

ITEM# UJKA332

SOLD

AN ÔMIYA MORIKAGE KATANA

UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHÔ PERIOD (ENBUN ERA: 1352~1356)

Swordsmith:	<i>Bizen no Kuni Ômiya Morikage (o-suriage nakago)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 69.7cm Curvature: 2.1cm Motohaba: 3.16cm
Jihada:	<i>Well forged itame and nagare-hada with ji-nie, chikei and light midare utsuri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Rhythmic koshibiraki with gentle valleys</i>
Certificate 1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (designated as <i>Especially Worthy of Preservation</i>)
Certificate 2:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (set of matching <i>kôgai, kôzuka & menuki</i>)
Certificate 3-5:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a <i>koshirae, tsuba and fk</i> designated as <i>Authentic</i>)
Fujishiro:	<i>Jô-saku</i> (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Sharpness:	<i>Ryô-wazamono</i> (rated as a maker of very sharp swords)
Authentication:	<i>Sayagaki by Hon'ami Nisshu</i> (former Japan Living National Treasure)
Included:	Shirasaya, dragon koshirae, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

SOLD

This graciously curved powerhouse katana by Ômiya Morikage reflects its near 700-year-old *Nambokuchô* time period. Morikage worked during the *Enbun* era (1356~1361) and his swords have reached *Jûyô* status as well as prestigious *Jûyô Bunkazai* and *Jûyô Bijitsuhin*. This is a wide and valiant sword with a full-length *bo-hi* (groove) and an imposing *ô-kissaki*. The *hamon* is a symmetrical *koshibiraki* with *midare-utsuri* to enjoy in the background amongst the dark swirling *chikei*. An outstanding custom *koshirae* was built for the sword that includes a matching set of dragon fittings from the *Kyô-Kinko* school with NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification.

Saki-kasane: 4.5mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 740g

Kissaki: 4.30cm
Saki-haba: 2.36cm

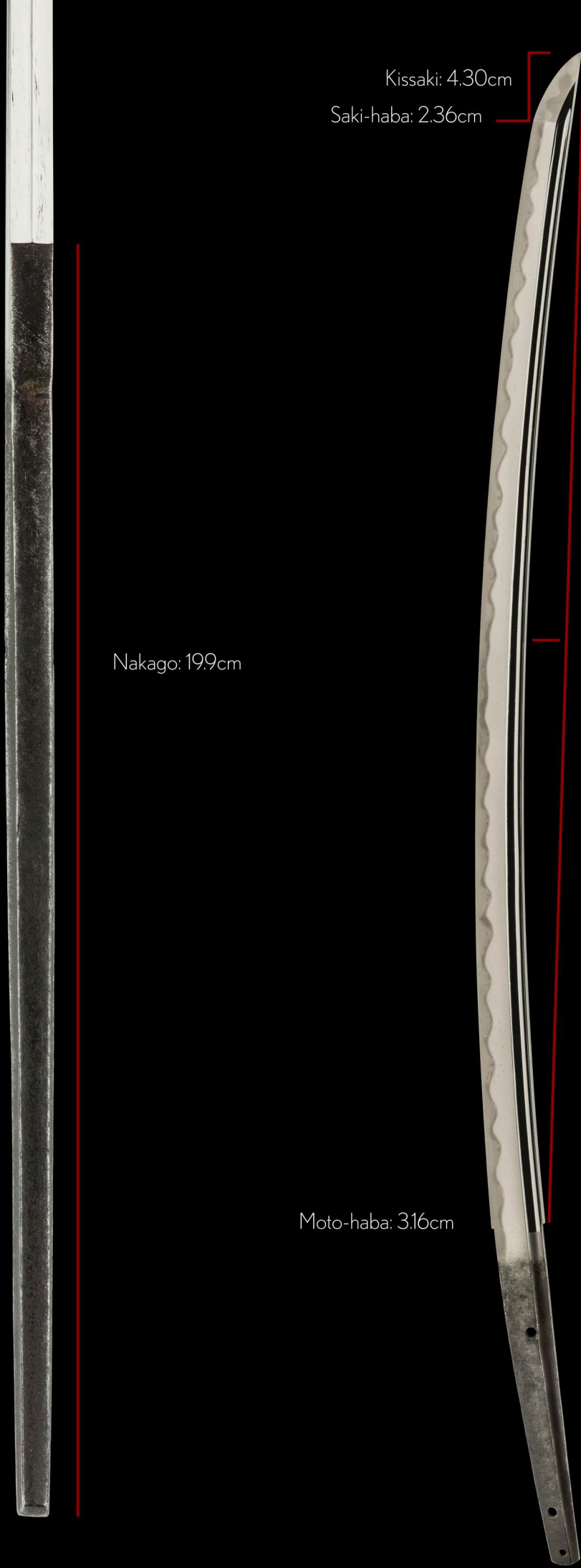
Nakago: 19.9cm

Moto-haba: 3.16cm

Nagasa: 69.7cm

Sori: 2.10cm

Mekugi-ana: 3



Swordsmith Kunimori is regarded as the founder of the *Bizen Ômiya School*. He was active circa 1260 during the mid-Kamakura period. Two theories exist on origins of the name; one suggests that Kunimori came from *Inokuma Ômiya* in *Yamashiro province* - the other states that he travelled to the Ômiya district of Bizen.

The majority of the swords we find today from this school are unsigned and attributed to a specific smith or simply to the *Ômiya School*. *Morikage*, *Morishige* and *Morokage* are some of the more prominent swordsmiths.

The NBTHK has attributed the katana to the Ômiya school. The rather precious *sayagaki* by the late *Hon'ami Nisshu* - Former Japan Living National Treasure - went a step further and attributed the sword to *Ômiya Morikage*.

Morikage worked during the *Enbun era* (1356~1361) in the heart of the warring Nambokuchô period. His swords have reached Jûyô status as well as prestigious *Jûyô Bunkazai* and *Jûyô Bijitsuhin*.

This powerhouse katana by Morikage reflects its near 700-year-old Nambokuchô time period. This is a wide and thick sword with an *ô-kissaki* that would have meant business on the battlefield.

The *hamon* is a rhythmic *koshibiraki* that flows *symmetrically* down the steel. There is also a faint *midare-utsuri* to enjoy in classic Bizen tradition.

An outstanding custom koshirae was built for the sword that includes a valuable matching set of dragon fittings from the *Kyô-Kinko* school with Tokubetsu Hozon certification from the NBTHK.

Morikage is ranked as *jô-saku* (superior smith) and *ryô-wazamono* for the enviably sharp reputation his swords enjoyed.





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

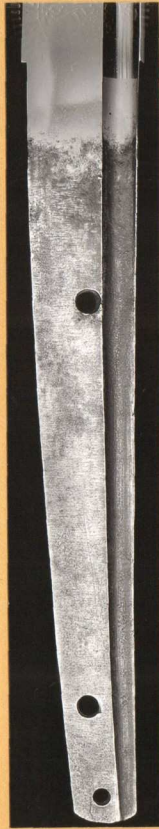
The shortening procedure was carefully performed as the overall condition of the *nakago* is clean and gently filed.

A *bô-hi* (groove) that runs right through the *nakago* is called *kaki-ôtoishi*.

27201511



No 1004736



鑑定書

一刀 無銘（大宮）

長二尺三寸

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀劍と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十八年二月四日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



東京 教育委員会
第 219929号
昭和35年 8月14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), February 4th

One, Katana

Mumei (unsigned)
Ômiya School

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun (69.7cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



備前國大宮盛景

Bizen no Kuni Ômiya Morikage

[Swordsmith] Ômiya Morikage from Bizen province

大磨上無銘也時代延文頃

Ô-suriage mumei nari jidai Enbun goro

[The blade is] ô-suriage mumei (unsigned), crafted during the Enbun period (1356~1361)

長サ貳尺參寸壹分有之

Nagasa 2 shaku 3 sun 1 bu kore ari

Blade length ~ 70.0 cm

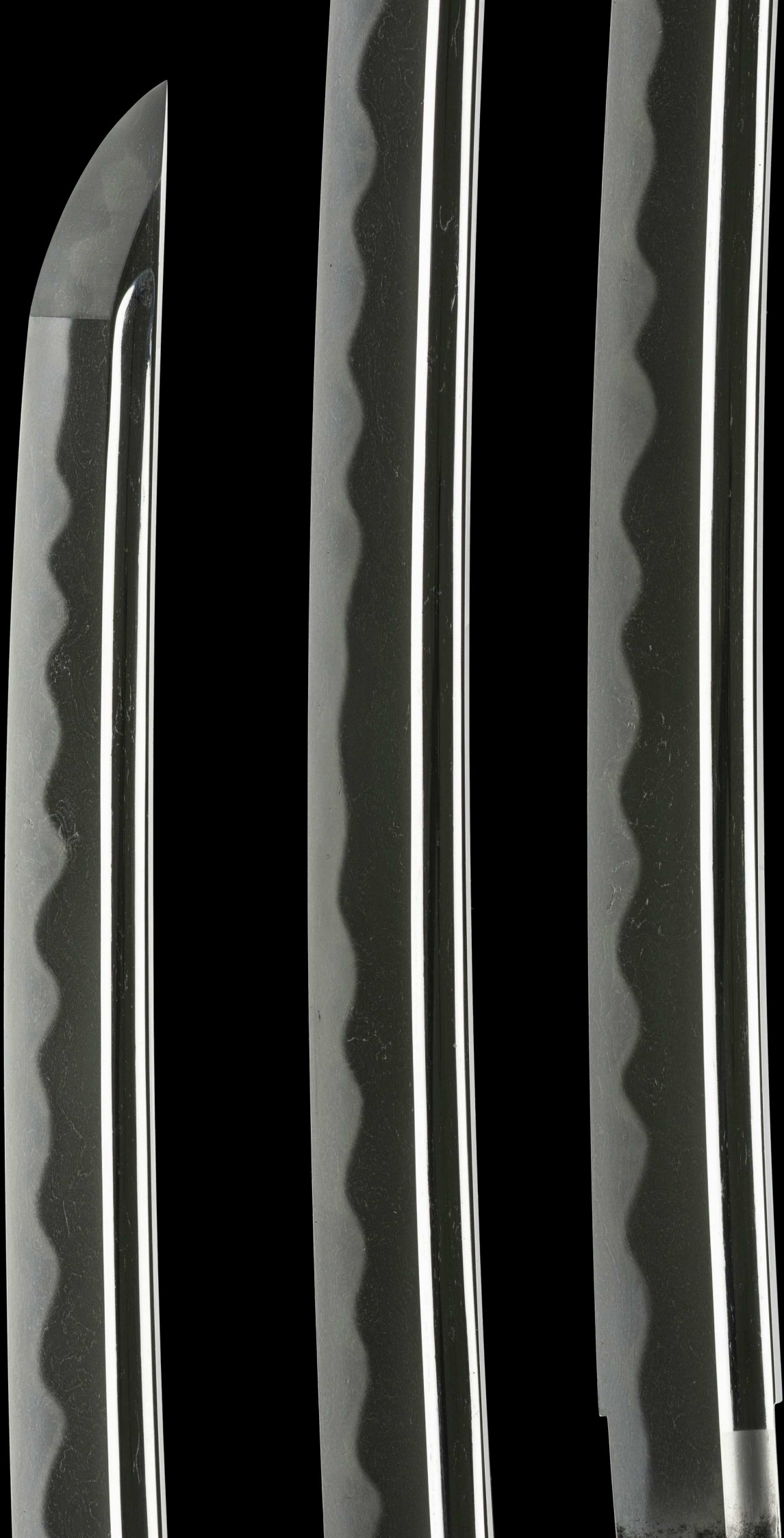
昭和五拾六歳酉長月誌之本阿弥日洲

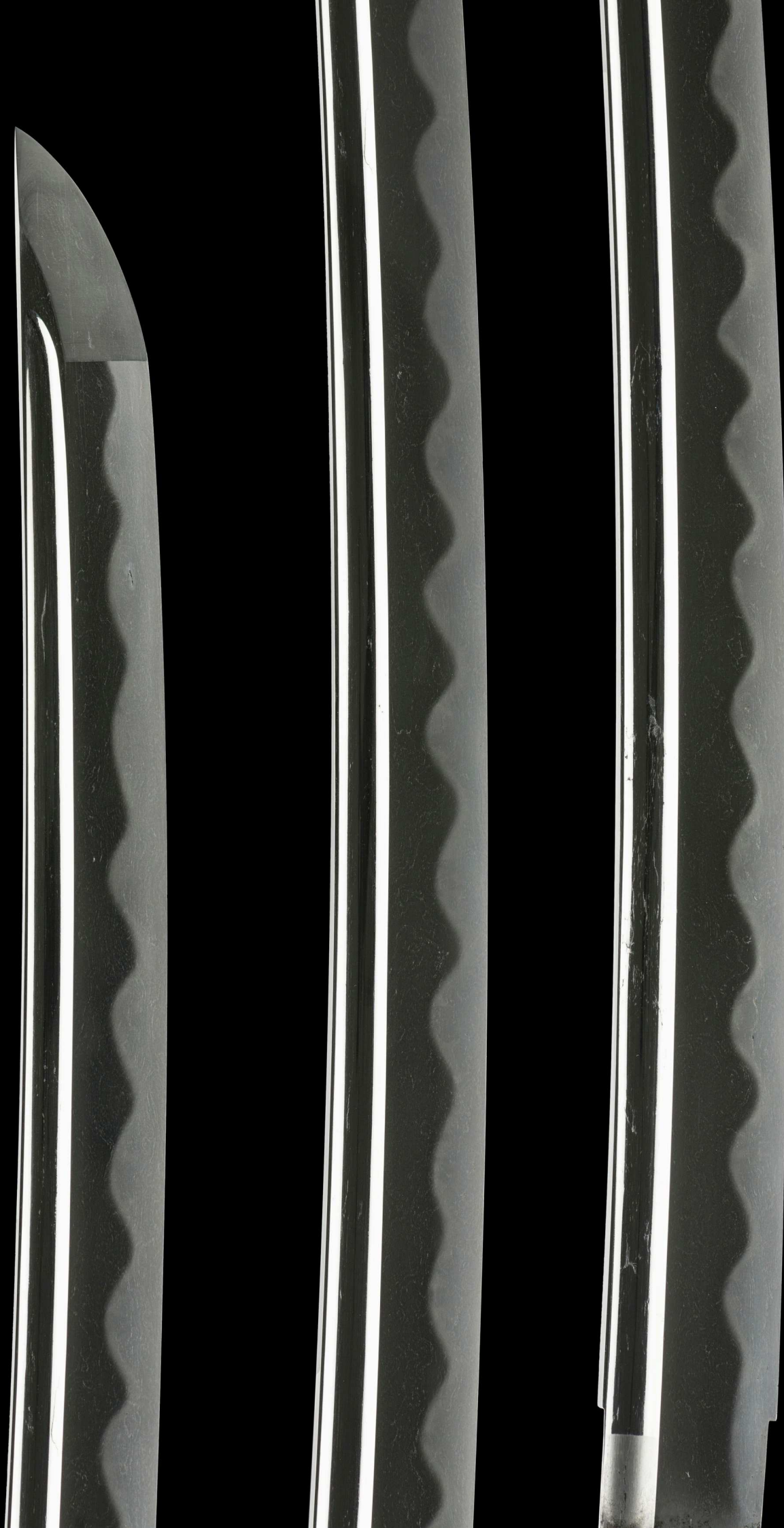
Shôwa gojûroku-toshi tori Nagatsuki kore o shirusu

Honami Nisshû + kaô

Written by *Honami Nisshû* [former Living National Treasure] in September during the 56th year of Shôwa era (1981)

Year of the Rooster plus his personal monogram





An imposing *ô-kissaki* (large tip) measuring 4.3cm dominates the profile of the blade. Swords produced during particularly turbulent periods of time in japan's history tended to feature large kissaki.

This katana has certainly seen its fair share of battles over the centuries.




Nagare-hada mixed with a *itame* and *mokume-hada* that stands out to the eye.

Dark swirls of *chikei* can be admired in the *jihada*. This blade takes you back.



chikei

A close-up photograph of two Japanese sword blades, likely from the Bizen tradition. The blades are curved and show a dark, wavy pattern known as hamon. Above the hamon, there is a misty, smoky reflection called midare-utsuri. A red line points from the text 'midare-utsuri' to this specific feature on the lower blade. The background is dark, making the metallic surfaces of the blades stand out.

midare-utsuri

Literally meaning "reflection", *utsuri* is a beautiful, rather magical, misty reflection appearing in the *ji* (body of sword) above the *hamon*).

It is much loved and appreciated feature of swords, particular those made in the Bizen tradition in the Koto period (pre 1600).

The type of *utsuri* is called *midare-utsuri* - a smokey pattern that billows towards the *shinogi* (ridge line).

Koshibiraki hamon

Koshi means 'waist'. This temper line widens like a valley towards the edge of the blade with gentle peaks.

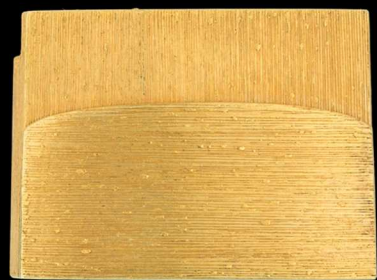
Note how the blade 'shines' with a bluish tinge under the light, this is *ji-nie*.





Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

strips of bamboo (elegant touch)

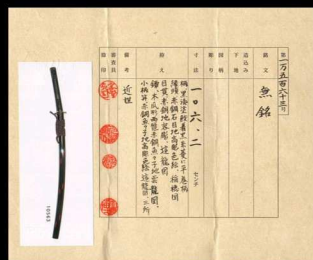


beautiful gold *niju-habaki*

*Kuro-ro ni
aka bokashi-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒呂に朱ぼかし塗鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy black
with blurred red accents*

Crafted during the
Modern period



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity

The dragon symbolizes supernatural power, wisdom, strength, and hidden knowledge. It is the embodiment of *chaos* and *untamed nature*.

Dragons live in the shadows, within the depths of our unconscious mind. They represent what we most *fear*. In samurai artwork, dragons were depicted in the unknown sea, mountain tops, and on this *tsuba* within dark clouds.

The samurai prepares himself to confront the dragon, in whatever form, to attain the symbolic treasure it is guarding - be it gold or knowledge.

Slaying the dragon is the resolution between light and darkness, overcoming chaos and establishing order. To grow one's character, we must *leap into battle* against the hidden dragons that we fear, channeling the *warrior spirit* in all of us.



This stunning custom *koshirae* was produced using an extremely valuable 3-piece matching set of *menuki*, *kôgai* and *kozuka* in a crawling dragon theme. This set has been attributed to the *Kyô-Kinkô school* which is a broad term for metal smiths that worked in *Kyôto* during the Edo period (post-1600).

The three pieces are intricately carved out of *shakudô* and have deservedly attained NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification (see next page).



kôgai (hair pick)



menuki (decorative grips)



kozuka (utility knife)



19200704



No 452151

鑑定書

一、這龍圖三所物

無銘 京金工
小柄筭 赤銅魚子地(小柄)高彫(持握紋)
目貫 赤銅地 容彫

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成十九年 四月十九日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 19th year of Heisei (2007), April 19th

One, the matching set of menuki, kozuka and kôgai

Depicting crawling dragons

*Mumei (unsigned)
Kyô-Kinkô*

*Kozuka and kôgai of shakudô with nanako ground,
relief on kozuka, set-in motif on kôgai,
menuki of shakudô, three dimensional with motif forming the outline*

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



This special type of wrap on the *tsuka* (hilt) is called *katate-maki* whereby it can be gripped comfortably with one hand.



Rice has been an agricultural fixture in Japan for more than 2,000 years.

It is a symbol of the country's spiritual connection with nature, the gods and gifts within the community.

Rice has always been valued highly in Japan. In fact, during the Edo period, salaries and daily wages were calculated in rice.

Rice is sometimes called *chikara* (a homonym for "strength"), meaning "divine grain." This *fuchi-kashira* is certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho papers.



kashira depicting an ear of rice

The image features a black background with several parallel, diagonal, semi-transparent grey lines running from the bottom-left towards the top-right. Interspersed along these lines are small, elongated, red, teardrop-shaped elements. The corners of the image are filled with solid red color, creating a high-contrast, geometric aesthetic.

Live intensively.