



ITEM# UJKA189

[SOLD]

A KO-BIZEN IETOSHI TACHI

PARTLY-SIGNED WITH GOLD INLAY
MIDDLE KAMAKURA PERIOD (HOJI ERA: 1247-1249)

- Swordsmith:** *Ietoshi (Ko-Bizen School)*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 72.0cm (*suriage*) **Curvature:** 2.3cm **Moto-haba:** 2.6cm
- Jihada:** *itame mixed with mokume, in addition ji-nie, fine chikei, and a vivid midare-utsuri*
- Hamon:** *ko-nie-laden suguha-chō that is mixed with ko-gunome, ko-midare, many ashi and yō, some yubashiri-like tobiyaki above the yakigashira, kinsuji, and sunagashi*
- Certificate #1:** **62nd NBTHK Juyo** (*sword designated as Profound and Important*)
- Certificate #2:** **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (*koshirae certified as Masterwork*)
- Certificate #3:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*kozuka certified Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
- Certificate #4-5:** **NBTHK Hozon** (*tsuba and kogai certified Worthy of Preservation*)

This remarkable *tachi* was crafted *Ietoshi* of the *Ko-Bizen* school during the heart of the Kamakura period, circa 1247AD. When it was first made, this sword would have been a good 10cm longer and carried on horseback by a samurai. Over the centuries, the sword was shortened many times, evident by the five of holes in the nakago due to the changing demands of battle. Thankfully the first character “*Ie*” was preserved at the very bottom of the nakago making the attribution that much more discernible. Gold inlay of *Ietoshi* was added to the nakago during its lifetime.

This is the only sword by *Ietoshi* that has attained prestigious NBTHK Juyo Token, thus being a rare and important reference piece. All the classic qualities of *Ko-Bizen* forging techniques can be enjoyed within this elegant *tachi*. A splendid set of *koshirae* accompanies this fine collectible.

Saki-kasane: 3.5mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 5.8mm

Kissaki: 2.5cm

Saki-haba: 1.6cm

Nagasa: 72.0cm

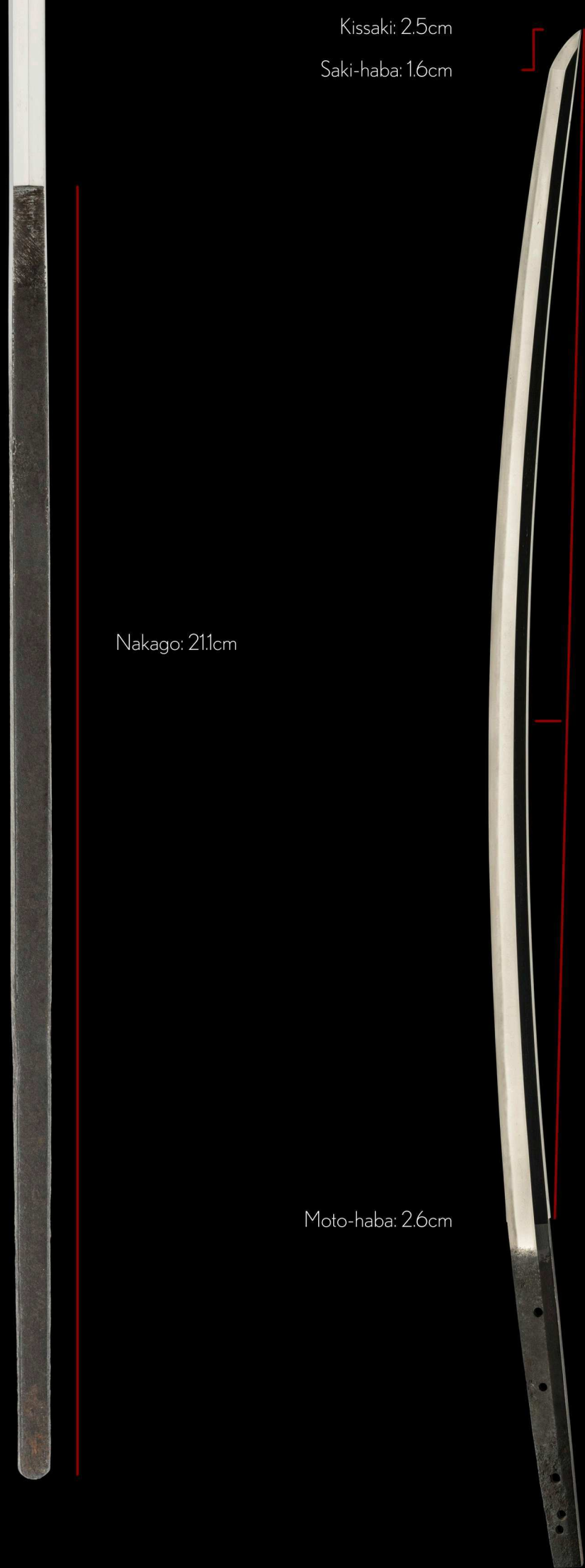
Nakago: 21.1cm

Sori: 2.3cm

Omosa: 635g

Moto-haba: 2.6cm

Mekugi-ana: 5

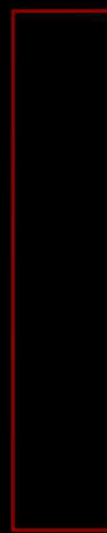


Koshizori

(curvature at the waist)

This term is used to describe swords with its deepest point towards the base of the blade.

Swords of the *Heian* and *Kamakura* periods generally carry *koshizori* shape as these swords were carried on horseback as *tachi* 'wrapping' around the waist of the Samurai.



Signed on tachi side: *le* (家)
(rest of the signature has been cut off).

In *kinzogan* (gold inlay) are the characters
letoshi.

This tachi has been attributed to letoshi of
the Ko-Bizen school circa 1247~1249.

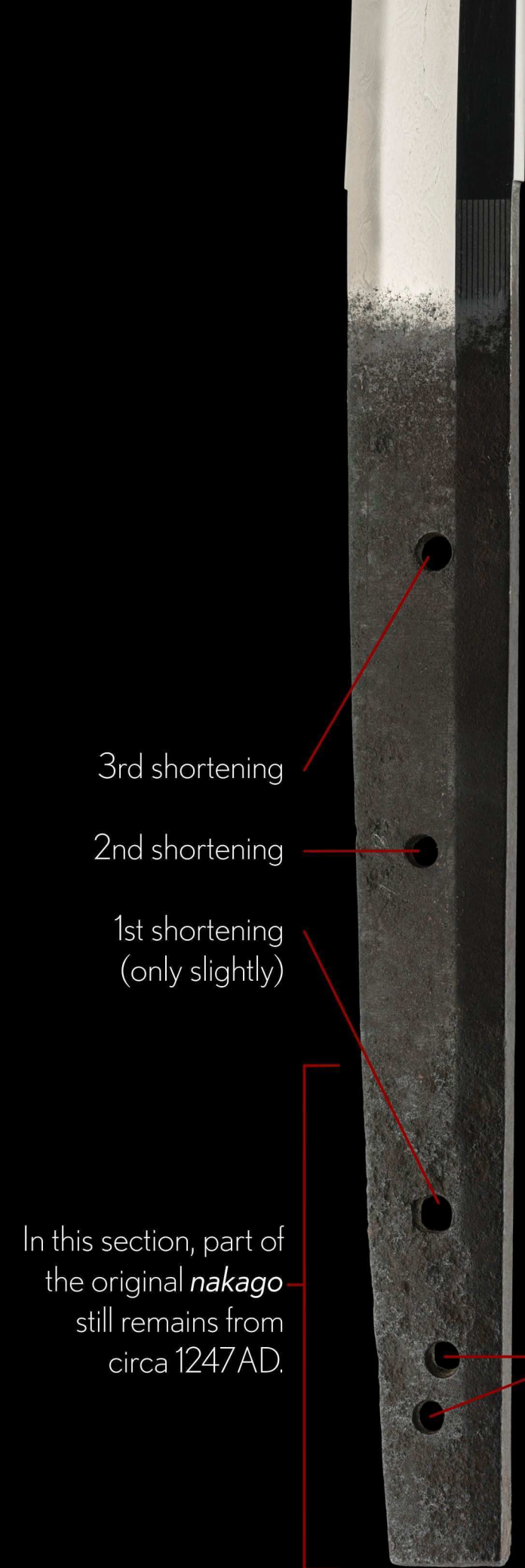
le 家

toshi 俊

家
俊

家





3rd shortening

2nd shortening

1st shortening
(only slightly)

In this section, part of
the original *nakago*
still remains from
circa 1247AD.

This *tachi* carries a *suriage nakago*, where the *nakago* (tang) is shortened and a part of the signature remains.

Note how the *nakago* is smoother here as it was once part of the cutting edge. A new *nakago* is formed from what was originally part of the blade each time it is shortened.

Given the number of holes, this sword has likely been shortened three times in its lifetime.

These two holes (mekugi ana) are the original/earliest holes on the sword.

20201662

重要第一三九四號

指定書

一
分

銘家(以下切)(家俊・古備前)
(金象嵌)家俊

一口

法量 長さ七二〇種 反り二・三種

形状 鑄造庵棟やや細身 磨上ながらも反り深く中鋒

鍛 板目に歪交じり地沸つき地景入り乱れ映り立つ

刃叉 直刃調に小互の目・小乱れ交じり足・葉入り小沸つき

全筋入り 砂流しかかる

帽子 直ぐに小丸に返る

茎 磨上 鑲目(目)不明(新切り)目釘孔五

右者當協會に於て審査の結果
重要刀剣に指定す

平成二十八年十月十八日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

會長 酒井忠久

東京 教育委員会
第 203332 号
昭和52年 4 月 14 日

NBTHK Juyo Token
Certificate of Designation [#1394]

A sword designated as *Profound and Important*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 28th year of Heisei (2016), October 18th

Tachi, mei: *le* (家) (ika-kire, 以下切) (rest cut off)

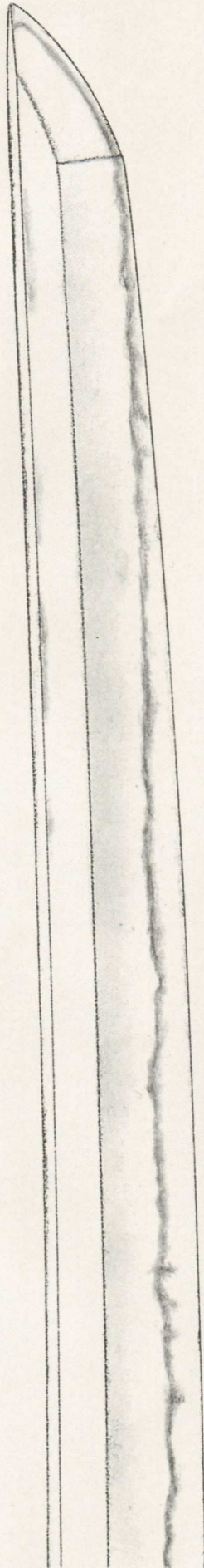
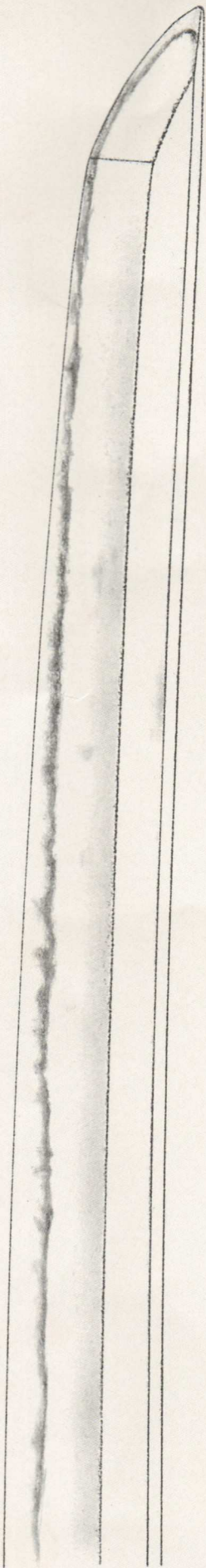
letoshi, 家俊, Ko-Bizen

kinzogan-mei (gold inlay): letoshi (家俊)

Length: 72.0cm
Curvature: 2.3cm

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

[President] Sakai Tadahisa (酒井忠久)



太刀 銘 家(以下切) (家俊・古備前)
(金象嵌) 家俊

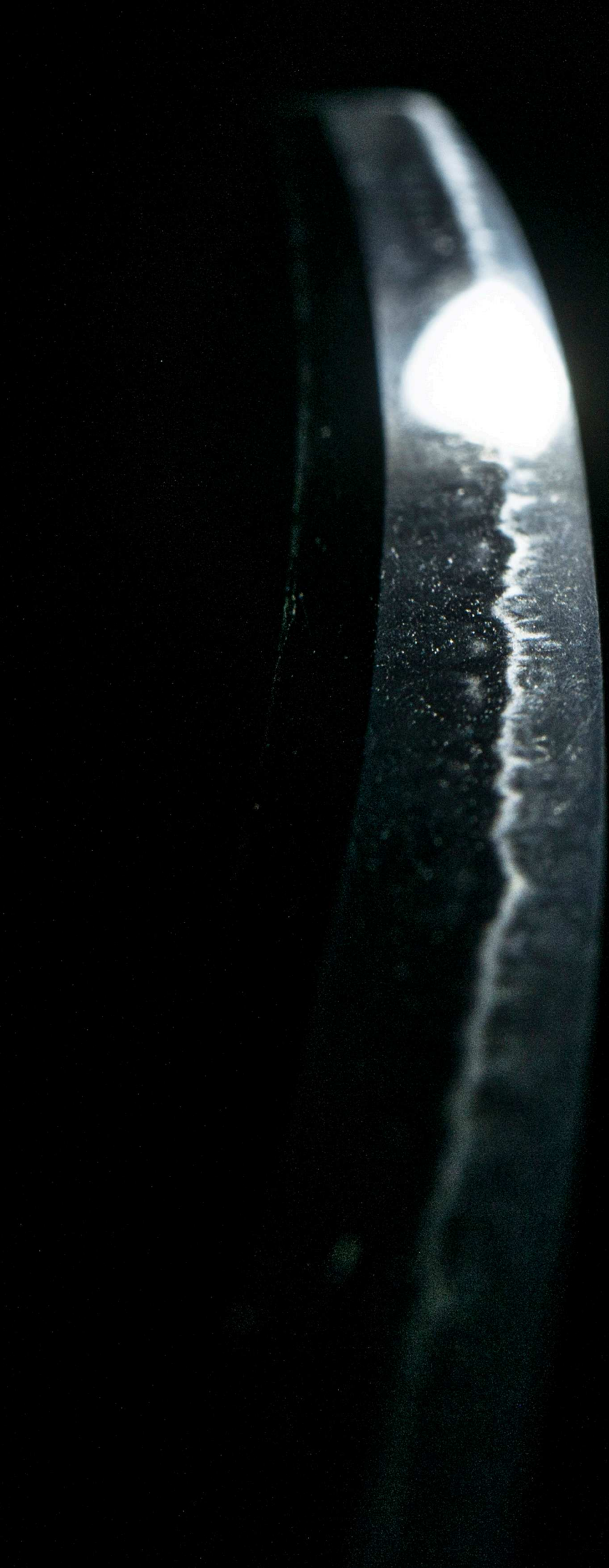


A close-up photograph of a steel blade, likely a katana, showing the grain patterns in the metal. The blade is oriented diagonally from the bottom-left to the top-right. The grain patterns are a mix of rounded and oval shapes, characteristic of the *kitae* forging technique. Two red lines point from text labels to specific areas of the blade. One line points to a rounded grain pattern, and the other points to an oval-shaped grain pattern.

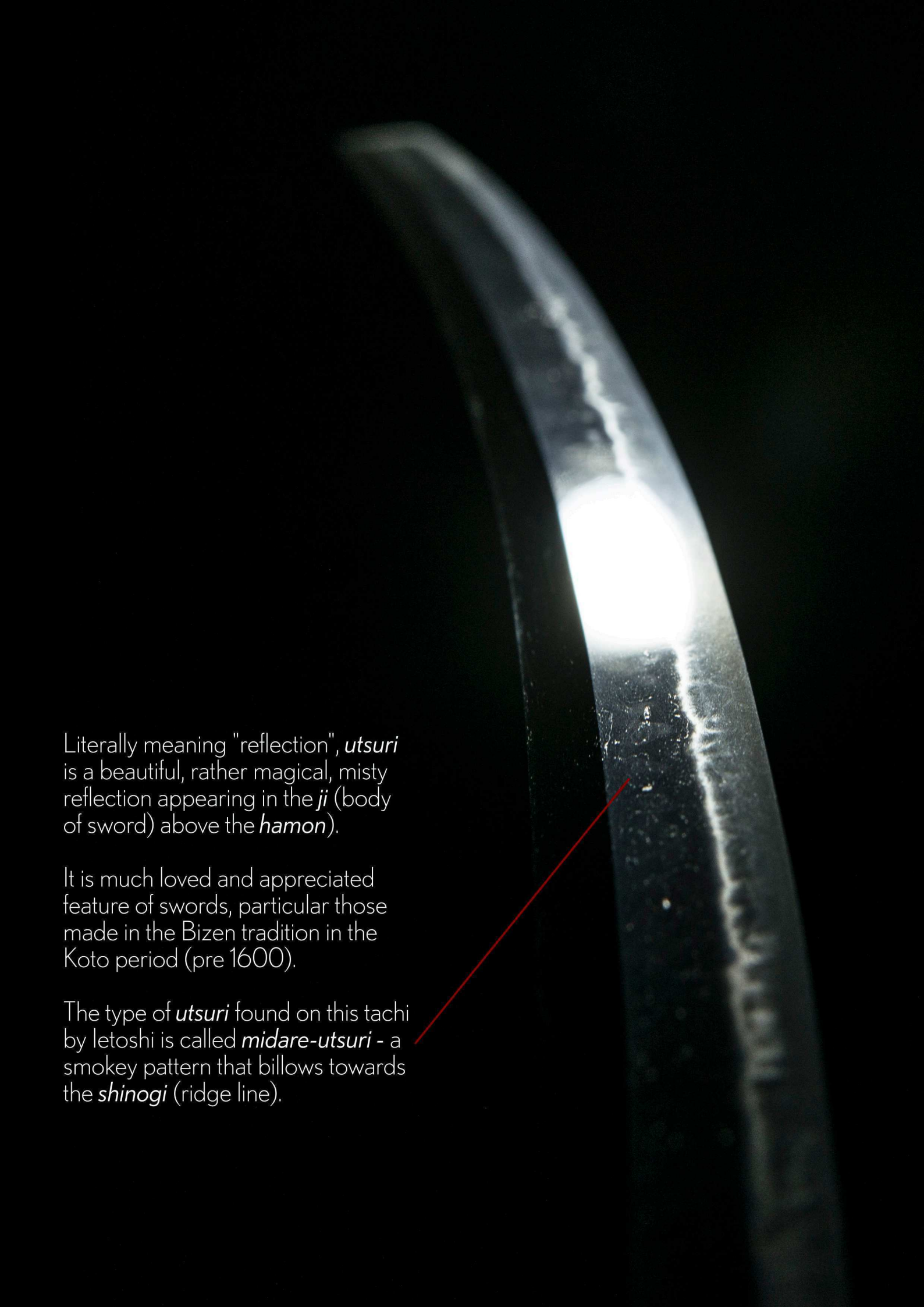
mokume-hada

itame-hada

The *kitae* (forging technique) shows an eclectic mix of *itame-hada* (oval-shape) and *mokume-hada* (rounded-shape) grain patterns in the steel.



A mix of *straight and choji midare hamon*, a temper line resembling clove blossom buds cascades along the steel.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a tachi, showing the hamon (edge line) and utsuri (misty reflection) patterns. The blade is dark, and the hamon is a bright, wavy line. The utsuri is a misty, smoky pattern above the hamon. A red line points from the text to the utsuri pattern.

Literally meaning "reflection", *utsuri* is a beautiful, rather magical, misty reflection appearing in the *ji* (body of sword) above the *hamon*).

It is much loved and appreciated feature of swords, particular those made in the Bizen tradition in the Koto period (pre 1600).

The type of *utsuri* found on this tachi by Ietoshi is called *midare-utsuri* - a smoky pattern that billows towards the *shinogi* (ridge line).

Striking waves of *kinsuji* (black golden lines that slice through the hamon) are particularly evident at the base of the sword.

kinsuji

A close-up photograph of a sword's hamon, showing a series of dark, wavy lines (kinsuji) that cut through the lighter-colored hamon. The sword is curved, and the background is dark. Two red arrows point from the word 'kinsuji' to the wavy lines.

*Kuro Iro Aka Nuri Wake
Uchigatana Koshirae*

black/red traditional
uchigatana koshirae



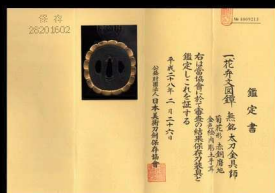
designated
NTHK-NPO Yushusaku
(masterwork)
in December 2015





A splendid *Tachi Kanagu-shi school* polished *shakudo* tsuba. Kanagu-shi is the term used for "metal fittings maker."

The design is of 16 gold chrysanthemum petals. This tsuba was especially made for a tachi and has been certified as **NBTHK Hozon** - a tsuba worthy of conservation.





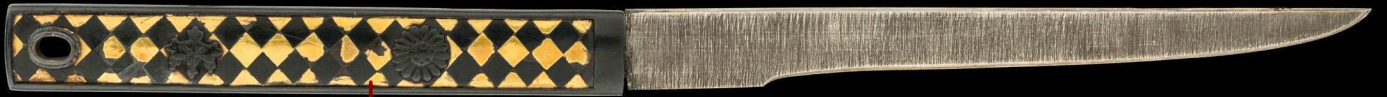
Beautiful shakudo and gold *menuki* with *kiri-mon* (paulownia crests).
The *samekawa* (ray skin) has been lacquered black and red.





kashira (pommel)

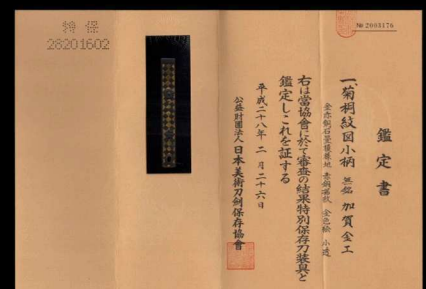
intricately carved waves
with *kiri-mon*



kozuka (utility knife) crafted in *Kaga province* with a chrysanthemum design

Kin shakudo (gold shakudo), *ishidatami moyou ji* (stone pavement design), *shakudo suemon* (shakudo mounted), *konjiekie* (gold design), and *ko-sukashi* (small sukashi)

This *kozuka* has been certified as **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** - a *kozuka* especially worthy of conservation.

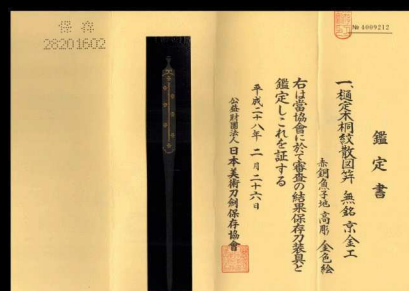


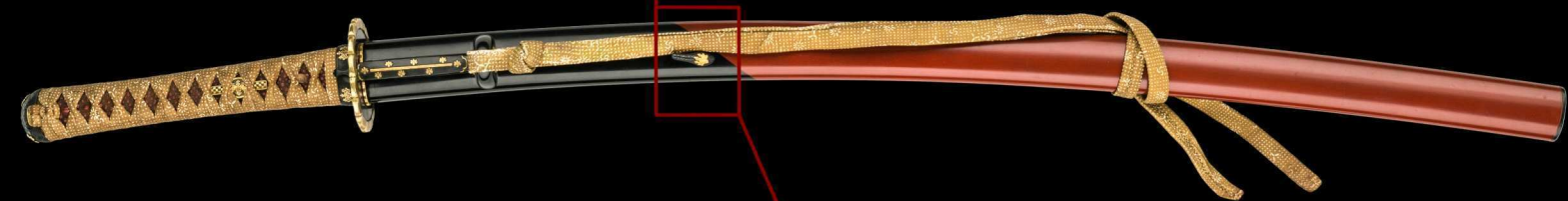
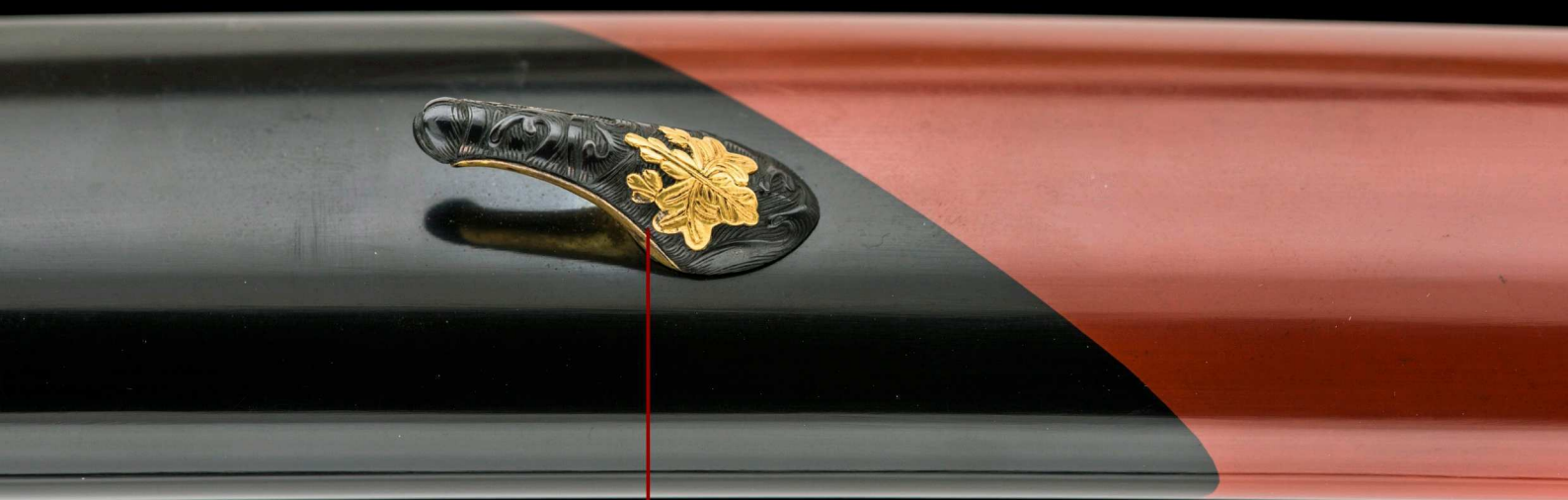


The *kogai* is a thick blunt needle that was primarily used as a hair arranging tool by the *samurai*. It is fastened into a special notch built inside the *saya* (scabbard) and drawn through the 'bumpy' hole in the *tsuba*.

This particular *kogai* was created in Kyoto during the Edo period. It carries a *kiri-mon* and ruler design

It has been certified NBTHK Hozon - a kogai worthy of preservation.





This decorative hook on the saya is called *kaerizuno*. It secures the sword in the belt and stops it from slipping out or being pulled out by an opponent.