



ITEM# UJKA209

## A YONDAI KANETOMO KATANA SIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (BUNSEI ERA: 1818-1830)

- Swordsmith:** Oshu Aizu Ju Kanetomo (4th generation)  
**Location:** Aizu (Western Fukushima)  
**Length:** 71.3cm  
**Curvature:** 1.2cm  
**Moto-haba:** 3.09cm  
**Jihada:** Wavy itame (wood grain pattern)  
**Hamon:** Gunome midare, kinsen, sunagashi, tobiyaki and ashi  
**Nakago:** Ubu (original length)  
**Certificate #1-2:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword and koshirae designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Certificate #3-6:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword, tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae, all designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Hawley:** 30 points (equivalent to a Jo-saku, superior smith)  
**Included:** Edo-period koshirae, shirasaya, carry bags, sword stand, kit, etc.

**SOLD**

The **Kanetomo** (兼友) lineage was a successful school that began in the *Genroku era* (~1688) and continued faithfully to the end of the Edo period. First generation Kanetomo was a student of the 5th gen. *Omi no Daijo Kanesada* of the Aizu Kanesada Line.

This strong and vibrant katana is attributed to the *fourth generation Kanetomo*, one of the very finest smiths of the Kanetomo fame. It was crafted 200 years ago during the Bunsei era, circa 1818-1830 in Aizu in Iwashiro province, which is now western Fukushima.



This sword exudes a sense of individual flair, qualities that are found on better swords during the Shinshinto period.

For example, look for the islands of *tobiyaki* (tempering spots) near the tip of the blade. The *gunome midare hamon* is clear and consistent and filled with good *hataraki* (activity).

There is also strong *mune-yaki* (tempering on the spine of the blade) a characteristic that's been seen on other swords from the Aizu region.

A unique set of *koshirae* fittings pays a strong compliment to the sword. One highlight is the Higo School *fuchi-kashira* that depicts antique arrow heads in magnificent designs.

The *tsuba* is of a traditional design that features *matsu* (pine), *ume* (plum) and *sakura* (cherry blossom), each with a special representative meaning that is explained on the pages ahead.



Gold crawling water dragons form the *menuki* that give the sword a sense of protection. The *saya* (scabbard) is lacquered in an *ishime* (stone finish) with a copper *kojiri* (cap) in the form of clouds.

Two vintage *NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho* certificates of authenticity from *October 1963* were awarded for both the sword and *koshirae*. Judging was extremely demanding during these years as only three levels of achievement were issued at the NBTHK.

A further four certificates from the NTHK-NPO are issued for the blade, *koshirae*, *tsuba* and *fuchi-kashira* painting a full picture for the sword's fortunate new owner.



Watch the introductory video here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ujka209-kanetomo>

Thank you.

Saki-kasane: 2.3mm <sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 7.2mm

Omosa: 825g

Saki-haba: 2.3cm

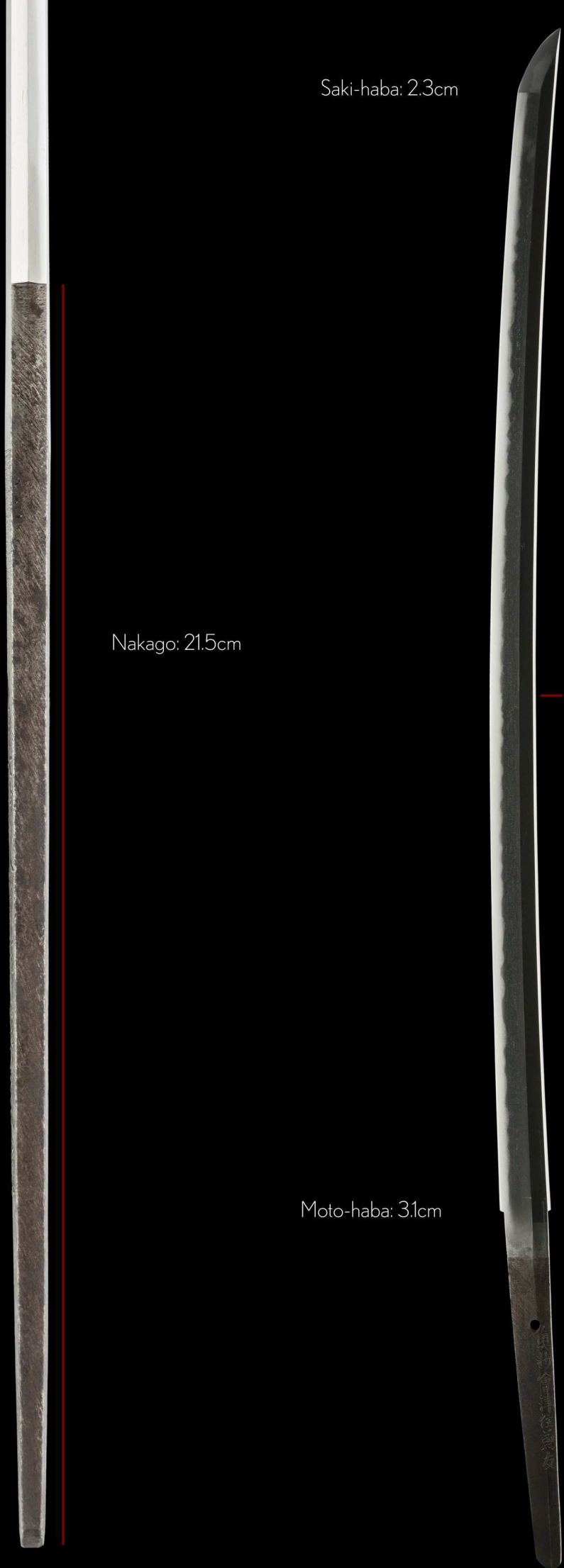
Nakago: 21.5cm

Moto-haba: 3.1cm

Nagasa: 71.3cm

Sori: 1.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Location: *Oushu Aizu (Fukushima prefecture)*

Swordsmith: *Kanetomo*



Ou

shu

Ai

zu

Ju

Kane

tomo

認定書

一 刀 銘 奥州會津住 忍友

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別貴重

水三ノ三寸五分

刀剣として認定す

昭和三十八年十月十二日

財團法日本美術刀剣保存協會

會長 細川護立

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 38th year of Showa (1963), October 12th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)  
Oshu Aizu Ju Kanetomo

Nagasa (length)  
2-shaku 3-sun 5-bu (71.3cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK)



## Jihada

A skilfully forged *ko-itame hada*.

# Hamon

A clever *gunome midare hamon* (temper line) with *ashi* (legs) extending to the edge of the sharp cutting edge.

A curious patch of *tobiyaki* (hardened spots) near the tip area gives the steel a very unique personality.





*Shirasaya*



*Sukenori-habaki*  
(brass)





## Tsuba

A chrysanthemum shaped tsuba with the traditional design of *Matsu Ume Sakura* (pine, plum and cherry blossoms).

As an evergreen, *matsu* is associated with January and is a symbol of longevity.

In February, the plum emerges. Being the first to blossom, *ume* is a symbol of strength and perseverance.

In March, the much-loved *sakura* blooms. It represents life change and transience.



This tsuba is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification



Silver arrowhead designs inlaid on a polished iron *fuchi* (collar).

Crafted by the *Higo School* during the late Edo period.

NTHK-NPO  
Kanteisho certificate  
of authenticity  
included.





*Kashira*  
(pommel)

Aim high.

