



ITEM# UJKA215

AN UDA KUNIMUNE / YAMATO SENJUIN KODACHI UNSIGNED, LATE KAMAKURA PERIOD (SHOU ERA: 1288~1293)

- Swordsmith:** Uda Kunimune (NBTHK), Yamato Senjuin School (NTHK-NPO)
Measurements: Length: 69.4cm (ubu) Curvature: 2.3cm Moto-Haba: 2.8cm
Jihada: Itame and mokume (burl grain pattern)
Hamon: Chu-suguha and ko-midare (straight and tight wavy temper line pattern)
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 sword and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, koshirae, carry bags, sword stand, kit, DVD, export services

SOLD

When handling a Japanese sword, paying close attention to the *shape of the blade* is the first step to appreciate as the length, weight, width and curvature speak volumes to dating a piece. What we have here is a rare *kodachi* (short tachi) that remains in her original graceful shape (*ubu nakago*).

The NTHK-NPO sword society certified the sword as being by *Yamato Senjuin School*, dating it back over 700 years to the late Kamakura period's Shou era, circa 1288~1293. The NBTHK sword museum attributes the blade to *Uda Kunimune*. Historically these schools are connected.

This sword is light, curvy with a woody textured *jihada* and nie-based *hamon*. It's enjoyable imagining a Samurai carrying this kodachi on horseback several centuries ago. An attractive koshire certified to the 1700s with tachi fittings balances out the sword in a respectful fashion.

Saki-kasane: 3.4mm [^]

Saki-haba: 1.6cm

Moto-kasane: 6.3mm

Nagasa: 69.4cm

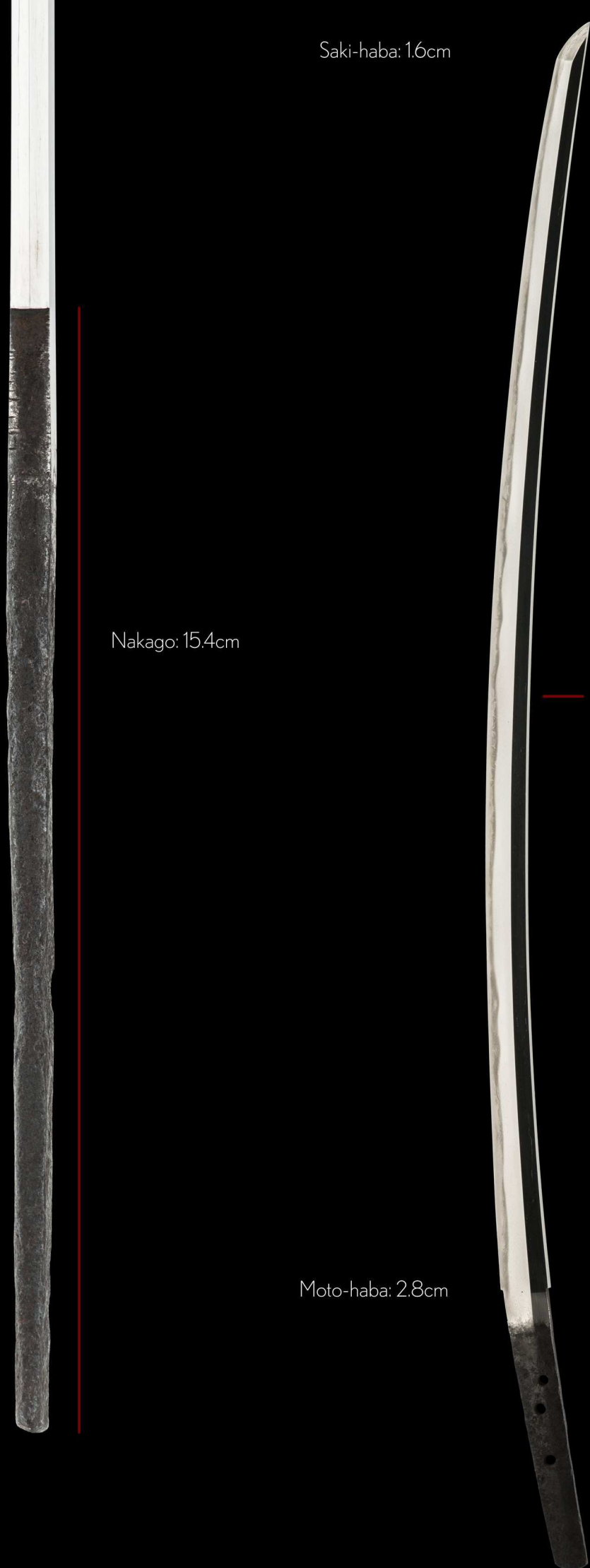
Nakago: 15.4cm

Sori: 2.3cm

Omosa: 520g

Moto-haba: 2.8cm

Mekugi-ana: 3



a light and graceful *ko-dachi*





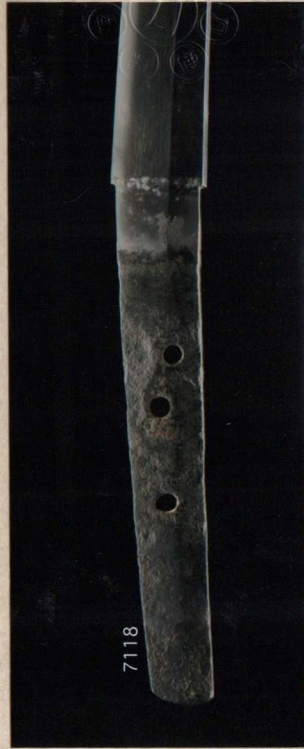
The age of the sword is clearly evident by examining the the large amount of oxidization on the nakago that has formed naturally over its 700-year lifespan.

Although unsigned, it's likely this sword has (or once had) a signature under the rust as the blade has not been shortened (*ubu nakago*).

The gentle curve of the nakago is a beautiful thing...



life experience.



捺 審 査 印 員	備 考	中 心	彫 刻	銘 子	刃 紋	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 七 一 一 八 号
	正 志 貞	目釘穴 三個 鍔 下 加 り		直ぐ調へ掃け返る	中直ぐ刃調へ入れ喰違へ交じり	板目	銘造り、 庵棟	不明	

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This wakizashi was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Mumei (Den Yamato, Senjuin)

Shou era: 1288-1293

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 2-sun 9-bu (69.4cm)

Issued in 28th year of Heisei (2016), January 17th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Attribution to Uda Kunimune

Official certificate is arriving in November 2016



特別保存刀劍鑑定書



Boshi

The hamon in the tip of the sword is called the *boshi*. It takes great skill by the swordsmith. The boshi on this sword is *hakikake*, literally 'sweeping'.

Note the beautiful workmanship in the *hada* (steel skin) where *itame* and *mokume* (burl grain) patterns surface.

A close-up, low-angle photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing the hamon (temper line) pattern. The blade is dark and textured, with a bright, circular highlight reflecting light from the edge. The background is dark and out of focus.

Hamon

Uda Kunimune is of the *Ko-Uda School* of Etchu province which is known for a *hamon* that fuses both the *Soshu* and *Bizen* traditions.

This sword primarily consists of a *nie* structure whereby the crystals are visible and shine brightly.

The *hamon* itself is a *chu-suguha* (middle straight) with *ko-midare* (short wavy pattern)

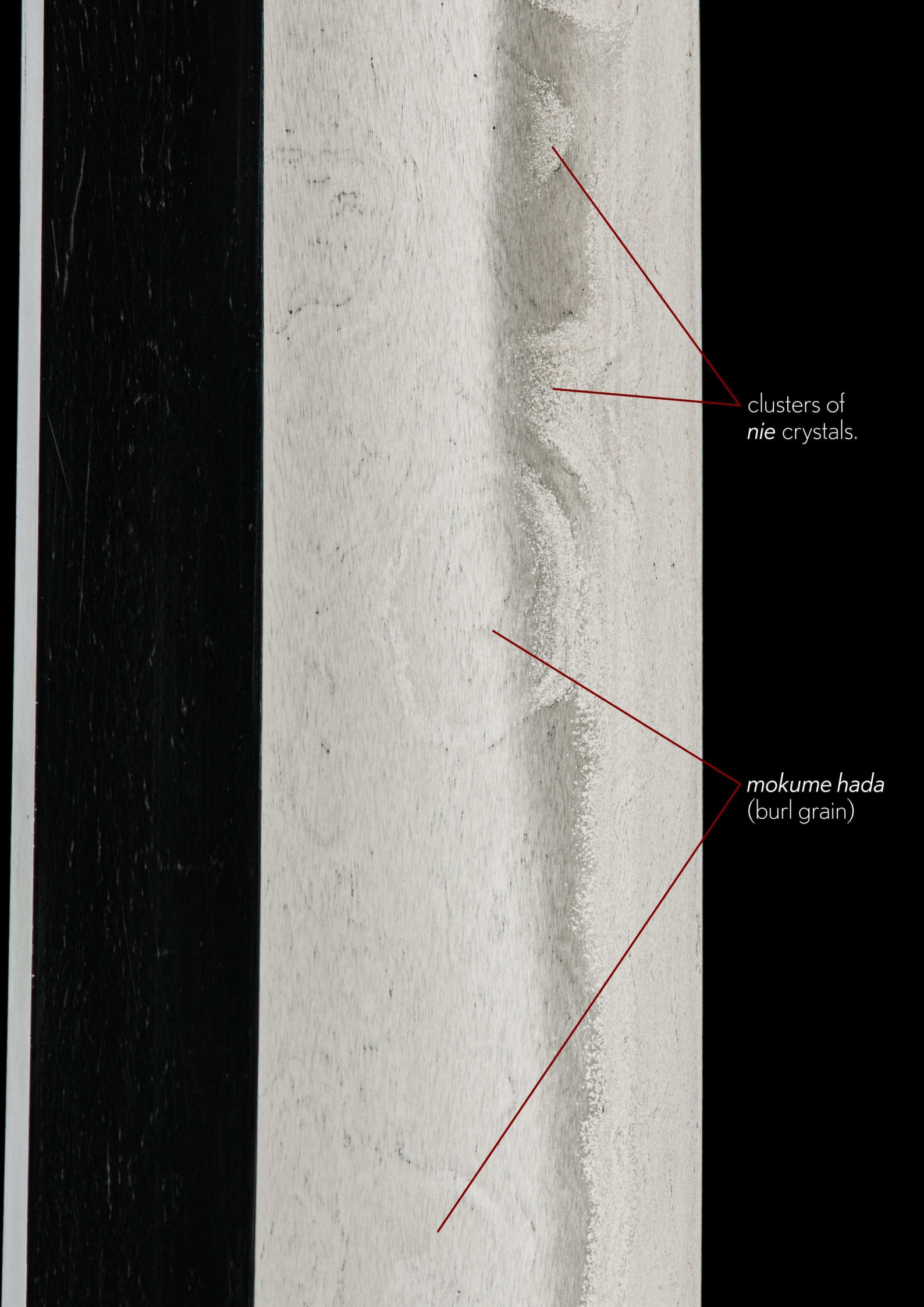
Kinsuji (black lines within the hamon), *sunagashi* (brushed sand), and *chikei* (dark lines in the jihada) are plentiful.



The Uda School received its name from the founder *Kunimitsu* who travelled from the Uda district of Yamato province to Etchu.

The Uda School started working in the late Kamakura period, circa 1317.

The NTHK-NPO sword preservation society attributes the sword earlier to the *Yamato Senjuin School* dating the piece to the late Kamakura period's *Shou era*, 1288-1293.



clusters of
nie crystals.

mokume hada
(burl grain)



Shirasaya

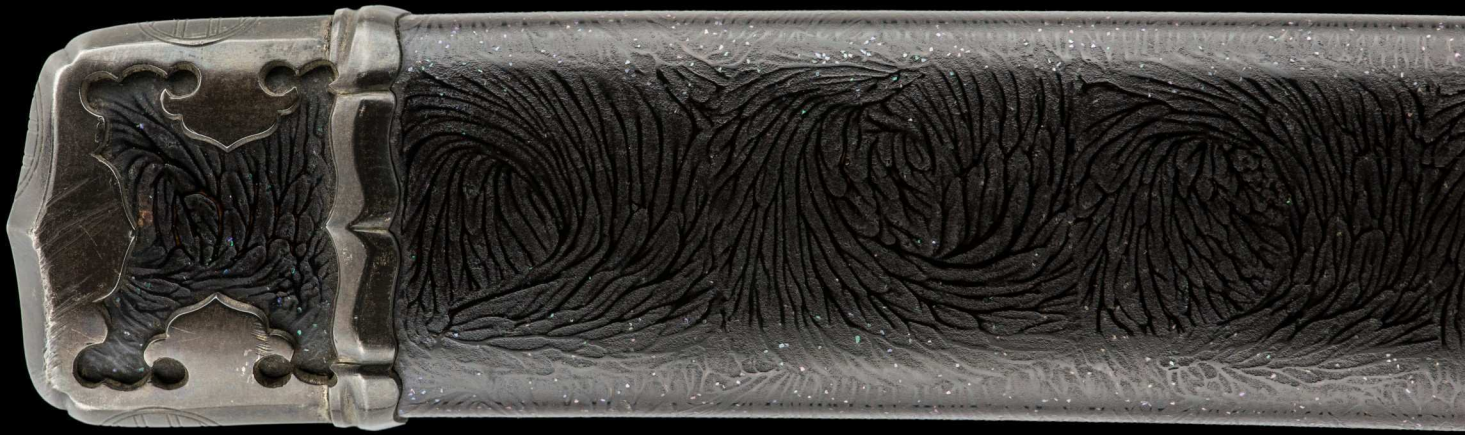


Tate Yasuri-habaki
(brass)





Elegant tachi fittings. The koshirae has an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity dating it to the 1700s, middle Edo period.



The Hikiryō kamon (family crest)

Kamon that were a fusion of a circle and horizontal lines were adopted by notable daimyo families such as the *Ashikaga* and *Nitta* clans.

The lines are meant to express a dragon.



Tsuba

Chrysanthemum petals decorate either side of the *nakago-ana* (centre hole for nakago to pass through) while cleverly forming the holes for the *kozuka* and *kogai*.

Splashes of gold leaves gives the polished iron colour and vibrancy. The rectangular openings (one filled with *shakudo*) at the top and bottom symbolize strips of paper known as *tanzaku*.

Writing down wishes and hung on bamboo to form a wishing tree is done as part of *Tanabata* festivities in summertime Japan starting July 7th.



reverse





Nature, celebrated.



Hawks represent bravery, modesty and nobility.

There is an old proverb that says: "*nou aru taka wa tsume o kasuku*" (the talented hawk hides its claws).

One should conceal his or her own best abilities until time comes to show them.