



ITEM# UJKA327

## A JUMYO KATANA

SIGNED, MIDDLE EDO PERIOD (CIRCA KYOHO ERA 1716~1736)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Hitachi no Kami Fujiwara Jumyo (ubu-nakago trimmed slightly at nakago-jiri)</i>			
<b>Location:</b>	<i>Shimizu in Mino province</i>			
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 74.6cm	<b>Curvature:</b> 1.5cm	<b>Moto-haba:</b> 3.17cm	<b>Weight:</b> 765g
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Itame hada in ko-nie deki</i>			
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome-midare with rhythmic togari, ashi, kinsuji and sunagashi</i>			
<b>Boshi:</b>	<i>Hakikake (brushed) with ko-maru (turnback)</i>			
<b>Certificate #1:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</b> (designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation)			
<b>Certificate #2-3:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Kanteisho</b> (Edo period tsuba and koshirae designated as authentic)			
<b>Authentication:</b>	<i>Sayagaki by Honma Junji (a personal gift from Kunzan)</i>			
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description			

**SOLD**

The Jumyô school, originating from Yamato (Nara), moved to Mino province during the Kamakura period. The school continued until the end of the Edo period, prospering under the patronage of *Owari Tokugawa clans*. Jumyô (also read Toshinaga) translates to “happy [long] life” and were celebrated gifts of good fortune to *daimyo* (great) families. This long, impressive katana was the personal gift of *Honma Junji* (Kunzan) to his brother-in-law *Mori Kazuo*. The *hamon* is a bright rhythmic *gunome-midare* in rich *ko-nie deki* with plenty of *hataraki*. Its Edo period koshirae has a unique leather-like texture on the *saya* with *shisa* lions standing guard.

Saki-kasane: 5.4mm <sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 765g

Kissaki: 3.16cm  
Saki-haba: 2.12cm

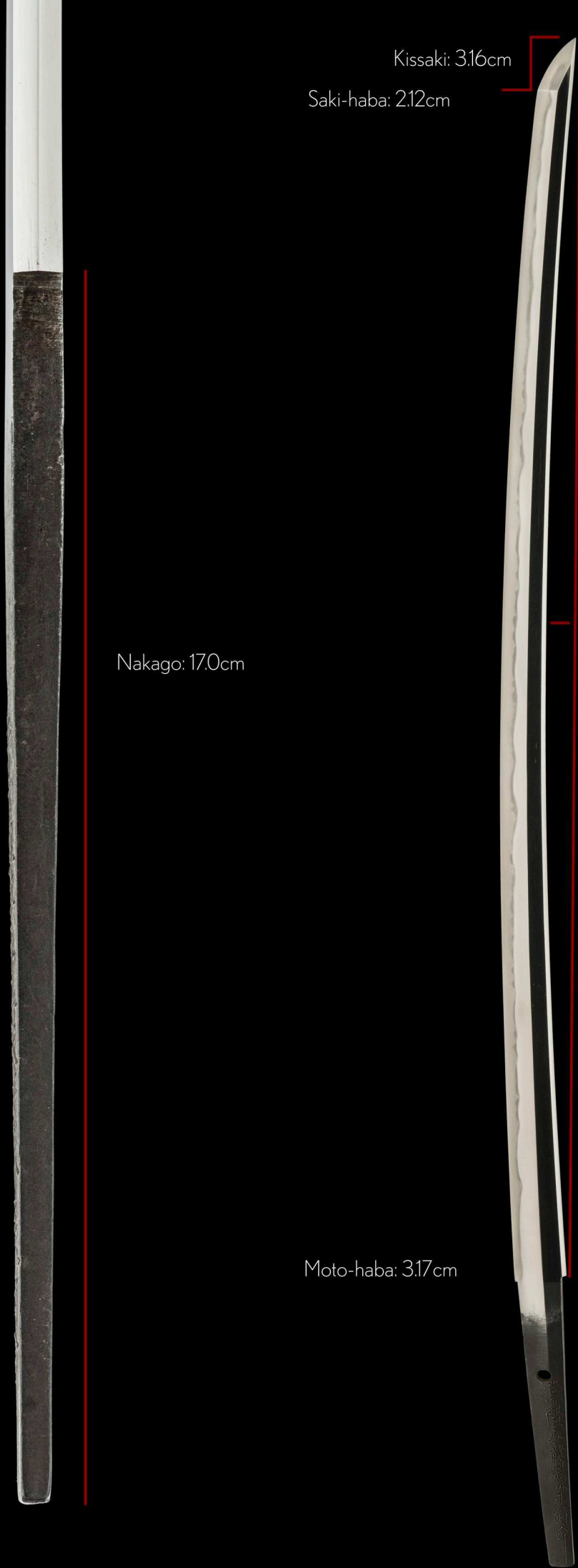
Nakago: 17.0cm

Moto-haba: 3.17cm

Nagasa: 74.6cm

Sori: 1.5cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





The bottom two characters of this sword are signed 寿 that translates to *kotobuki* meaning "congratulations" and 命 (inochi) "life".

When paired together, the characters are read *Jumyô* [or *Toshinaga*] and it's meaning becomes "*happy [long] life.*"

The Jumyo school prospered during Edo period under the patronage of the ruling *Owari Tokugawa clans*.

Jumyo crafted blades were thought to bring good fortune and longevity and were celebrated gifts to *daimyo* (great) families during the Edo period.



Location: *Mino province* (resident of Gifu)  
Title: *Hitachi no Kami* (Lord of Hitachi province)  
Clan: *Fujiwara*  
Swordsmith: *Jumyô*

*ubu-nakago* (original tang that has been trimmed about 2cm at the bottom)  
*kiri-yasurime* (horizontal file marks)

常 Hi

陸 tachi (no)

守 Kami

藤 Fuji

原 wara

寿 Ju

命 myô



As this katana is extra long, the *nakago* was trimmed slightly (~2cm) in order that it could fit into a desired *tsuka* (hilt) at some point in the sword's life time.

Respectfully, the full *mei* (signature) was left perfectly preserved in the process.

特 保  
14200211

№ 147762



鑑定書

長二尺四寸六分弱

一刀銘常陸守藤原寿命

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

平成十五年一月十六日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



## 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 15th year of Heisei (2003), January 16th

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)

*Hitachi no Kami Fujiwara Jumyô*

*Nagasa* (length)

2-shaku 4-sun 6-bu jaku (74.6cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

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'.



A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing the hamon (edge) and the jihada (grain pattern). The blade is curved and has a dark, polished surface. The hamon is a light-colored, wavy line that runs along the edge. The jihada is a tight, tree-grain pattern with rounded kinsuji (dark lines of nie-crystals) within the hamon. The background is black.

*sunagashi*  
(brushed streams of sand)

*kinsuji* formations

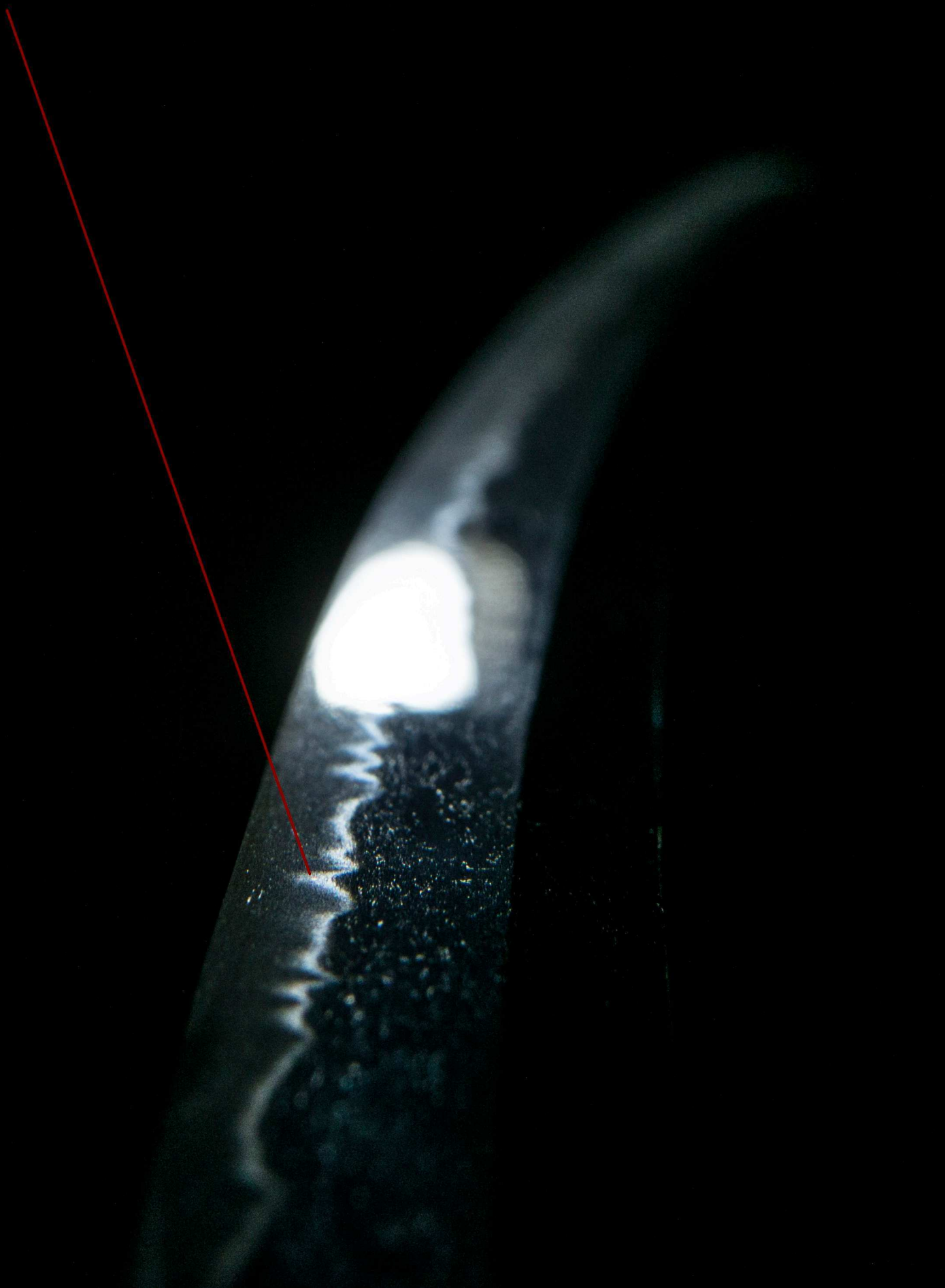
The *jihada* (grain pattern) is a tight *itamehada* resembling a tree-grain pattern with rounded *kinsuji* (dark lines of nie-crystals) within the hamon.



A bright *gunome-midare hamon* in *ko-nie deki* (small visible crystals) with sections that point called *togari* illuminate the katana.

*togari*

Mino tradition crafted swords to have *hamon* (temper line) patterns that follow a certain rhythm - such as peaking every third pass. This sword is made with classic Mino qualities.





This katana was appraised by *Dr. Honma Junji*, (1904-1991) also known as *Kunzan*, the former director of the NBTHK.

It is a highly trusted form of authentication known as *sayagaki* (writing in ink on the shirasaya).

This katana was gifted from Dr. Honma to his brother-in-law (or close friend), *Mori Kazuo*. Possibly a wedding present given the positive nature of swords signed Jumyô.

家久餘慶壽命  
*Iehisa Yokei Jumyô*

Lit. "Fortunate Family Heredity Jumyô"

為森一夫兄

*Mori Kazuo-kei no tame*

For my brother-in-law Mori Kazuo

薰山本間順題

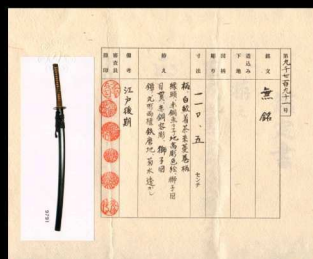
*Kunzan Honma Jun dai-su*

Named by Kunzan Honma Jun[ji]

*Kawa-omote-fû kuro-kawari-nuri saya uchigatana-koshirae*  
革表風黒変り塗鞘打刀拵え

*Uchigatana-koshirae  
lacquered in black with unique  
leather-like textured saya*

Crafted during the  
Late Edo period  
(1780~1867)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity



kikusui mon

This is an antique cast iron tsuba with a *sukashi* (openwork) design of a *kiku* (chrysanthemum) and *sui* (water).

Together this *kamon* (family crest) is known as *kikusui*. The kikusui mon was used by *Masashige Kusunoki*, the samurai lord who contributed to the overthrow of the Kamakura shogunate and stayed loyal to *Emperor Godaigo* till his death.

It is said that Emperor Godaigo gave Kusunoki the kiku-crest for his loyalty and honour, however, Kusunoki thought he was unworthy and added floating water below it to show his modesty.

An ukiyo-e print from *Utagawa Yoshikazu* in 1856, entitled *Jingi hachigyo no uchi, Kusunoki Masashige* illustrates large kikusui crests on Kusunoki's clothing.





(reverse)

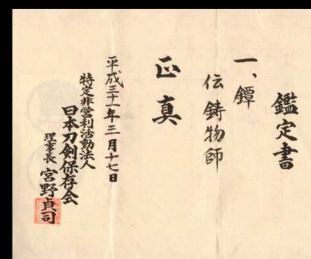


*Kusunoki Masashige* (1294 - 1336) was a 14th-century samurai who fought for Emperor Go-Daigo in the Genkō War, the attempt to wrest rulership of Japan away from the Kamakura shogunate and is remembered as the embodiment of samurai loyalty.

He received the highest decoration from the Meiji government of Japan in 1880.

Kusunoki was a scholar and a devout Buddhist. A statue of Kusunoki (left) sits outside the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity dates the tsuba to the *Late Edo period* circa 1780~1867.





*Shisa* (or shishi) lion, resembling a cross between a lion and a dog, shisa serve as protectors from certain kinds of evil.

*Shishi* traditionally stand guard outside the gates of Japanese shinto shrines and buddhist temples. Shishi are depicted in pairs, one with mouth open and one with mouth shut. The shisa with the open mouth is said to scare off demons, and the closed mouth to shelter and keep in the good spirits.

