



ITEM# UJKA223

## A SAKAI IKKANSAI SHIGEMASA KATANA SIGNED, 47TH YEAR OF SHOWA ERA (FEBRUARY 1972)

**Swordsmith:** *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa Motte Myogi Jinja Furutetsu Saku Kore*  
**Measurements:** Length: 72.5cm Curvature: 1.7cm Moto-Haba: 3.2cm  
**Jihada:** *Itame hada*  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare (wavy temper line) with nijuba, kinsuji and sunagashi*  
**Certificate:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, sword bag, stand, kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation

# SOLD

Celebrated swordsmith *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa* was born in 37th year of Meiji (1904) and became a student of the great *Shigetsugu Kasama* in the 15th of Taisho (1926) and the heir to the *Kasama Shigetsugu no Mon* school. The *Kasama Shigetsugu School* was active in pre-war and wartime Japan, and considered by contemporaries to exhibit the highest level of craftsmanship.



This beautiful katana holds an interesting story. *It was crafted from centuries-old iron from Myogi Shrine in 1972.* This information is chiseled on the sword's *nakago* (tang). Shigemasa was an expert engraver and this sword has the characters *Amaterasu Omikami* (a Shinto deity) with groove and a *ken* (a double-edged sword).

According to legend, Myogi Shrine was established in 537 A.D., the second year of the reign of Emperor Senka. It took until the Edo Period (1603-1868) for the shrine to gain national significance and wide-reaching power.

As the sword is in shirasaya, the opportunity to build an inspiring *custom koshirae* exists with this sword. The new caretaker of the sword should consider visiting Myogi shrine one day to pay tribute to its remarkable history.

Saki-kasane: 4.6mm <sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 6.3mm

Omosa: 675g

Saki-haba: 2.3cm

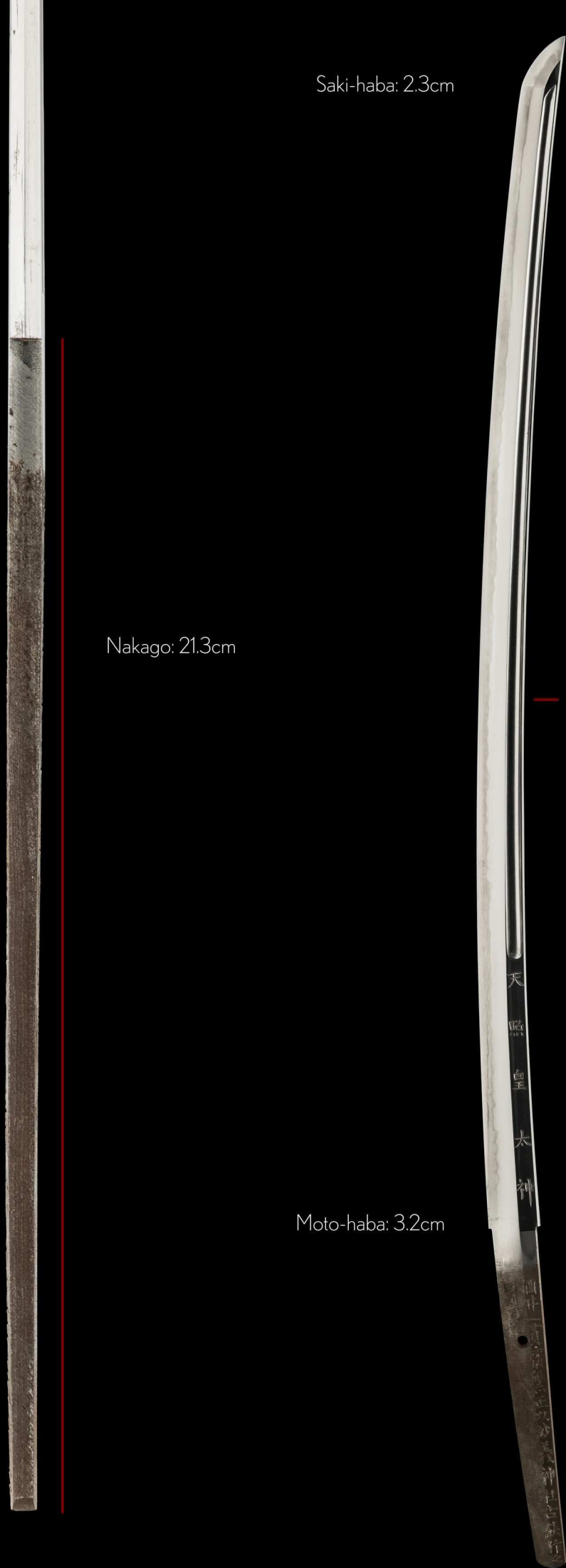
Nakago: 21.3cm

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Nagasa: 72.5cm

Sori: 1.7cm

Mekugi-ana: 1







Material: *Myogi Jinjya Furutetsu* (old iron from Myogi shrine)

Swordsmith: *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa*

Engraving: *Chokoku Dousaku* (Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa)

Cho  
koku  
Dou  
saku

Saka  
i  
I  
kkan  
sai  
Shige  
masa  
motte  
Myou  
gi  
Jin  
Jya  
Furu  
tesu  
saku  
kore

This katana was crafted from old iron obtained from the great *Myogi shrine* in Gunma prefecture. The swordsmith is *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa* who also did the engraving work on the sword.





## Myogi Shrine

Myogi Shrine is located on the hilltop of Hakuun Mountain, the highest peak of Myogi Mountain. Behind the bright red Main Gate and beautifully decorated *Karamon* (main gate), you'll be able to find a gorgeous main hall painted using black lacquer, sharing a roof with the worship hall connected with a passageway..

According to legend, Myogi Shrine was established in 537 A.D., the second year of the reign of *Emperor Senka*. The shrine worships famous spirits including *Prince Yamato Takeru*. Weeping *sakura* (cherry trees) that are over 200 years old adorn the entrance path and perimeters bring peace and tranquility to the location.

It took until the Edo Period for the shrine to gain national recognition. It has since been recognized as a Prefectural Important Cultural Property.

At the back of the main shrine, there is a small, special sub-shrine dedicated to the *tengu* - legendary mountain demons with big noses and wings on their back, always carrying a fan. They are known for being mischievous.



The sword is dated:

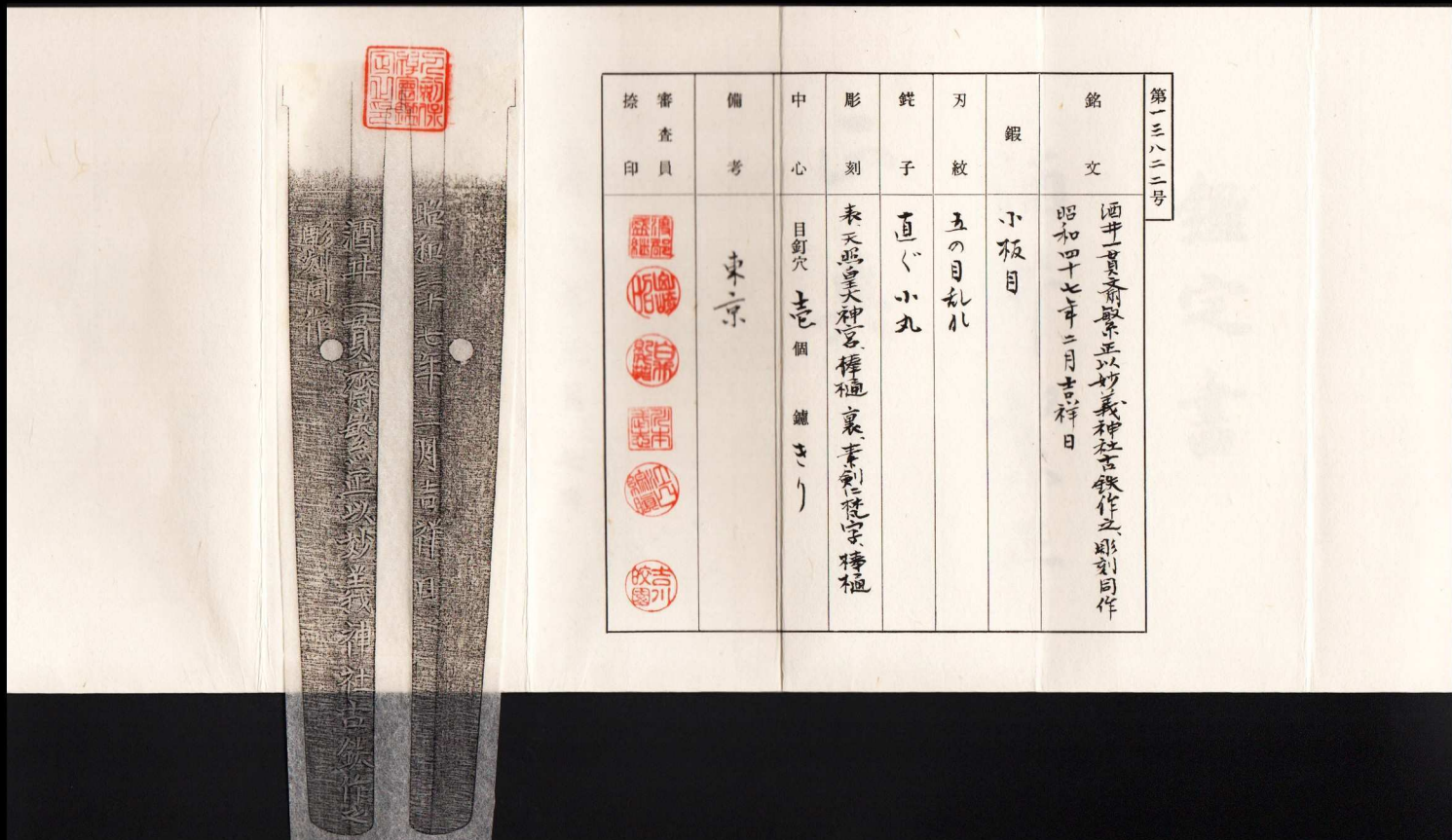
*Showa 47 nen 2 gatsu Kichijou nichi*  
(a good day in February 1972)

Sho  
wa  
yon (4)  
jyu (10)  
nana (7)  
nen  
ni (2)  
gatsu  
kichi  
jou  
nichi





*Shigemasa* was a master engraver. Note the vast number of chisel strokes performed on each character.



## NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

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

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

*Omote: Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa Motte Myougi Jinjya Furutetsu Saku Kore,  
Chokoku Dousaku*

*Ura: Showa 47 nen 2 gatsu Kichijou nichu (a good day in February 1972)*

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 9-bu (72.5cm)

Issued in 9th year of Heisei (1997), September 7th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai  
(NTHK-NPO)



## Hamon


At the *yakidashi* (beginning point at the bottom of the blade), the temper line splits considerably in two.

This can be best described as *nijuba* - double lines of *nioguchi* (crystals that make up the hamon). Traditionally *nijuba* is much more parallel in formation making this pattern most unique and eye-catching.

The hamon continues upward into a bright and consistent *gunome midare* (small undulating waves).



*Kinsuji* - black gleaming lines of nie crystals cut through the merging hamon.

A close-up, vertical photograph of a sword blade. The blade is dark, possibly black or dark grey, and shows signs of wear and use. A prominent feature is the kinsuji, a vertical crack or groove that runs down the center of the blade, which is highlighted by a red line. The blade is set against a dark, almost black background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and the central crack.

*kinsuji* can be seen on  
both sides of the blade.

We can assist the new  
caretaker of the sword to  
build a beautiful custom  
koshirae if desired.

天

Ama

照

terasu

白  
皇

o

太

mi

神

kami



*Amaterasu* is the goddess of the sun and the universe - a deity of the Shinto religion.

The name *Amaterasu* derived from *Amateru* meaning "shining in heaven."

The meaning of her whole name, *Amaterasu-omikami*, is "the great August *kami* (god) who shines in the heaven."

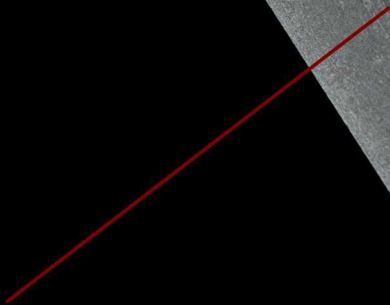
The emperors of Japan are considered to be direct descendants of *Amaterasu*.

This engraved katana pays respect to *Amaterasu* and asks for her spiritual blessing.

*maru-dome*  
(a groove with a rounded end)



*Sunagashi*  
brushed strokes  
in the hamon





*Shirasaya*



*Koshi Sukenori Yasuri-habaki*  
(silver)

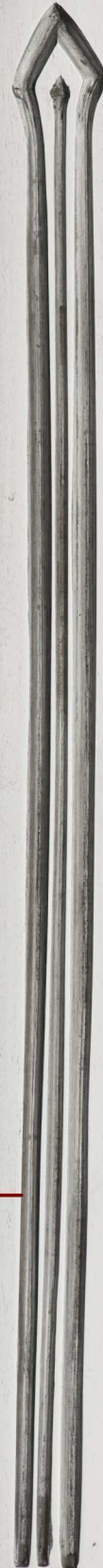
This *bonji* character is *Aizen Myoo*, one of the five wisdom kings. He is a fearsome power, able to transform worldly lust into spiritual awakening.



**Aizen Myoo**  
(Tokyo National Museum)

*suken*  
(a straight old-style sword)

之  
忍



In 1942, *Admiral Yamamoto* commissioned Shigemasa to craft ten highly prestigious presentation tantos .

Shigemasa was one of the most important swordsmiths working in 20th century Japan.

He reached *mukansa* status, a top-ranking swordsmith, in 1981.



The fabric of history.

