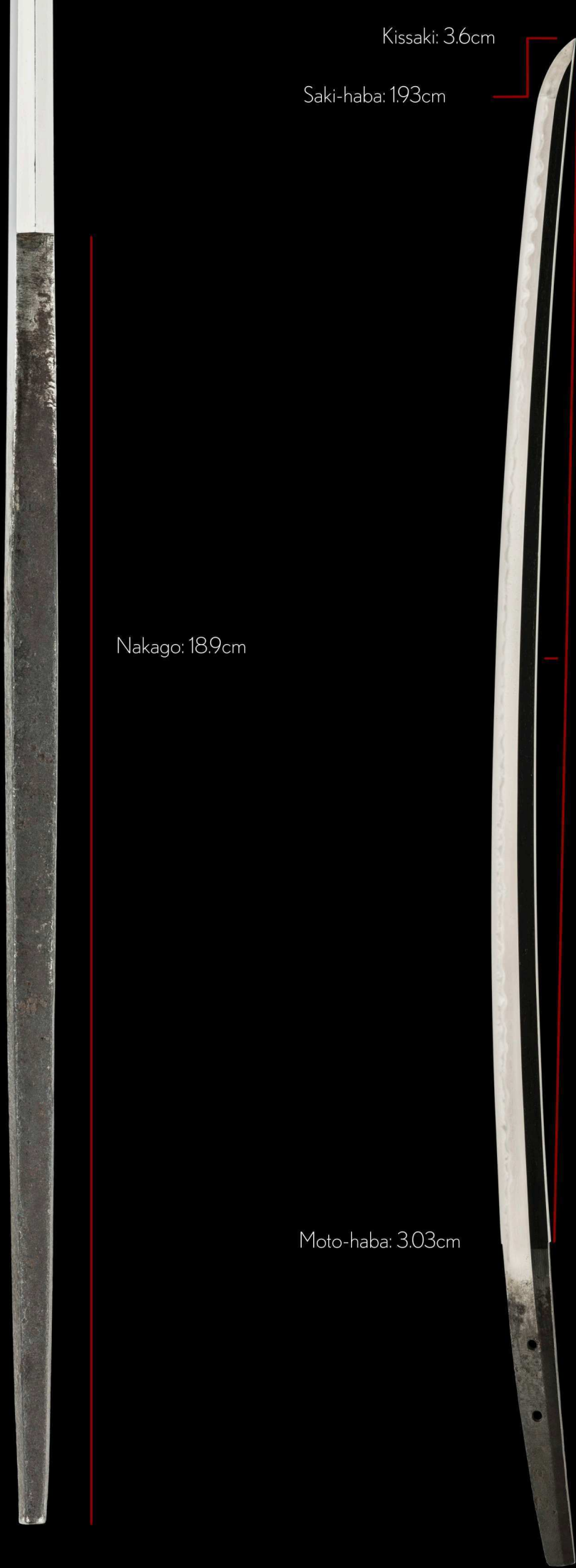
Nakago: 18.9cm

Sori: 1.55cm

Omosa: 695g

Moto-haba: 3.03cm


Mekugi-ana: 2



Fujishima is an area in *Echizen province* that the first generation of *Tomoshige* (circa 1394~1429) is said to have lived and then later moved to *Kaga province*.

The shape of this katana, with curvature moving towards the middle to upper section of the blade, speaks to the early Muromachi period.



The image shows two katana blades, one on the left and one on the right, set against a black background. Both blades are made of dark, weathered metal and feature a distinctive 'o-suriage' style, where the original tang (nakago) has been shortened and replaced by a new section formed from the blade's material. Each blade has two circular holes spaced along its length. The blades are positioned vertically, with their tips pointing downwards.

This katana carries an *o-suriage nakago*, where the *nakago* (tang) is greatly shortened. The new nakago is formed from what was originally part of the blade.

In o-suriage blades the original *mei* (signature) is lost, although sometimes preserved as an *orikaeshi* (folded-over signature) or *gakumei* (framed signature).

In the bottom quarter of the nakago, the patina is noticeably darker. This section is likely original to the sword

保存
25201301



No 3002193



鑑定書

一 刀 無銘 (藤島)

長二尺三寸五分弱

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

平成二十五年三月六日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



北海道 教育委員会
第 1791 号
昭和26年5月30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 25th year of Heisei (2013), March 6th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Mumei (*Fujishima*)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu jaku (71.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

The *Fujishima school* was located in *Kaga province* on the *Hokurikudo trade route* in the northern territory that faces the Sea of Japan. Along with the *Sanindo* route, this area was known as *Ura Japan*.

The winters in Ura Japan are harsh and last much longer than other regions of the country. This required swordsmiths to produce blades that would perform well in frigid temperatures. Thus a *jigane* called *hadamono* was born. A swirling symphony of *itame*, *mokume*, *masame* and *o-hada* that 'stands out visibly to the eye' proved to be superior in *flexibility*, *strength* and *sharpness* compared to blades that had a finely forged grain pattern.

Go Yoshihiro and *Norishige* were two notable smiths from the region during the Kamakura period.



hadamono
a sword with a *jihada* (grain pattern)
that stands out visibly to the eye.

A close-up photograph of a Japanese sword blade, showing the intricate patterns of the metal. The blade is dark and polished, with a prominent light-colored band running along its length. The texture is highly detailed, with dark, wavy lines (chikei) weaving through the lighter metal (ji). A red line points from the text to these patterns.

Absolutely gorgeous *chikei*
(dark lines of *nie* crystals that
weave through the *ji* (body).



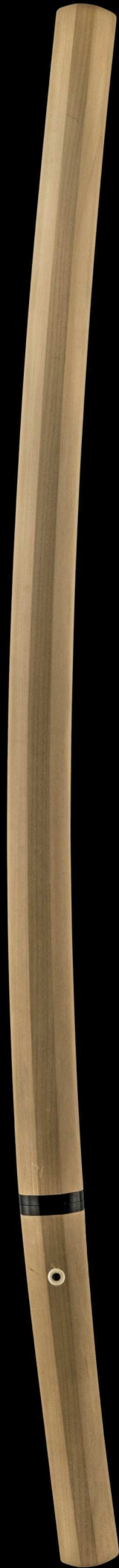
zoom in for detail!

A rhythmic *gunome-midare hamon* pulses like a heartbeat.



Pointed areas called *togari* show a Mino tradition influence.

splendid streams of *sunagashi*



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

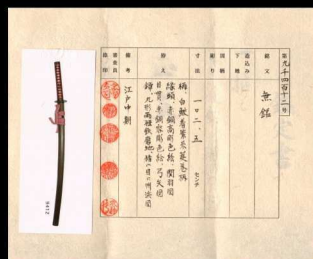


niju habaki
gold wrapped over copper base
with *kiri* straight file pattern

Aogai-mijin-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae
(青貝微塵塗鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae with
saya featuring particles of
mother-of-pearl*

Crafted during the
Middle Edo period
(1700~1780)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity

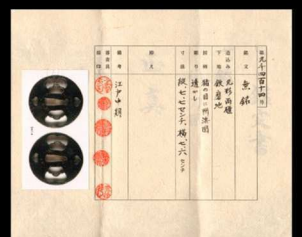
The *saya* (scabbard) has an *ishimenuri* (stone finish) that is tastefully layered with a sprinkling of mixed abalone shell colours.





This polished iron *tsuba* (guard) was originally crafted during the 1700s by a swordsmith, known as *Tosho*. The premise behind the *Tosho* attribution is that a swordsmith would forge a simple iron *tsuba* to accompany his newly made blade. The designs on *Tosho tsuba* have a charming simplicity, not fanciful.

The heart-shapes are called *inome* - meaning the *eye of a wild boar* or *inoshishi*. The *inoshishi* is known for its single-minded focus, which the samurai greatly admired. For when it charges, it charges with a vengeance - never retreating.





Guan Yu was a greatly admired general that served under the warlord *Liu Bei* in the late Eastern Han dynasty.

He played a significant role in the events that led to the end of the dynasty and the establishment of the state of *Shu Han* - founded by Liu Bei. Guan Yu died in 220AD.

The *kashira* (pommel) is skilfully made with precise detail paid to his armour. This *kashira* comes with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the work to the *Hamano school* from the late Edo period.





Pure commitment and focus.

Live your life.

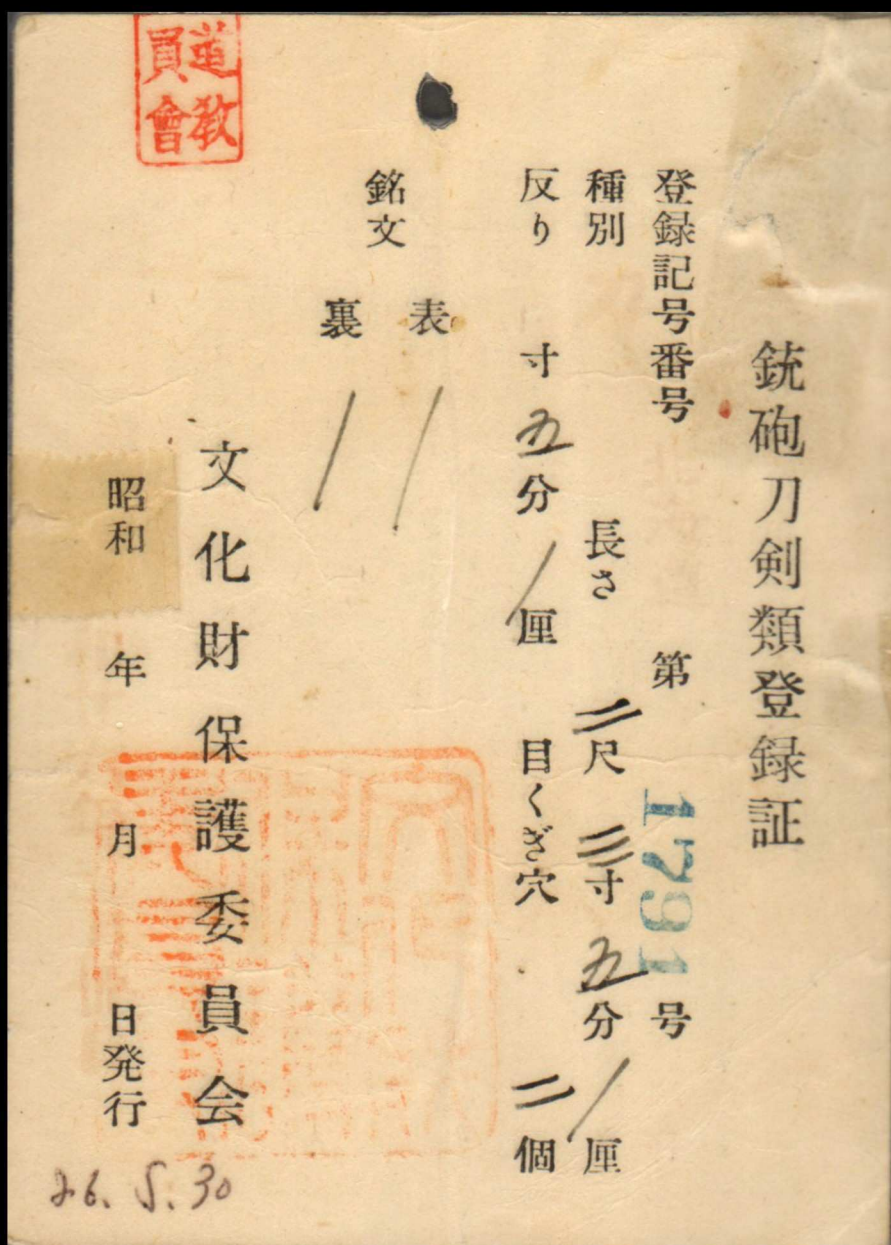


a traditional samurai *yumi* (bow) and *ya* (arrows) form the *menuki* grips





traditional koshirae fabric bag



This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the Fujishima katana. The card was registered in the 26th year of Showa (May 30, 1951).

This is significant as 1951 was the very first year that swords were formally registered in Japan. Many former Daimyo families were invited to submit their collections suggesting this blade was once held by a prominent family.

The serial number is just 1791, one of the very first swords registered in Japan.