



ITEM# UJKA198

## A TSUGUHIRO TAMESHIGIRI KATANA SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD (FEBRUARY 7TH, 1666) CUTTING TEST: ICHI NO DO [OCHIRU]

**Swordsmith:** Echizen Ju Shimosaka TSUGUHIRO (1st generation)  
**Measurements:** Length: 79.5cm Curvature: 2.0cm Moto-Haba: 3.3cm  
**Jihada:** Itame (wood grain pattern)  
**Hamon:** Gunome midare (random wavy temper line pattern)  
**Nakago:** Ubu nakago  
**Certificate #1:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Certificate #2, 3:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a tsuba and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, koshirae, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

**SOLD**



This incredible katana by Wazamono swordsmith *Omi no Kami Tsuguhiro* of the **Yasutsugu School** has *Tameshigiri* (a certified test cut) whereby the sword severed cleanly through a cross-section of a human body just below the armpit area. This cutting test is called *Ichi no Do*.

The sword has a remarkable **79.5cm length**, housed in a handsome koshirae with a *Choshu tsuba* from the early Edo period. Blade has deservedly attained **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification**. This is a big time Samurai sword, one of Tsuguhiro's greatest achievements.

Watch presentation video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujka198-tsuguhiro>



Saki-kasane: 4.7mm

Moto-kasane: 7.3mm

Saki-haba: 2.3cm

Nakago: 21.5cm

Nagasa: 79.5cm

Sori: 2.0cm

Omosa: 955g

Moto-haba: 3.3cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





This sword is dated to the 7th day of the 2nd month in the 6th year of Kanbun period. (February 7th, 1666)

*Tameshigiri* (a cutting test) was performed with this katana in which it successfully severed the first torso (*Ichi no do*) of a human being in one stroke.

*Ochiru* means to drop off or fall away.

Ichi  
no  
dou

Ochi  
ru



Kan  
bun

6-nen

2-gatsu

7-nichi



# 鑑定書

長二尺六寸二分

一 刀

銘

越前住下坂継広  
寛文六年二月七日

志之洞巻ル

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

平成五年七月二十三日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



## 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 5th year of Heisei (1993), July 23rd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Echizen Ju Shimosaka Tsuguhiro  
Kanbun 6-nen 2-gatsu 7-nichi  
Ichi-no-dou Ochiru

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 6-sun 2-bu (79.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

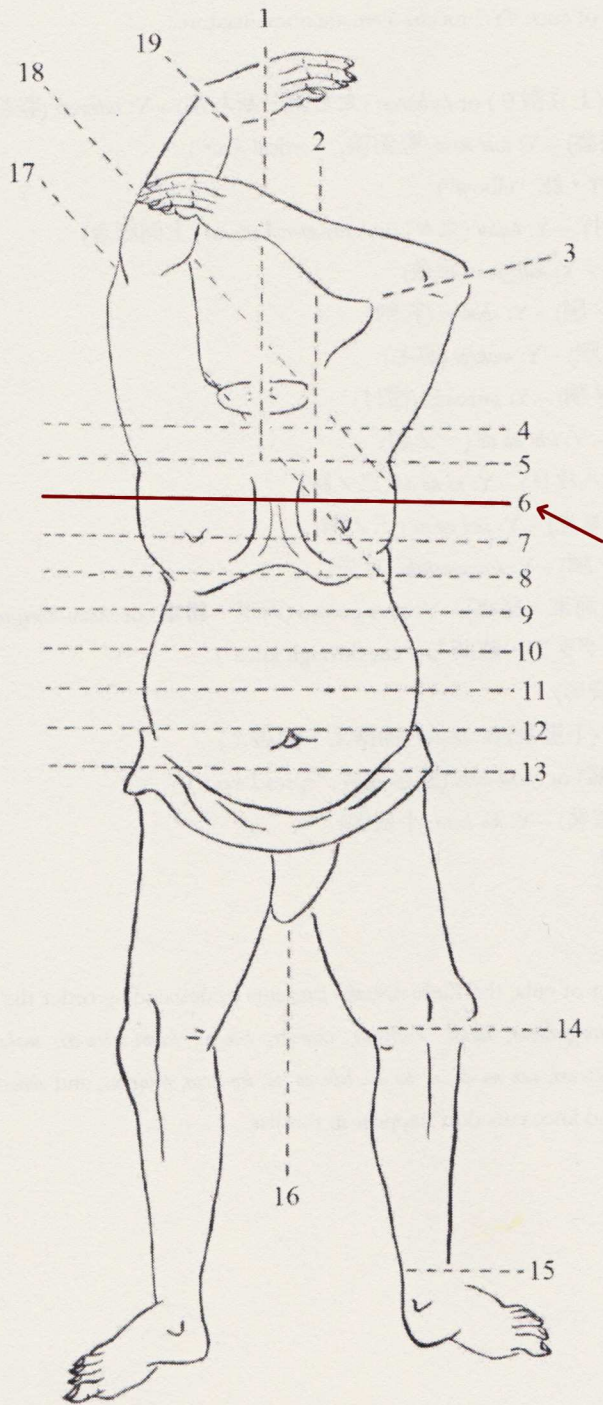
## Tameshigiri

The *Ichi no do* cutting test performed on this katana is located at the number 6 position on the diagram.

The primary purpose of *tameshigiri* is to test a sword and/or swordsman's cutting ability.

*Shodai* (first generation) *Tsuguhiro* is well known for producing swords that can cut well, earning him the title of *Wazamono*, maker of "sharp swords".

This sword severed the first torso (*Ichi no do*) of a human being in one stroke.



An official *shinnin-tameshi* (standard cutting test) being performed.

Images from Markus Sesko's book 'TAMESHIGIRI', The History and Development of Japanese Sword Testing.



## Hamon

A clear, bright and consistent *gunome midare hamon* (irregular wavy temper line) makes its way along the darkish jihada, characteristic of the Echizen region.



*Shirasaya*



*Kiri-filed habaki*  
(brass)





## A Choshu Tomoyoshi Tsuba

This polished iron tsuba has been attributed to the *Okamoto Tomoyoshi* of *Okamoto School* in Choshu (Nagato province).

2nd generation Tomoyoshi worked from 1666-1729, at the same time when the katana would have been crafted.

The *sukashi* (openwork) design is of a rural village with *kiku* (chrysanthemum flowers).

The tsuba is accompanied with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity.





## Inden Leather

The *tsuka* (hilt) is traditionally wrapped with special *inden* (deerskin leather).



*Koshu Inden* is a Japanese craft made of lacquered deerskin with more than 400 years of history. The techniques and patterns were originally developed to produce certain parts of **samurai armour**.





*Kashira* (pommel)

The *fuchi* and *kashira* of the sword's *koshirae* (fittings) are made of *suaka* (refined copper) .

The geometric design is known as *ajiro* - bamboo weaved wickerwork.

*Be like bamboo,  
bend but don't break.  
Be flexible,  
yet firmly rooted.*

<http://tinyurl.com/be-like-bamboo>