



ITEM# UJKA135

## A CHIKUZEN MORITSUGU KATANA SIGNED, EDO PERIOD, ENPO ERA (1673-1681)

- Swordsmith:** *Chikuzen no Kuni Fukuoka Ju MORITSUGU*
- Location:** Chikuzen province (Fukuoka city)
- Length:** 66.45cm    **Curvature:** 1.2cm    **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
- Jihada:** *Ko-Itame (tight wood grain pattern) with shirake utsuri*
- Hamon:** *Gunome choji midare (wavy temper line with clove blossom pattern)*
- Nakago:** *Ubu nakago*
- Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*A Sword Especially Worthy of Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)
- Certificate x 3:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*A tsuba, fuchi-kashira, and menuki, all designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)
- Fujishiro:** *Jo-saku (a superior swordsmith)*
- Included:** Custom koshirae, shirasaya with sayagaki, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

**SOLD**

This gorgeous katana is the work of one of the finest smiths working in the Bizen tradition during the early Edo period, *Chikuzen Moritsugu*. Moritsugu is the cousin of founder of the Fukuoka Ishidō school, *Koretsugu*, who studied under *Ishido Korekazu*. A recently completed custom koshirae that pays tribute to the glory of rice - complete with three certified Edo-period fittings. The sword itself is certified NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon.

Saki-kasane: 4.7mm

Moto-kasane: 7.0mm

Saki-haba: 1.8cm

Nagasa: 66.4cm

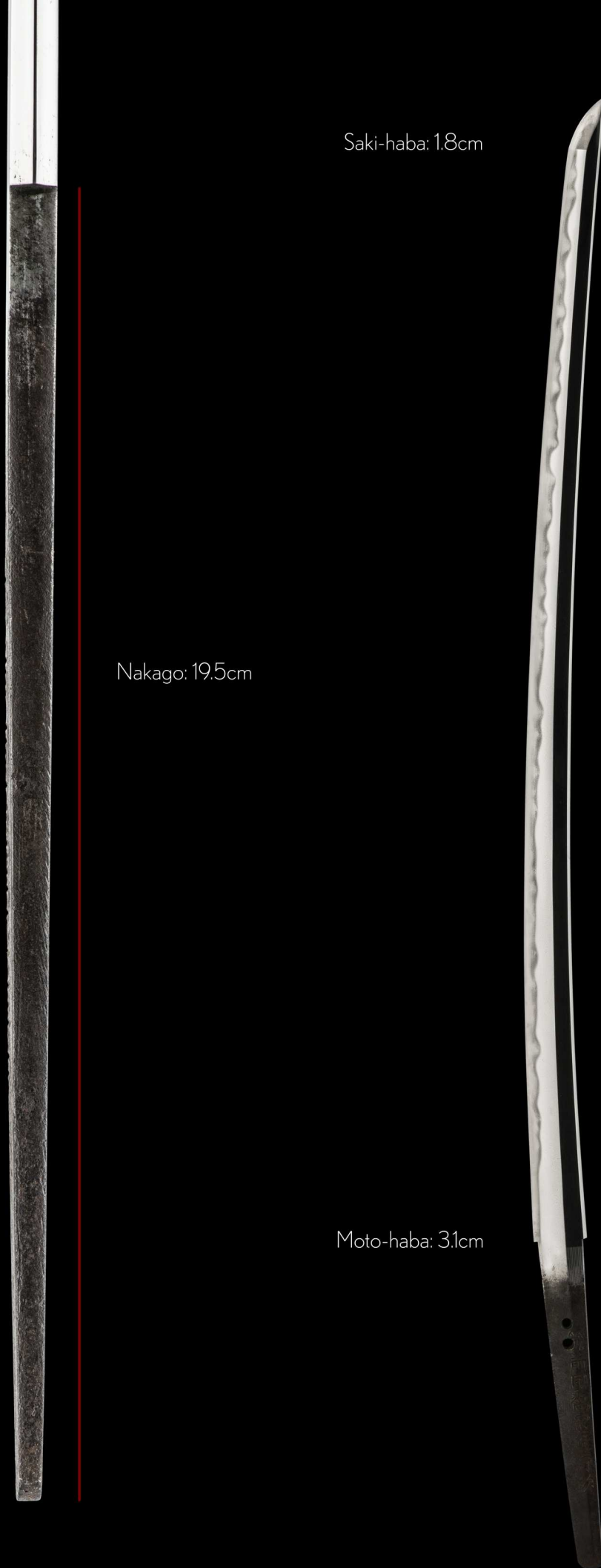
Nakago: 19.5cm

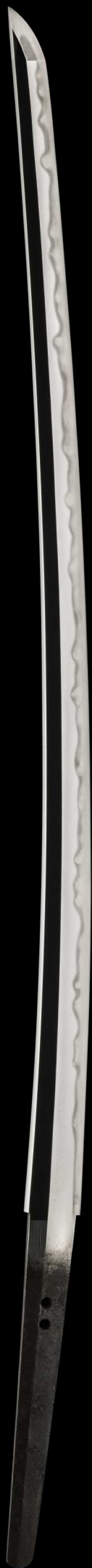
Sori: 1.2cm

Omosa: 710g

Moto-haba: 3.1cm

Mekugi-ana: 2





Province: *Chikuzen no Kuni*

City: *Fukuoka*

Swordsmith: *Moritsugu*



Chiku

zen (no)

Kuni

Fuku

oka

Ju

Mori

tsugu

\*The *Fukuoka Ishido School* became famous for their unique rounded writing style when chiseling characters on the *nakago*.

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No 1003397



鑑定書

一刀 銘 筑前国福岡住守次

長二尺一寸九分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と  
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



東京 教育委員会  
第 288982号  
平成 15年 4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 27th year of Heisei (2015), March 26th

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)

*Chikuzen no Kuni Fukuoka Ju Moritsugu*

*Nagasa* (length)

2-shaku 1-sun 9-bu (66.45cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

## *Ko-nie and Sunagashi*

Tiny crystals in a *sand-swept* appearance known as *sunagashi* dances within the hamon

## Jihada

Tightly forged *itame hada* that resembles a wood grain surface with traces of *masame* (straight grain).

Zoom into image for a closer look.

In accordance to the Bizen tradition, clear *utsuri* (shadow hamon) can be enjoyed on this fine katana.

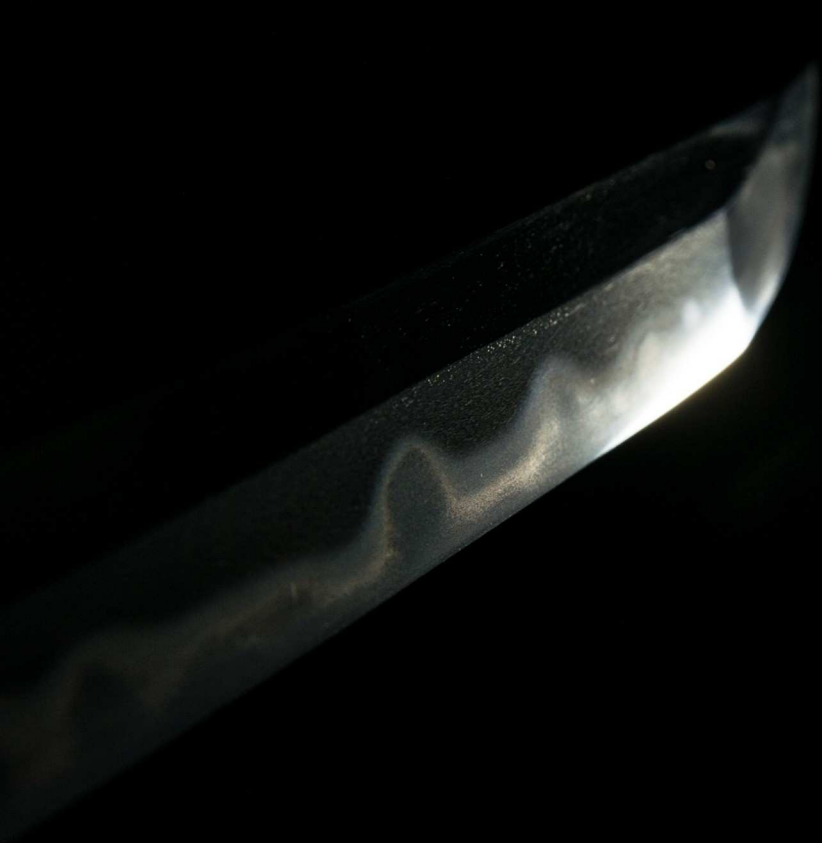
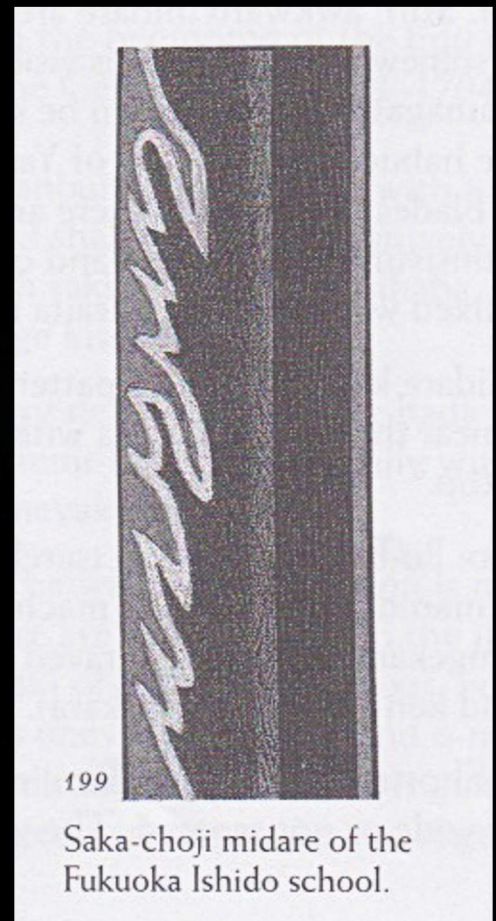


Illustration from *The Connoisseurs Book of Japanese Swords* by Nagayama Kokan.



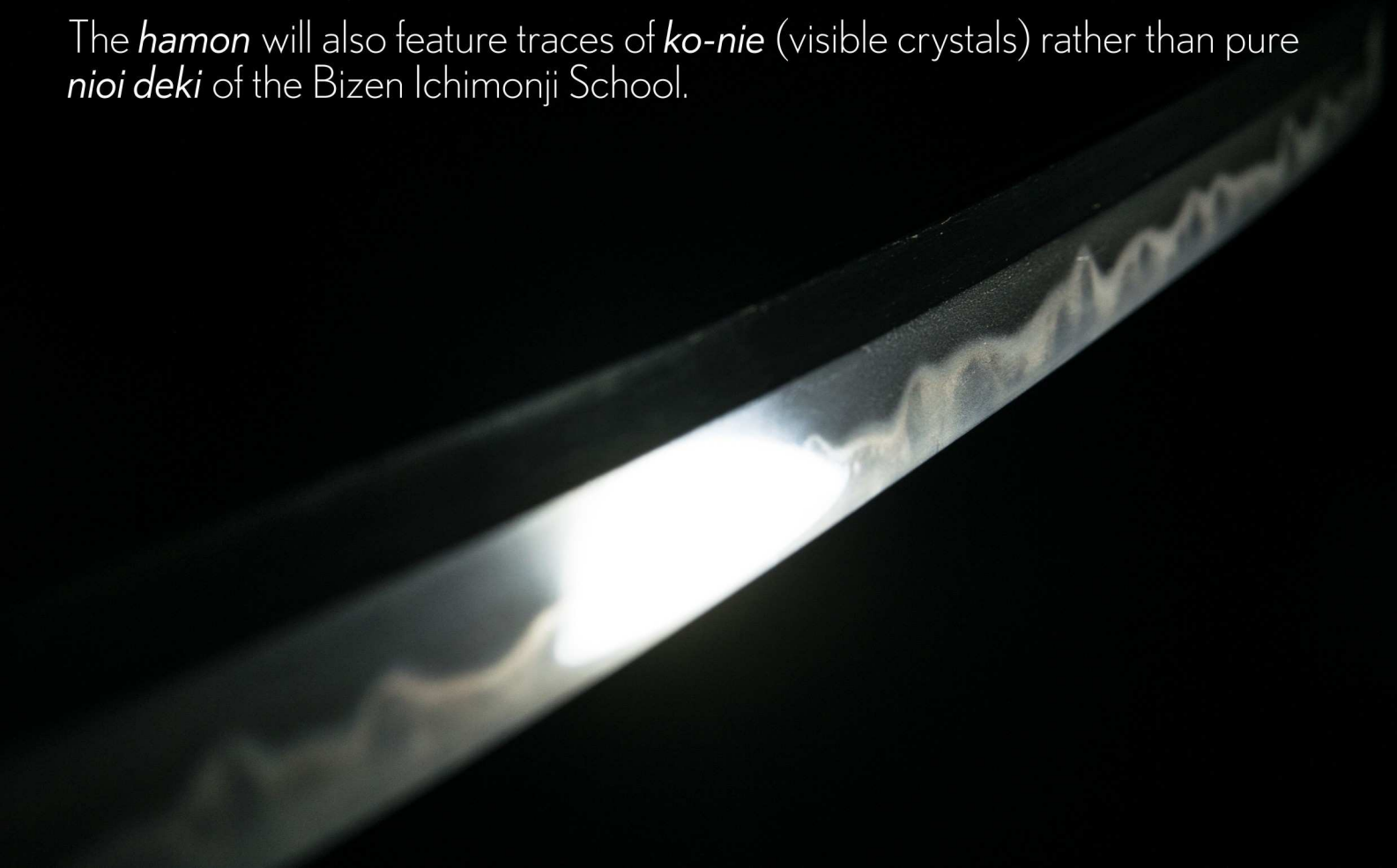
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Saka-choji midare of the Fukuoka Ishido school.

## Hamon

The Fukuoka Ishido School is known for a stunning *choji-midare* that resembles that of the great Bizen Ichimonji School. The main differences are that the *hamon* slants (*saka*) and, in parts, forms unique 'squid-like' peaks.

The *hamon* will also feature traces of *ko-nie* (visible crystals) rather than pure *nioi deki* of the Bizen Ichimonji School.





*Shirasaya with sayagaki*

*Chikuzen (no) Kuni Fukuoka Ju Moritsugu*

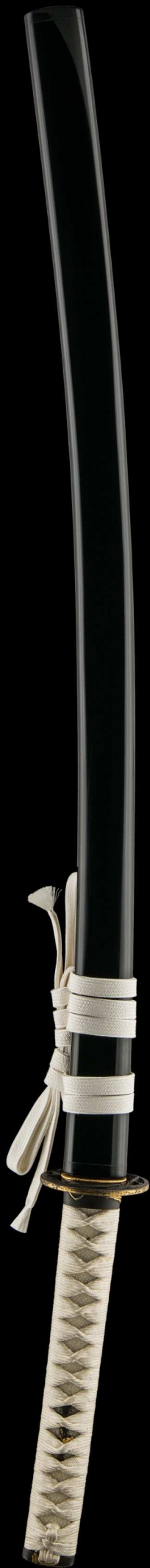
*Enpo Koro*  
(sword crafted in the Enpo era, 1673-1681)

*Hacho (length)*

*2-Shaku 2-Sun Ari Kore (66.4cm)*

*Heisei 12-nen 3-gatsu Kaizaya Den Ishiemon*

Written in March, 2000 by Ishiemon





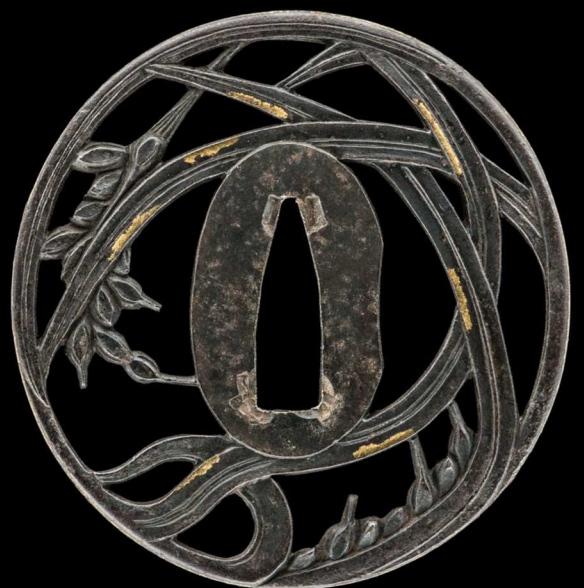
## A Tribute to Rice

This beautiful open-work tsuba was crafted in the middle Edo period (1700s), signed by *Masakata* living in *Bushu* (modern-day Tokyo).

The design is that of a rice plant. Rice has been an agricultural fixture in Japan for more than 2,000 years. It is a symbol of the country's spiritual connection with nature, the gods and gifts within the community.

Rice has always been valued highly in Japan. In fact, during the Edo period, salaries and daily wages were calculated in rice.

Rice is sometimes called *chikara* (a homonym for "strength"), meaning "divine grain." This *tsuba* is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho papers.





*Kashira* (pommel)

The celebratory rice theme continues. This lovely *kashira* was also crafted in the middle Edo period (circa 1700s).



The *menuki* depict sparrows on a bamboo shoot - a symbol for happiness and prosperity. As the lucky sparrow thrives on discarded grains of rice, it denotes a bountiful harvest.

White woven silk on the white *samekawa* (ray skin) base represents purity and sacredness. The *menuki* are made from a base material of *shakudo*, certified *Kanteisho* (authentic) by the NTHK-NPO crafted during the middle Edo period.

