



ITEM# UJKA294

A KUNIYOSHI KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KEIAN ERA: 1648~1652)

Swordsmith: *Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi (attribution, Fujishiro: chū-saku)*
Measurements: **Length:** 63.1cm (*o-suriage nakago*) **Curvature:** 2.0cm **Moto-haba:** 2.87cm
Jihada: *Ko-mokume with masame-hada in the shinogi-ji*
Hamon: *Bright ko-choji gunome with ashi in nie-deki*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Hozon** (*a sword Worthy of Conservation*)
Certificates #2-4: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated Authentic*)
Included: Shirasaya, koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description

SOLD

This elegant katana from the early Edo period has been attributed to swordsmith *Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi*. Born *Suzuki Sakunosuke* and raised in *Hyūga* province, Kuniyoshi moved to the cultural capital of *Kyoto* where he became a student of *Oya-Kunisada (shodai Kunisada)*. He would later move to *Hamada* in *Iwami* province signing swords as *Nagatomo Sakunosuke Kuniyoshi*.

Good energy abounds within this clean, tightly forged blade with a bright, *ko-choji gunome midare hamon* and fine *ashi* that extend to the cutting edge. A classic black-lacquered *saya* with high court aristocratic *sensu* (fans) for *menuki*, a peaceful castle scene on the *Tomonobu tsuba* and a marvelous dragon on the *fuchi-kashira* signed by *Seijō* provides a handsome balance to this samurai sword.

Saki-kasane: 5.0mm [^]

Kissaki: 3.3cm

Saki-haba: 2.0cm

Moto-kasane: 6.6mm

Nagasa: 63.1cm

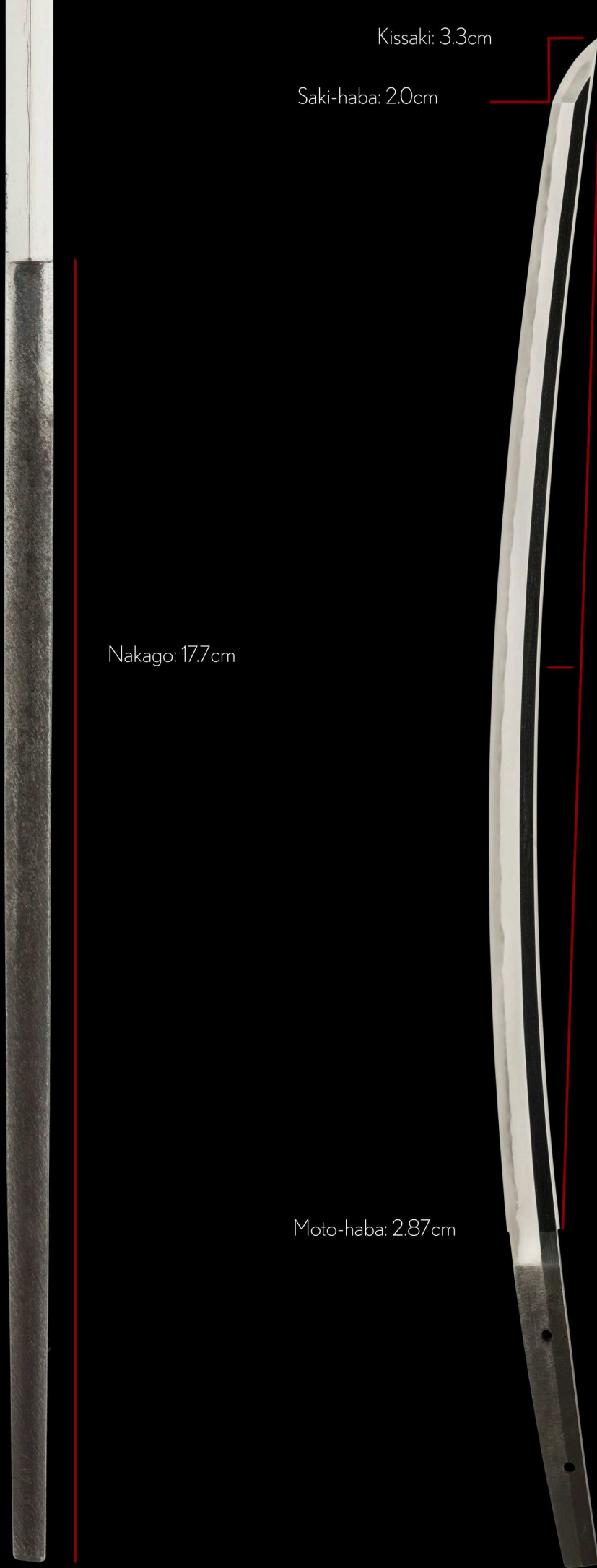
Nakago: 17.7cm

Sori: 2.0cm

Omosa: 670g

Moto-haba: 2.87cm


Mekugi-ana: 2



This elegantly curved katana has been attributed to *Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi*. He was a pupil of the highly accomplished smith *shodai* (first generation) *Izumi no Kami Kunisada*.

Given the deep curvature of this katana, it would have been produced early in his career, circa 1648 during the *Keian era*.



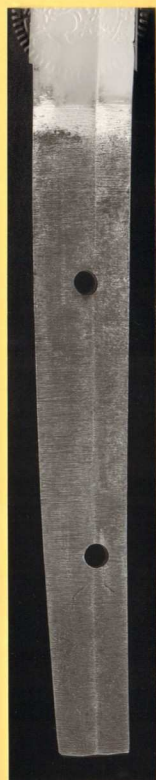
The image shows two katana blades, one on the left and one on the right, set against a black background. The blades are made of metal and have a dark, polished finish. The central part of the blade, the nakago, is significantly shorter than the blade's overall length, a feature known as o-suriage. This shortening is evident as the blade's width is much greater than the width of the nakago. The nakago is clean and has a fine, horizontal texture. Two circular holes are visible on each blade, one near the top and one near the bottom. The blades are slightly curved, showing the characteristic shape of a katana.

This katana has an *o-suriage nakago*, where the *nakago* (tang) was greatly shortened, and thus the signature lost.

The shortening procedure was carefully performed as the overall condition of the *nakago* is clean and gently filed with horizontal *kiri* lines.

23201107

No. 388991



鑑定書

一刀 無銘 (下総守国義)
長二尺〇八分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十三年八月十七日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 23rd year of Heisei (2011), August 17th

One, Katana

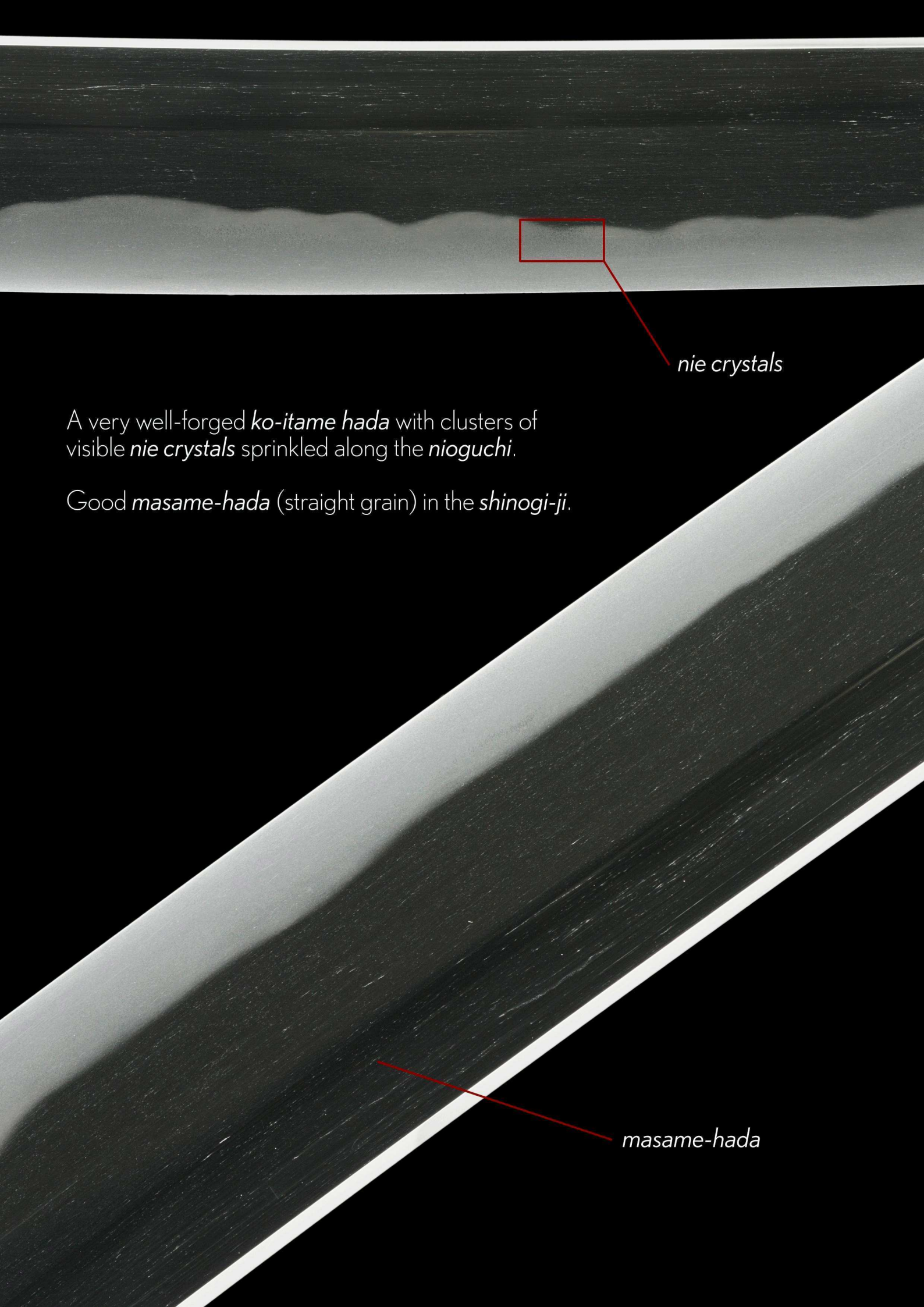
Mei (signature)

Mumei (*Shimosa no Kami Kuniyoshi*)

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 0-sun 8-bu (63.1cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



nie crystals

A very well-forged *ko-itame hada* with clusters of visible *nie crystals* sprinkled along the *nioguchi*.

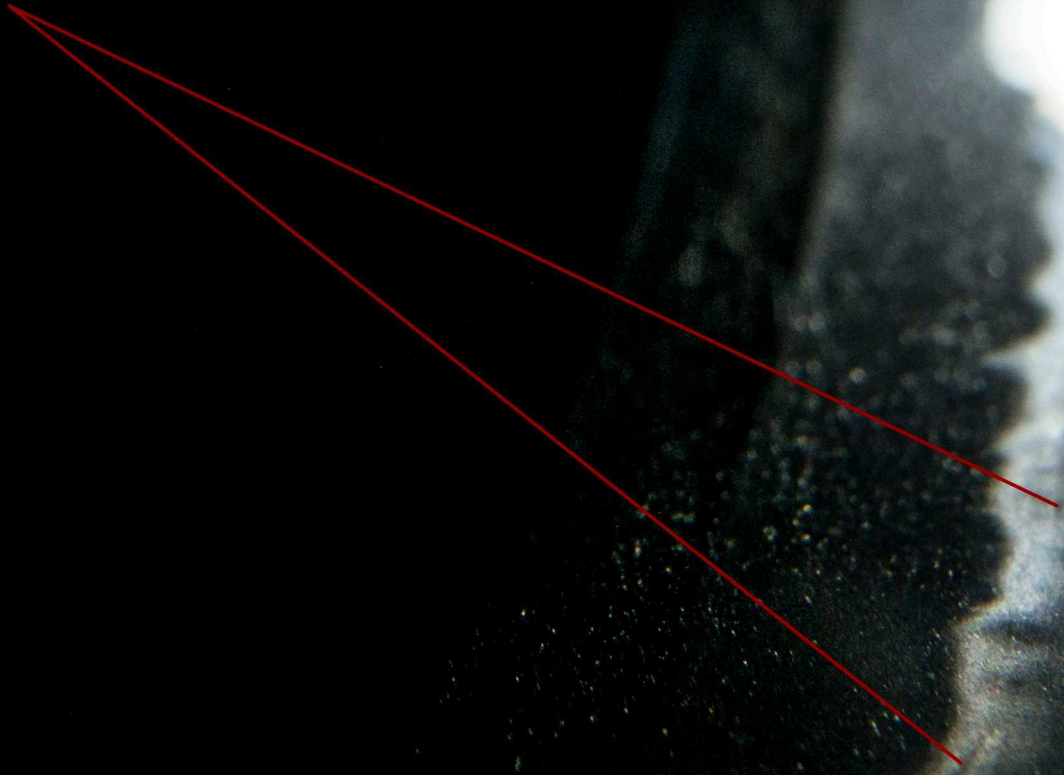
Good *masame-hada* (straight grain) in the *shinogi-ji*.

masame-hada

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, focusing on the hamon (temper line) pattern. The blade is dark, and the hamon is a bright, shimmering white line. The pattern is a ko-choji midare hamon, characterized by small, irregular, flower-bud-like shapes. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and color of the hamon against the dark background of the blade.

A vibrant *ko-choji midare hamon* that resembles small flower buds.

kinsuji channels through the *hamon*.



The pronounced curvature of the sword bends the light reflecting off the hamon in a spectacular way.



*Traditional uchigatana
samurai koshirae in
classic black lacquer*



*NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity*





This polished iron *tsuba* was signed and crafted by *Tomonobu* from the *Choshu school*. Choshu fittings are known for their smooth dark patina and rounded designs.

Peaceful fishing and mountain scenes such as this one were the primary focus of this school. A Kanteisho certificate of authenticity from the NTHK-NPO accompanies this *tsuba*.



(reverse)



The sculpted *tsuka* (hilt) is secretly signed by craftsman *Higuchi Akihoshi*.



The *fuchi-kashira* is signed by *Seijo*. A Kanteisho certificate of authenticity from the NTHK-NPO accompanies this fuchi-kashira.



A snarling dragon depicted on the *kashira* (pommel).
Note the lifelike detail of the hand-carved scales.



hello dragon.



Fans (*hiogi*) with special wood and silk stitching were considered the symbol of high court aristocracy.



The Mieido Fan Shop by Utagawa Toyokuni

