



ITEM# UJKA174

A SUE-HÔSHÔ KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI PERIOD (KANSHÔ ERA: 1460~1466)

Swordsmith:	<i>Sue-Hôshô school</i>		
Measurements:	Length: 69.6cm (<i>o-suriage</i>)	Curvature: 1.7cm	Moto-haba: 2.8cm
Jihada:	<i>Undulating masame-hada (straight grain) with fine channels of chikei</i>		
Hamon:	<i>Bright beaming hoso-suguha</i>		
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Hozon (<i>Worthy of Preservation</i>)		
Certificate #2:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Kichô (<i>Especially Precious sword judged as Hôshô</i>)		
Certificate #3-6:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (<i>for the tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae</i>)		
Authentication:	Sayagaki by Dr. Satô Kanzan (authenticated as <i>Hôshô Sadaie</i> circa 1317-1319)		
Included:	Shirasaya, Edo kizami koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, description		

SOLD

The *Hôshô* school holds a special place amongst the five major schools of the Yamato tradition. For it is within this school that they forged exclusively in the pure straight-grain forging pattern known as *masame-hada*. Its NBTHK Hozon certificate attributes this beautiful sword to the *Sue-Hôshô* school, however, this sword's former *Tokubetsu Kichô* certificate judged it at least a century earlier to *Hôshô* and its old *sayagaki* by *Kanzan-sensei* authenticated the sword to *Hôshô Sadaie* who worked in the early 1300s during the Kamakura period. From the beaming *suguha* hamon over its undulating *masame-hada* to its lovely Edo-period *kizami saya* with celebratory-themed chrysanthemum fittings from the renowned *Yoshioka school*, this is a delightful and collectible piece of Japanese sword history that will uplift spirits each time it is handled.



Saki-kasane: 4.5mm

Moto-kasane: 6.3mm

Omosa: 550g

Kissaki: 3.13cm
Saki-haba: 1.85cm

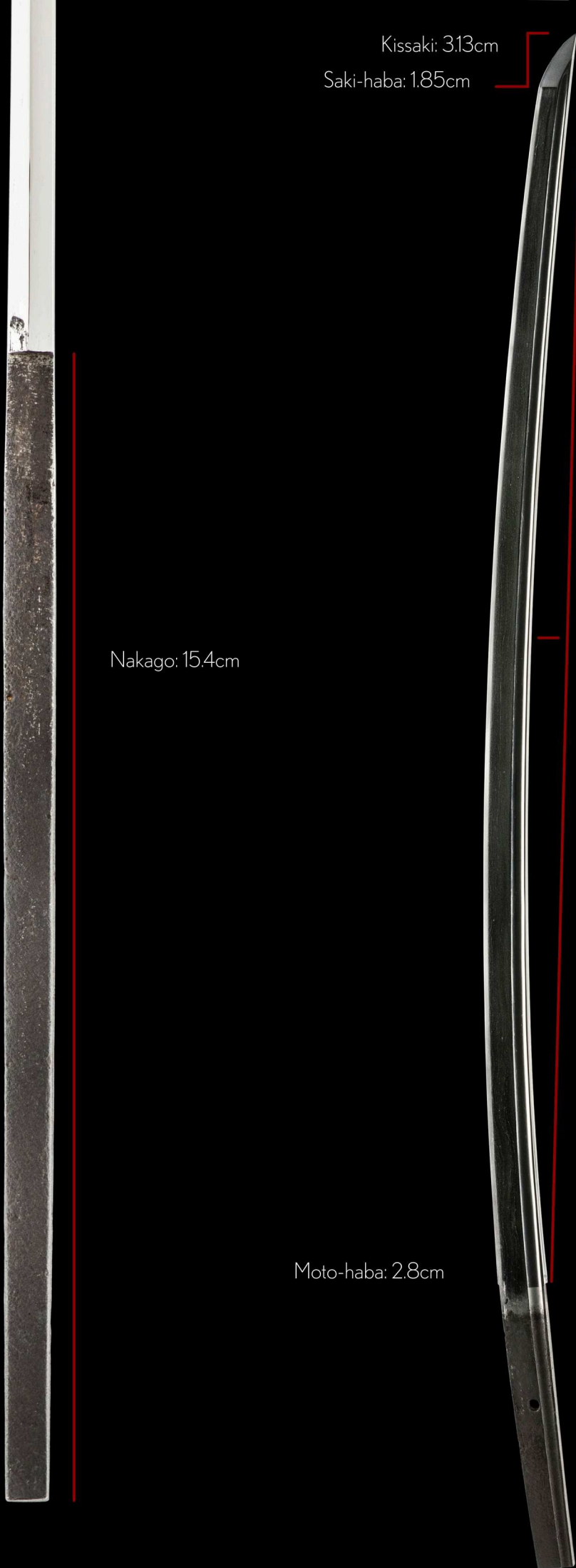
Nakago: 15.4cm

Moto-haba: 2.8cm

Nagasa: 69.6cm

Sori: 1.70cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



According to *Kokan Nagayama*, author of the *Connoisseurs Book of Japanese Swords*:

The development of the swordsmiths trade in the old capital of Japan, *Yamato*, was closely linked to the areas proximity to the capital at *Nara*. Furthermore, swordsmiths prosperity depended on their relationship with the temples with which they were affiliated.

The five major *Yamato* schools the *Senjuin*, *Tegai*, *Taima*, *Hôshô* and *Shikkake* were groups of swordsmiths who supplied the temples, and the *Yamato* tradition thus became known over a wide area through the nationwide organizations of these temples.

The *Hôshô* school began in the middle to late Kamakura period (circa 1280) and holds a special place amongst the five major schools of the *Yamato* tradition. For it is within this school that they forged exclusively in the pure straight-grain forging pattern known as *masame-hada*.

Notable swordsmiths of the *Hôshô* school include *Sadamune*, *Sadayoshi* & *Sadatsugu*. Swords attributed to the *Sue-Hôshô school* are those blades made in the early *Muromachi period*, circa 1400s.

The NBTHK Hozon certificate attributes this special sword to the *Sue-Hôshô* school, however, this sword's former green *Tokubetsu Kichô* certificate judged it at least a century earlier to *Hôshô* and its old *sayagaki* by *Kanzan-sensei* authenticated the sword to *Hôshô Sadaie* who worked in the early 1300s during the *Kamakura* period.

This inspiring Japanese sword from one of the oldest and cherished schools encapsulates all that is admirable about *nihontô*.





*O-suriage nakago
kiri-nakago-jiri*

(straight cut at base of tang)

Deep rich brown patina with
one crisp *mekugi-ana* (hole)

20200805

No 380765



鑑定書

長二尺三寸

一 刀 無 銘 (未 保 昌)

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成三十年七月九日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 20th year of Heisei (2008), July 9th

One, Katana

Mumei (unsigned)
Sue-Hôshô [school]

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun (69.6cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

認定書

一、刀 無銘（保昌） 長二尺三寸一分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別貴重

刀劍として認定す

昭和四十四年十一月九日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

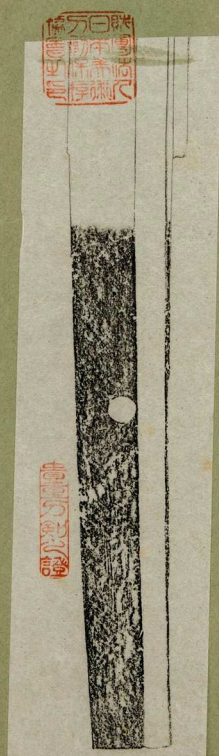
會長

細川護

立



大竹嘉治殿



NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Precious*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 44th year of Showa (1969), November 9th

One, Katana

Mumei (unsigned)
Hôshô [school]

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 1-bu (69.6cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



Hôshô Sadaie worked during
Bunpô era (1317~1319)
Late Kamakura period

保昌(貞家)
Hôshô (Sadaie)
Hôshô (Sadaie)

無銘
Mumei
Unsigned

刃長貳尺參寸一分有之
Hachô 2-shaku 3-sun 1-bu kore ari
Blade length 69.6cm

昭和庚戌年初春吉日
寒山誌(花押)
Shôwa kanoë-inudoshi shoshun kichijitsu
Kanzan shirusu + kaô

Authenticated by Kanzan (Dr. Satô Kanzan)
On a lucky day in early spring of Shôwa
Year of the Dog (1970) + monogram







Before the capital was transferred to *Kyôto* in *Yamashiro* province, *Yamato* province was the centre of Japanese culture. This was known as the *Nara* period, from 710-794AD.

The mural on the left is of a group of women in continental jackets and long skirts from this time.

It is said that *Amakuni* who lived in Yamato during the Nara period was the earliest Japanese swordsmith.

Masame-hada
(straight grain)


the

beauty

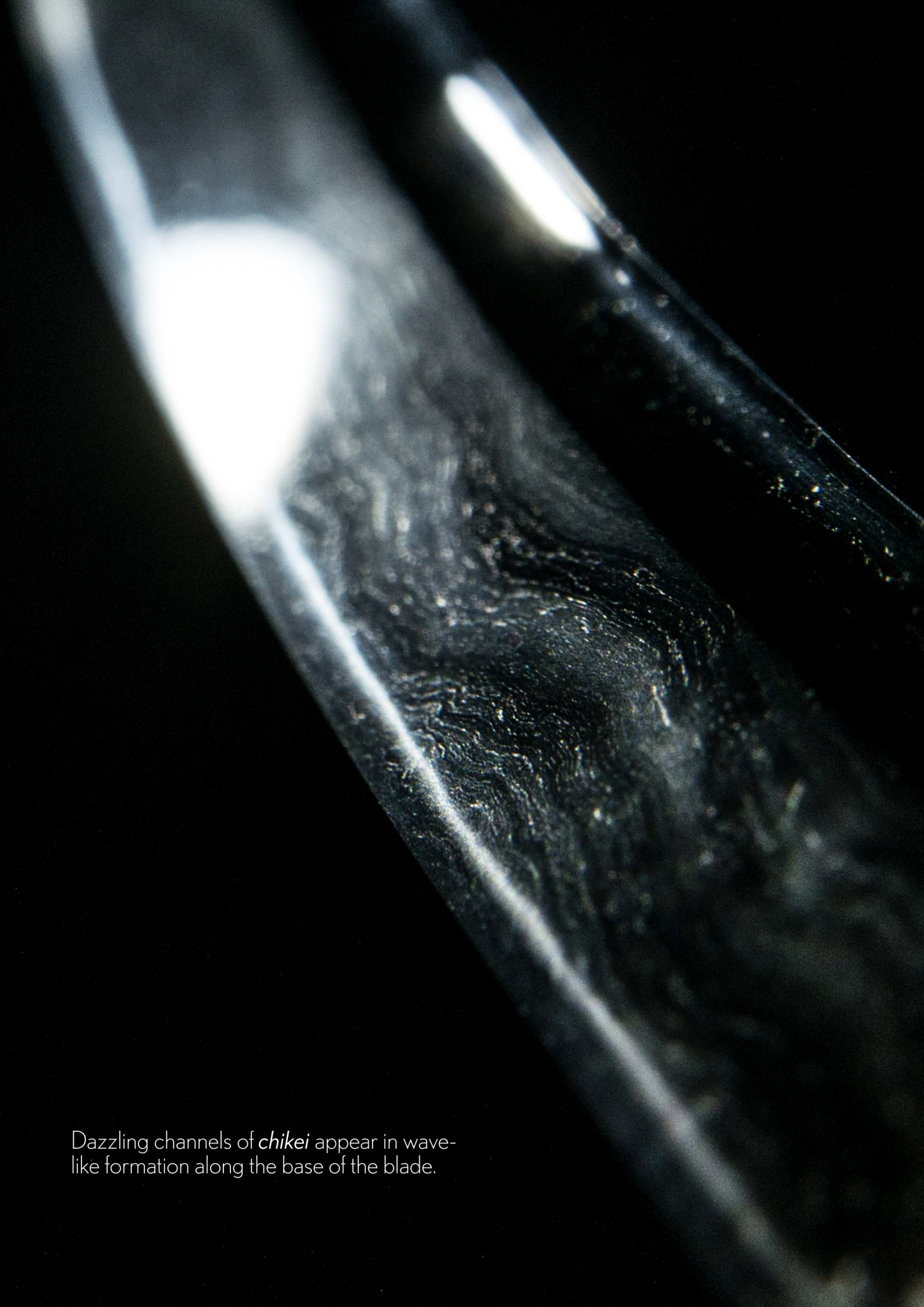
of

masame-hada

The *jihada* beams like a comet in the night sky.

A close-up photograph of a sword's edge, showing the jihada (the edge of the blade) and the hamon (the pattern of the blade). The jihada is a bright, curved line that looks like a comet in the dark. The hamon is a pattern of light and dark lines along the blade's edge. A red arrow points to the hamon pattern.


hoso-suguha hamon



Dazzling channels of *chikei* appear in wave-like formation along the base of the blade.

Kotô period brilliance.

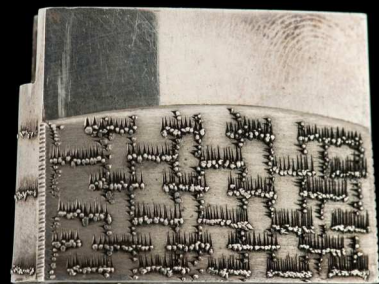




Crisp and clean,
and no caffeine.



Shirasaya with *sayagaki*
(protective scabbard)

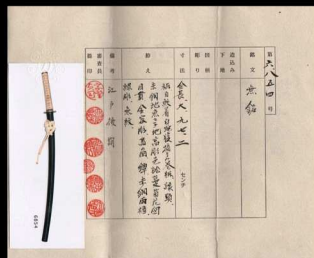


silver *habaki* with
weave-like file marks

*Kizami-saya kuro-roiro-nuri
uchigatana-koshirae*
(刻み鞘黒呂色塗打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
with ribbed saya
lacquered in glossy black*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)

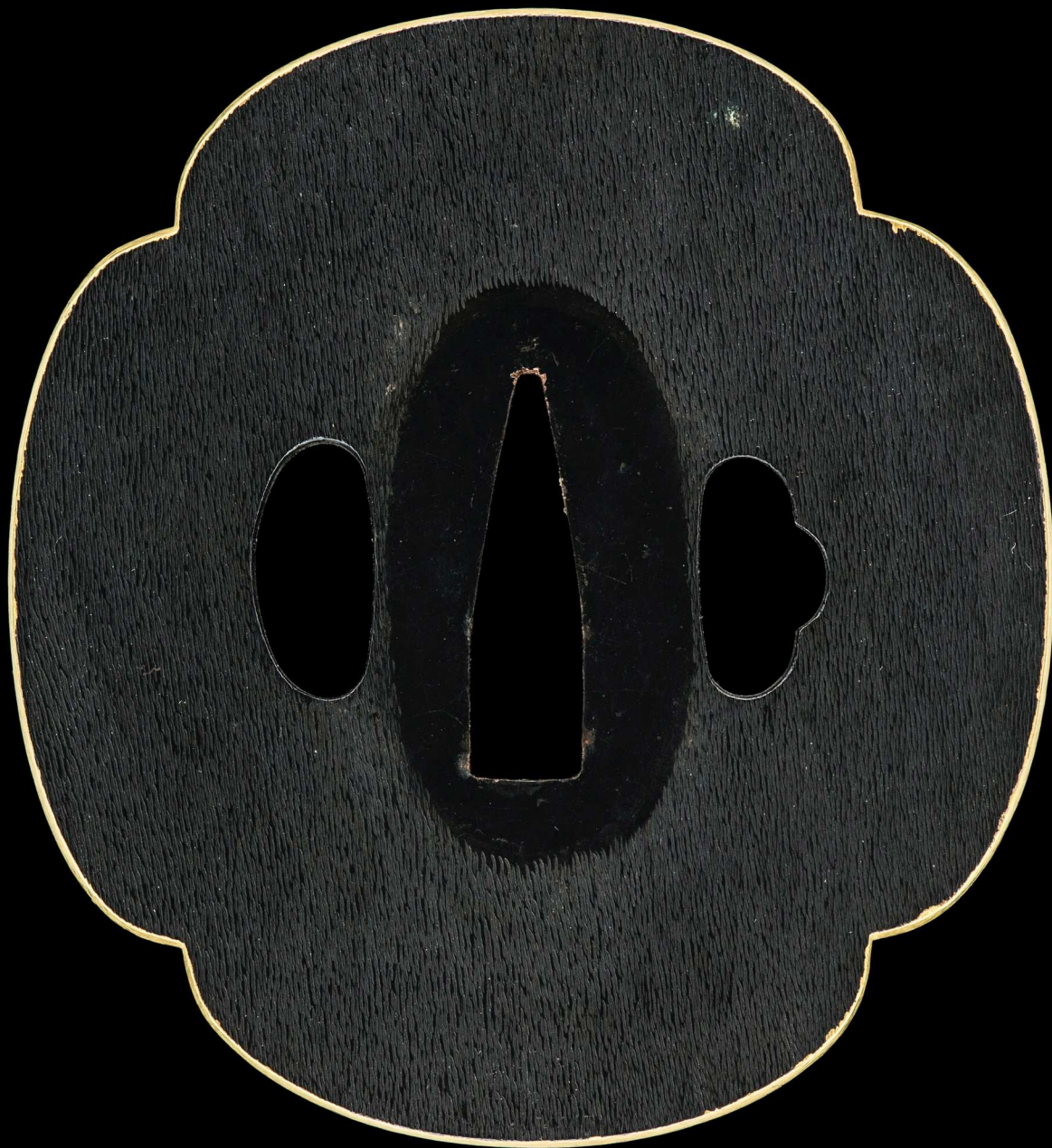


NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



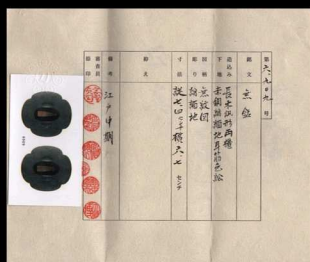
Each individual ring of this *kizami-saya* is *hand-carved*. Carpenters in Japan are held in high esteem and this is just one example of their impressive level of craftsmanship.

And clearly the decision to build a ribbed *kizami-saya* was inspired by the straight grain of the steel's *masame-hada*.

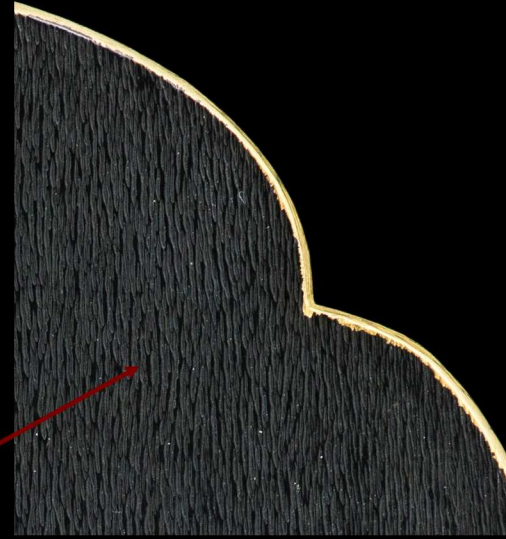
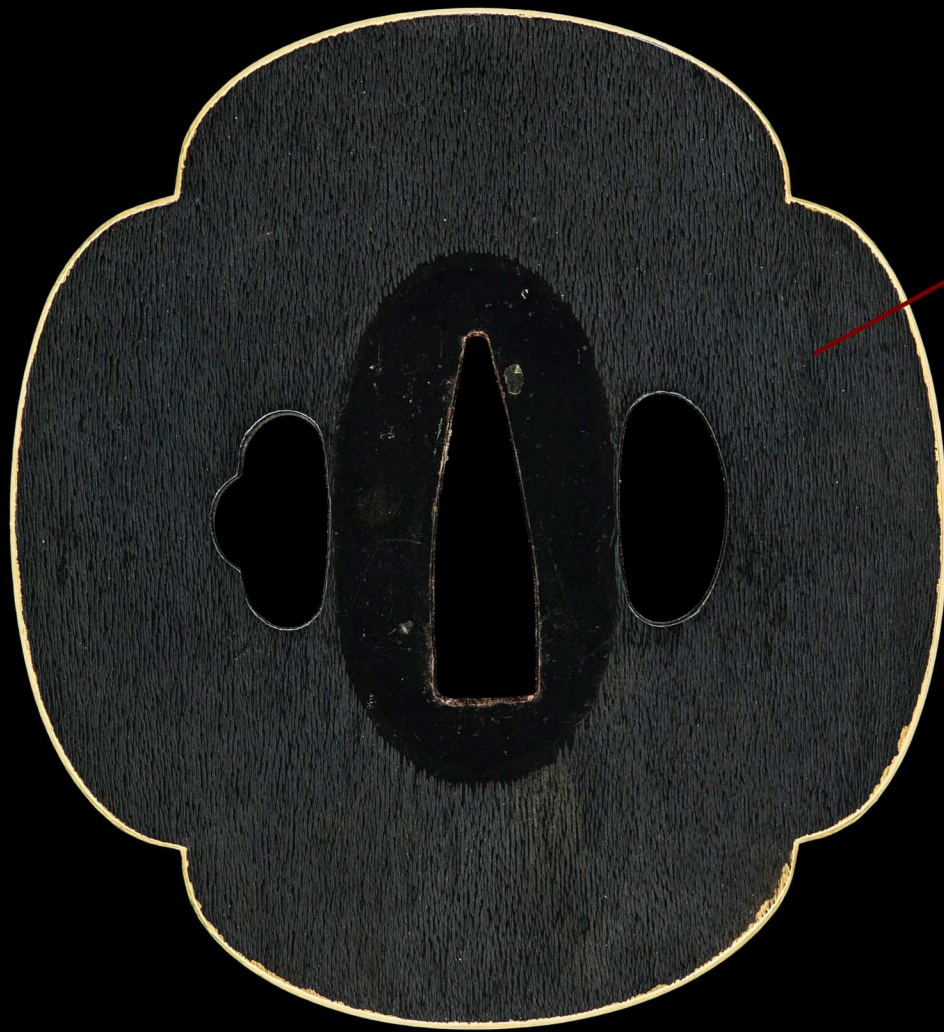


A formal *shakudô tsuba* with *chirimen-hada*
with gold accents on the rim.

Attributed to *Yoshioka Inaba no Suke* (Edo).



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



chirimen texture

Chirimen cloth is a traditional Japanese fabric with a slightly uneven surface that is woven with twisted yarns called 'Yori'. It has been used for Kimono due to its durability and wrinkle resistance. By weaving with twisted yarns, the whole cloth shrinks and becomes uneven. This unevenness leads to good quality dyeing. When it is dyed, the light reflects diffusely on the uneven surface, creating a beautiful rich color.

jmaison.sg



Beautifully wrapped white silk *tsuka* (hilt) that whispers class.



A skilfully carved pair of loving birds in gold that serve as *menuki*.
Come fly with me.





Fuchi-kashira
also attributed to
Inaba no Suke Yoshioka
(mid-Edo period 1700s)

Fine *nanako* ground with gorgeous depictions of chrysanthemums and *karakusa* vines. There is an uplifting celebratory nature to this koshirae.



Koshirae bag