



ITEM# UJKA192

A KO-UDA SCHOOL / TAMETSUGU KATANA UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (OAN ERA 1368~1375)

- Swordsmith:** *Ko-Uda School / Etchu TAMETSUGU*
Location: Etchu province (Toyama prefecture)
Length: 70.9cm
Curvature: 2.0cm
Moto-Haba: 3.0cm
Jihada: *O-hada with traces of masame hada*
Hamon: *Notare gunome with brilliant nie structures, plentiful sunagashi*
Nakago: *O-suriage, four holes in nakago*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #3-5: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro: *Jo-saku (Tametsugu is ranked as a superior swordsmith)*
Included: Edo-period handachi koshirae, shirasaya, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

SOLD

This is a powerful katana crafted in *Etchu province* during the stormy *Nambokucho Period*, circa mid-14th century (650 years ago). Etchu is on the northern coast of Honshu, the main island of Japan, and overlooks the Sea of Japan.

The NBTHK has reviewed this sword twice. The original **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** certificate from 1969 attributes the blade to *Etchu Tametsugu*, the son of one of the most important swordsmiths in Japan's history *Go Yoshihiro*. Go Yoshihiro is considered the finest of the *Juttetsu* (ten great students) that studied under *Masamune*.

Tametsugu was an excellent smith with dozens of swords attributed to him that have achieved **NBTHK Jujo Token certification**. Upon the death of his father, he joined the *Go Norishige School* and worked with master Norishige. Tametsugu learned well from both "Go"s producing swords with plentiful Soshu tradition driven *hataraki*, abundant *nie* structures, *sunagashi*, *chikei*, *kinsuji* that this sword absolutely enjoys.

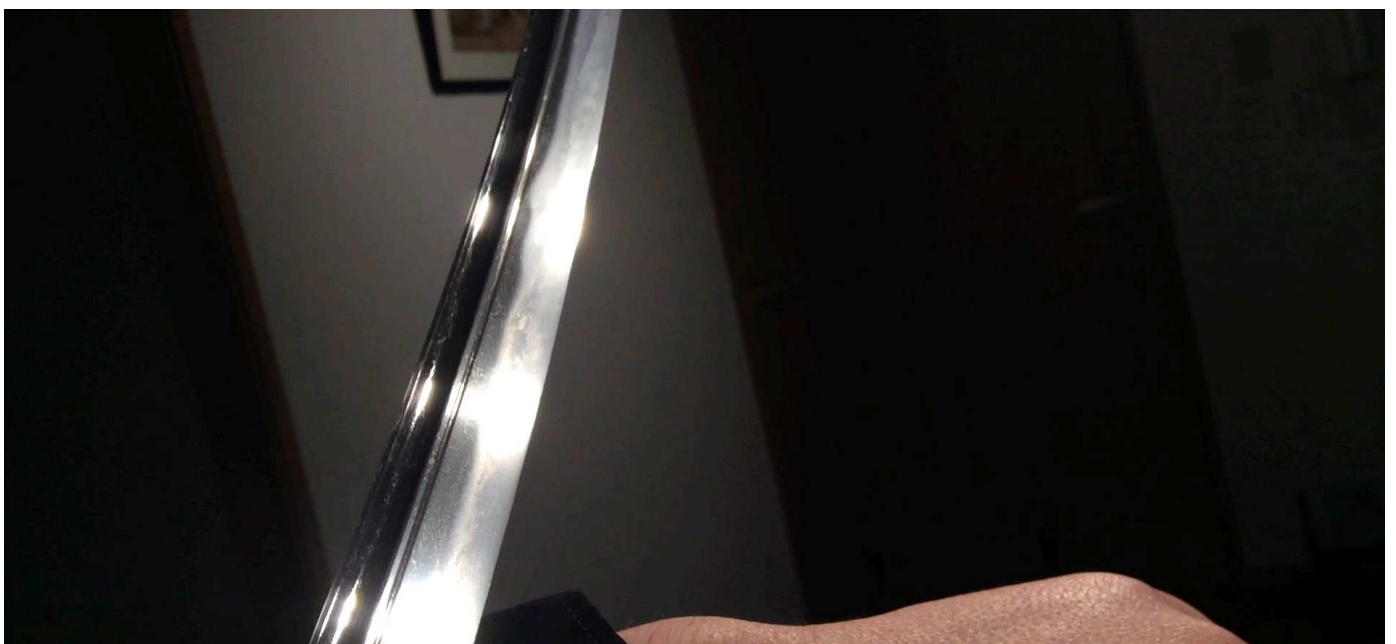
The NBTHK further reviewed the sword in 2014 and attributed the blade to the **Ko-Uda School**, also of Etchu province. *Kunimitsu* is considered the founder, originally from the *Uda district* of **Yamato Province** circa 1317 at the end of the Kamakura Era.

As remaining works by Kunimitsu are non-existent, his students, *Kunifusa* and *Kunimune*, both said to be students of Go Norishige School, are thought to be the true founders of this school.

This is a terrific sword with boundless personality and history. The workmanship is a gleaming mixture of Soshu, Yamato and Bizen traditions all working in harmony. Every time one picks up a katana of this age and character, something new in the steel hits the eye of the beholder.

A very attractive Edo-period *handachi koshirae* further compliments the sword. The fittings include a splendid 400-year-old *Heianjo School tsuba* from the Muromachi period and an *aoigai* (mother-of-pearl) lacquered *saya* (scabbard), both with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.

Five certificates of authenticity in total accompany the sword.



Please watch an introduction video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujka192-ko-uda>

Saki-kasane: 2.1mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 6.6mm

Omosa: 670g

Saki-haba: 2.1cm

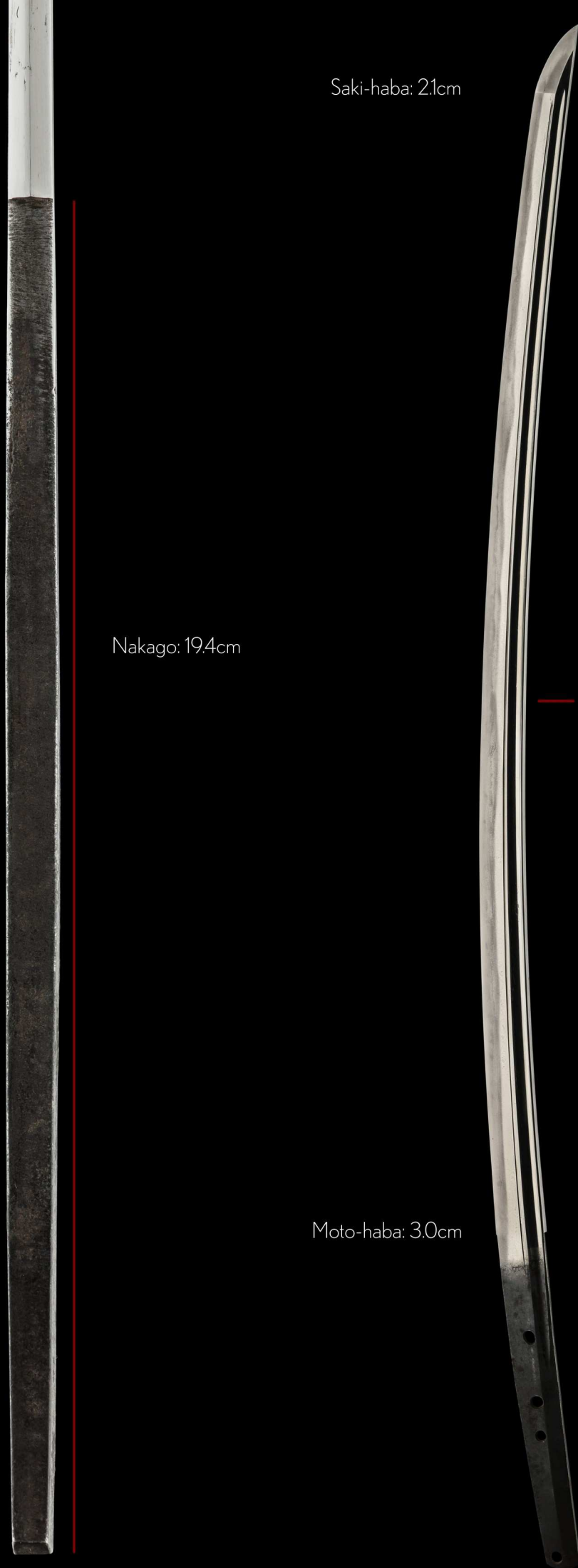
Nakago: 19.4cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 70.9cm

Sori: 2.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 4







No 1001828

特保
25201311



鑑定書

一刀 無銘 (古字多)

長二尺三寸四分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十六年一月三十一日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



富山 教育委員会
第 10086 号
昭和 38 年 10 月 21 日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 26th year of Heisei (2014), January 31st

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Mumei (Ko-Uda)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 4-bu (70.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



杉岡善蔵殿

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協会



認定書
 一、刀 無銘（為継）一口
 長二尺三寸四分
 右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別貴重
 刀剣として認定す
 昭和四十四年二月十六日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Token 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), February 16th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Mumei (Tametsugu)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 4-bu (70.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



4.3cm

O-Kissaki

A large *kissaki* (tip), very typical of swords from the warring Nambokucho period (circa 1333-1392).

kaki-nagashi

bo-bi

soe-bi

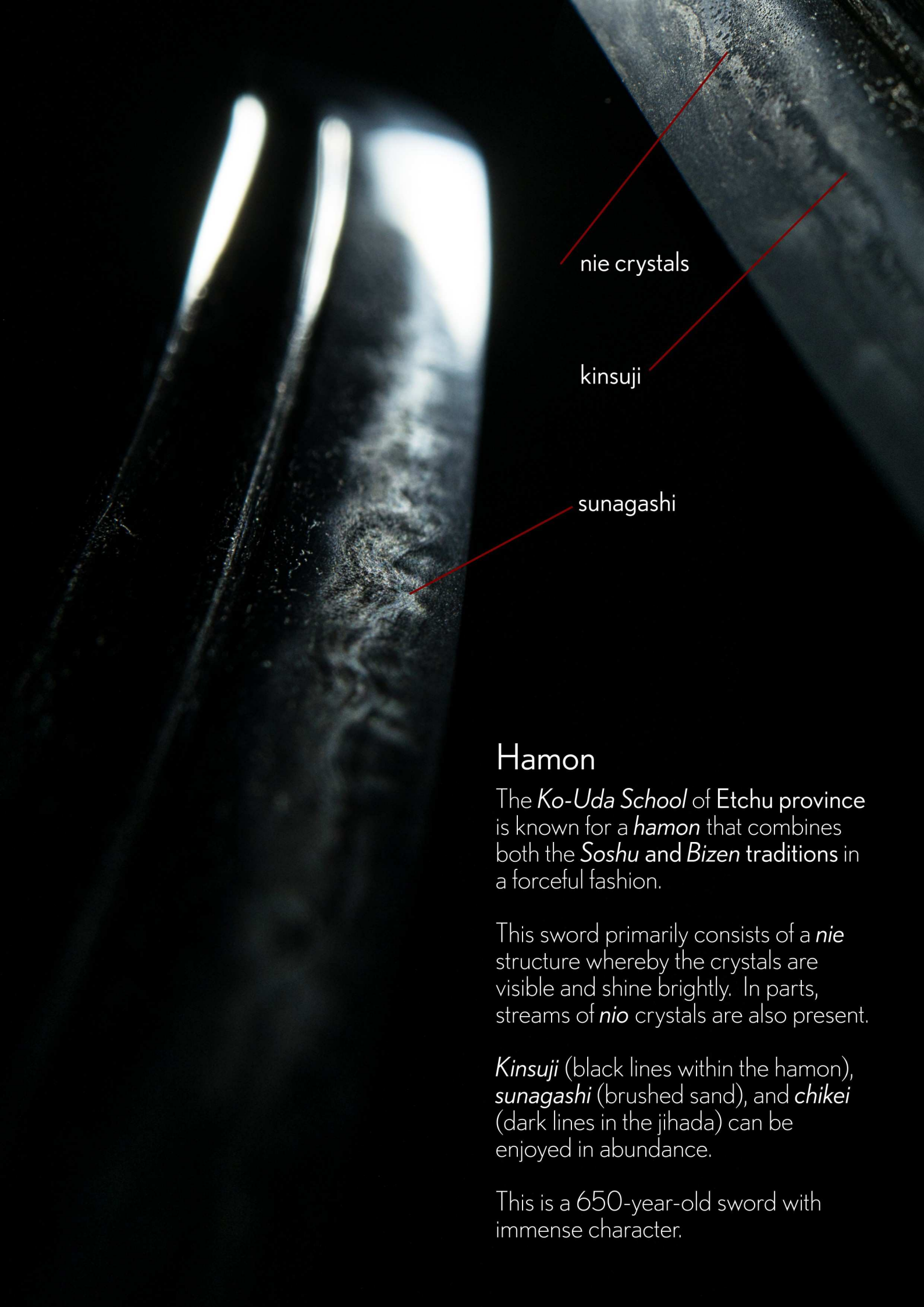
Hi (groove)

A *hi* (pronounced "hee") is a groove engraved on the *shinogi-ji*, the surface between the *mune* (spine) and the *shinogi* (ridge line) or the *hira-ji* (area between the *hamon* and *shinogi*).

There are many types of grooves.

On this sword, there is a *bo-bi* with *soe-bi*, a wide groove with a second, thinner groove.

The groove then becomes pointed and tapers about halfway down the *nakago* (tang). This is known as *kaki-nagashi*.



nie crystals

kinsuji

sunagashi

Hamon

The *Ko-Uda School* of Etchu province is known for a *hamon* that combines both the *Soshu* and *Bizen* traditions in a forceful fashion.

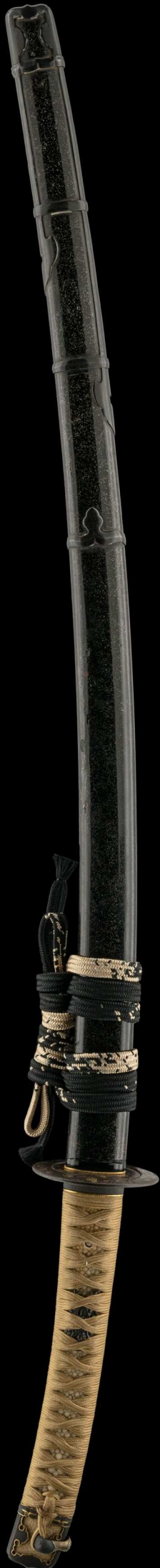
This sword primarily consists of a *nie* structure whereby the crystals are visible and shine brightly. In parts, streams of *nio* crystals are also present.

Kinsuji (black lines within the hamon), *sunagashi* (brushed sand), and *chikei* (dark lines in the jihada) can be enjoyed in abundance.

This is a 650-year-old sword with immense character.

Shine on you crazy diamond...





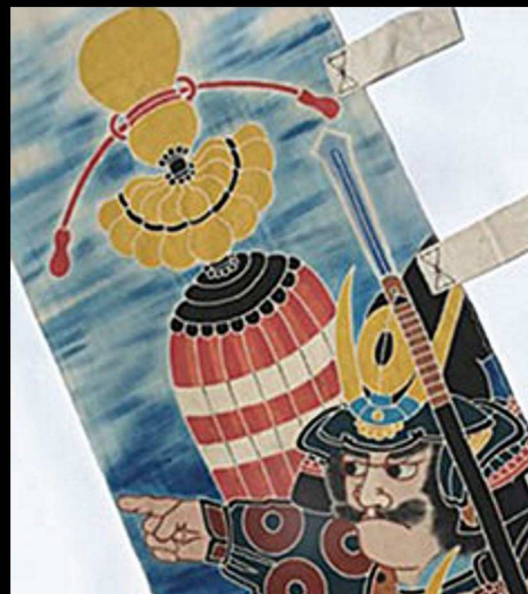


A Heianjo-Zogan Tsuba

This is a classic *Heianjo-Zogan School* tsuba made of beautifully polished iron with brass inlay in a golden *hyotan* (gourd) motif. In Japan, the gourd symbolizes "signified happiness or success to people".

Hideyoshi Toyotomi (1537-1598), the preeminent daimyo and supreme general, who once a peasant, not of noble birth, adopted the lowly water gourd as his emblem in circa 1575. He added gourd for every victory he gained, until the number grew into a large bunch. He was called *The Lord of the Golden Water Gourds*.

This tsuba is certified with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate attributing the tsuba to the *Late Muromachi Period*, at the same time Hideyoshi was in command.





Guardian Menuki

Nio-son or *Kongorikishi* are two wrath-filled and muscular guardians of the Buddha standing today as Deva statues at the entrance of many Buddhist temples.

They are *dharmapala* manifestations of the bodhisattva *Vajrapani*, the oldest and most powerful of the Mahayana Buddhist pantheon.



Vajrapani, coloured clay Deva statue
Todaji-temple Nara 8th century



A *tachi kanagushi* (fittings for tachi) in rich *shakudo nanako*. Note the level of exacting detail.



This unique design is of multiple square rulers used by a skilled carpenter.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity accompanies the *fuchi-kashira*. It was crafted during the Late Edo period.

