



ITEM# UJKA130

A SHIRÔ'EMON KANEWAKA KATANA SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (ENPÔ ERA: 1673~1681)

Swordsmith: *Kashu Ju Kanewaka (Shirô'emon, 3rd generation, ubu nakago)*
Measurements: **Length:** 66.8cm (*ubu*) **Curvature:** 1.3cm **Moto-haba:** 3.1cm
Jihada: *Tight ko-itame hada, ji-nie and chikei*
Hamon: *Gorgeous nie-deki gunome-midare with hako-midare, kinsuji and sunagashi*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate #2: **NTHK-NPO Yûshûsaku** (*a sword designated as Masterwork*)
Certificate #3: **NBTHK Hozon** (*koshirae designated as Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate #4-5: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*a tsuba and matching fittings designated as Authentic*)
Fujishiro rank: **Jô-saku** (*ranked as a superior swordsmith*)
Included: Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, booklet, description

SOLD

The *Kanewaka* family held close ties with the *Maeda Daimyô* family in *Kaga* province as the castle town grew to immense prominence and wealth during the Edo period. Top samurai held great admiration for swords from the Kanewaka family. First generation Kanewaka was so highly esteemed that he was referred to as *Kaga Masamune*.

This exceptional katana was crafted by *third generation Kanewaka* who was born *Tsujimura Shirô'emon*. The brilliant and iconic Kanewaka family *hako-midare* (square shaped hamon) with plentiful *kinsuji hataraki* (activity) can be thoroughly enjoyed. Sword comes with an elegant, fully matching Edo period koshirae, attributed to the *Kumagai school* in *Higo* province. This splendid samurai sword has recently been polished and lifts the spirits in a very, very big way.



Saki-kasane: 5.3mm

Moto-kasane: 7.0mm

Kissaki: 3.51cm

Saki-haba: 2.07cm

Nagasa: 66.8cm

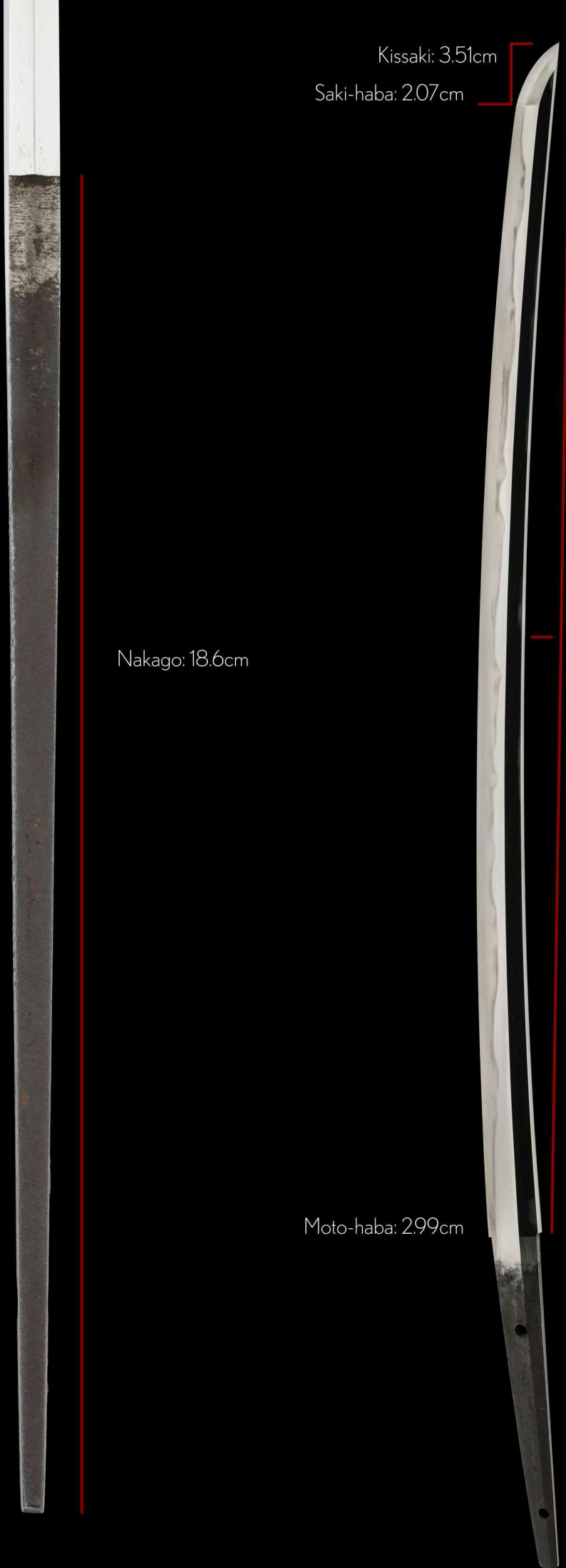
Nakago: 18.6cm

Sori: 1.40cm

Omosa: 745g

Moto-haba: 2.99cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



The Kanewaka family held close ties with the *Maeda Daimyô* family in *Kaga* province as the castle town grew to immense prominence and wealth during the Edo period. Traditional Japanese gold leaf production was made famous in Kaga among numerous high-quality crafts.

Top samurai held great admiration for swords from the Kanewaka family. First generation Kanewaka was so highly esteemed that he was referred to as *Kaga Masamune* - in tribute to one of Japan's most celebrated swordsmiths.

This exceptional katana was crafted by third generation Kanewaka who was born *Tsujimura Shirô'emon*. He was the oldest son of the second generation Kanewaka and died in the fifth month in the eighth year of *Hôei* era (May 1711).

The brilliant and iconic Kanewaka family *hako-midare* (square shaped *hamon*) with plentiful *kinsuji hataraki* (activity) can be thoroughly enjoyed on this katana.

Shirô'emon was rated *jô-saku* (superior swordsmith) and it's clear to see why. Sword comes with a fully matching Edo period koshirae attributed to the *Kumagai* school in *Higo* province.





Location: *Kaga* (resident of Kaga province)

Swordsmith: *Kanewaka* (third generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

sujikai-yasurime (diagonal file marks)

賀 (Ga)

州 (shû)

住 (jû)

兼 (Kane)

若 (waka)

造 (tsukuru)



tsukuru means "made/crafted by"

elegantly tapered *nakago*



(*ura*, reverse)

特 保
26201405

№ 1002495



鑑定書

一 刀
銘 賀州住兼若造(四郎右衛門)

長 二尺二寸〇半

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

平成二十六年七月九日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



新潟 教育委員会
第 56568 号
昭和 59 年 6 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 26th year of Heisei (2014), July 9th

One, Katana


Mei (signature)

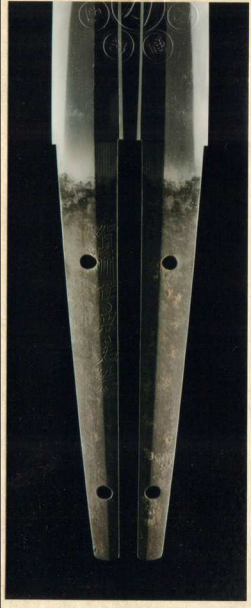
Gashû-jû Kanewaka tsukuru
(Shirouemon)

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 2-sun 0 han (66.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

捺 審 査 員 印	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 影 柄 り	銚 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 六 〇 二 号
	延宝頃 四郎古衛門尉			目釘穴 一個 鍔 付 障		深心先掃けて返る	深の間々焼き高一回の五目乱交と棟焼頻り かかす			板目、板心交えて鍛 造り	賀州住業若造	
										巻棟		



NTHK-NPO Yûshû-saku Certificate of Authenticity

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

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Gashû-jû Kanewaka tsukuru

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 2-sun amari kore ari (66.8cm)

Issued in 26th year of Heisei (2014), December 14th

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.



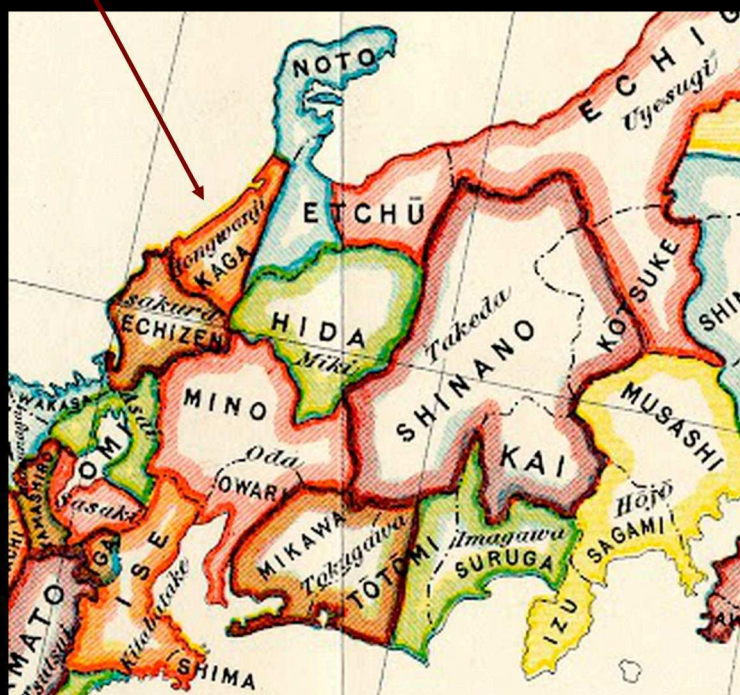
The *Kaga* Domain, also known as the *Kanazawa* Domain or *Kanazawa-han*), was a domain of the *Tokugawa shogunate* of Japan during the Edo period from 1583 to 1871.

The Kaga Domain was based at Kanazawa Castle in Kaga Province, in the modern city of Kanazawa, located in the *Chûbu* region of the island of *Honshu*. The Kaga Domain was ruled for its existence by the *Tozama daimyô* of the Maeda, and covered most of *Kaga* Province and *Etchû* Province and all of *Noto* Province in the *Hokuriku* region.

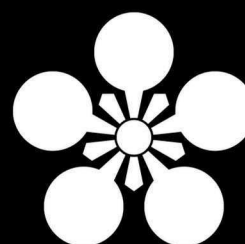
The Kaga Domain had an assessed *kokudaka* of over one million *koku*, making it by far the largest domain of the Tokugawa shogunate. The Kaga Domain was dissolved in the abolition of the *han* system in 1871 by the *Meiji* government and its territory was absorbed into *Ishikawa* Prefecture and *Toyama* Prefecture.

Maeda Toshiie (above) was a distinguished military commander, a retainer of *Oda Nobunaga* and a close friend of *Toyotomi Hideyoshi*. A member of the Council of Five Elders who ruled Japan during the *Sengoku* period, he was granted the Kaga Domain in 1583.

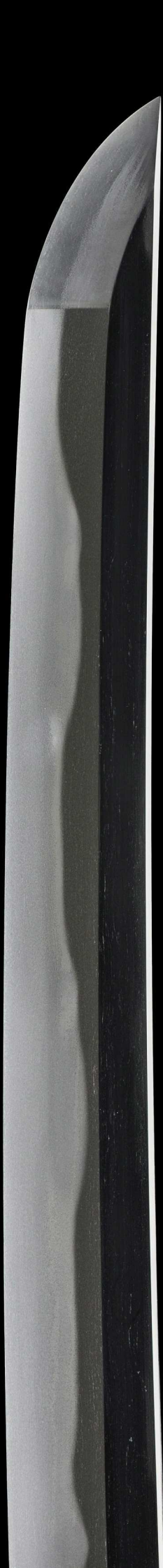
His eldest son, *Maeda Toshinaga* (below) supported *Tokugawa Iyasu* in his rise to power and was rewarded by an increase in his lands to 1.25 million *koku*.

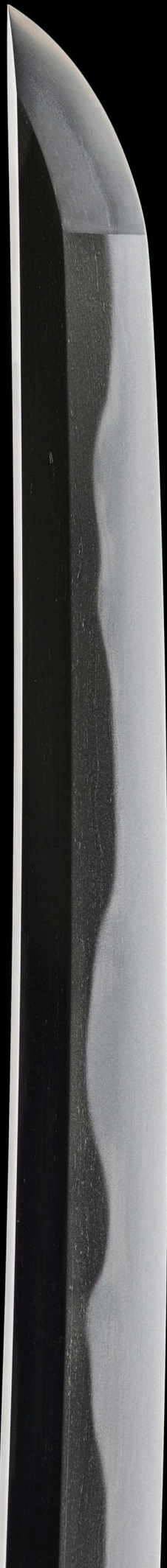


Above is a portion of the *Feudal map of Japan* during the Edo period, *Kaga* borders the Sea of Japan.



Kaga kamon (family crest)





A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a sword blade. The blade is oriented diagonally from the top-left to the bottom-right. The upper portion of the blade shows a dark, wavy grain pattern (itame-hada), while the lower portion shows a lighter, straight grain pattern (masame-hada). The background is solid black, which emphasizes the metallic texture and color of the blade.

Healthy, expertly forged *itame-hada*
combined with straight grain *masame-hada*.


Like a *sumi-e* master's brushstroke, the *hakikake* (sweeping) *bôshi* conveys a sense of freedom.





This katana is a shining example of *hako-midare* (square-like) hamon pattern that is synonymous with the *Kanewaka school*.

Massive bolts of *kinsuji* tear through the hamon with a vengeance.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, showing the hamon (tempered edge) with a vibrant *gunome-midare* pattern. The blade is dark, and the hamon is highlighted by a bright light source. The pattern consists of rounded, wavy lines that resemble horsefly eyes. Red arrows point from the text to specific features on the blade.

Mid-section of the blade the hamon takes on a vibrant *gunome-midare* with rounded areas that are reminiscent of Yukihiro's *abu-nomefu* (horsefly eyes).

muneyaki
(tempered along the spine of blade)

Hako-midare resembles a mountain top.



masame-hada (straight grain)



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



copper *habaki* with
Kaga-style file marks



This handsome *Kaga-style* copper *habaki* with its unique deeply grooved criss-cross design became synonymous with Kaga province.

As *Shirouemon Kanewaka* lived and worked in Kaga, it makes perfect sense that this antique habaki still faithfully secures this katana.

*Kuro kawari-nuri
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒変わり塗打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in black
with unique texture*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)



*NBTHK Hozon
Certificate of Authenticity*



*NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity*

03202103

No. 4019309



公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協会



令和三年九月十七日

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

鑑定書

一 黒漆塗唐草文鞘打刀拵

総金具花桐唐草図無銘
目貫馬具図
鐔左右松透牡丹図無銘
柄白鮫着黒色糸諸捻卷

NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 3rd year of Reiwa (2021), September 17th

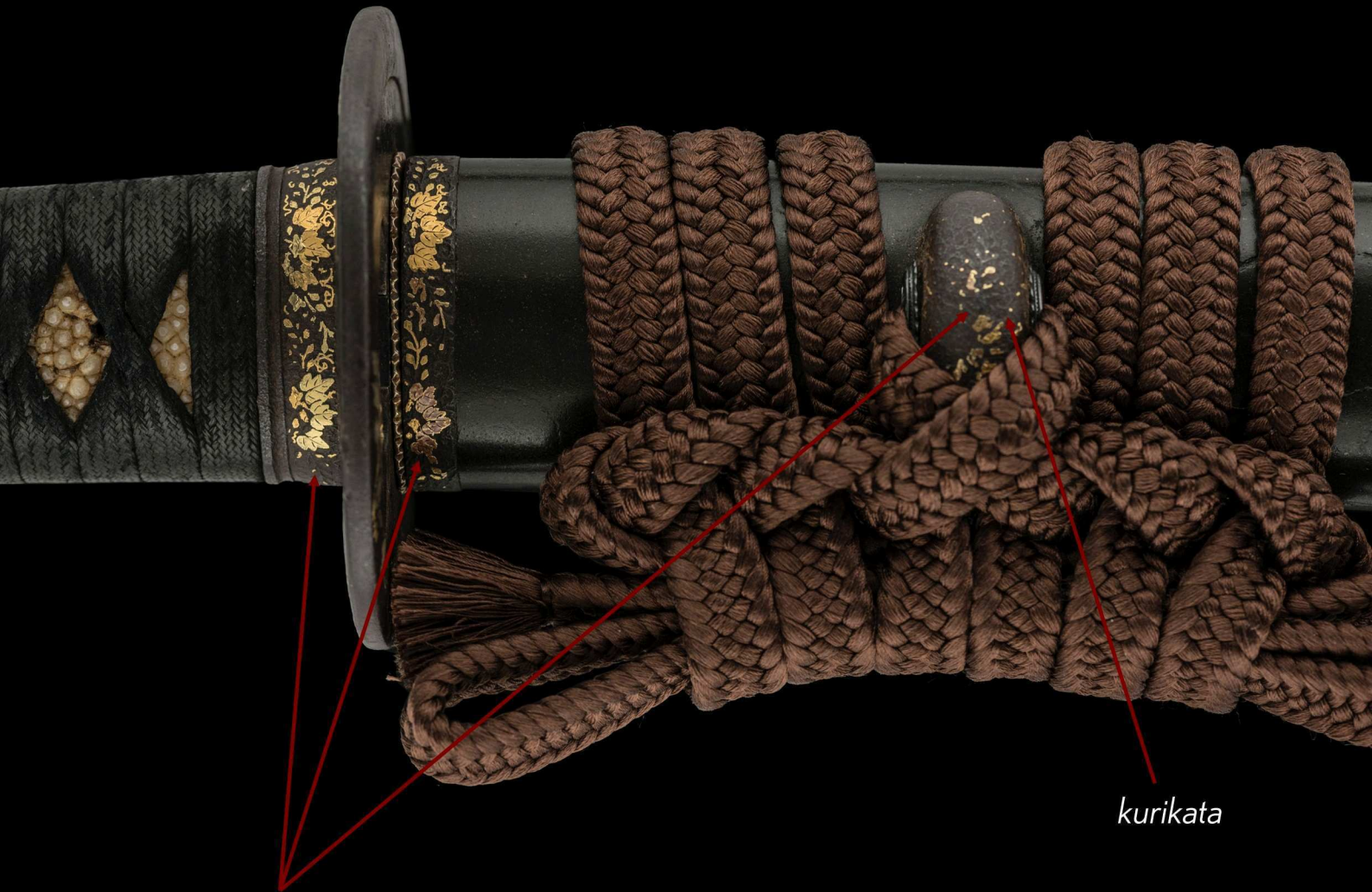
One, Koshirae

Uchigatana-koshirae lacquered in black with arabesque pattern

*Matching set of fittings depicting paulownia flower
and arabesque design, unsigned
Menuki depicting horse gear*

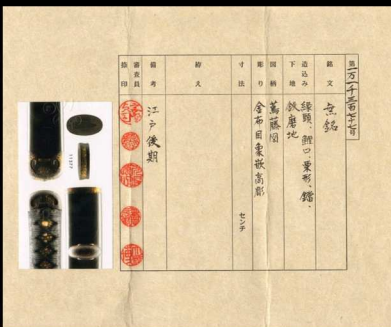
*Tsuba depicting peony with openwork of pine tree shape, unsigned
Hilt covered with white same and wrapped morohineri-maki style with
black braids*

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



kurikata

All matching fittings depicting *kiri* (paulownia) entwined within an arabesque design.



Den Edo Higo Kumagai-ha

These matching antique fittings (*soroi kanagu*) have been attributed to the *Kumagai* school of *Higo* group in Edo (Tokyô).

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity dating the fittings to the late Edo period.





These beautifully crafted *menuki* feature gear that a samurai would carry on his horse.



Haigô Gozaemon Hisamitsu
Mounted, armoured, but bareheaded,
he rides upon his galloping steed.

Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797~1861)



Kurabane
Japanese saddle tree
Late Edo period



A close-up of the *kashira* (pommel).

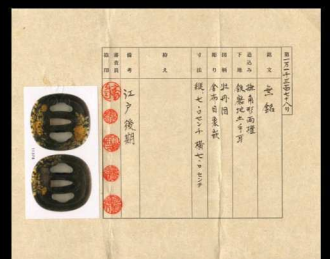
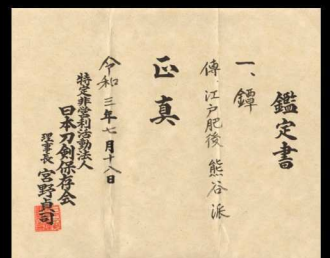
Much of the gold may have been worn down over time, but its history lives on.



The striking *kin-nunome-zôgan* (crosshatched gold inlay) design on this splendid iron *tsuba* is that of peonies.

In Japan, *botan* (peony) is referred to as the "King of Flowers" and a symbol of good fortune, bravery, and honour. As such, it has been cherished by the samurai class for centuries.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the Higo Kumagai school dating to the *late-Edo period* circa 1780~1867 has been attained.



To appreciate Japanese art, is to appreciate detail.
Upon closer inspection the peony comes alive...



(reverse)





Koshirae bag (vintage)