



ITEM# UJKA218

A TSUNASHIGE TAMESHIGIRI KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD (END OF FEBRUARY 1670)
FUTATSU-DO SETSUTAN UE-SURITSUKE SHITA-KURUMASAKI

Swordsmith: *Mutsu no Kami Tsunashige (1st generation)*
Measurements: **Length:** 70cm (ubu) **Curvature:** 1.4cm **Moto-Haba:** 3.2cm
Jihada: *Itame (wood grain pattern)*
Hamon: *Gunome midare (random wavy temper line pattern)*
Certificate #1-2: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon & Kicho** (a sword designated as Especially Precious and Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #3-5: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae all 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, *featured in the NBTHK Monthly Journal in October 2014.*

SOLD



This powerful katana was crafted by swordsmith *Mutsu no Kami Tsunashige*. A cutting test was performed with this sword by *Shibasaki Masatsugu* in February 1670 severing two human bodies in one stroke. Sword is reminiscent of the works of master swordsmith Kotetsu.

The blade has deservedly attained **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification**. It is housed in a handsome *koshirae* with a *Jingo School tsuba* from the mid-Edo period. This is a very special Samurai sword.

Saki-kasane: 4.4mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 700g

Saki-haba: 2.1cm

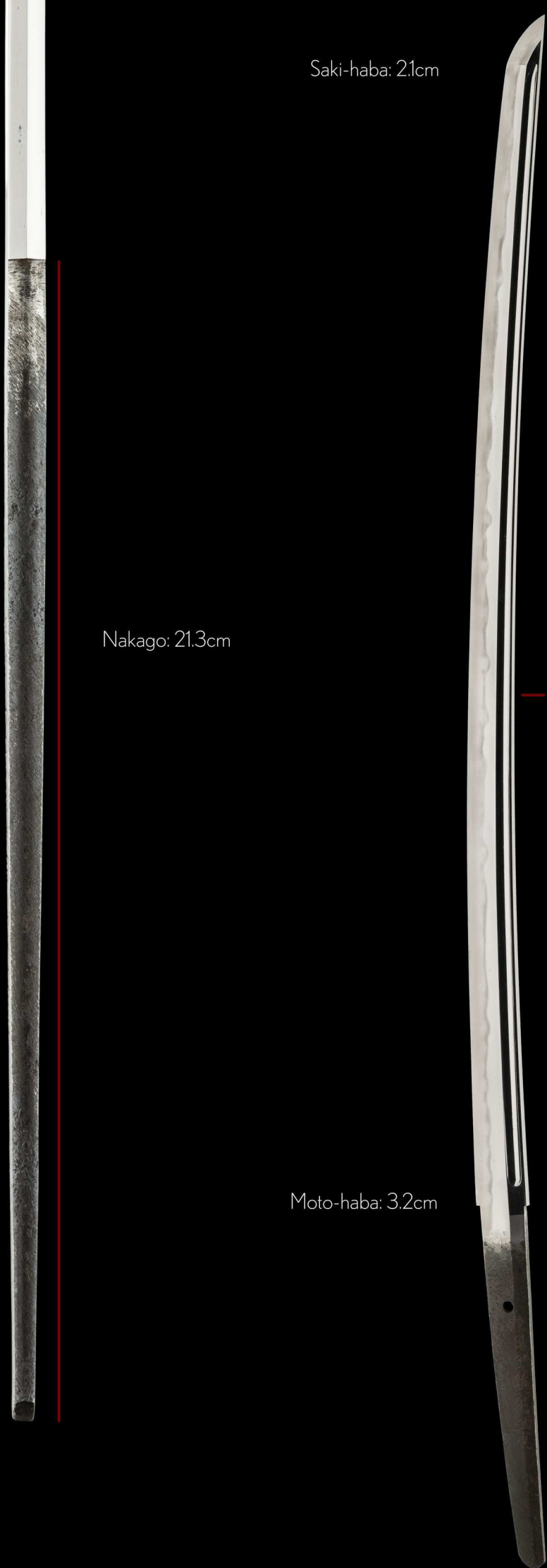
Nakago: 21.3cm

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Nagasa: 70.0cm

Sori: 1.4cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Title: *Mutsu no Kami* (Lord of Mutsu province)

Clan: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Tsunashige*



Mu

tsu

(no) kami

Fuji

wara

Tsuna

shige

Date: *End of February, 1670*
 Tester: *Shibasaki Den Saemon Masatsugu*
 Cutting test: *Futatsu Dou Setsutan*
Ue-suritsuke Shita-kurumasaki

At the end of February 1670, this sword was used in a cutting test by which it severed through two stacked human bodies in one stroke. The upper body was cut below the rib cage, the lower body above the hipbone. Results of the test are chiseled onto the nakago as illustrated below.

Futa
 tsu
 do
 Setsu
 tan
 Ue
 suri
 tsuke
 Shita
 kuruma
 saki

Shiba
 saki
 den
 Sa
 e
 mon
 Masa
 tsugu
 (Kaou)

寛文十年二月晦日
 柴崎傳左衛門正次
 臈切上拵付下車先

Kan
 bun
 ju (10)
 nen
 ni (2)
 gatsu
 Miso
 ka

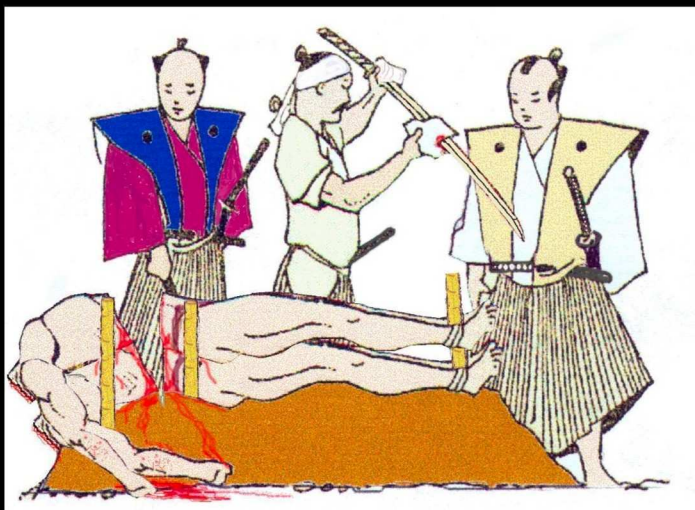


Image of a successful two-body cutting test

保 登
28201601



No 1005146



鑑定書

一万 銘

陸奥守藤原綱重(陸奥・寛文頃)
(截断切付銘) 寛文十年二月晦日
赤崎伝左衛門正次(花押)
貳寸朋截断上摺付下車先
長二尺三寸

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

平成二十八年三月二十三日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



兵 庫 教育委員会
第 47887号
昭和41年5月17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 28th year of Heisei (2016), March 23rd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Omote: Mutsu no Kami Fujiwara Tsunashige

Ura: Kanbun 10 nen 2 gatsu Misoka Shibasaki Den Saemon Masatsugu
Futatsudou Saidan Uwasuritsuke Shimokuruma-saki (end of February 1670)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun (70.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



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 42nd year of Showa (1967), April 9th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Omote: Mutsu no Kami Fujiwara Tsunashige

Ura: Kanbun 10 nen 2 gatsu Misoka Shibasaki Den Saemon Masatsugu
Futatsudou Saidan Uwasuritsuke Shimokuruma-saki (End of February 1670)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun (70.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



Copy of magazine and translation will be included with the sword.

NBTHK Token Bijitsu Monthly Magazine

In October 2014, this katana by swordsmith Tsunashige was spotlighted as a study piece by the NBTHK sword museum in their monthly magazine. The article discusses whether Tsunashige was trained by Tsunahiro [thus implying close ties to Kotetsu] and if there were more than one generation with the name Tsunashige.

"Nihonto Meikan book states that there are two generations of swordsmiths with the name Tsunashige. However, there are scholars that challenge this theory.

It is believed that Tsunahiro was a sensei (teacher) of [grandmaster swordsmith] Kotetsu. If that is true, Tsunashige and Kotetsu are from the same school as Tsunashige was a student of Tsunahiro.

Kotetsu is also believed to be a student of Kaneshige. The work of the two generations of Tsunashige are so similar that Mr. Kawaguchi believes that they are the same person. Ishii san says that there were three generations.

Dr. Sato (Kanzan) and Ogasawara sensei also think that there were three generations.

Background information on the life of Tsunashige is not known in detail thus it is safe to assume that there are two generations for Tsunashige at the moment."

Reference 1 (regarding this sword)

This Tsunashige katana has features of notare, naka-suguha, gunome, small gunome, gunome with small notare, and nie.

Moreover, the nakago is saki-haagari kurijiri shape, sujikai file marks, kesho, and has a rounded mune (spine).

Hamon

A bright and distinctive *gunome midare hamon* (wavy semi-circular temper line) with clear separations between the waves.

Note the wonderful brushed strokes in the *hamon* known as *sunagashi*.

This is magnificent work.

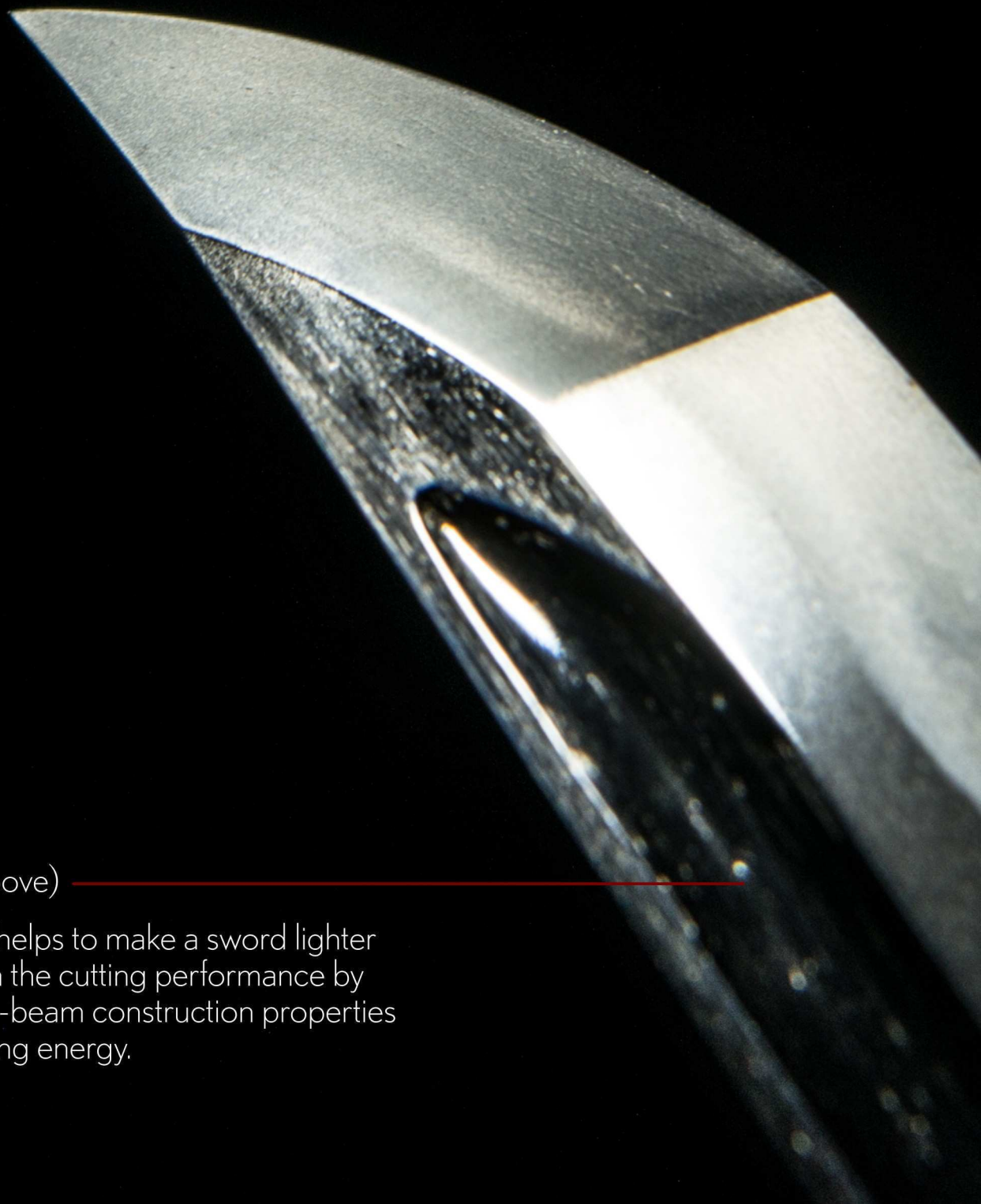
sunagashi

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, showing the hamon (temper line) with a wavy, semi-circular pattern. The blade is dark, and the hamon is highlighted by a bright, wavy line. A red line points from the text 'sunagashi' to a specific area of the hamon, which is characterized by fine, brushed strokes.



Ko-gunome (small waves)

chikei (dark lines in the jihada)



bo-hi (groove)

A groove helps to make a sword lighter and aids in the cutting performance by taking on i-beam construction properties of absorbing energy.

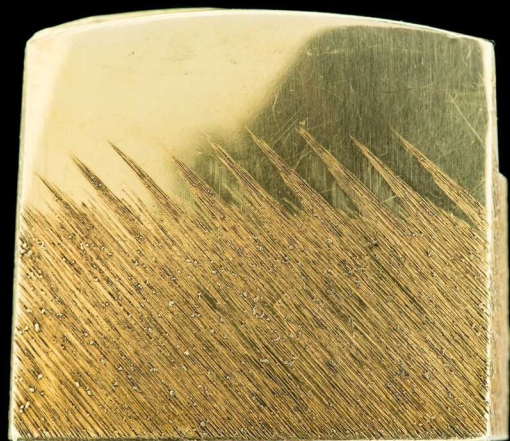
shirake utsuri

whitish reflective areas in the jihada





Shirasaya



Koshi Yujo Yasuri-habaki
(brass)





Tsuba

An inspiring depiction of a *kiku* (chrysanthemum) with her petals soaked in rays of sunshine.

This polished iron tsuba is attributed to the 3rd generation *Higo School* circa the mid-Edo period, 1700s. It comes with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity.

A tsuba serves to balance the sword. It protects the hand of the swordsman from the blade of the enemy while preventing his hands from slipping forward onto his own blade.



reverse





Fuchi (collar), the battle.





fuchi, reverse.



The Genpei War (1180-1185)

The exquisite detail on the *kashira* (pommel) depicts Japan's great sea battle called *Dan-no-ura* on April 25, 1185 between the *Taira* and *Minamoto* clans during the Genpei war.

In the end the Taira clan fell, ending the Heian period and the establishment of the *Kamakura Shogunate* under *Minamoto Yoritomo* in 1192 in Kamakura.

This *kashira* is attributed to *Mitsunobu* of the *Mino School* from the late Edo period. It has received NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.



There's a fire in the kitchen,
and everyone's invited.

R2 Damascus Chef Knife 210mm (8.25")

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sharpest degree of precision.

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