



ITEM# UJKA333

A MOTOSHIGE KATANA

UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (CIRCA KENMU~JOJI ERA: 1334~1368)

Swordsmith:	<i>Motoshige</i> (attribution, <i>ô-suriage nakago</i>)
Measurements:	Length: 67.8cm Curvature: 1.0cm Motohaba: 2.9cm
Jihada:	<i>Finely forged standing-out itame with a faint utsuri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Ko-nie-laden suguha-chō mixed with ko-gunome, ashi, nie-deki and kinsuji</i>
Certificate:	30th NBTHK Jūyō Tōken (a sword designated as <i>Profound and Important</i>)
Certificate 2-4:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (<i>koshirae, tsuba & fuchi-kashira designated as authentic</i>)
Fujishiro:	Jojo-saku (ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)
Sharpness:	Saijo-ô-wazamono (rated as a maker of supremely sharp swords)
Authentication:	Origami by Hon'ami Kôchû from 1709 and Sayagaki by Hon'ami Nisshu
Included:	Shirasaya, koshirae, sword bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

Swordsmith *Motoshige* is the founder of the *Motoshige school* in Bizen province. He is said to be the son of *Morizane* of the *Hatakeda school*. *Motoshige* was a prolific swordsmith with a talent for crafting extremely sharp swords over a long career that began at the end of the *Kamakura period* and stretched into the warring *Nambokucho era*, when this katana was produced.

A substantial 10cm *ô-kissaki* gives this blade an aura of invincibility. A well-forged *itame hada* mixed with *mokume* stands out to the eye with subtle *utsuri* in the background. The bright *suguha-cho hamon* with *ashi* and long black streaks of *kinsuji* brings the katana to full life. This sword comes with rare origami from *Hon'ami Kôchû* from 1709 valuing the sword to 7 gold pieces. Further origami dated to 1893 and *sayagaki* by *Hon'ami Nisshu* add to its authenticity. A well-crafted *koshirae* in a theme of sakura, crickets, chrysanthemums and butterflies complimented a *jabara-maki tsuka* (hilt) provides the sword with added class and prestige.

^
Saki-kasane: 3.3mm

Moto-kasane: 5.1mm

Kissaki: 10.57cm

Saki-haba: 2.18cm

Nagasa: 67.8cm

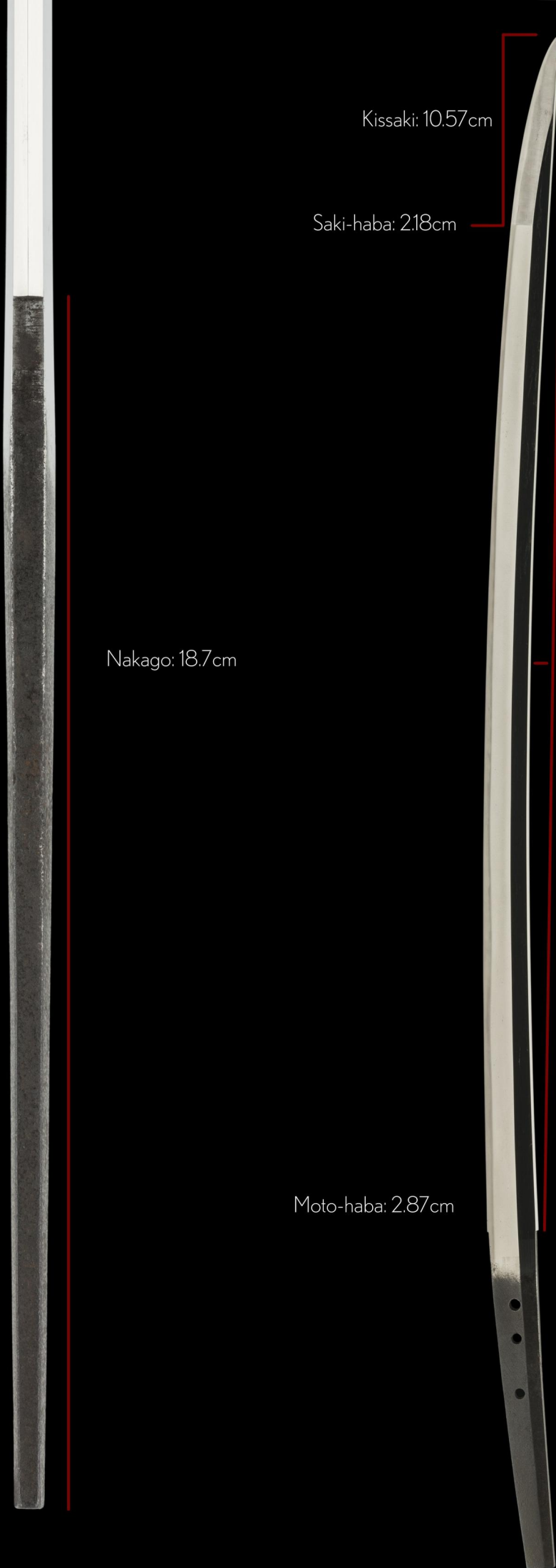
Nakago: 18.7cm

Sori: 1.0cm

Omosa: 645g

Moto-haba: 2.87cm

Mekugi-ana: 3



MOTOSHIGE (元重)

Kenmu to Joji era (1334~1368)

Bizen province

Signatures:

Bishû Osafune Motoshige

Bishû Osafune-jû Motoshige saku

Bishû Osafune-jû Motoshige

Honorary title *Ôkura no Suke*

Motoshige is the younger brother of *Morishige*, the older brother of *Shigezane* and the grandson of *Moriie*.

He was also one of the "Three Students Great of *Sôshû Sadamune*" - known as the *Sadamune no Santetsu*.





a clean and precise
o-suriage nakago
(*mumei*, unsigned)



重要第七四五三號

指定書

刀 無銘 伝元重

一口

(附) 本阿弥光忠折紙

長さ六七・八寸 反り一・〇寸

形状 鑄造 底棟 重ね薄くなり浅くつく

銀 板目細かに肌立ち 淡く映り立つ

刃文 直刃調に小五の目 足入り 小沸、よくつく

間子 直心に僅かに湾り、小丸僅かに返る

茎 大磨上 鑄目筋造 目釘孔 三

右者當協會に於て審査の結果
重要刀劍に指定する

昭和五十八年十一月二十三日

醫道日本美術刀劍保存協会

会長 富士川金二



Jûyô Certificate No. 7453

Shiteisho (指定書) Certificate of Designation

Katana, mumei: Motoshige (元重)

Tsuki (附): Hon'ami Mitsutada origami (本阿弥光忠折紙)

Measurements

nagasa 67.8 cm, sori 1.0 cm

Description

Keijo: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, thin kasane, shallow sori, ô-kissaki

Kitae: finely standing-out itame with a faint utsuri

Hamon: ko-nie-laden suguha-chô that is mixed with ko-gunome and ashi, the ha features much nie

Bôshi: sugu with a hint of notare and a brief ko-maru-kaeri

Nakago: ô-suriage, kirijiri, sujikai-yasurime, three mekugi-ana, mumei

According to the result of the shinsa committee of our society we judged this work as authentic and rate it as jûyô-tôken.

November 23, 1983

[Foundation] Nihon Bijutsu Tôken Hozon Kyôkai, NBTHK

[President] Fujikawa Kinji (富士川金二)

刀 無銘 無元重 (附) 光忠折紙



元重之折紙

元重之折紙

寶永六年 巳
六月三日
本阿良
代金子七枚
正真
七寸或尺或寸八分半
磨上之巻物也
後方國之重

Motoshige no origami (元重之折紙)

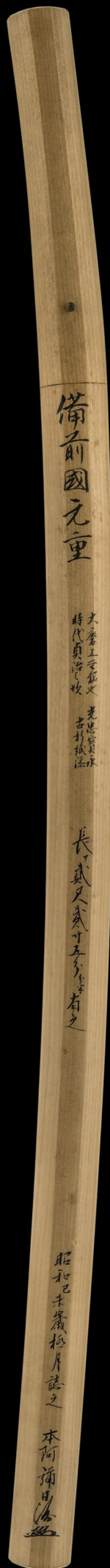
Bizen no Kuni Motoshige

Authentic - Blade length: ~69.2 cm, shortened and unsigned

Value 7 gold pieces

Hôei six (1709), [year of the] snake, sixth month, third day

Hon'ami + kaô [Kôchû, 光忠]



備前國元重
Bizen no Kuni Motoshige
Motoshige from Bizen province

大磨上無銘也
Ô-suriage mumei nari
Ô-suriage, unsigned

時代貞治之頃
Jidai Joiji no koro
Crafted in Joiji period (1362~1368)

光忠寶永古折紙添
Kôchû Hôei furu-origami zoe
With an old origami appraisal written by Hon'ami Kôchû
in the Hôei era

長サ貳尺貳寸五分有之
Nagasa nishaku nisun gôbu kore ari
Blade length ~ 67.8 cm

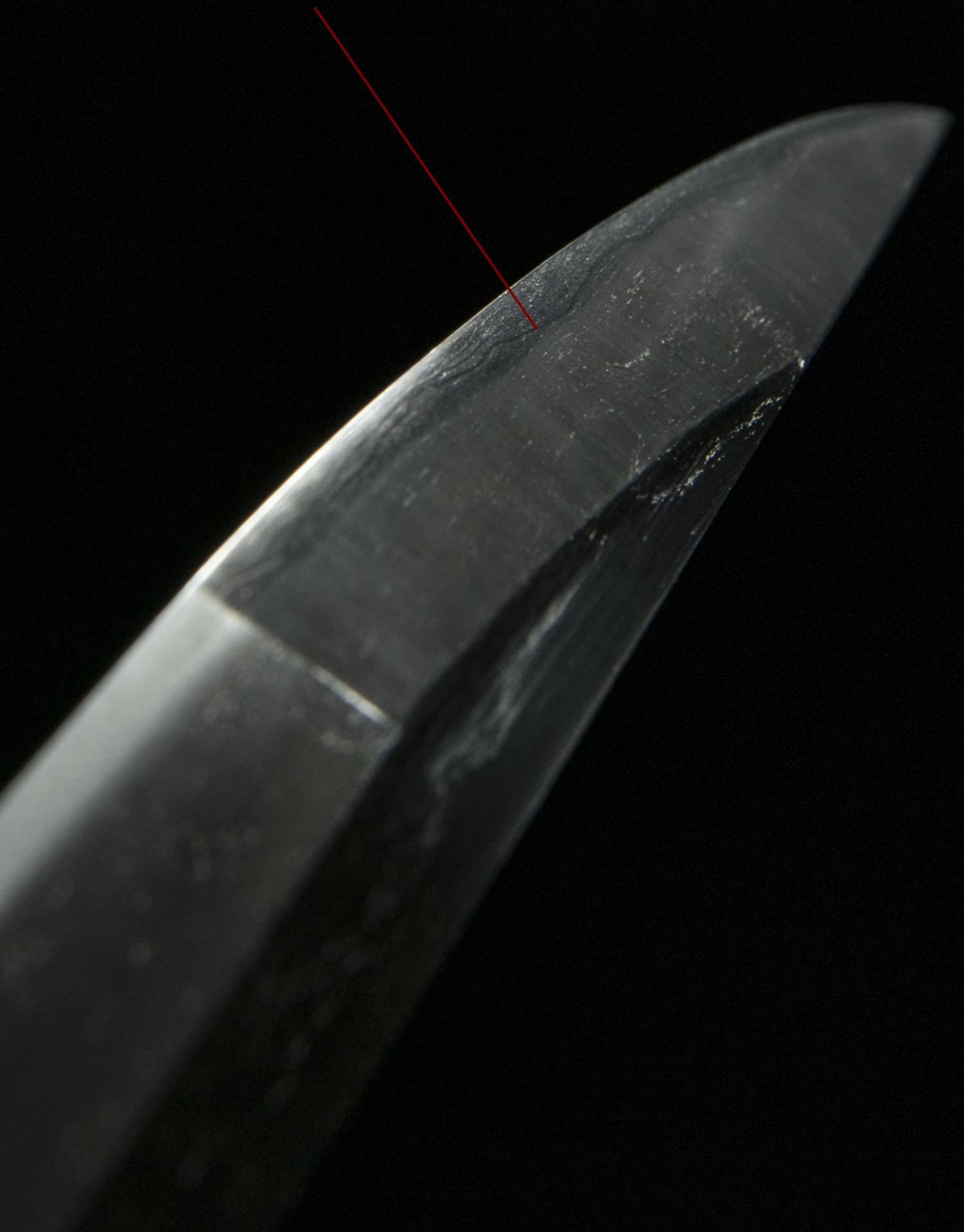
昭和己未歲極月誌之
Shôwa tsuchinoto hitsuji doshi gokuzuki kore o shirusu
Written in December in the year of sheep in Shôwa
period (1979)

本阿弥日洲「花押」
Hon'ami Nisshû + kaô
Written by Hon'ami Nisshû + monogram






A long black line of *kinsuji* (nie) rips through the *boshi* in the *o-kissaki* (over-sized tip).






A light *utsuri* (shadow hamon) appears in the *hiraji* (body of the blade above the hamon).

A close-up, low-angle shot of a sword blade against a black background. The blade is illuminated from the side, creating a bright highlight along its edge and revealing the intricate patterns of the metal. Two red lines originate from the text and point to specific areas on the blade's surface. The overall mood is dramatic and emphasizes the craftsmanship of the sword.

A beautiful mix of *itame* (plank grain) and rounded *mokume-hada* stand out especially under the light.



A bright medium width
suguha-hamon with ashi (legs)
that extend to the cutting edge



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



gold *ni-ju habaki* with
fine file marks

*Kuro-ro-iro-nuri ichibu-kizami
saya uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒呂色塗一分刻鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy black with
saya ribbed every 1-bu (0.3 cm)*

Crafted during the
Showa period
(1926~1989)



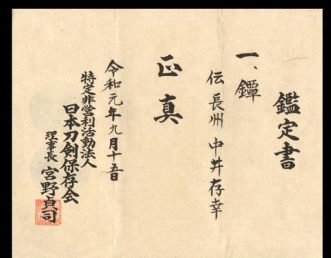
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



This is a polished iron tsuba attributed to *Nakai Ariyuki* from Chôshû province. It was crafted during the late Edo period. One of the *hitsu-ana* (holes) is filled in with gold.

The butterfly (*cho*) holds great spiritual significance in Japan. Given their transformative nature from caterpillars, the Japanese believe butterflies carry the souls of the living and of past ancestors. They are a symbol of joy and longevity.

The kiku (chrysanthemum) is the imperial flower of Japan.





(reverse)



Spring winds may blow the petals away - but the sakura tree still strives... For just three weeks of the year, the sakura blossoms.

The short life and beauty of the cherry blossom is a powerful metaphor for mortality and the absolute loyalty of the samurai.





Fuchi-kashira
attributed to the *Mino* school
during the late Edo period
(1780~1867)



Origami Box

静岡教育委員会
第 29606 番
昭和 9 年 5 月 9 日

指定所
田中
所有

才季回重要刀剣
刀無銘伝
元重 老忠竹紙



法量 長さ六七・八釐 反り一・〇釐 元幅一・九釐 先幅一・二釐 鋒長さ一〇・八釐 茎長さ一八・九釐 茎反り〇・一五釐
形状 鑄造、庵棟、重ね薄く反り浅くつき、大鋒。 鍔 板目、細かに肌立ち、淡く映り立つ。 刃文 直刃調に小互の目、足入り、小沸よくつき、刃中沸こる。 帽子 直ぐに僅かに湾れて、小丸僅かに返る。 茎 大磨上、先切り、鍔目筋違、目釘孔三、無銘。

説明 元重は長船銘をきるが、兼光・長義とは別系の刀工である。現存する最古の年紀作は正和五年であり、以後南北朝期にかけて活躍している。元重の作風は古伝書に兼光や兼光あるいは青江などによく似ると記されている如く、この作も直刃調に逆こころの乱れが交って匂口しまり、青江風があって元重の見どころをよく示している。宝永六年本阿弥光忠代金子七枚の影裏が同といふ。

昭和五年十月二十日指定 第三十回 重要 刀 剣
神奈川県 田中義一

刀 無銘 伝元重
(一) 本阿弥光忠所藏
法量 長さ六七・八釐 反り一・〇釐 元幅一・九釐 先幅一・二釐 鋒長さ一〇・八釐 茎長さ一八・九釐 茎反り〇・一五釐
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30th NBTHK Juyo Token Certificate
Traditionally rolled in protective tube.

All information will be precisely translated for the new caretaker. A printed and bound description of the sword from this catalogue will also be included along with a sword stand and a Unique Japan maintenance kit.



Koshirae bag