



ITEM# UJKA348

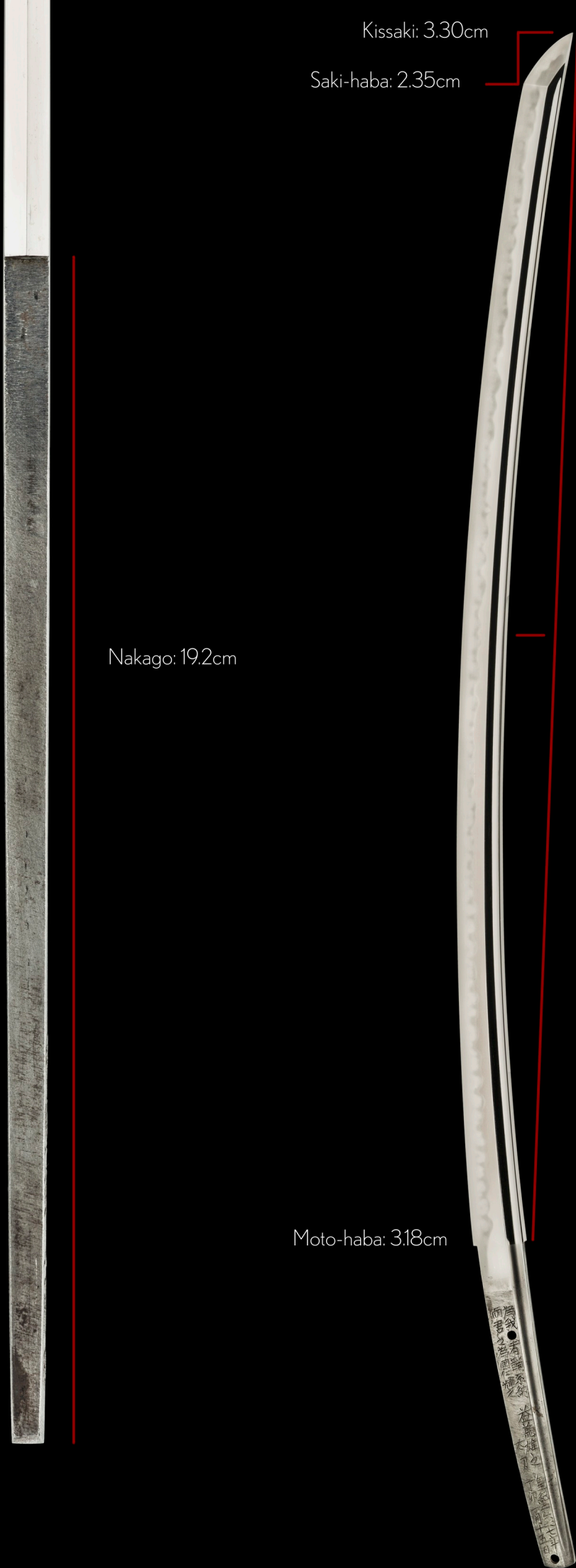
A MASAMINE 'NIKKÔ SUKEZANE' TACHI SIGNED & DATED, SHOWA PERIOD (AUGUST 1974)

Swordsmith: *Nikkô Sukezane utsushi, Ryôzanshi Masamine saku nari (ubu nakago)*
Measurements: **Length:** 72.6cm **Curvature:** 2.9cm **Motohaba:** 3.18cm
Jihada: *Expertly forged ko-itame with chikei and midare utsuri*
Hamon: *Widely hardened gorgeous chôji-midare, kawazu-no-ko chôji with long ashi*
Certificate 1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation)
Certificate 2: **NTHK-NPO Yûshûto** (a sword designated as Masterwork)
Published: **This sword is featured in the NTHK-NPO Book of Yûshuto swords**
Included: Shirasaya, NTHK-NPO Yushuto book, stand, bag, kit, DVD, description

SOLD

Behold a glorious *tachi* by one of Japan's finest swordsmiths of the 20th century - former **Living National Treasure Ryôzanshi Masamine**. Dated to August 1974, this sword is an *utsushi* (replica) of a national treasure *tachi* known as *Nikkô Sukezane*. Crafted by *Fukuoka-Ichimonji* smith *Sukezane*, it was once the property of *Shôgun Tokugawa Ieyasu* and resides in *Nikkô's Tôshôgû shrine*.

Exhibiting a powerful shape and a stunning *chôji hamon* with *kawazu-no-ko chôji*, long *ashi* (legs) and *utsuri*, this beautiful blade reflects the exquisite qualities of the Bizen tradition. This *tachi* is certified with both **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** and **NTHK-NPO Yûshûto**, a rare achievement for a modern-made piece. It is even published in a book of masterwork swords, which will be included for the new caretaker. This is a *tachi* that embodies the ever-enduring Japanese spirit.



Kissaki: 3.30cm

Saki-haba: 2.35cm

Nagasa: 72.6cm

Sori: 2.9cm

Nakago: 19.2cm

Moto-haba: 3.18cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



Saki-kasane: 5.4mm

Moto-kasane: 7.1mm

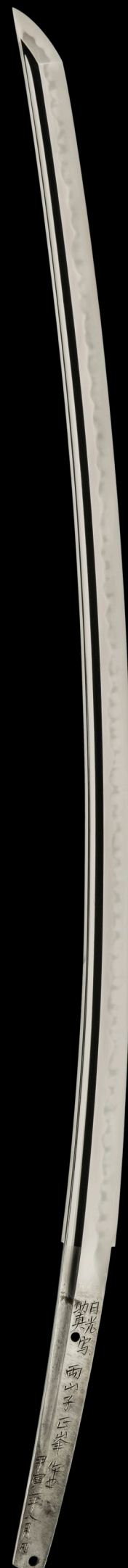
Omosa: 805g

Ryôsanshi Masamine (also read *Seihô*) was born *Sumitani Yoichirô* on January 24th 1921.

In 1941 he began an apprenticeship under *Sakurai Masayuki* and in 1956 established the forge *Sanryûtei*. He became *mukansa* in 1966 and received the status of important cultural property of *Ishikawa prefecture*.

Masamine was awarded Japan's highest honour of *ningen-kokuhô* (*Living National Treasure*) in 1981 and became one of the most influential modern swordsmiths. His work was greatly inspired by the Bizen masterpieces of the Kamakura period.

Masamine died on December 12th 1998.



*Nikkô Sukezane utsushi - Ryôzanshi Masamine
saku nari - Kinoe-tora doshi hachigatsu bi*

A faithful replica of the Nikkô Sukezane tachi.
Crafted by Ryôzanshi Masamine, dated on a
day in August in the Year of the Tiger (1974).

(Suke) 助
(zane) 真

日光
真
写

日 (Ni)
光 (kkô)
写 (utsushi)

両
山
子
正
峯

両 (Ryô)
山 (zan)
子 (shi)
正 (Masa)
峯 (mine)

(Kinoe) 甲
(tora) 寅
(doshi) 年
(hachi) 八
(gatsu) 月
(bi) 日

甲寅
年
辛
八月
日

作 (saku)
也 (nari)



In 1987, a previous owner of this tachi dedicated the sword to the lifeblood of the warrior spirit and the enduring reign of the Imperial family.

Masurao no Tachi

Kôki 2647-nen Hinoto-u ichigatsu jûgo nichi

A Warrior's Tachi

January 15th in the 2647th Year of Imperial reign, dated in the Year of the Hare (1987).

"This sword shall be left sheathed unless it is for my Lord and master preserving the everlasting benevolence of my country."

為我者
而君之為
國仁輝之
納

益
荒
雄
之

皇紀
二六四七年
丁卯
一月十五日

益 (Masu)

荒 (ra)

雄 (o)

之 (no)

皇 (Kô)

紀 (ki)

二 (2)

六 (6)

四 (4)

七 (7)

年 (nen)

(Ta) 太

(chi) 刀

(Hinoto) 丁

(u) 卯

(ichi) 一

(gatsu) 月

(jû) 十

(go) 五

(nichi) 日

01201909

No 1012332



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
令和元年十二月二日
公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會

二刀 銘

鑑定書

日光助真写西山子正峯作之
甲寅年八月日
為我者韜系納而君之為國仁輝久
益荒雄之太刀
皇紀二六二七年丁卯一月十五日
長二尺三寸九分

石川県 教育委員会
第 23374 号
昭和62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 1st year of Reiwa (2019), December 2nd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

*Nikkô Sukezane utsushi, Ryôzanshi Masamine saku nari
kinoe-tora doshi hachigatsu bi
Masurao no Tachi*

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 9-bu (72.6cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



This is the very tachi by *Sukezane* that Masamine emulated.

Length: 71.2cm
Curvature: 2.5cm

This sword once belonged to *daimyô Kato Kiyomasa* and later became the possession of *shôgun Tokugawa Ieyasu*.

Following the shogun's death, it was transferred to the famous *Nikkô Tôshôgû shrine* dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate.

This sword is thus referred to as *Nikkô Sukezane*. It is now *kokuhô*, a Japanese national treasure.



Tôshôgû shrine, Nikkô

Note how both swords have a long *bo-hi* (rounded groove), a strong *ikubi-kissaki* and two holes in the nakago.

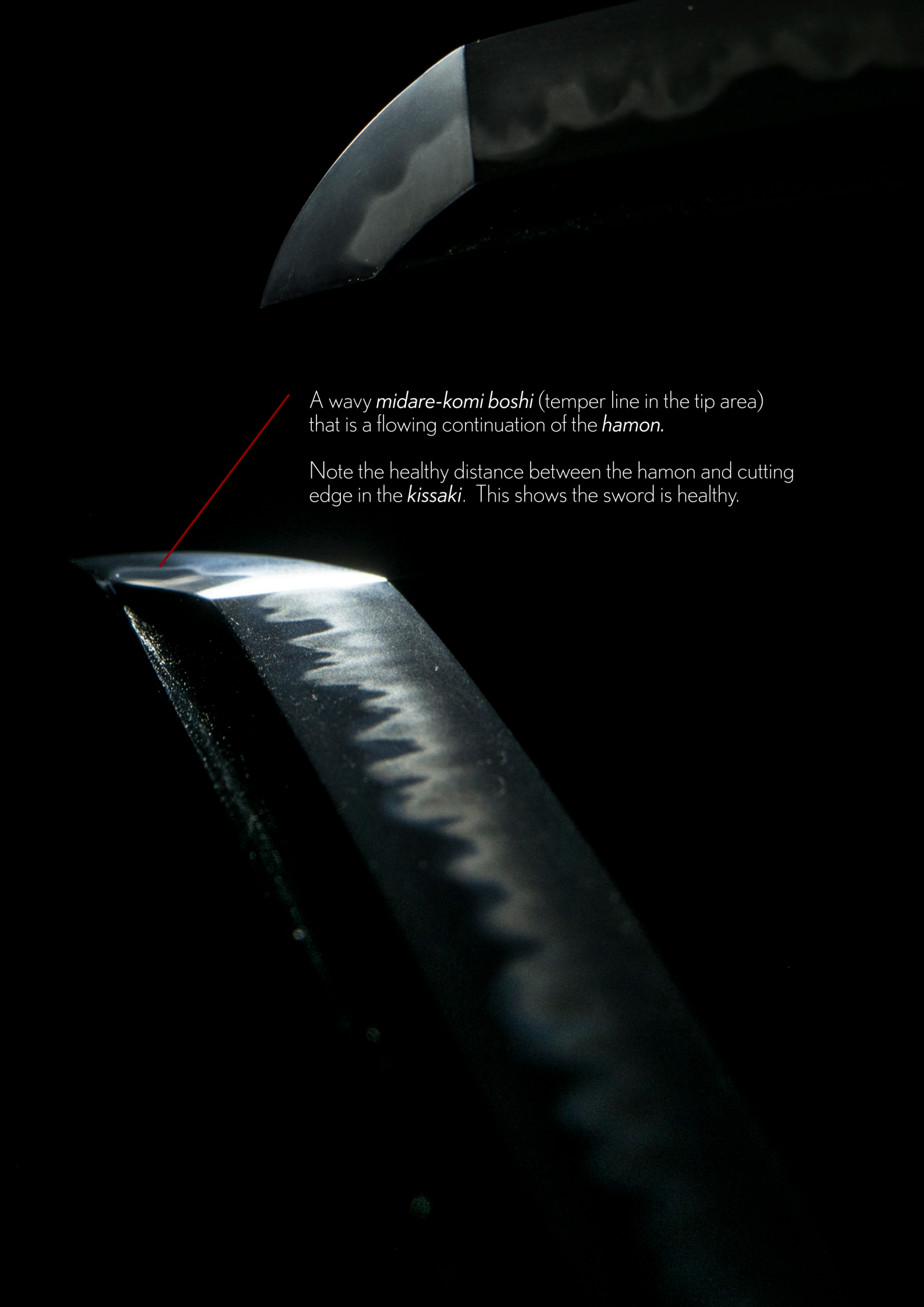






This is called an *ikubi-kissaki*, a stout tip that is translated literally as the '*neck of the wild boar*'.

This type of kissaki is found on swords of the middle-Kamakura period.



A wavy *midare-komi boshi* (temper line in the tip area) that is a flowing continuation of the *hamon*.

Note the healthy distance between the hamon and cutting edge in the *kissaki*. This shows the sword is healthy.



An exquisite *chôji midare* hamon
forged in the Bizen tradition.

The blade shines of class.

Swords crafted by *Sukezane* featured a faint *midare-utsuri* which Masamine carried out perfectly along the back of the blade.



Sukezane of the *Fukuoka-Ichimonji School* flourished in the *Kenchô era* (1249-1256) of the Kamakura period.

He is ranked *saijô-saku* (a grandmaster swordsmith) and is considered one of the ancestors of the *Sôshû tradition*.




Kawazu-no-ko chôji is translated literally as "tadpole *chôji*" as it's elongated shape resembles tadpoles.

This unique interpretation can be found in blades by *Osafune Mitsutada*, the *Hatakeda school* and *Kamakura-Ichimonji Sukezane* which this sword drew its inspiration from.



A gorgeous cluster of *kawazu-no-ko chôji*

The image shows two curved blades of a tachi sword, one positioned above the other. The blades are dark, likely black or dark blue, and are illuminated from the side, creating a bright, glowing edge. This edge, known as the hamon, exhibits a distinct blue hue, which is a characteristic sign of a high-quality sword. The background is dark, making the blades stand out prominently.

This tachi takes on a mystical presence.
Note the blue hue from the hamon under
the light, a sign of a quality sword.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



gold wrapped *habaki* with
Tokugawa aoi-mon
family crest



Gold-wrapped *habaki* with the *Tokugawa kamon* (family crest)



Tokugawa Iyasu
(January 31, 1543 - June 1, 1616)

Founder and first shōgun of the Tokugawa shogunate of Japan, which ruled from the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 until the Meiji Restoration in 1868.

Tokugawa famously referred to the Japanese sword as carrying "*the soul of the samurai.*"

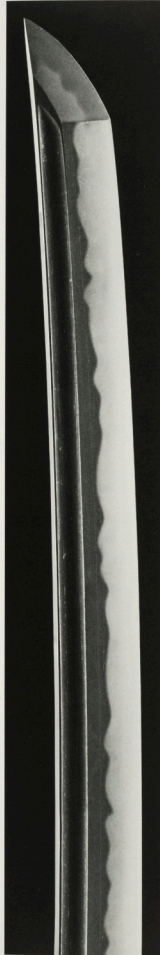
一二二 太刀 銘 表 日光助真守向山子正家作也甲寅年八月日

裏 為我者鞘系納益荒雄太刀・云々

石川県 現代

法量 刃長 二尺四寸、反り 九分
 元重ね (三・一センチ)、先幅 (二・四センチ)
 元重ね (〇・七センチ)、先重ね (〇・五センチ)、莖長 十九・二センチ
 造り込み 本造り、庵棟、腰反り高く、踏ん張りの有る太刀姿で、中切先。
 鍛 小板目詰む。
 刃文 焼き高の丁子乱れ刃。
 拵子 乱れ込み、先 小丸返り。
 彫刻 表裏に棟樋を差先で掻き流す。
 中心 生ぶ、浅い栗尻。目釘穴 二個。
 鐘目 磨り出しのある浅い筋違。

物故者、元無形文化財保持者の正家氏の刀である。
 大正一〇年生まれ、俗名は「隅谷与一郎」、板井正幸門人、日本刀鍛錬道場は兼亭と云い松任市に住む。
 本作は古作一文字助真を写した傑作の一振りである。



The Masamine tachi is featured on pages 244-245 in the inaugural NTHK-NPO Book of Yûshûsaku (Masterwork) Swords

(this book will be included for the new caretaker)

