



ITEM# UJKA347

A KANESHIGE '3-BODY CUTTING TEST' KATANA SIGNED WITH GOLD INLAY, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA, 1661~1664)

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Swordsmith: | <i>Kazusa no Suke Fujiwara Kaneshige (second generation)</i> |
| Gold inlay (test): | <i>Mitsu-dō kirite Okada Jurōbei + kaō - Ni-san harai dotan iri</i> |
| Measurements: | Length: 69.7cm (ubu) Curvature: 1.0cm Moto-haba: 3.01cm |
| Jihada: | <i>Tight ko-itame with ji-nie, chikei</i> |
| Hamon: | <i>Thick suguha mixed with gunome-midare with ashi, kinsuji and sunagashi</i> |
| Certificate #1: | NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword Especially Worthy of Conservation) |
| Certificates #2-4: | NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (tsuba, soroi kanagu and koshirae designated Authentic) |
| Fujishiro rank: | Jo-saku (a superior smith) |
| Cutting Ability: | Ryo-Wazamono (maker of highly sharp swords) |
| Included: | Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, bags, stand, kit, DVD, printed description |

SOLD

Sword tester *Okada Jurōbei* documented in gold inlay that with this brilliantly sharp katana, in one stroke, he severed through *three stacked human bodies* and into the earthen mound. The test took place on the August 14, 1664 in the early Kanbun era. The *tameshigiri* cut was made in the mid-belly area of the bodies – a demanding area to cut through.

A thick *suguha nioguchi* reminiscent of the works of *Kotetsu* penetrates the blade with tons of *hataraki* to enjoy. A matching set of fittings (*soroi kanagu*) that features an iron *tsuba* by *Tanaka Toryusai* compliments this mighty heirloom of *Kobayashi samurai family*.

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Saki-kasane: 3.7mm

Moto-kasane: 6.4mm

Kissaki: 3.15cm
Saki-haba: 1.93cm

Nagasa: 69.7cm

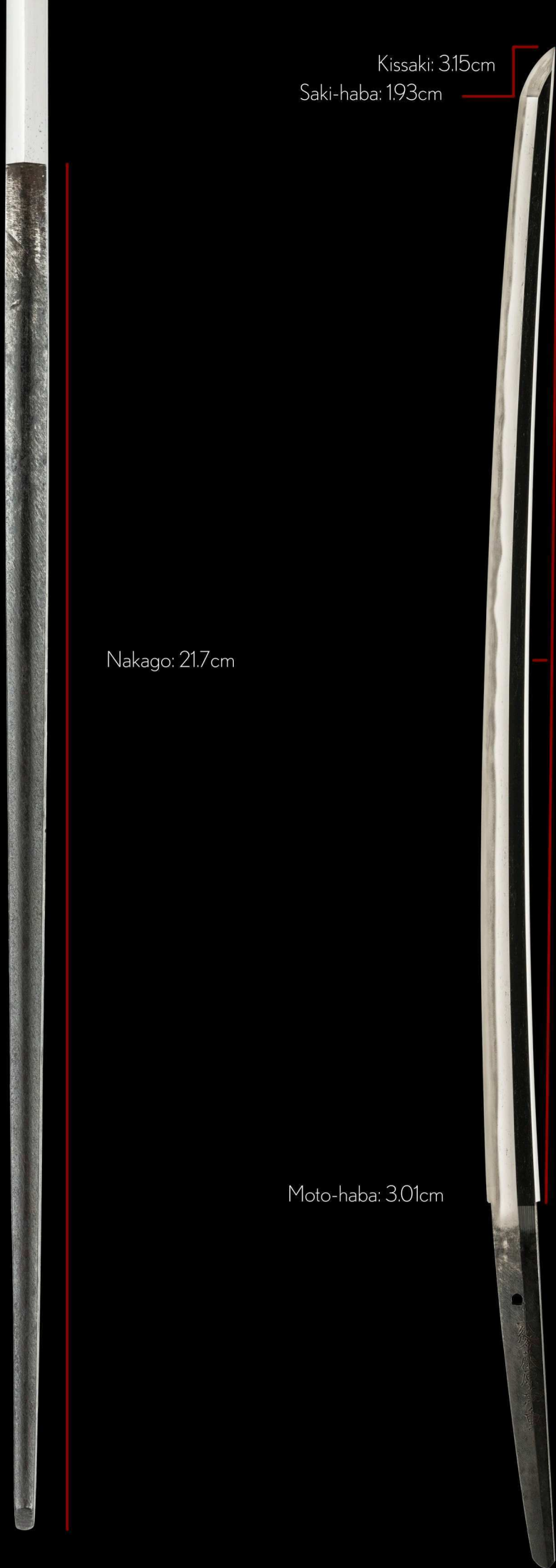
Nakago: 21.7cm

Sori: 1.0cm

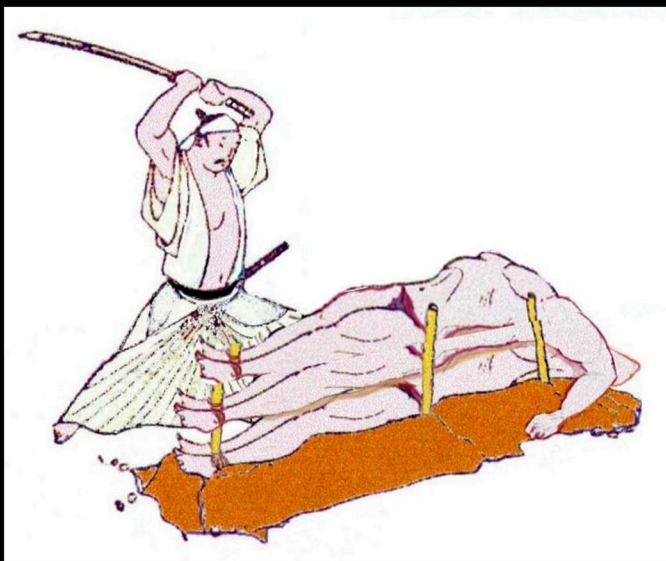
Omosa: 695g

Moto-haba: 3.01cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



This katana successfully performed a 3-body cutting test on the 14th day of the 8th month in the fourth year of Kanbun era (August 14, 1664) by *Okada Jurôbei*.





Location: *Musashi* (resident of Tokyo)

Title: *Kazusa no Suke* (Lord of Kazusa province)

Clan name: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Kaneshige* (second generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

sujikai-yasurime (diagonal file marks)

上 (Kazu)

総 (sa, no)

介 (Suke)

藤 (Fuji)

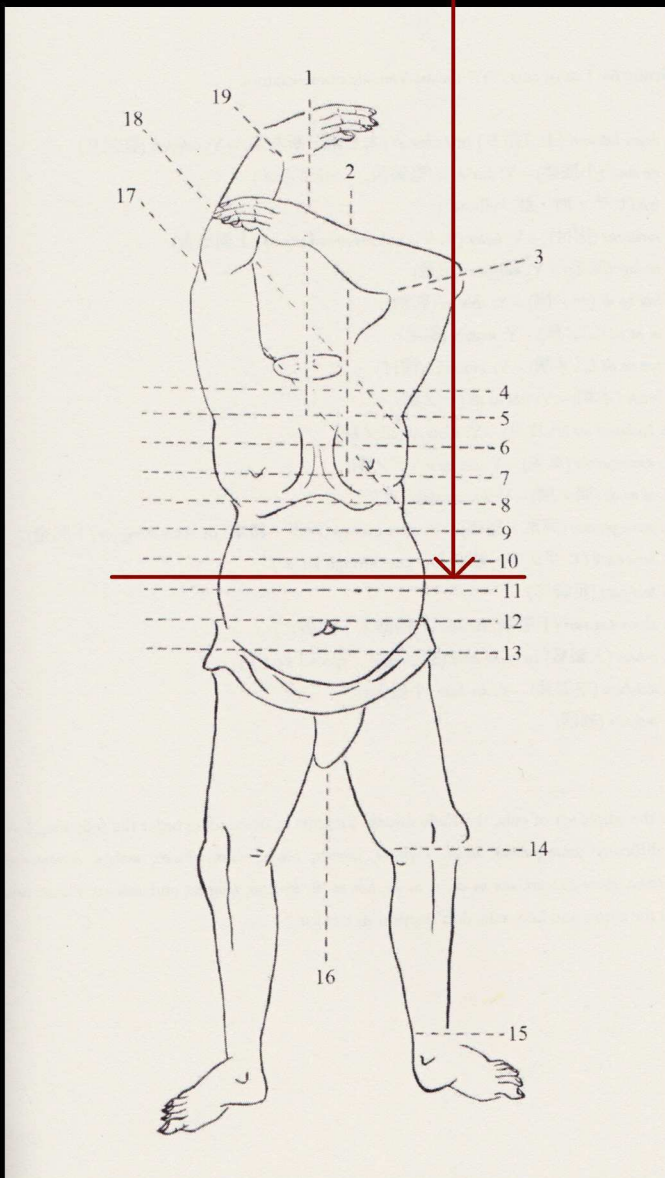
原 (wara)

兼 (Kane)

重 (shige)

Kanbun yonen hachigatsu jûyokka mitsu-
do ni-san barai dodan iri kirite Okada
Jûryôbei + kao

Sword tester *Okada Jurôbei* documented in gold inlay that with this katana, in one stroke, he severed through *three stacked human bodies* and into the earthen mound below. The test took place on the 14th day of the 8th month in the fourth year of Kanbun era (August 14, 1664). The cut was made between the second and the third section of the bodies (*ni-no-do* and *san-no-do*) as highlighted below. This is a demanding area to slice cleanly through.



(Mi) 三
(tsu) ツ
(dô) 洞

(ni) 二
(san) 三

(barai) 拂

(do) 土

(dan) 壇

(iri) 入

(kiri) 切

(te) 手

(Oka) 岡

(da) 田

(Jû) 十

(ryô) 良

(be) 兵

(i) 衛

三ツ洞

寛文四年八月十四日

切手置岡良兵衛

寛 (Kan)
文 (bun)
四 (yo)
年 (nen)
八 (hachi)
月 (gatsu)
十 (jû)
四 (yo)
日 (kka)

30201803

No 1008552



鑑定書

一刀 銘

上総介藤原兼重
寛文四年八月十四日
(金象嵌) 三ッ桐切手四甲良五衛兵(花押)
三ッ桐土壇入
長二尺三寸

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



静岡県教育委員会
第 7170 号
昭和27年 9 月 16 日

(再)平成29年12月7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)

Kazusa no Suke Fujiwara Kaneshige

(Kin-zôgan) Kanbun yonen hachigatsu jûyokka

Mitsudô nisan barai dodan iri kirite Okada Jûryôbei + kaô

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun (69.7cm)

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, low-angle shot of a katana blade, focusing on the edge and the hamon. The blade is dark, with a bright, glowing edge that highlights the texture of the metal. The background is black, making the blade stand out. The lighting is dramatic, emphasizing the sharpness and the intricate patterns of the blade.

This katana has a Koto-period aura
that pays tribute to the Soshu tradition.

A thick *nioguchi* with impressive
kinsuji in the style of master *Kotetsu*.

A vibrant *hamon* mixed with *ko-gunome* and *ashi* (legs) that look like sharp teeth biting into the edge of the blade.

Black 'golden lines' of *kinsuji* are also seen in the hamon.

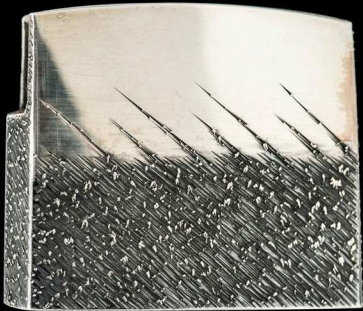
kinsuji

ashi





Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

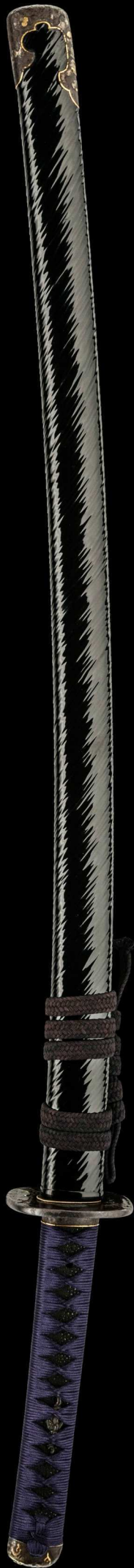


silver *habaki* with
diagonal file marks

*Kuro-roiro-nuri
naname-kizami saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒呂色塗斜刻鞘打刀拵え)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy black
with slanting notches*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



This is a superb polished iron tsuba from the famed *Tanaka Toryusai* School.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the *late-Edo period* circa 1780~1867 has been attained.

鑑定書
一、鐔
江戸 東龍齋派
心真
今和元年七月十四日
特選審判官 湯浅 宗久
日本刀剣保存会
理事長 宮野真司

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 種別 | 江戸後期 |
| 時代 | 江戸後期 |
| 流派 | 東龍齋派 |
| 特徴 | 中央に透し、蛙、蛇、龍の彫刻が特徴的。 |
| 寸法 | 縦八・三、横七・六 |
| 備考 | |



(reverse)



The fuchi-kashira, kojiri and tsuba are an all-matching ensuite of fittings known as *Soroi Kanagu*.

This rare set has been formally certified by the NTHK-NPO.





Kashira

The pommel has an elegant, rustic charm.



dragon power menuki

The *tsunagi* is a duplicate of the blade handmade out of wood. Its purpose is to keep the *koshirae* (fittings) together when the sword is resting in the shirasaya.

This *tsunagi* has been signed with the Kaneshige swordsmith name as it appears on the nakago.

The reverse side of the *tsunagi* states the Kobayashi heirloom reference (see next page).

(Kazu) 上
(sa, no) 総
(Suke) 介

(Fuji) 藤
(wara) 原
(Kane) 兼
(shige) 重



Kobayashi-ke daidai denju no koto.

Jûichidai Yoshitada.

Inherited (passed down) from generation to generation within Kobayashi [samurai] family.

11th generation of Yoshitada appears to be the last caretaker of this katana.

(Jû) 十
(ichi) 一
(dai) 代
(Yoshi) 美
(tada) 忠

小林家代代伝授之事
十一代美忠

小 (Ko)
林 (bayashi)
家 (ke)
代 (dai)
々 (dai)
伝 (den)
授 (ju)
之 (no)
事 (koto)

Kaneshige

