



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*.

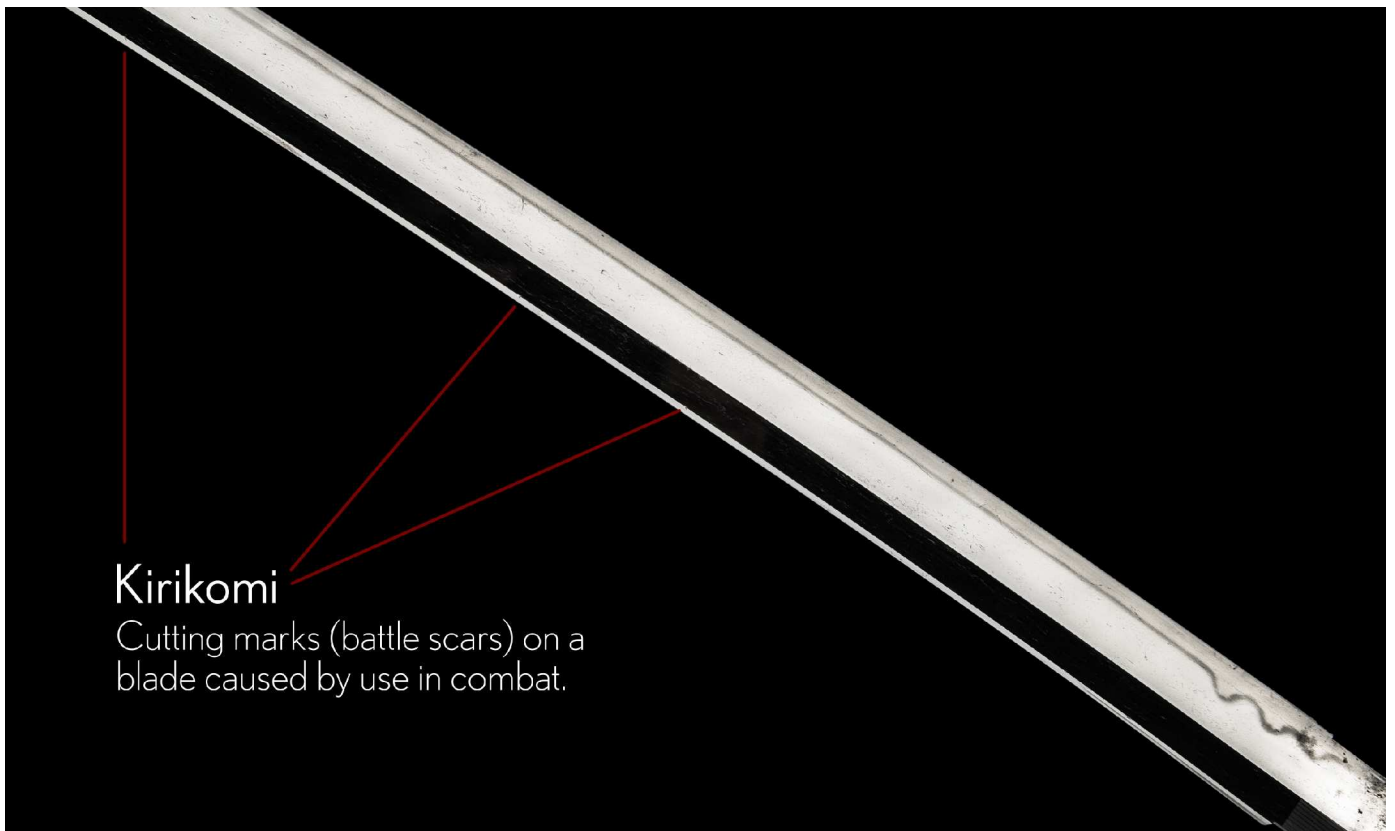
This is a sword with plenty of character. On the spine of the blade there are numerous *kirikomi* (prized battle scars) from coming into contact with other blades in combat. As a matter of respect and common practice, sword polishers never remove kirikomi. Surely this peace maker has seen plenty of action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