



ITEM# UJKA306

A KUNITERU KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (ENPO ERA: 1673~1681)

Swordsmith:	<i>Ise no Kami Kuniteru (ubu nakago)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 64.5cm Curvature: 1.45cm Motohaba: 3.17cm
Jihada:	<i>Expertly forged ko-itame with masame-hada in shinogi-ji, chikei and light utsuri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Deep gunome-midare with kinsuji and sunagashi</i>
Certificate 1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (<i>designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation</i>)
Certificate 2-3:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (<i>sword & koshirae designated as Especially Precious</i>)
Certificate 4-6:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (<i>a koshirae, tsuba and fk designated as Authentic</i>)
Fujishiro:	Jo-saku (<i>ranked as a superior swordsmith</i>)
Sharpness:	Wazamono (<i>rated as a maker of good sharp swords</i>)
Authentication:	Sayagaki by Dr. Sato Kanzan
Included:	Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

SOLD

This katana embodies Edo period sophistication. Born *Kobayashi Hayanoshin*, swordsmith Kuniteru was considered one of Osaka's finest swordsmiths after *Tsuda Sukehiro* and *Inoue Shinkai*. Expertly forged with *chikei*, a deep *nioguchi* in *gunome-midare* and a touch of *utsuri*, this extra sharp katana is housed in a high-class black lacquered koshirae with pure *shakudo* and gold *Yoshioka school Inaba no Suke kiri-mon* fittings. This is formal wear for an elite samurai. Six certificates accompany this highly collectible sword that includes *sayagaki* by *Dr. Sato Kanzan*.



Saki-kasane: 3.9mm

Moto-kasane: 6.7mm

Omosa: 620g

Kissaki: 3.92cm

Saki-haba: 2.21cm

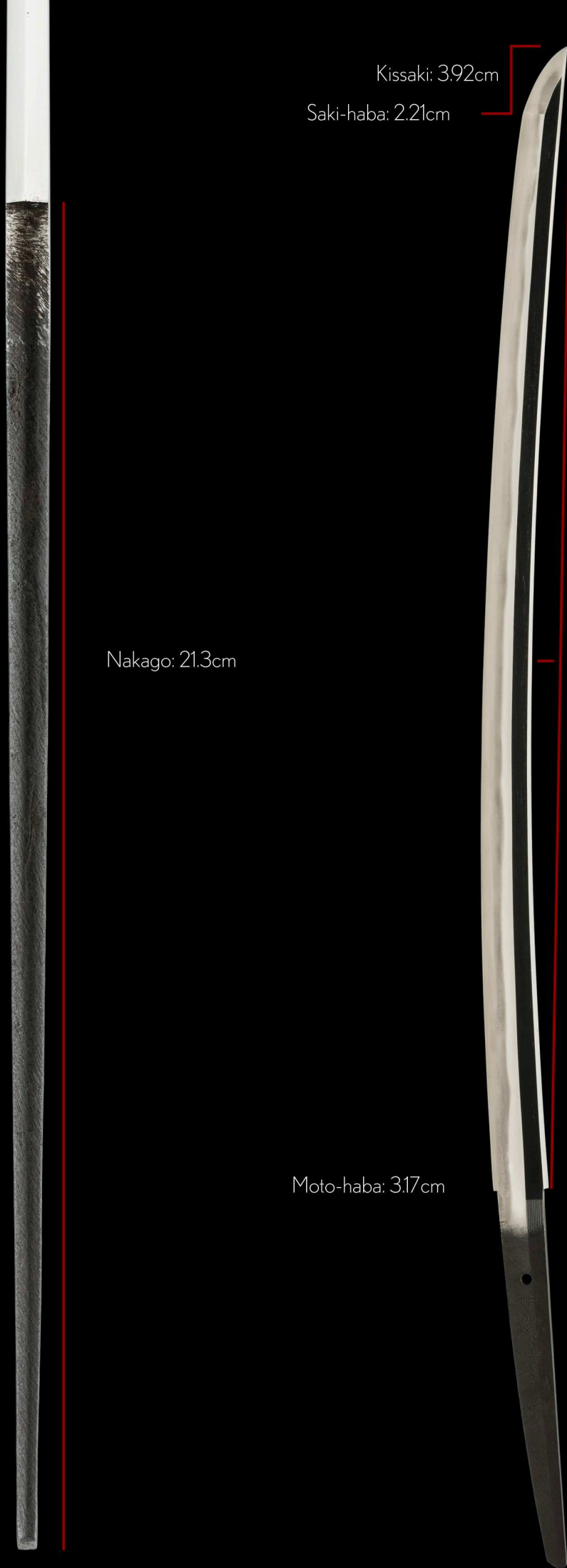
Moto-haba: 3.17cm

Nakago: 21.3cm

Nagasa: 64.5cm

Sori: 1.45cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Born *Kobayashi Hayanoshin*, swordsmith *Kuniteru* studied under first-generation *shodai Kunisuke* of the *Kunisuke School*.

Not only did he become one of his star students, but also his adopted son-in-law by marrying his sensei's daughter.

Kuniteru was granted the title of *Ise Daijo* in 1671, and upgraded it to *Ise no Kami* (Lord of Ise province) in spring 1672.

Once becoming *Ise no Kami* until the Tenna era (1684), Kuniteru was considered the finest swordsmith after *Tsuda Sukehiro* and *Inoue Shinkai* in Osaka.





Location: *Settsu* (resident of Osaka)
Title: *Ise no Kami* (Lord of Ise province)
Swordsmith: *Kuniteru* (first generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)
sujikai-yasurime (diagonal file marks)
ha-agari kuriji (rounded end with upward slant)

伊 (I)

勢 (se, no)

守 (Kami)

國 (Kuni)

輝 (teru)



A crisp, single hole in nakago (*mekugi-ana*)
- perfectly preserved for over 300 years.

A clean, beautiful patina.

(*ura*, reverse)



Chiseled signatures by the very top swordsmiths have an artistic energy, similar to flow of a master calligrapher.

01201903

No 1011189



鑑定書

一刀 銘 伊勢守国輝

長二尺一寸三分強

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

令和元年五月二十三日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



石川県 教育委員会
第 334 号
昭和26年3月7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

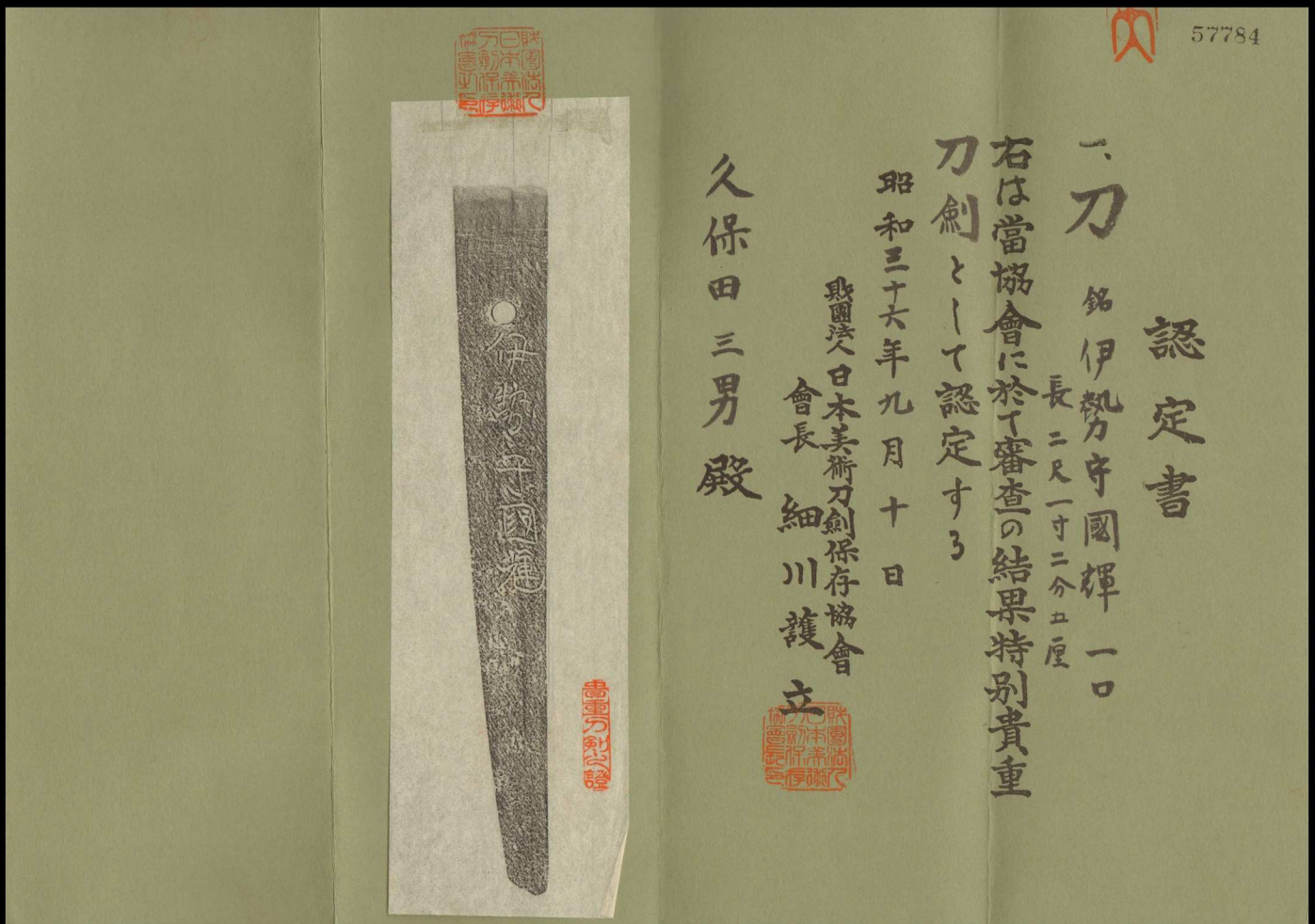
Issued in the 1st year of Reiwa (2019), May 23rd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Ise no Kami Kuniteru

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 1-sun 3-bu kyō (64.5cm)

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 36th year of Shōwa (1961), September 10th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Ise no Kami Kuniteru

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 1-sun 2-bu 5-rin (64.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



特別貴重刀剣認定

Tokubetsu Kichô tōken nintei

Designated as *Tokubetsu Kichô tōken*

伊勢守國輝

Ise no Kami Kunitaru

刃貳尺壹寸二分五厘有之

Ha nishaku issun nibu gorin kore ari

Blade length: 64.5 cm

昭和丙午歲仲秋日

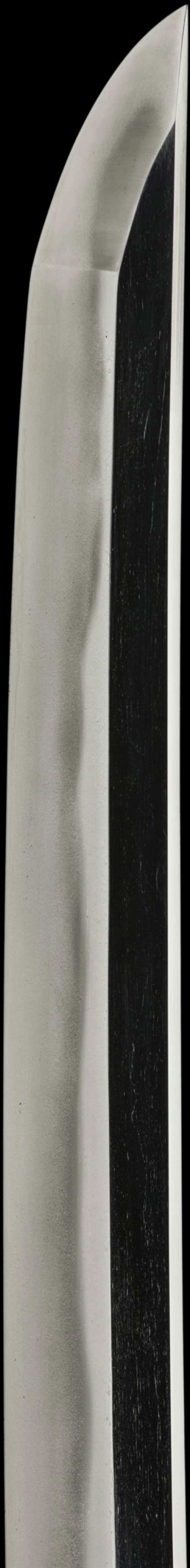
Shōwa hinoe uma doshi chūshū bi

Middle of autumn in hinoe uma year of Shōwa (1966)

寒山誌「花押」

Kanzan shirusu + kaō


Written by Kanzan + monogram





A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a sword's tip (kissaki) and its guard (boshi). The blade is dark and polished, with a bright highlight reflecting light from the tip. The guard is a ko-maru boshi, which is a large, curved, and highly decorative guard. The background is black, making the metallic surfaces stand out.

A lavish *ko-maru* boshi fills the *kissaki* with confidence.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade against a black background. The blade is curved and shows a bright, glowing hamon pattern. Two red lines point to specific features: one points to a dark, textured area near the tip, and the other points to a lighter, smoother area further down the blade.

strong *masame-hada* in the *shinogi-ji*

light *utsuri* (shadow hamon)
gently appears



A soft blue tint shines off the cosmic band of nie crystals. The steel is an expertly forged dense *ko-itame hada*.

Ashi (legs) extend from the *gunome midare hamon*.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing a hamon pattern. The blade is dark and curved, with a bright, glowing line of light along its edge, which is the hamon. The background is black, making the blade stand out. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and curvature of the blade.

A deep and consistent *nioguchi* (crystals that make up the hamon) - this hamon is reminiscent of the Shinto period works of the great *Kotetsu* and *Inoue Shinkai*.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



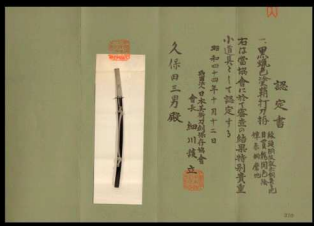
gold *ni-ju habaki* with
finely crafted file marks



*Kuro-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(茶呂色塗鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy black*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)



*NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho
Certificate of Authenticity*



*NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity*



Tied to the sageo, there is a hand-written note on traditional washi paper that reads:

伊勢守国輝拵・
縁頭赤銅桐紋目貫金龍柄

*Ise no Kami Kuniteru Koshirae - Fuchigashira
shakudô kirimon menuki kinryû gara*

Koshirae for Ise no Kami Kuniteru
Fuchigashira of shakudô with paulownia crest,
menuki of golden dragon motif

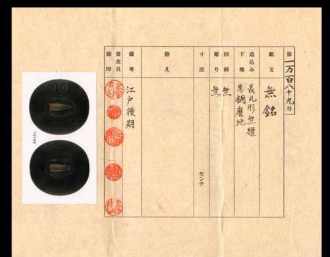
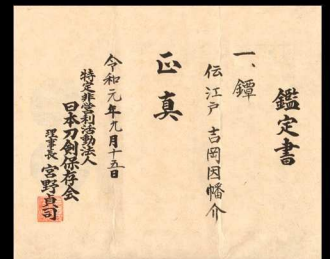
伊勢守国輝拵
縁頭赤銅桐紋目貫金龍柄



This is a pure *shakudo* tsuba that has been attributed to *Yoshioka Inaba no Suke* of the Yoshioka school. This first generation of artists worked in the early 1600's. The Inaba no Suke Yoshioka line of artists lasted until the late 1800's.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the *late-Edo period* circa 1780~1867 has been attained.

Note that the *fuchi-kashira* of this koshirae is also attributed to *Yoshioka Inaba no Suke* - a matching set of fittings kept together faithfully since the late Edo period.





Daimyô and *samurai* were required to own a koshirae with a glossy black lacquered *saya* (scabbard), discreet black plain *shakudô tsuba*, and white *same* (ray skin) *tsuka* (hilt) on occasions when visiting the shogunate castle. Exactly the type of koshirae that this Kuniteru katana represents.

If the samurai arrived with a *sukashi* (openwork) tsuba, it is said that the *shôgun* would not be impressed...

This koshirae is the equivalent of modern-day formal attire. A clean black suit, white shirt, simple tie, etc. The Japanese have, and forever will be, particular about showing respect and proper manners.



Samurai class.



Kiri-mon, the paulownia flower has been seen on samurai art for centuries. There is a sense of pride and responsibility captured within this Edo period *fuchi-kashira*.





Kashira (pommel)
attributed to
Inaba no Suke Yoshioka (1700s)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



Scales and braids
merge as one.