



ITEM# UJKA156

A SUKEKUNI KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

Swordsmith: *Bizen no Kami Minamoto SUKEKUNI (Settsu, Osaka)*

Length: 69.6cm **Curvature:** 1.7cm **Moto-haba:** 3.1cm

Hamon: *Yakidashi, dai-gunome midare, ashi, kinsen, sunagashi*

Jihada: *Koitame tsumu*

Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (*a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword. Vintage certificate in Showa 35, 1960.*)

Certificate #2: **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (*a sword designated as Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)

Certificate #3: **Saitama Prefecture Jujo Token** (*A profound sword by the Saitama Prefecture for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)

Certificate #4,5,6: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*sword fittings, tsuba and fuchi-kashira designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)

Fujishiro: **Chujo-saku** (ranked as an above average swordsmith)

Included: Shirasaya, koshirae, sword fabric bags, sword stand, kit, etc.

SOLD

The **Osaka Ishido School** is said to succeed the *Bizen tradition* into the Edo period from smiths like Katsumitsu, Munemitsu and Yoshitsugu.

Another train of thought of the school's origins names **Sukenaga** as the pioneer from the late *Fukuoka-Ichimonji Sukemune* lineage. The name **Ishido** comes from the school's vicinity to the Ishido temple in the Gamo district.

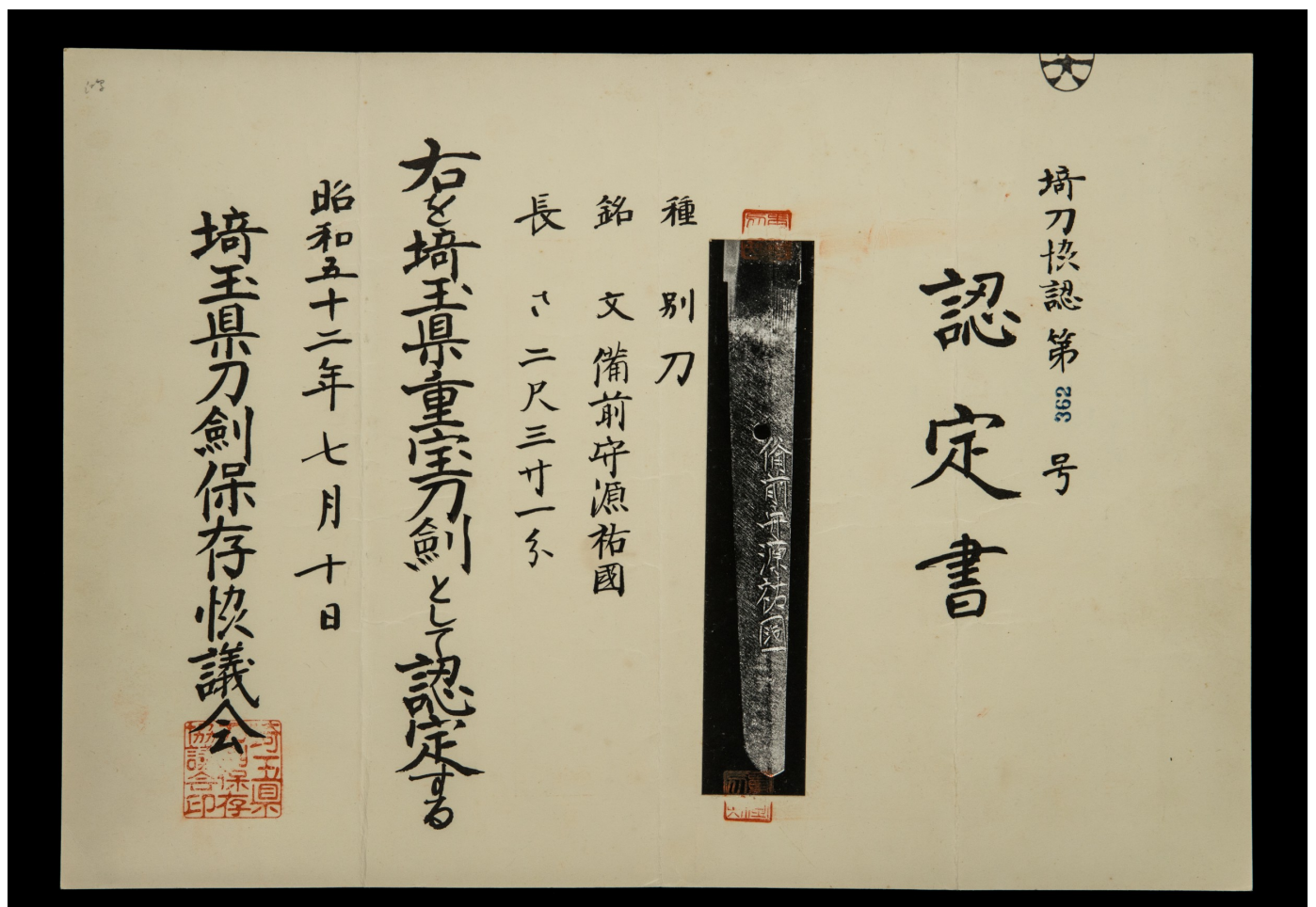
First generation **Yasuhiro**, second son of Tameyasu trained the maker of this excellent katana **Bizen Sukekuni** from Settsu province, modern-day Osaka prefecture.

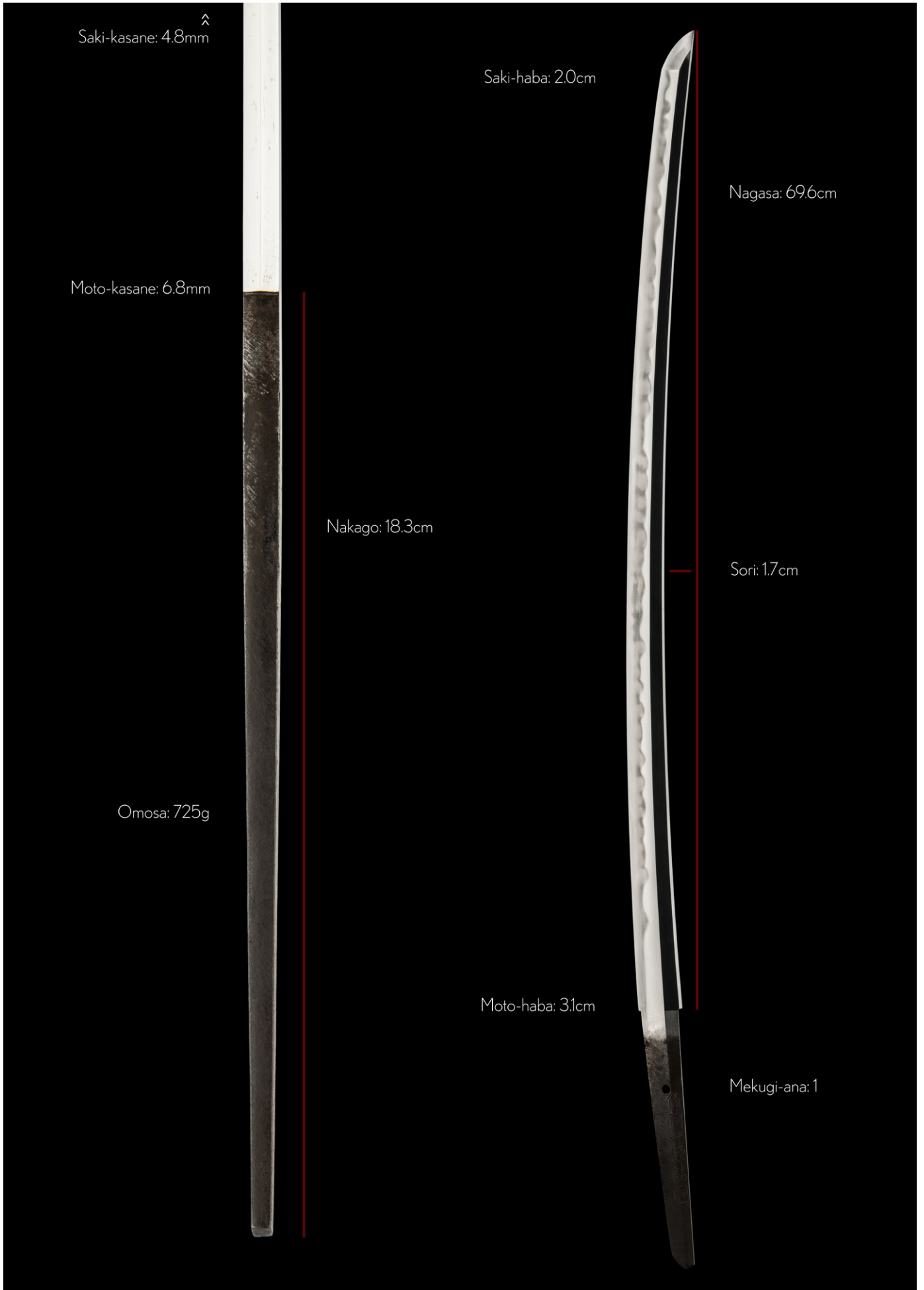
Formally ranked as an above average swordsmith, this *josun* katana may very well be Sukekuni's finest hour. It is definitely a *Jojo-saku* creation - the dexterity of a highly superior smith. It carries a surging *dai-gunome hamon* filled with *sunagashi* and *kinsuji* reminiscent of the skills of Toranba chief Sukehiro. This is a wonderful sword with a joyous spirit.

The sword is fully mounted with first-class fittings from the Edo period that features the imperial chrysanthemum on the *menuki* and terrific *tsuba* with rising phoenix from the 1600s.

All of six (6) certificates of authenticity accompany this sword that includes NTHK-NPO Yushusaku and a rare Juyo certificate issued by the Saitama prefecture in 1977 (see below).

This Sukekuni katana has been freshly polished to a very high standard. It is a true pleasure to admire all the qualities this sword proudly holds. Photos and information follow.







Province: Settsu (Osaka)

Title: Bizen no Kami
(Lord of Bizen province)

Clan: Minamoto

Smith: Sukekuni



Bi

zen (no)

Kami

Minamoto

Suke

kuni

Hamon

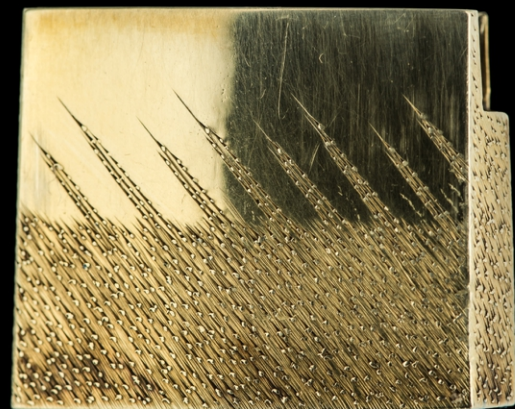
Such a lively *gunome choji-midare* (semi-circular waves fusing clove blossoms) slithers its way down the sword. *Sunagashi* (brushed streaks of sand) cuts through the *hamon*. Crystals of visible *nie* abound...

Jihada

A well-forged *ko-itame hada* provides a solid foundation for this healthy katana.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



Yujo-habaki
(gold on copper base)





Tsuba

An Early Edo period *tsuba* (guard, circa 1603-1691) attributed to the *Kyo Shoami School* compliments the sword's energy.

The design is that of *Houhou* (phoenix) with a lucky 4-leaf clover. The phoenix in Japan, as earlier in China, was adopted as a symbol of the imperial household, particularly the empress. This mythical bird represents fire, the sun, justice, obedience and fidelity.

The *tsuba* is made of polished iron with bright lines of silver and brass inlay suggesting the phoenix in flight (rising). It is a marvellous work of art.





A Mino Fuchi-Kashira

A striking *fuchi-kashira* depicting fall plants, flowers and birds envelopes the *tsuka* (hilt).

Japanese Samurai culture holds profound respect for the beauty and level of detail found in nature itself.

This set is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho origami papers.





A close-up on the *fuchi* (collar)

Harvest = Thankful

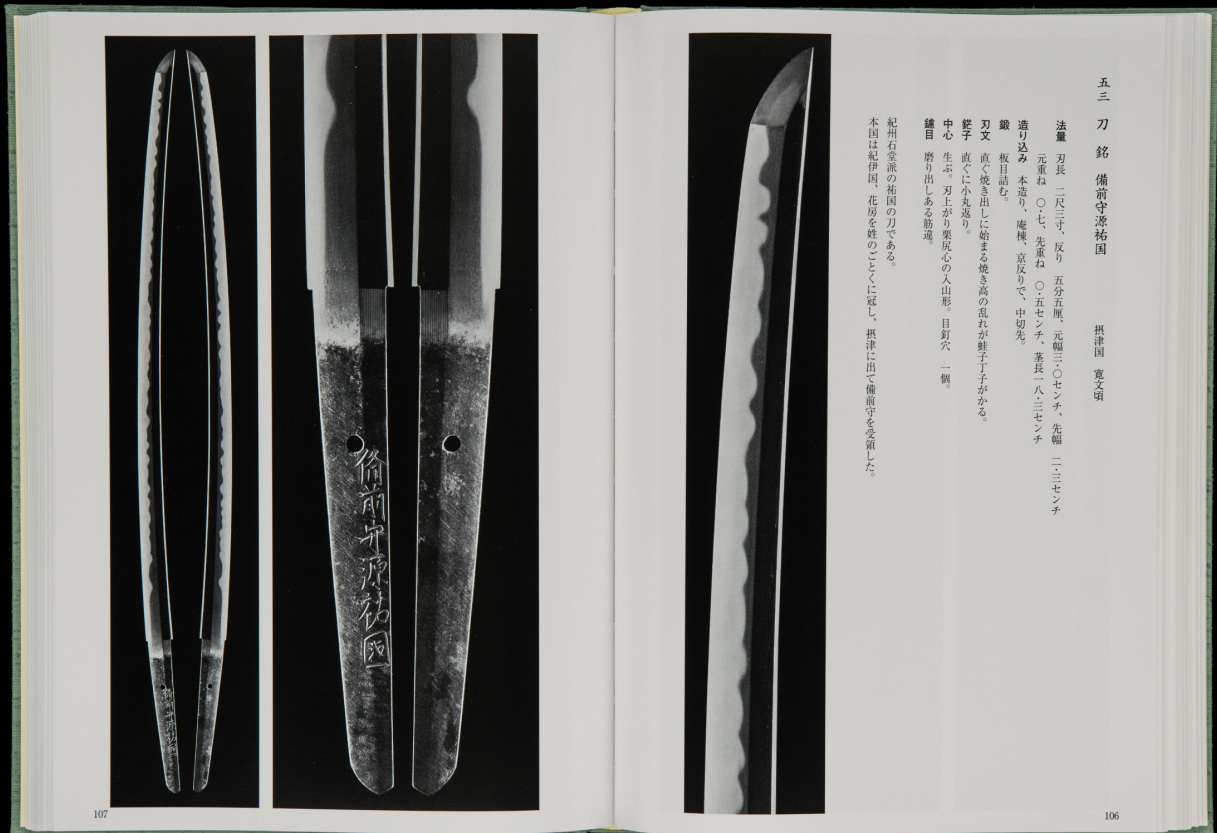




Kiku

A chrysanthemum, the Imperial flower of Japan.

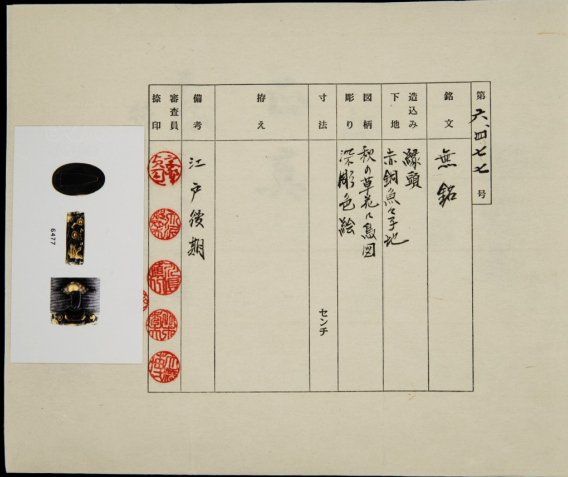




This sword has achieved NTHK-NPO Yushusaku, the highest degree of honour at the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword. The certificate was issued on July 23rd, 2014. The sword is also featured in the society's first edition printed Yushuto Catalogue of Japanese swords. The book will be included with ownership of the sword.

第 五 七 五 三 号	銘 文	造り込み	鍛	下 地	刃 紋	錠 子	彫 柄	中 心	拵 え	寸 法	備 考	審 査 印 員
	備前守源祐國	鑄造り	板目詰		横と出りから磨き、蛙子丁子かき入れ大乱れ 真(小)文			目釘穴 一個 鏝磨り出と青竹筋			真文頌	

Additional Certificates of Designation



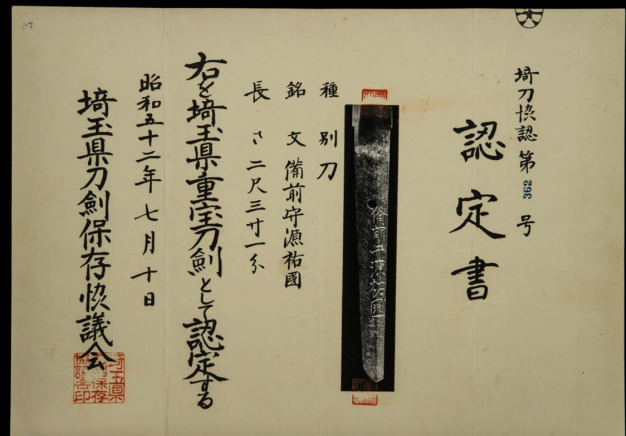
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (fuchi-kashira)



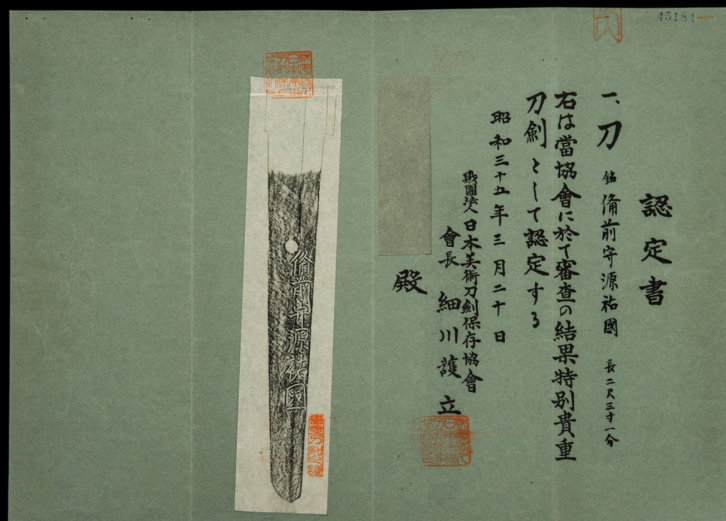
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (tsuba)



Rare "Saitama Juyo Token" Kanteisho (sword)



NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Token
(A sword deemed Especially Precious)
Vintage certificate from 1960 (Showa 35)

"Integrity is the essence of everything successful."

R. Buckminster Fuller

