



ITEM# UJKA345

A RAI KINMICHII KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, LATE EDO PERIOD (1ST YEAR OF KEIÔ ERA: JUNE 1865)

Swordsmith: *Iga no Kami Rai Kinmichi – Nihon Kaji Sôshô (11th generation)*
Location: Yamashiro province (Kyoto prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 70.8cm (ubu) **Curvature:** 0.7cm **Moto-haba:** 2.96cm
Jihada: *Koitame and mokume-hada*
Hamon: *Gunome Midare with long ashi and some choji (clove blossoms)*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate #2-5: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*Authentic sword, tsuba, soroi kanagu and koshirae*)
Authentication: **Sayagaki by Tanobe-sensei in 2019**

This is an important katana from the Mishina School - a prized and powerful family with eleven generations of swordsmiths that worked in the Edo Shinto Period. This rare katana is work is by 11th and final generation *Iga no Kami Rai Kinmichi*, crafted just before the Edo period ended.

Before the war of *Seki Ga Hara*, *Shodai Kinmichi* made arrangements to have one thousand *tachi* made for Tokugawa Ieyasu's war preparation. After Ieyasu won the war, Ieyasu rewarded Kinmichi with the title of *Nihon Kaji Sosho* "Master of Japanese Swordsmiths" which this sword has recorded on the nakago and with his six-character signature and date of June 1865.

This katana is a master class in workmanship from this prestigious school. The blade carries a *jihada* with a mix of *mokume* and *itame-hada* and a bright *gunome-midare hamon* with long *ashi* (legs). The *koshirae* is original to the sword, crafted in the Edo period with gorgeous *soroi kanagu* (matching fittings) in a snowflake motif. Look for the protective *shisa* lions on the *menuki*. A charming sword, filled with last samurai character. Sword has been authenticated with *sayagaki* by Tanobe sensei written in 2019.



Saki-kasane: 5.4mm

Moto-kasane: 7.3mm

Omosa: 730g

Kissaki: 3.54cm

Saki-haba: 1.90cm

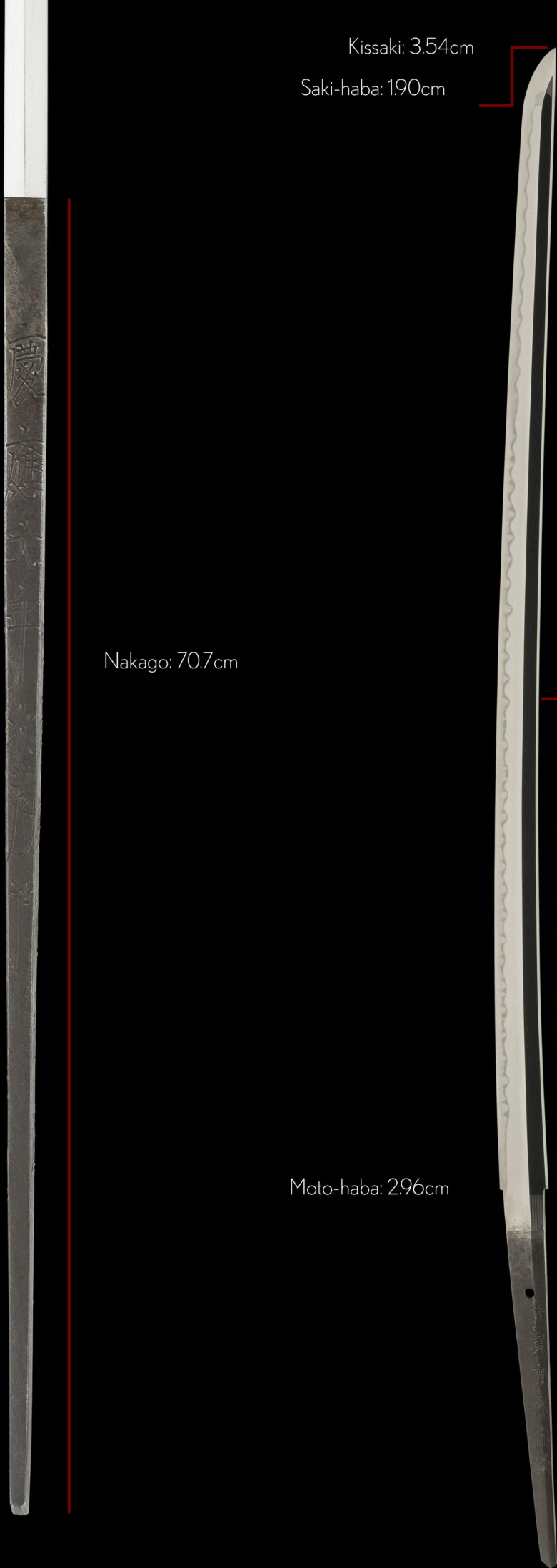
Nakago: 70.7cm

Moto-haba: 2.96cm

Nagasa: 70.8cm

Sori: 0.7cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



A beautiful katana crafted by *Iga no Kami Rai Kinmichi* in June 1865 - the 11th and final generation of the prestigious *Mishina school* from Yamashiro province.



Location: *Yamashiro* (resident of Kyoto)
Title: *Iga no Kami* (Lord of Iga province)
Swordsmith: *Rai Kinmichi* (11th generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)



伊 (I)

賀 (ga, no)

守 (Kami)

来 (Rai)

金 (Kin)

道 (michi)

Nihon kaji sôshô
Master of Japanese swordsmiths

(Ni) 日

(hon) 本

(ka) 鍛

(ji) 治

(sô) 宗

(shô) 匠



Keiô gan-nen rokugatsu bi

On a day in June in the first year
of *Keiô* period (1865)



慶 (Kei)

應 (ô)

元 (gan)

年 (nen)

六 (roku)

月 (gatsu)

日 (bi)

30201803



No 1008821

一刀 銘

鑑定書

伊賀守来金道
日本鍛冶宗匠
(棟に)慶応元年六月日

長二尺三寸三分半

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

平成三十年六月十三日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



東京都教育委員会
第 318469 号
平成30年2月17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), June 13th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Iga no Kami Rai Kinmichi

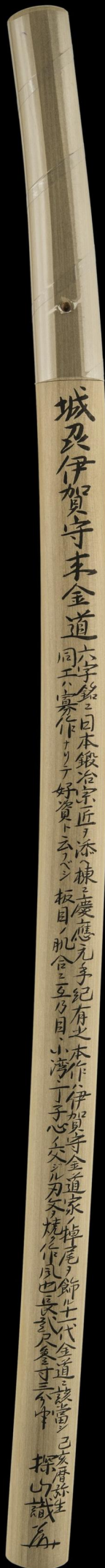
Nihon kaji sôshô

(Mune ni) Keiô gan-nen rokugatsu bi

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 3-bu han (70.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



城州伊賀守来金道

Jôshû Iga no Kami Rai Kinmichi

Iga no Kami Rai Kinmichi from Yamashiro province

六字銘ニ日本鍛冶宗匠ヲ添へ宗ニ慶應元年紀有之本作ハ伊賀守金道家ノ掉尾ヲ飾ル十一代金道ニ該當シ同工ハ寡作ナリテ好資ト云フベシ板目ノ肌合ニ互乃目・小湾・丁子心ノ交ジル刃文ヲ焼ク作風也長貳尺參寸三分半

Rokuji-mei ni Nihon kaji sôshô wo soe mune ni Keiô gan-nen ki kore ari honsaku wa Iga no Kami Kinmichi ke no chôbi o kazaru jûichi-dai Kinmichi ni gaitô shi dôkô wa kasaku narite kôshi to iu beshi. Itame no hada-ai ni gunome, ko-notare, chôji gokoro no majiru hamon o yaku sakufû nari. Nagasa nishaku sansun sanbu han.

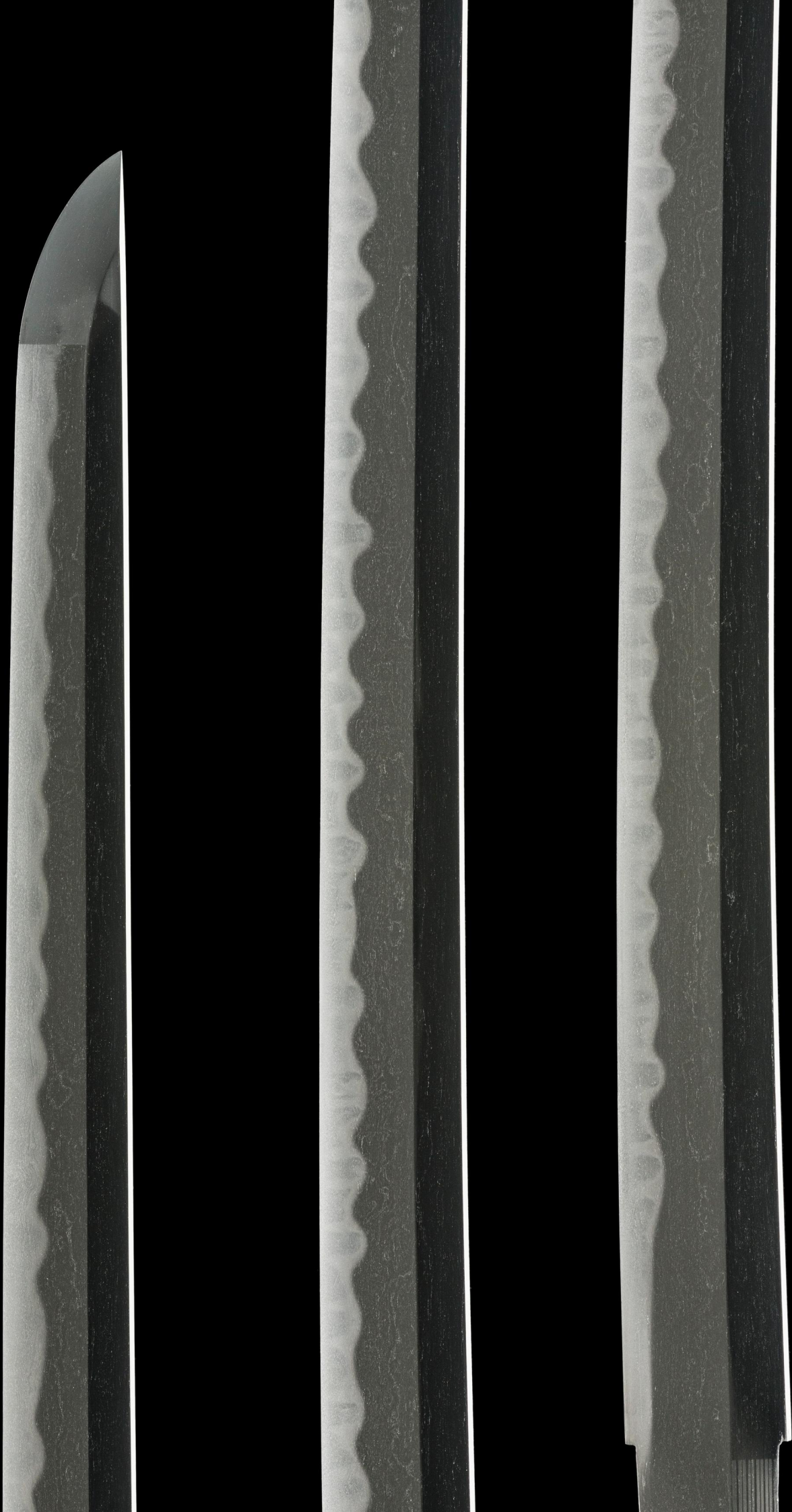
The blade bears a six character signature, the supplement Nihon-kaji-sôshô [honorary title "Head of All Swordsmiths"], and on the back of the tang the date of Keiô one (1865). Thus, we have here a work of the eleventh generation Kinmichi, who was the last master of the Iga no Kami Kinmichi lineage, which shows a forging structure in itame, and which is hardened in a hamon that is mixed with gunome, ko-notare, and some chôji.

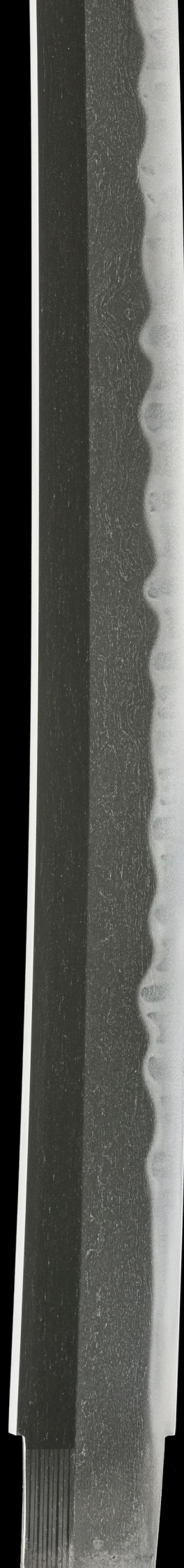
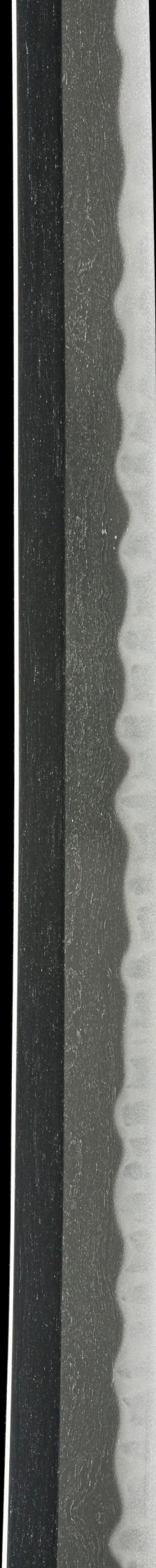
Blade length ~ 70.8 cm

己亥曆弥生探山識「花押」

Tsuchinoto-i goyomi yayoi Tazan shirusu + kaô

Written by Tazan [Tanobe Michihiro] in March of the year of



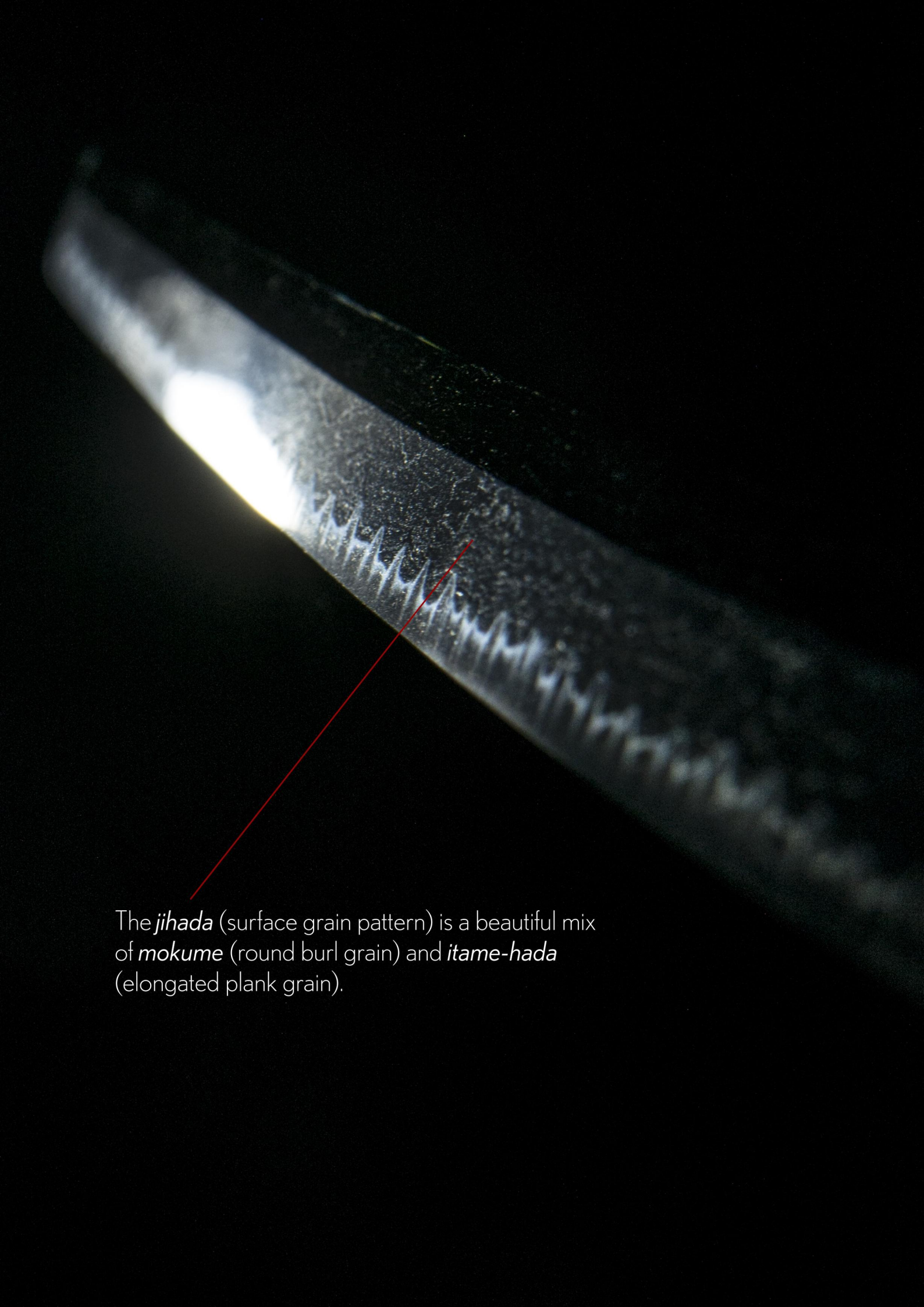


A bright, consistent *nioguchi*, a sign of a well-made sword.

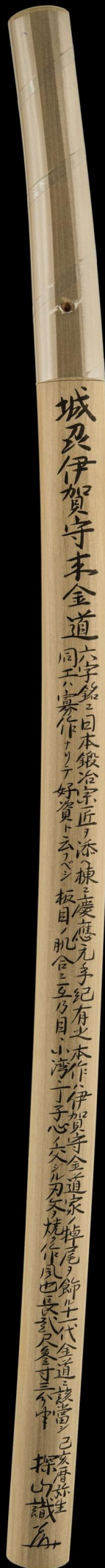




Gunome-midare hamon with long *ashi* extending to the cutting edge.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing the intricate grain pattern on its surface. The blade is dark and polished, with a bright light reflecting off its edge. A red line points from the text below to a specific section of the blade's surface. The grain pattern is a mix of round burl grain (mokume) and elongated plank grain (itame-hada).

The *jihada* (surface grain pattern) is a beautiful mix of *mokume* (round burl grain) and *itame-hada* (elongated plank grain).



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



gold *nijû-habaki* with
horizontal and vertical file marks

*Shibuichi migaki-ji kamon no zu
kaigu kuro-ro-fuemaki-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(四分一磨地家紋函皆具
黒呂笛巻塗鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae lacquered
in striped glossy black with a
matching set of polished
shibuichi fittings with family crests*

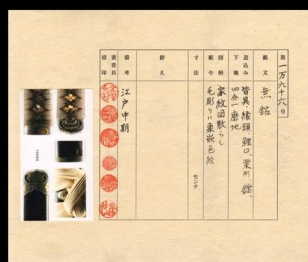
Crafted during the
Middle to Late Edo period
(1700~1865)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



Soroi Kanagu (matching fittings) from the Edo period



*NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity*

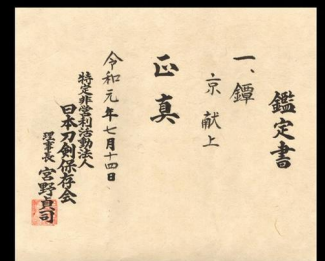




This is a *Kyo-kenjo tsuba*, meaning "presentation tsuba from Kyoto." The *sankin-kotai* system of *daimyo* (great family) attendance in *Edo* (Tokyo) created special products that were sold along the main travel routes as souvenirs.

One such souvenir was highly decorative *kenjo-tsuba*. This polished iron tsuba features a gold *nunome-zogan* design pattern with paulownia blossoms in the wind.

Many of these tsubas were made in Kyoto, thus the prefix "Kyo". They were generally crafted by artists from the *Kyo-Shoami* and *Awa-Shoami* groups. An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the *mid-Edo period* circa 1700~1780 has been attained.





(reverse)





fuchi-kashira with snowflake motif







Menuki (decorative grips on the hilt) carry shisa theme.





Koshirae bag