



ITEM# UJKA140

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

## A MASATOMI KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (JOKYO ERA: 1684-1688)

**Swordsmith:** *Bungo no Kami MASATOMI*  
**Location:** Owari province (Nagoya area)  
**Measurements:** **Length:** 60.4cm (ubu)    **Curvature:** 1.4cm    **Moto-haba:** 3.2cm  
**Jihada:** *Ko-itame* (wood grain pattern)  
**Hamon:** *Choji midare, sunagashi, yakidaka and hakeru*  
**Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword from 1987!*)  
**Certificate #2,3,4:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*sword and sword koshirae and tsuba designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)  
**Included:** Edo period koshirae, shirasaya, brocade carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

## SOLD

This is a brilliant katana by swordsmith Minamoto Masatomi (Shozen) who moved to Owari Nagoya from Mino province. His swords have a similar feel to Hoki no Kami Nobutaka. From *kissaki* to *kashira*, there are many qualities to this sword that will delight its new owner.

The *hamon* is a bright *choji-midare* that jumps off the blade. All *hamon* patterns are inherently unique, however, this temper line is one rarely seen on a sword. It's very beautiful.

A marvelous set of *koshirae* accompanies the katana too. It pays tribute to the ocean with an Echizen Kinai School clamshell-design as a *tsuba*, waves on the *fuchi-kashira* and the Heike warrior crab on the *menuki*! Four certificates of authenticity come with this Samurai sword.



## A Masatomi Katana

Length: 60.4cm

Curvature: 1.4cm

Edo-period *koshirae* (sword fittings) that pays tribute to the majestic ocean. The *fuchi-kashira* (pommel) has skilfully carved waves with gold accents. The *tsuba* (guard) depicts shells or clams and the *menuki* (grips on the hilt) are of the Heike warrior crab.





source: ancient-origins.net

## The legend of Heikegani: Samurai ghost crabs

Heikegani is a species of crab native to Japan, with a shell that bears a pattern resembling a human face. According to Japanese folklore, the Heikegani crabs contain the souls of the Heike Samurai warriors of the Taira clan who were slain at the Battle of Dan-no-ura in 1185 AD by Minamoto clan thus commencing the Kamakura period.

For the Heike Samurai, surrender was never an option. Those that were not slain in battle, committed suicide by drowning themselves along with their 7-year-old emperor.

Their bodies became food for the heikegani crabs who lay in wait on the sea floor. The ghosts or souls of the Heike samurai were reincarnated into the Heikegani crabs who ate their remains. Their angry faces now shown on the shells of the crabs.

To this day, it is said that the Heikegani crabs roam the depths of the oceans around Japan, searching for the lost heirlooms of their empire.