



ITEM# UJKA338

SOLD

## A TSUNATOSHI KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, LATE EDO PERIOD (MAN'EN ERA: FEBRUARY 1861)

**Swordsmith:** *Tôto ni oite Chôjusai Tsunatoshi (first generation, ubu nakago)*  
**Measurements:** **Length:** 69.2cm    **Curvature:** 1.7cm    **Motohaba:** 3.26cm  
**Jihada:** *Densely forged ko-itame with areas of o-hada, ji-nie, chikei, light utsuri*  
**Hamon:** *A ko-midare hamon based on suguha with ko-ashi and yô*  
**Certificate 1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation)  
**Certificate 2:** **NBTHK Hozon** (a koshirae designated as Worthy of Preservation)  
**Certificate 3-5:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a koshirae, tsuba & fk designated as Authentic)  
**Fujishiro rank:** **Jô-saku** (a superior smith)  
**Authentication:** **Sayagaki by Tazan-sensei** (Tanobe Michihiro)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, stand, bag, kit, DVD, printed description

**SOLD**

*Tsunatoshi* was the highly accomplished student of the *shinshinto* period maestro *Suishinshi Masahide*. This meaty katana features a bright *suguha* hamon (straight with *ko-ashi*) with a Rai-style *hada* (surface skin) suggesting a recreation of the famed Yamashiro school from the Kamakura and Nambokucho periods. Dated in February 1861, this katana marks one of *Tsunatoshi*'s final swords as he died on December 5th, 1863 at the age of 66.

Accompanying the sword is a handsome set of matching koshirae from the late Edo period, certified with NBTHK Hozon papers. This is a classic last samurai katana collectible.



Saki-kasane: 5.3mm

Moto-kasane: 7.9mm

Omosa: 950g

Kissaki: 4.95cm  
Saki-haba: 2.32cm

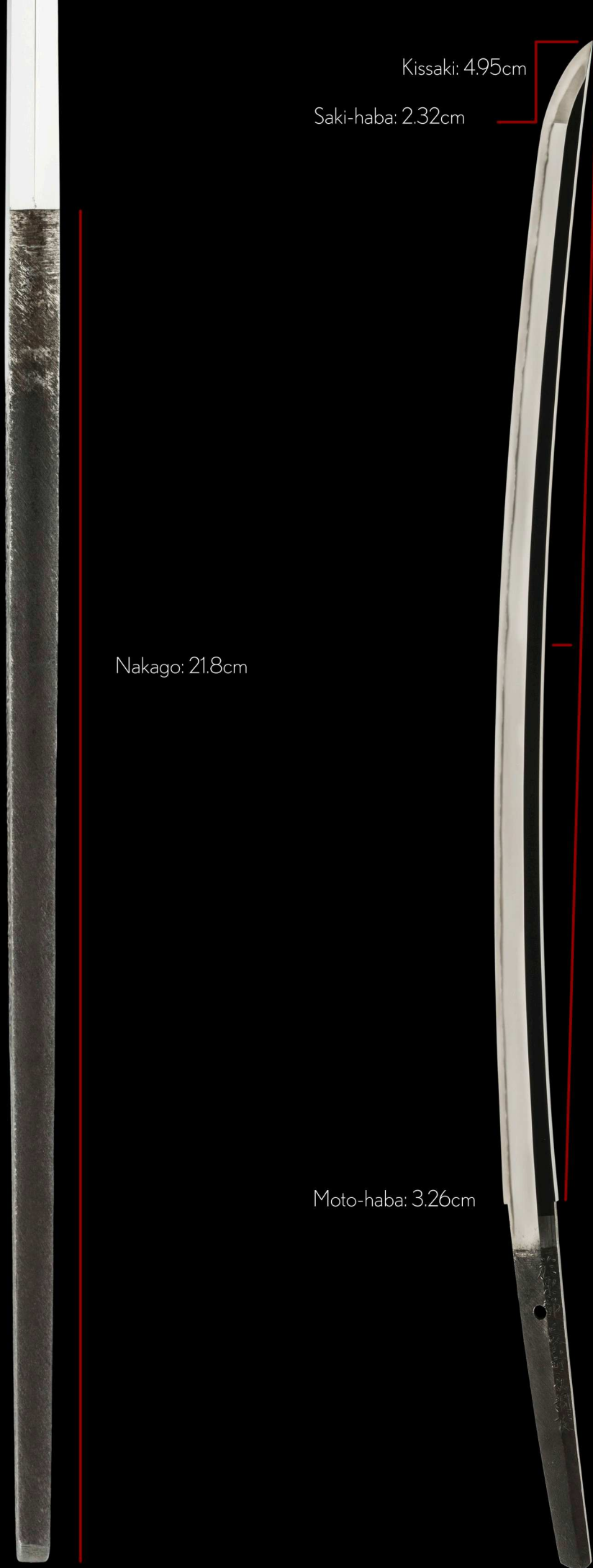
Nakago: 21.8cm

Moto-haba: 3.26cm

Nagasa: 69.2cm

Sori: 1.7cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Born *Katô Hachirô*, swordsmith Tsunatoshi was a student of grandmaster *Suishinshi Masahide* just like his father *Katô Kunihide*.

Tsunatoshi moved to Edo during the *Bunsei era* (1818~1830) where he worked in the residence of the *Uesugi family*, the *daimyô* of *Yonezawa*.

This wide and formidable katana weighs nearly one kilogram - densely forged with a thick *kasane* (spine) with areas of o-hada that are reminiscent of the works of the Rai school in Yamashiro province.





Location: *Tôto* (crafted in Edo province)

Title: *Chôjusai* (pen name, pseudonym)

Swordsmith: *Tsunatoshi* (first generation)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)

*kesho-yasurime* (decorative file marks)

於 (ni oite)

東 (Tô)

都 (to)


長 (Chô)

寿 (ju)

斎 (sai)

綱 (Tsun)

俊 (toshi)

A close-up photograph of a metal blade, likely a katana, showing its aged surface with visible file marks and a patina. A circular hole, known as a mekugi-ana, is visible on the blade. The blade is inscribed with Japanese characters in a traditional style. The background is dark, making the metallic surface stand out.

The *nakago* has aged well, crisp file marks, even patina and one clean *mekugi-ana* (hole).

長 (Chô)

寿 (ju)

斎 (sai)

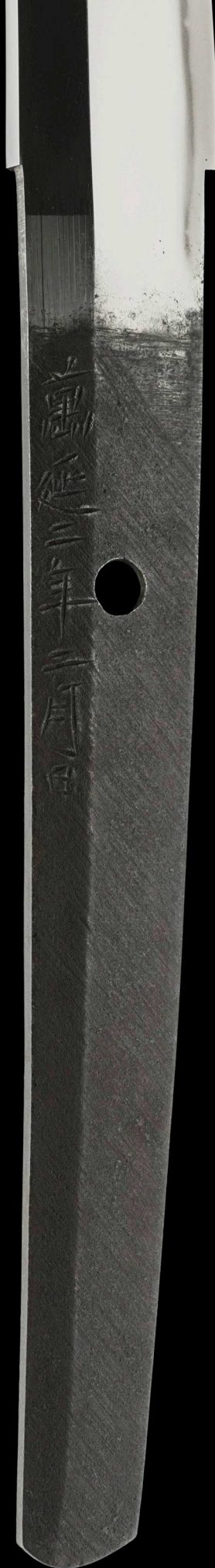
In the first year of *Ansei era* (1854) Tsunatoshi left his *gô* (pen name or pseudonym) of *Chôunsai* to his son *Koretoshi* and changed his to *Chôjusai* which means "old age."

Tsunatoshi died on December 5th 1863 (3rd year of *Bunkyû*) in the *Uesugi Edo residence* at the age of 66.

*Man'en ninen nigatsu bi*

This katana is dated on a day in February in the second year of *Man'en period* (1861).

(Man) 萬  
(en) 延  
(ni) 二  
(nen) 年  
(ni) 二  
(gatsu) 月  
(bi) 日



特 保  
29201711



No 1008119



鑑 定 書  
一 刀  
銘 於東都長壽齋綱俊  
万延二年二月日  
長二尺二寸八分半  
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  
平成三十年三月十五日  
公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



東京 教育委員会  
第 276394 号  
平成 9 年 2 月 18 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 30th year of Heisei (2018), March 15th

One, Katana

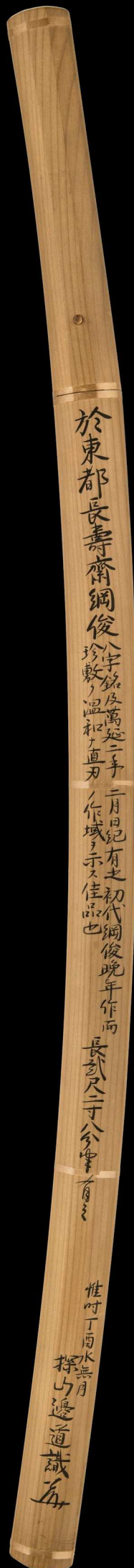
*Mei* (signature)

*Tôto ni oite Chôjusai Tsunatoshi  
Man'en ninen nigatsu bi*

*Nagasa* (length)

2-shaku 2-sun 8-bu han (69.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



於東都長壽齋綱俊  
*Tôto ni oite Chôjusai Tsunatoshi*  
Chôjusai Tsunatoshi from Edo

八字銘及萬延二年二月日紀有之初代綱俊晚年作  
而珍敷ク温和ナ直刃ノ作域ヲ示ス佳品也

*Hachiji-mei oyobi Manen ninen nigatsu hi no ki kore ari*  
*shodai Tsunatoshi bannen saku shikamo mezurashiku onwa*  
*na suguha no sakuiki o shimesu kahin nari.*

This blade bears an eight-character signature and is dated with a day of the second month of Manen two (1861). This masterwork is thus a late work of the first generation Tsunatoshi and shows a gentle suguha, which is rare for this smith.

長貳尺二寸八分余有之  
*Nagasa 2 shaku 2 sun 8 bu yo kore ari*  
Blade length ~ 69.1 cm

惟時丁酉水無月 探山邊道識「花押」  
*Koretoki hinoto-tori minazuki Tanzan Hendô shirusu + kaô*  
Written by Tanzan Hendô (Tanobe Michihiro) in June of the year of the rooster of this era (2017) + monogram

A good look at the *ko-maru* (rounded turn-back) in the *boshi*.

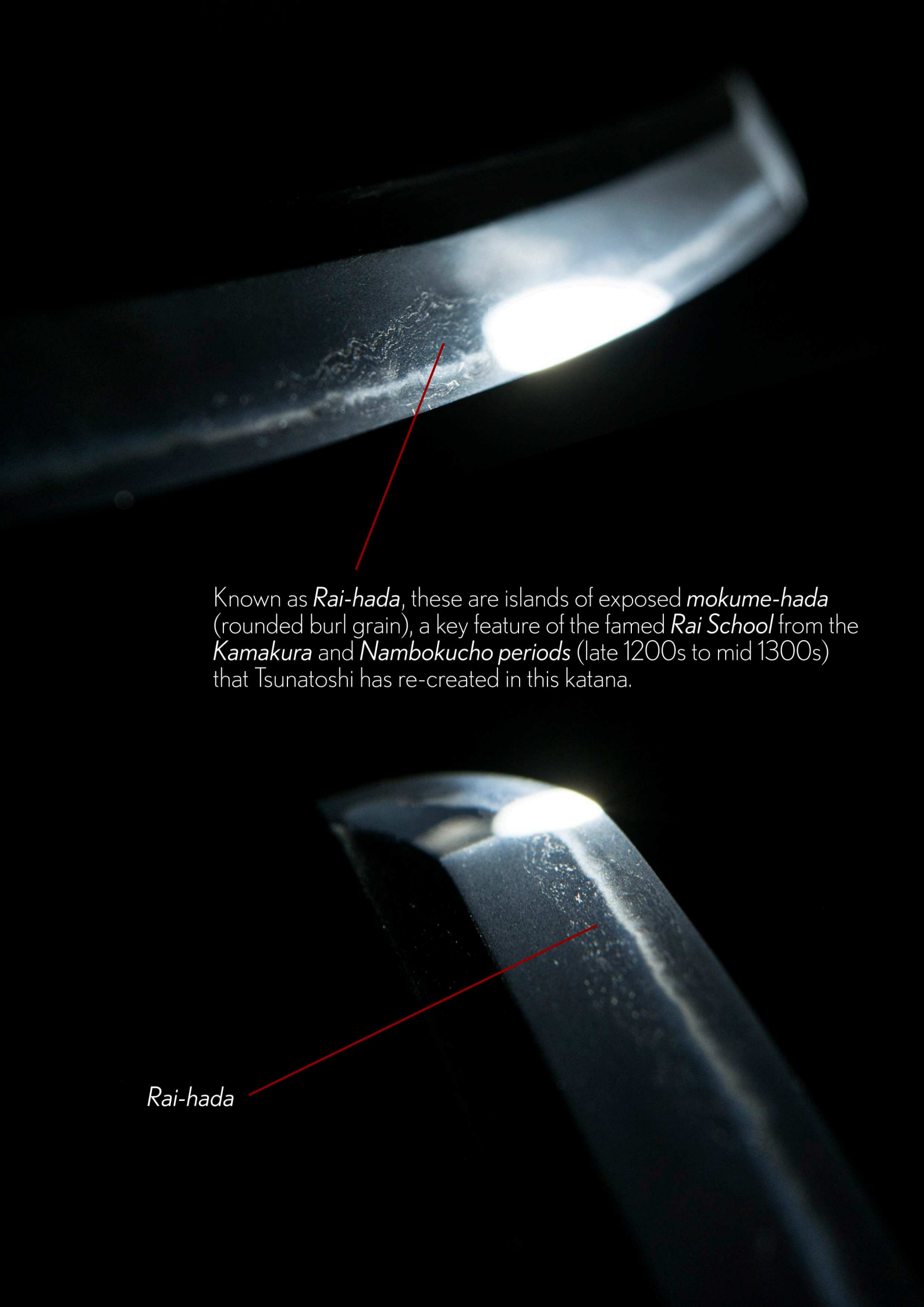


A cluster of nie-crystals known as *nie-kuzure*, a unique feature seen in the *boshi* of swords made in the Yamashiro tradition.






Based on straight *suguha*, the hamon waves tightly in a *ko-midare* formation with *ko-ashi* (small legs) extending to the cutting edge.



Known as *Rai-hada*, these are islands of exposed *mokume-hada* (rounded burl grain), a key feature of the famed *Rai School* from the *Kamakura* and *Nambokucho periods* (late 1200s to mid 1300s) that Tsunatoshi has re-created in this katana.

*Rai-hada*

A close-up photograph of a sword blade against a black background. The blade is illuminated from the left, creating a bright, glowing edge. A thin, light-colored line, identified as a shadow hamon (utsuri), runs along the upper edge of the blade's body (hiraji). A red line points from the text below to this specific feature.

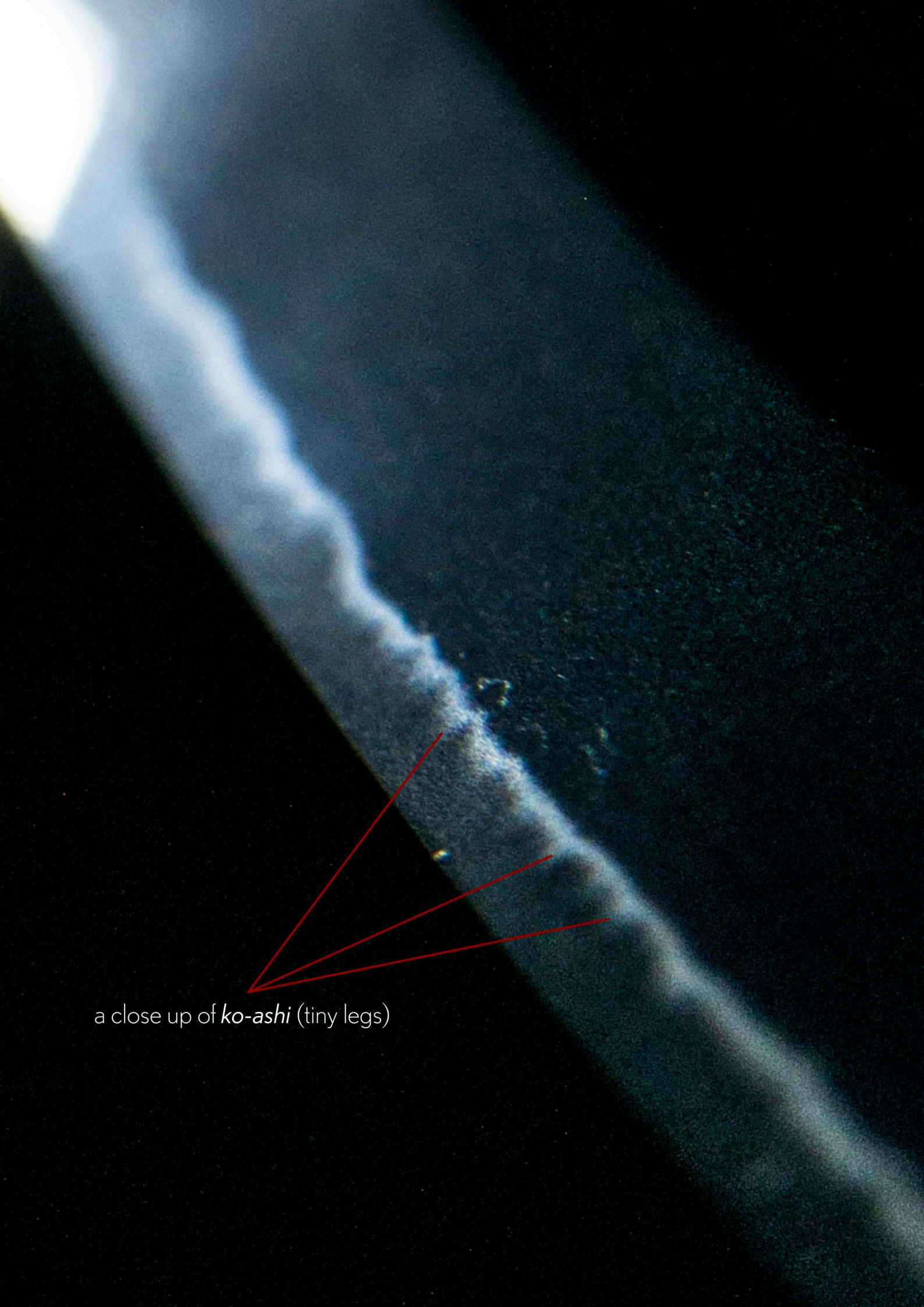
A light *utsuri* (shadow hamon) appears in the *hiraji* (body of the blade above the hamon).



*Rai-hada*

Yô (leaves) are beautiful spots of nie crystals separate from the *nioguchi* that fall toward the cutting edge.

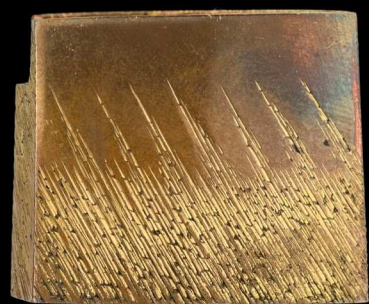




a close up of *ko-ashi* (tiny legs)



Shirasaya  
(protective scabbard)

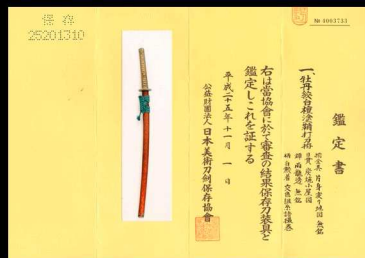


copper *habaki* with  
diagonal file marks

*Botan shibori byakudan-nuri  
uchigatana-koshirae*  
(牡丹絞白檀塗打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae  
lacquered in byakudan style  
with peony pattern*

Crafted during the  
Late Edo period  
(1780~1867)



NBTHK Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity

25201310



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  
平成二十五年十一月一日  
公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



No 4003733

## 鑑定書

一、牡丹絞白檀塗鞘打刀拵

揃金具片身変り地因無銘  
目貫炭焼小屋図  
鐺雨龍透無銘  
柄白鯨着交色組糸諸撮巻

## NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 25th year of Heisei (2013), November 1st

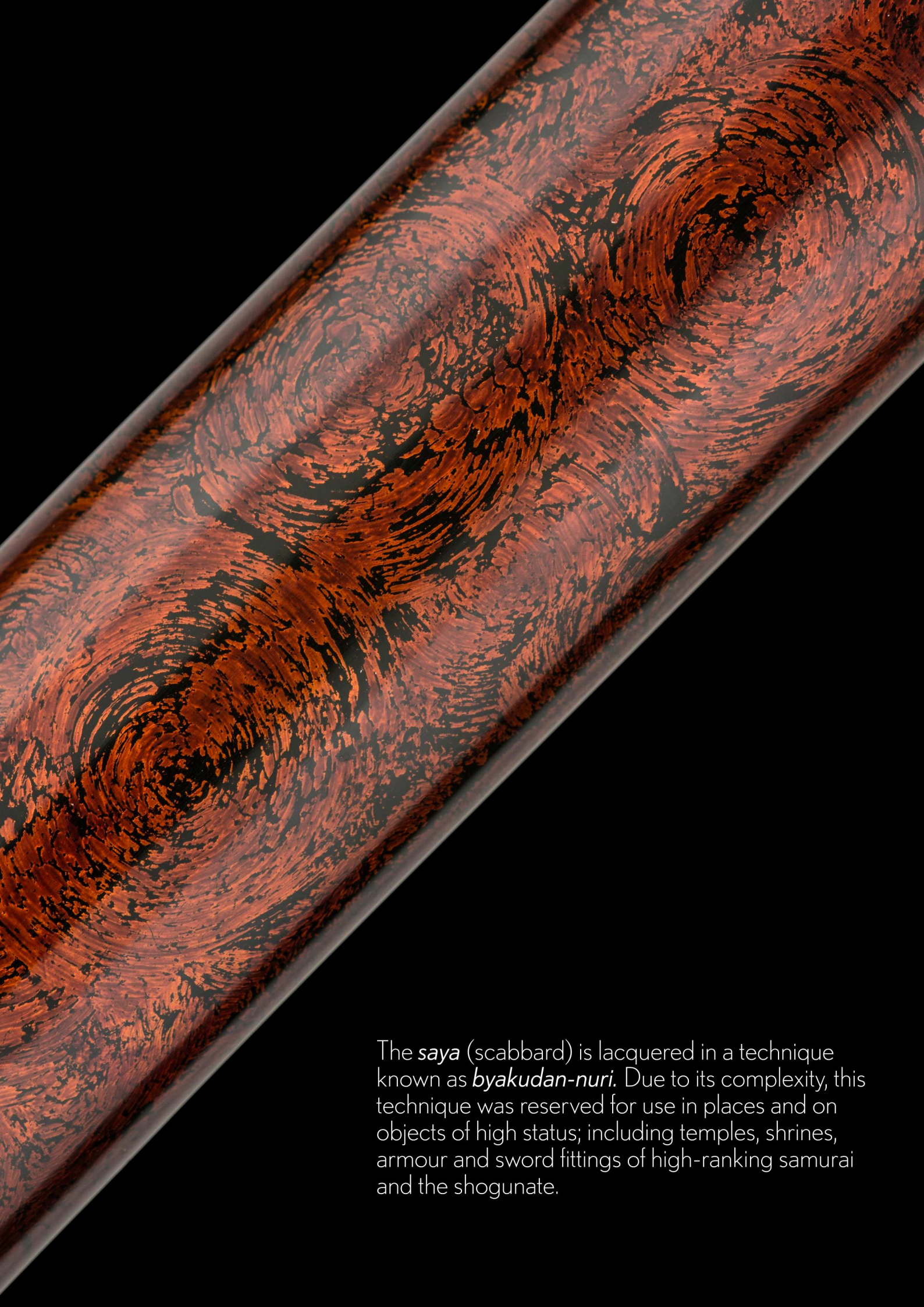
One, *Botan shibori byakudan-nuri saya uchigatana-koshirae*

*Soroi-kanagu* with different design on each side, unsigned  
*Menuki* depicting a charcoal burner's lodge

\**Tsuba* with openwork depicting a rain dragon, unsigned  
Hilt covered with white *same* and wrapped *moro-tsmamimaki* style  
with multiple color braids

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

\**tsuba* has changed since this certification



The *saya* (scabbard) is lacquered in a technique known as *byakudan-nuri*. Due to its complexity, this technique was reserved for use in places and on objects of high status; including temples, shrines, armour and sword fittings of high-ranking samurai and the shogunate.

The pattern on the *saya* is that of peonies. In Japan, the peony is referred to as the "king of flowers" and a symbol of good fortune, bravery, and honour.

As such, it has been cherished by the samurai class for centuries.

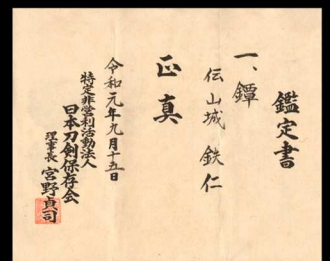


Bird and Peonies  
by *Utagawa Hiroshige*  
circa 1840s



This is a striking multi-lobed *hammered iron tsuba* from *Yamashiro* (Kyoto). It depicts waves, castles in a landscape scene.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the *mid-Edo period* circa 1700~1780 has been attained.

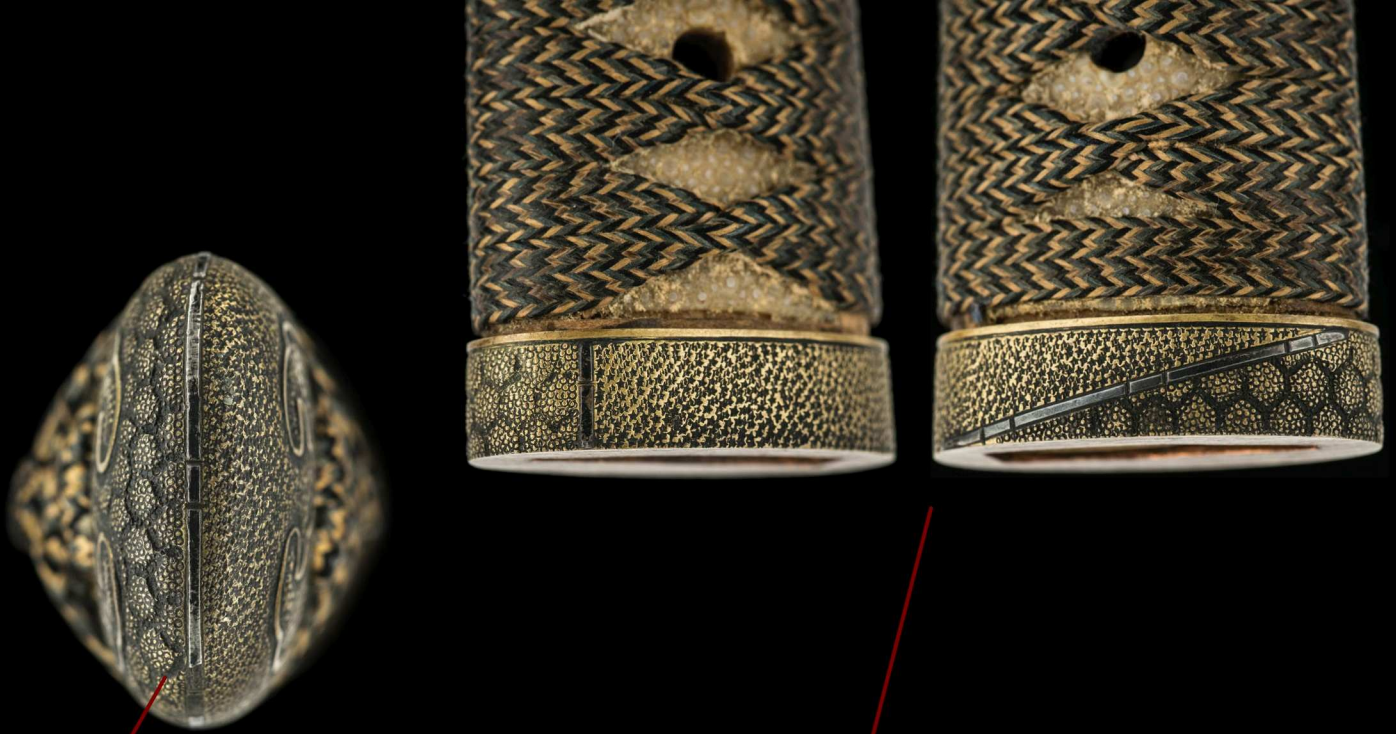




(reverse)

A steep mountain effect is revealed through the clever stepped-structure around the rim of the *tsuba*.





A certified matching set of *tachi* fittings on the *fuchi-kashira* and *kojiri* (cap on the scabbard) depicts a scene of harvested *awaho* (foxtail millet).



Japanese millet is the fastest growing of all millets, producing a bountiful crop in just 6 weeks. Grown for thousands of years in India, Japan and China, it is a reliable substitute for rice when the paddy fails. Awaho is rich in antioxidants, high in calcium and iron, providing numerous health benefits such as regulating blood pressure and fighting disease.



A decorative silk braid gives the feeling of celebration. The *menuki* depict feasting on trough shells, or clams. Combining this with the harvested *awaho* design on the *fuchi-kashira*, we come a message of health, abundance and prosperity.





The koshirae bag in a jubilant floral pattern.