



**ITEM# UJKA143**

## A TOMOYOSHI KATANA

SIGNED, DATED & AWARDED, (12TH YEAR OF SHOWA, AUGUST 1937)

- Swordsmith:** *Osaka Ju Izumi Tomoyoshi*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 68.4cm (*ubu*)      **Curvature:** 1.5cm      **Moto-haba:** 3.3cm
- Jihada:** *Standing out wavy nagare-hada with muneyaki*
- Hamon:** *Naka-suguha (straight) with tight wavy ko-midare, long ashi, kinsuji and sunagashi*
- Certificate #1-3:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (sword, tsuba & koshirae designated as Authentic)
- Certificate #4:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (a kozuka designated as Especially Precious)
- Designation:** *This blade was awarded the "Recommendation Work" prize at the Kigen 2600th memorial ceremony Art Show in commemoration of Emperor Jimmu*
- Akihide ranking:** **Joko-no-retsu** (ranked as a master swordsmith)
- Included:** Shirasaya, koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

**SOLD**

This special *gendaito* (modern) katana has made its way to me in the UK. This piece was originally sold in Catalogue 20 in *shirasaya* only. A striking custom koshirae in the theme of dragonflies was completed in 2015 for the client. Unfortunately, due to certain circumstances, he needed to part with the blade. This unique katana with an imperial story now stands available.

Swordsmith Tomoyoshi from Izumi city in Osaka produced this impressive katana in the summer of 1937. It was then submitted for sword forging competition in 1940 commemorating the 2600th enthronement anniversary of Japan's first emperor, *Emperor Jimmu* and the establishment of the Japanese empire.

This sword was highly received and won the *Endorsement Award* prize. This honour was subsequently chiseled in great detail onto the *nakago*.

Tomoyoshi was a skilled smith who was ranked by *Kurihara Akihide* as *Joko-no-retsu* (a master smith). *Akihide*, who was one of the major promoters of *gendai* swords before and during WWII and a smith himself, ranked about 300 contemporary smiths in 1942.

Tomoyoshi's highest achievement came in 1941 when he won the *Second Seat* at the 6th *Shinsaku Nihontō Denrankai* - an annual sword making contest that was held in pre-wartimes and wartimes, and the forerunner of the sword-making contest of the NBTHK. It had six ranks, the *Second Seat* being equal to the second prize.

This katana pays proper respect to the life of Emperor Jimmu who is said to have captured *Yamato* (Nara city). The steel was produced in the *Yamato* tradition with free-flowing *nagare-hada*. The *hamon* is a beautifully crafted straight *suguha* - the predominant temper line of the *Yamato* tradition. It has the aura of an older sword. The construction is wide, healthy and strong with a formidable *moto-haba* of 3.3cm.

It is interesting to note that in 1940, a Peace Tower was built in *Miyazaki* in honour Emperor Jimmu. On the front of the tower reads "*Hakko Ichiu*" (eight crown cords, one roof), or "**United under one roof**". This was often used as a rallying cry for imperialists who believed that peace would reign once *Asia* was united under Japanese leadership. This is a sword that was certainly carried in WWII by a military officer.



Saki-kasane: 5.0mm <sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 7.5mm

Kissaki: 3.0cm  
Saki-haba: 2.2cm

Nagasa: 68.4cm

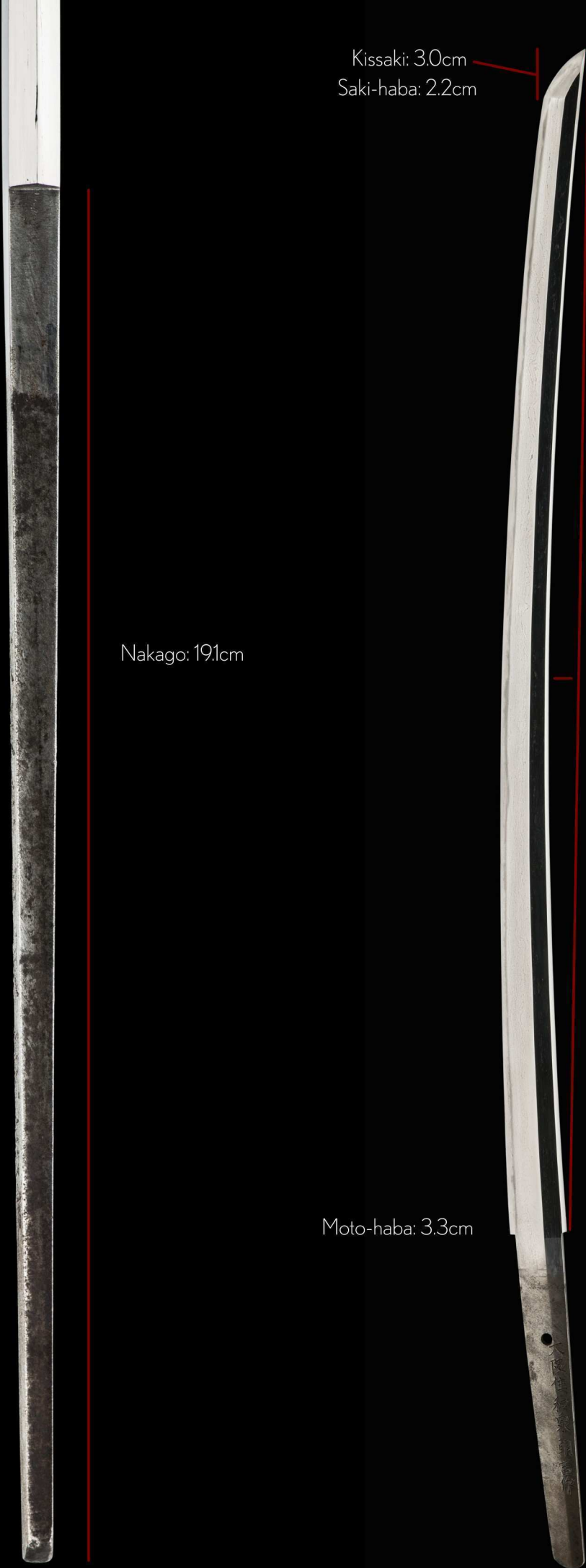
Nakago: 19.1cm

Sori: 1.5cm

Omosa: 796g

Moto-haba: 3.3cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Swordsmith *Tomoyoshi's* family name was *Izumi* and lived in Osaka.

He was active during the early *Showa era* (1926-1989), particularly so during the period leading and during WWII.





○ saka  
Ju  
Izu  
mi  
Tomo  
yoshi  
saku

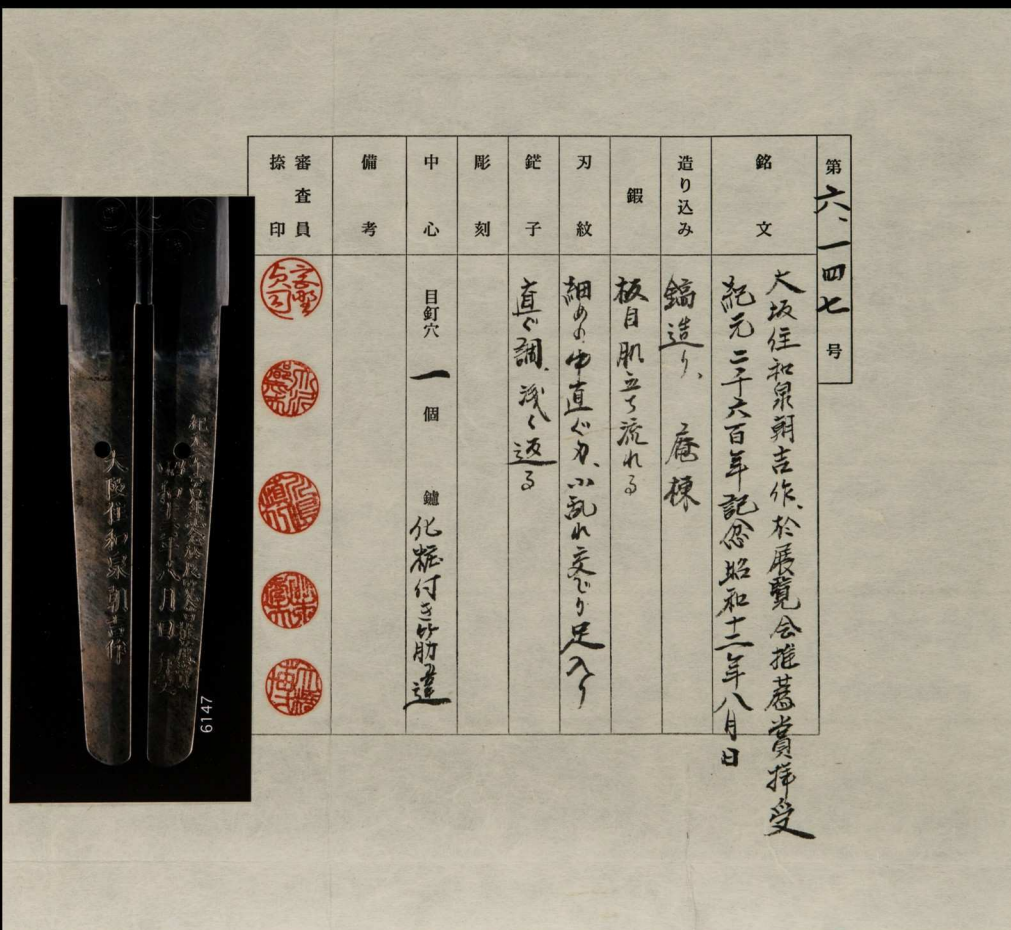
Swordsmith Tomoyoshi of Izumi city in Osaka, crafted this sword



Sho  
wa  
ju  
ni  
nen  
hachi  
gatsu  
hi  
Hai  
ju  
Ki  
gen  
ni  
sen  
ro  
ppyaku  
nen  
Ki  
nen  
ni-oite  
ten  
ran  
kai  
Sui  
sen  
sho

This sword received an *Endorsement Award* at the sword forging competition, on a day in the eighth month of 1937, commemorating the 2,600th anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese Empire

Dated 8th month in 12th year of Showa (August, 1937)



## NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Authentic*  
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

*Osaka Ju Izumi Tomoyoshi saku  
Tenraikai ni oite suisen-sho haiju - Kigen nisenroppyakunen kinen  
Showa juninen hachigatsu hi (August 1937)*

*Nagasa (length)  
2-shaku 2-sun 6-bu (68.7cm)  
ubu nakago*

*Shinsa judging panel:  
five hanko seals of authenticity*

Issued in 27th year of Heisei (2015), February 15th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai  
(NTHK-NPO)

Free-flowing *nagare-hada*  
wavy straight grain *masame*.



a bright *suguha hamon* (straight)  
with *ko-midare* (small wavy pattern)

*kinsuji*

*sunagashi*

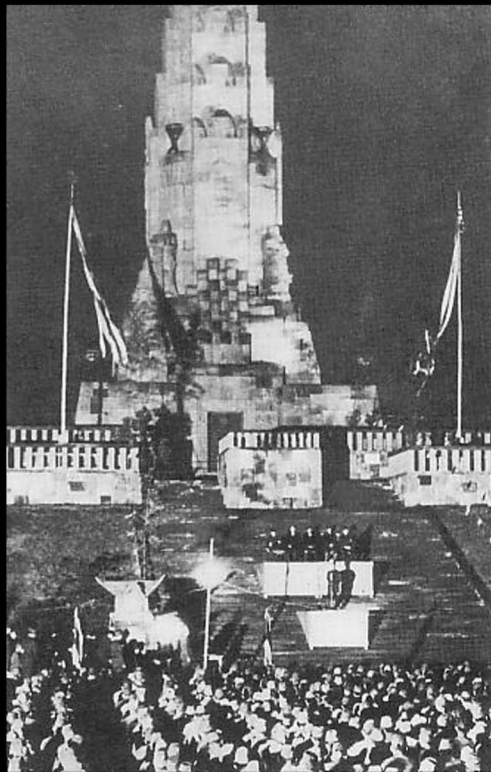


## Emperor Jimmu

According to legend, Emperor Jimmu was the first emperor of Japan. His accession is traditionally dated as 660 BCE.

He was seen as a descendant of both the sun goddess *Amaterasu* through her grandson *Ninigi*, and storm god *Susanoo*. He launched a military expedition from *Hyuga* near the Inland Sea, captured *Yamato* (Nara), and established this as his center of power.

Official homage of Emperor Jimmu began in 1872-73 with a new holiday called *Kigensetsu* (National Foundation Day) commemorating the anniversary of Jimmu's ascension to the throne 2,532 years earlier.



## Peace Tower

*Heiwadai* or Peace Tower Park, was built by the imperialist Showa regime in 1940 to celebrate the 2600th anniversary of the ascension of Emperor Jimmu. The focal point was the construction of a 37 meter *Hakko Ichiu* pillar upon the legendary site of Emperor Jimmu's palace.

On the front of the tower reads "*Hakko Ichiu*" (eight crown cords, one roof), which is attributed to Emperor Jimmu and means "United under one roof". This was often used as a rallying cry for imperialists who believed that peace would reign once Asia was united under Japanese leadership.

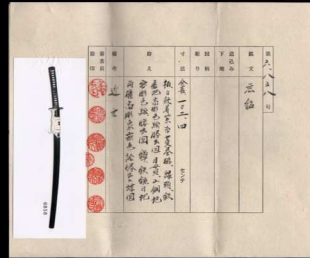
Bottom left: Prewar 10-sen Japanese banknote, illustrating the *Hakko Ichiu* monument in *Miyazaki*



*Kuro-roiro-nuri saya uchigatana-koshirae*  
(黒呂色塗鞘打刀拵え)

*A classic uchigatana-koshirae with  
glossy black-lacquered scabbard*

This was a custom koshirae project  
produced in 2015 using antique fittings.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate





The *tombo* (dragonfly) has been revered by the samurai for centuries.

When a tombo flies, it flies forward, and never retreats.  
It symbolizes bravery, agility and victory.

This impressive 9cm iron tsuba with spirited butterflies has been certified by the NTHK-NPO to the *Umetada school*, circa the late Edo period (1780-1867).

The tail of the dragonfly creatively  
digs into the iron on the reverse side.





an imperial purple silk nestles in the *menuki* dragonflies



*kozuka* (utility knife)



The *kozuka* and *kogai* were handy tools of the Edo period samurai. They were both fitted into specially made slots in the *saya* (scabbard).



*kogai* (hair pick)



The *kajiri* (end cap on the scabbard), where an antique dragonfly faithfully continues the theme.



## Flying into Japan?

If you are travelling to Tokyo and would like to acquire an authentic Japanese sword, be sure to book a **private meeting** with us in advance.

Many swords every year are sold this way to happy clients around the world. Contact [service@uniquejapan.com](mailto:service@uniquejapan.com) where we'll discuss the type of sword, age and other special qualities you are seeking along with budget parameters. Meetings are held at our studio near JR Ebisu station.