



ITEM# UJKA350

## A SHIGEZANE NAGINATA-NAOSHI KATANA

UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (ENBUN ERA: 1356~1361)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Shigezane</i> (attribution, <i>ô-suriage nakago</i> )
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 67.8cm <b>Curvature:</b> 0.6cm <b>Motohaba:</b> 3.0cm
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Flowing itame-nagare with ji-nie, chikei, namazu-hada and midare-utsuri</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Hiro-suguha-cho in ko-nie deki with angularity, ashi, yô, sunagashi and kinsuji</i>
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>63rd NBTHK Jûyô Tôken</b> (a sword designated as Profound and Important)
<b>Fujishiro:</b>	<b>Jo-saku</b> (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
<b>Sharpness:</b>	<b>Ryo-Wazamono</b> (rated as a maker of highly sharp swords)
<b>Authentication:</b>	<b>Sayagaki by Dr. Sato Kanzan</b>
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, sword bag, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, printed description

**SOLD**

Behold an intense katana from the violent *Nambokucho* period attributed to *Shigezane* of the *Motoshige* school. This katana was once a fierce *naginata*, a polearm - an effective weapon given their extra length to topple opponents on horseback. Top-class *naginata* were reshaped into katana and wakizashi and immensely treasured by the ruling samurai of the Edo period.

An imposing 9cm *ô-kissaki* dominates this sharp, formidable sword. Flowing *itame-nagare hada* with *midare utsuri* juxtapose the darkish hue of the *jigane*. A massive cut in defense from another sword in battle known as *kirikomi* rests on the base of the blade. The *sayagaki* by Dr. Kanzan states that this katana was a family heirloom of the *Naitô samurai* family. Big time samurai sword.



Saki-kasane: 3.0mm

Moto-kasane: 3.4mm

Omosa: 765g

Kissaki: 9.5cm

Saki-haba: 2.7cm

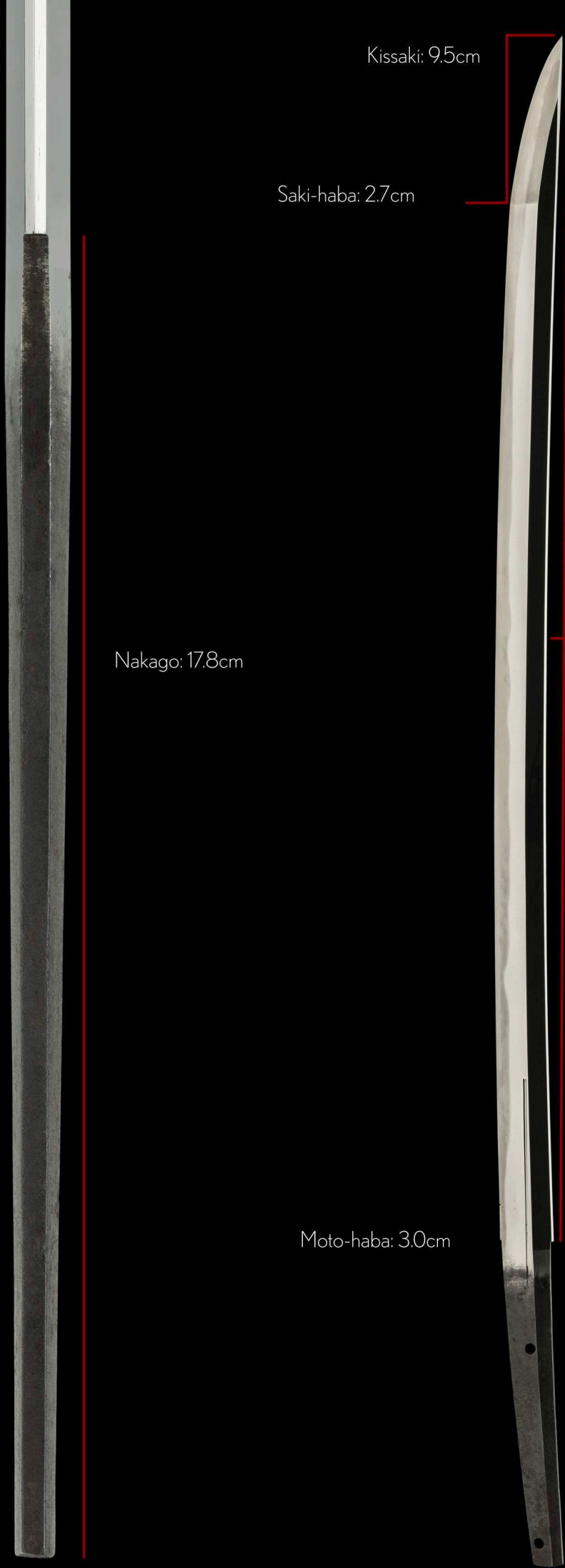
Nakago: 17.8cm

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Nagasa: 67.8cm

Sori: 0.6cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



Shigezane's family name is *Jirôbei* and is said to be the son of the 1st generation *Hatakeda Morishige* and the younger brother of *Motoshige* of the Motoshige school.

His work dates from *Karyaku* era (1326~1329) to *Enbun* era (1356~1361) - an active period of about 35 years.

In the later years, during the warring *Nanbokuchô period*, Shigezane's creations took the form of a wide *mihaba*, a thick *kasane*, and an elongated *kissaki*.

The *jigane* is a vivid *itame* and flowing *itame-nagare* with billowing *midare-utsuri*.

Shigezane is rated *Jo-saku* (superior smith) with a *ryo-wazamono* rank for the intense sharpness of his swords.

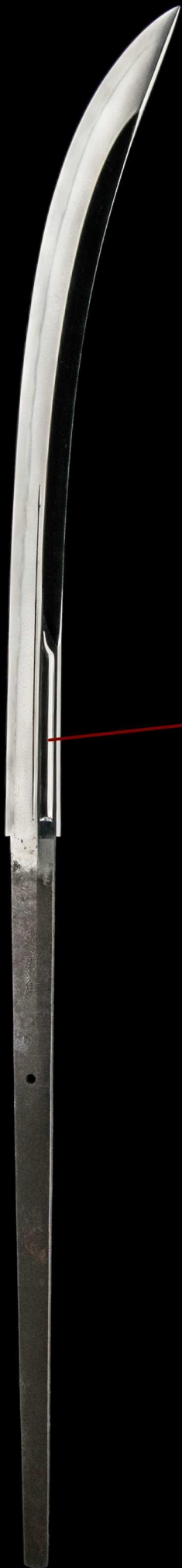




*naginata-hi*

The *nakago* is *ô-suriage*,  
greatly shortened, re-shaped  
from a 14th century naginata.

Remnants of the original thin,  
*naginata-hi* (grooves) can still  
be seen on the blade.



This sword was first constructed as a *naginata*, a long polearm, back in the mid-1300s. *Sōhei*, warrior monks, were immensely skilled in the use of the naginata.

With the introduction of firearms in 1543 the number of naginata decreased substantially. Many naginata were thus reshaped and preserved as a wakizashi, or a katana, as is the case with the Shigezane katana.

The name given to such swords is *naginata-naoshi* -a fixed naginata. Prominent samurai adored naginata-naoshi swords in the Edo period.

On the left is an example of a naginata crafted in the Edo period by *Echizen Hirotaka* giving a sense of what the Shigezane naginata originally looked like (minus the thick naginata-style groove in the *shinogi-ji*).

Below is an illustration of *Shōhei* warriors with naginata from the book *Japanese Polearms* by Roald M. Knutsen.



FIG. 8. *Sōhei* armed with *shōbuzukuri-naginata*. It was men like these who formed the fighting power of the monasteries down to the time of Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

重要第一四一五三號

指定書

一 薙刀直し刀 無銘 重真 一口

法量 長さ六七・八寸 反り〇・六程

形状 薙刀直し造 庵棟身幅尋常 鑄地を削いで鑄高く

鍛 反り浅くつき、大鋒

板目肌流れ 頻りに肌立ち 地沸つき 地景入り 地斑調の

肌合を交え 乱れ映り立つ

刃文 広直刃基調に角張る刃・互の目など交じり 小沸出来

彫物 砂流し・金筋かかる

帽子 横手上や立ち上がり その先は小さく乱れこころなる

茎 表裏腰元に細樋を掻き流す

大磨上 鏡目切り 目釘孔二

右者當協會に於て審査の結果

重要刀剣に指定する

平成二十九年十一月十七日

公益財団法人 日本美術刀剣保存協會

會長 酒井忠久

東京 教育委員会  
第 28021 号  
昭和26年 3月 31日

63rd session Jûyô Certificate No. 14153  
Shiteisho (指定書) Certificate of Designation  
Naginata-naoshi katana, mumei: Shigezane (重真)

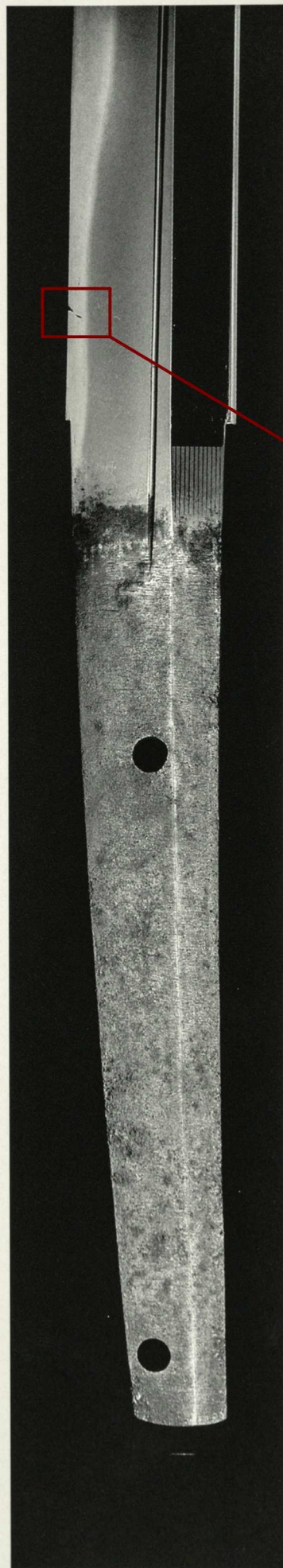
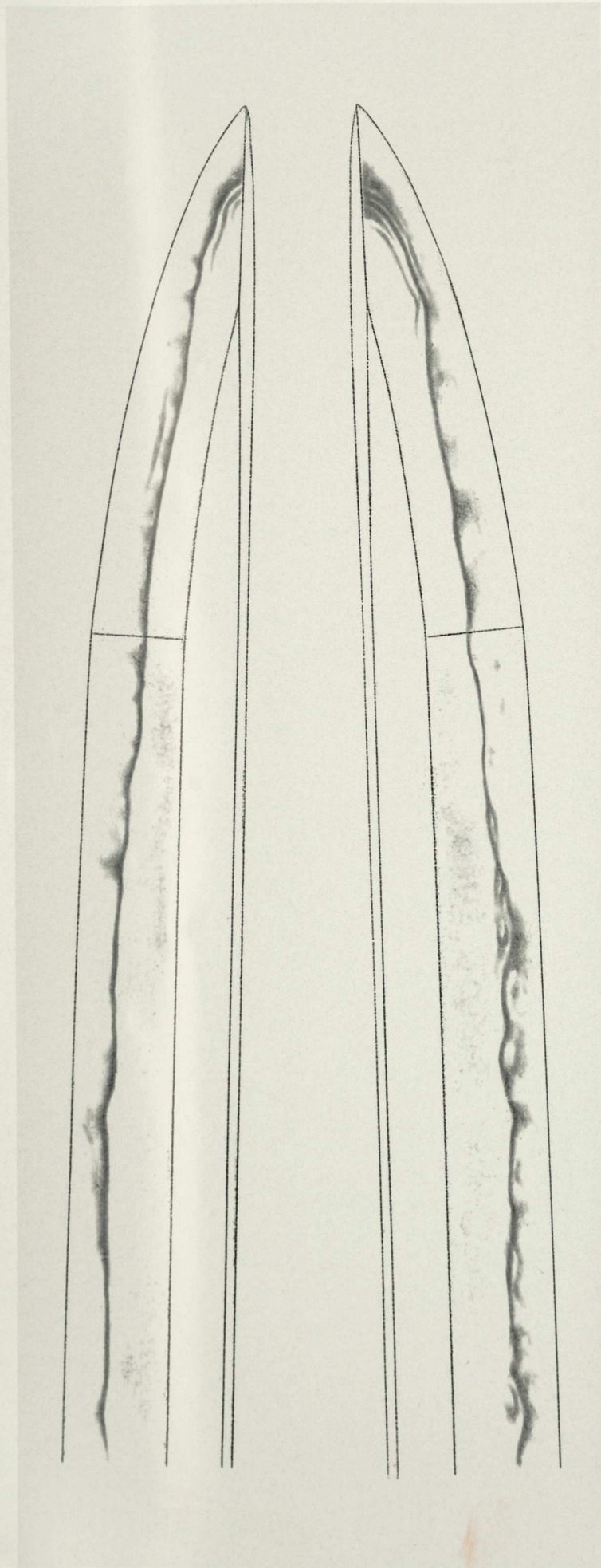
Measurements  
nagasa: 67.8 cm, sori: 0.6cm

Description:

*Keijô: naginata-naoshi-zukuri, iori-mune, normal mihaba, somewhat widening towards the tip, high shinogi and shinogi-ji dropping off towards the mune, shallow sori, ô-kissaki*  
*Kitae: mostly standing-out itame-nagare that is mixed with mokume and that features plenty of ji-nie, much chikei, some jifu, and a midare-utsuri, the steel is somewhat blackish*  
*Hamon: hiro-suguha-chô in ko-nie-deki with a rather subdued nioiguchi, mixed with angular elements, gunome, ko-gunome, ko-chôji, many ashi and yô, and a few sunagashi and kinsuji*  
*Bôshi: with a slight protrusion over the yokote and then with a slight tendency towards midare-komi, featuring nie-kuzure, and running out as yakitsume*  
*Horimono: on both sides a thin hi at the base that runs as kaki-nagashi into the tang*  
*Nakago: ô-suriage, kurijiri, kiri-yasurime, two 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 17, 2017  
Foundation: Nihon Bijutsu Tôken Hozon Kyôkai, NBTHK  
President: Sakai Tadahisa (酒井忠久)



薙刀直し刀 無銘 重真

*kirikomi*



NBTHK Juyo Token White Paper

The *oshigata* illustrates the *hamon* with *hataraki* and *midare utsuri*. The photograph of the *nakago* shows that the sword passed NBTHK Jûyô Tôken with *kirikomi* (battle scar) at the base of the blade.



備前長船重真  
Osafune Shigezane in Bizen province

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

内藤家伝来之一  
*Naitô-ke denrai no hitotsu*  
Heirloom of the Naitô family

刃長貳尺貳寸四分有之  
*Hachô 2-shaku 2-sun 4-bu kore ari*  
Blade length 67.8cm

昭和五拾壹年端午月吉日  
*Shôwa gojûichi nen tango-tsuki kichijitsu*  
On a lucky day in May in the 51st year of Shôwa (1976)

寒山誌(花押)  
*Kanzan shirusu + kaô*  
Written by Kanzan + monogram

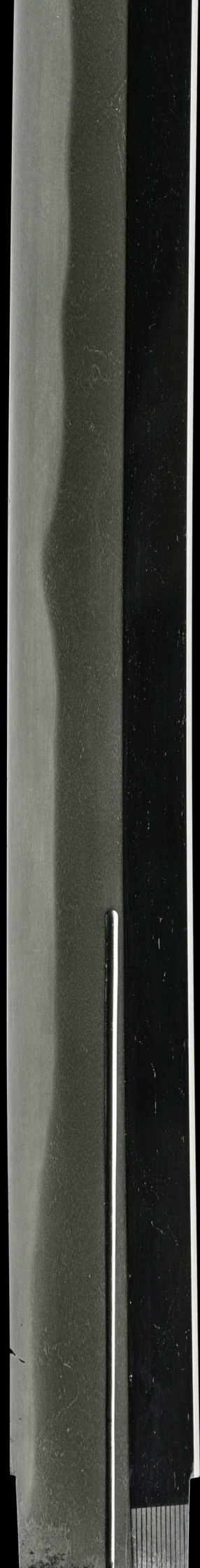
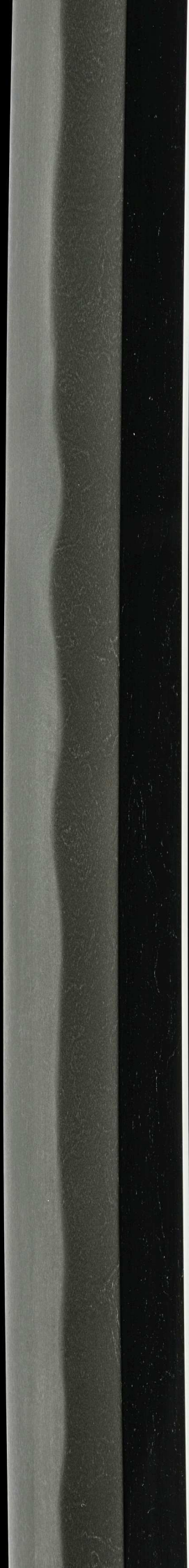
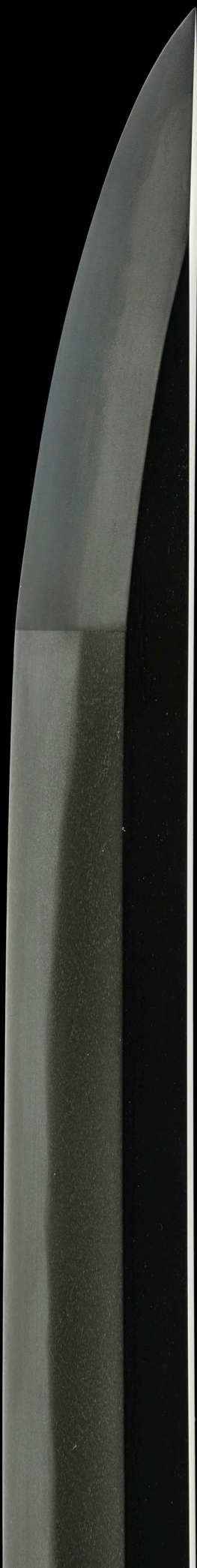


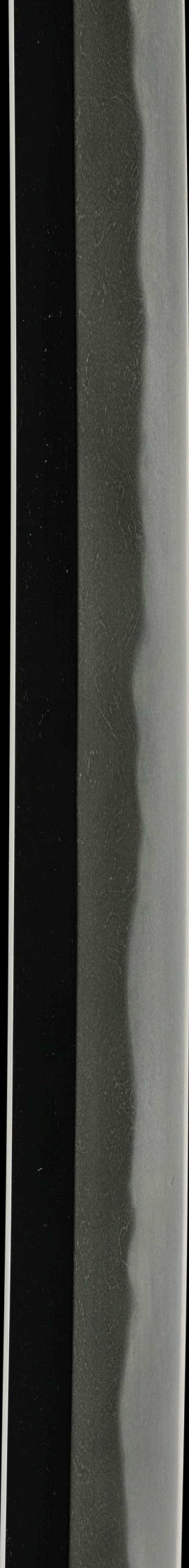
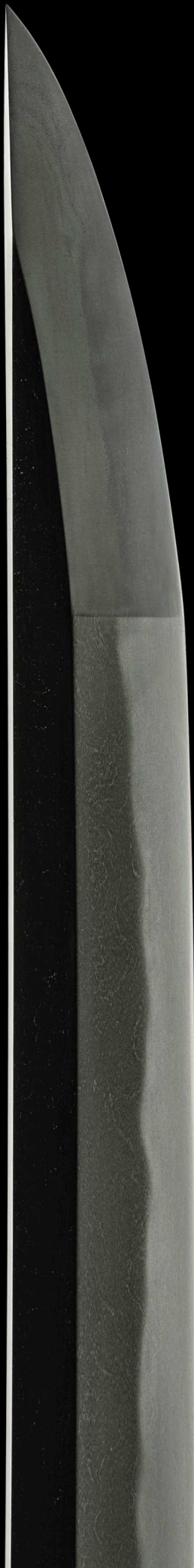
Naitô Nobunari (内藤 信成, June 13, 1545 – August 20, 1612)

As recorded on the *sayagaki* by *Dr. Kanzan*, former director of the NBTHK, this katana was an heirloom of the *Naitô family*. A prominent figure in the Naitô family history was *Naitô Nobunari*, a samurai of the *Sengoku* period through the early Edo period. He served the ruling Tokugawa clan and later became a *daimyô*.

Nobunari is believed to have been the illegitimate son of *Matsudaira Hirotada* - making him the half-brother of *shôgun Tokugawa Ieyasu*. After distinguishing himself in battle during a certain assault upon *Kuroma* castle Nobunari went on to respectively support the Tokugawa within the *Battle of Mikatagahara* in 1573, and *Nagashino* of 1575.

By the year of 1590, Nobunari would be awarded *Nirayama Castle of Izu Province*—respectively holding 10,000 *koku* to its name—and would enter into the Edo period with a 50,000 *koku* fief at *Nagahama* within *Ômi province*, where he remained as daimyô until he died in 1612.





An intimidating *o-kissaki*  
of over 9cm (~3.6inch)



*Kirokomi* - this a monumental battle scar from another sword when defending in combat.

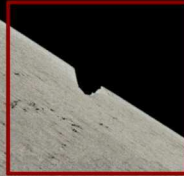
These prized marks of courage are intentionally left by sword polishers - never to be repaired. Their significance cannot be overemphasized.





FIG. 9. Two bushi returning from a sortie against the Mongols in the late thirteenth century, carrying the severed heads of their victims on the points of their weapons. From a Japanese illustration.

Japanese Polearms by Roald M. Knutsen



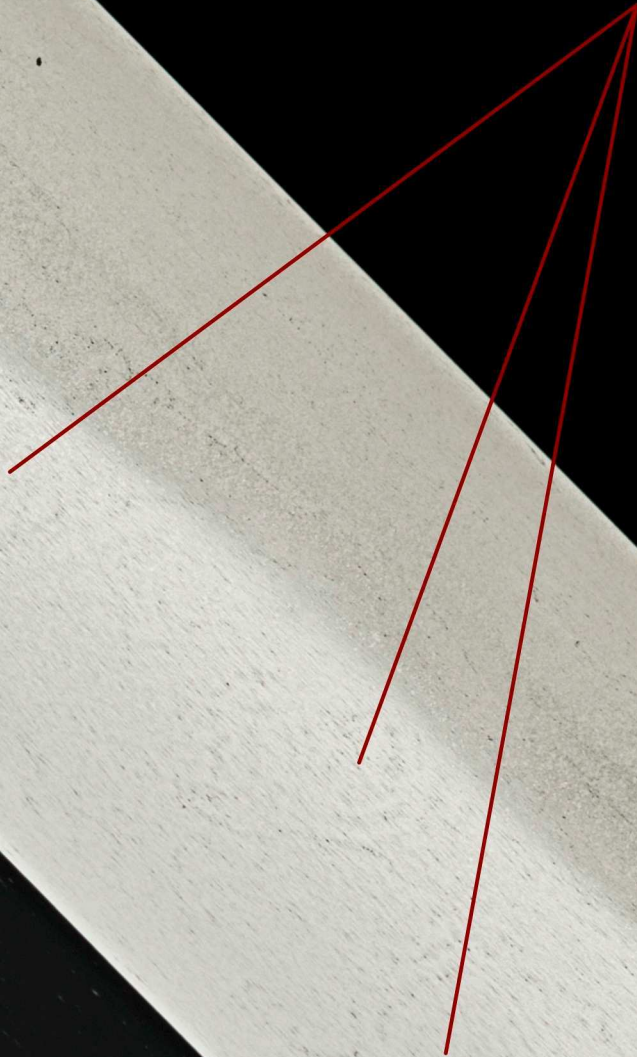
reverse side look at the *kirikomi*

A flowing *itame-nagare-hada* (wavy wood grain pattern) that the *Jûyô tôken* certificate describes as 'standing out'.

Healthy swords with an age of 600 years or more that have retained their vivid grain pattern (such on this katana) demonstrates that the blade has not been overly polished and thus highly prized.



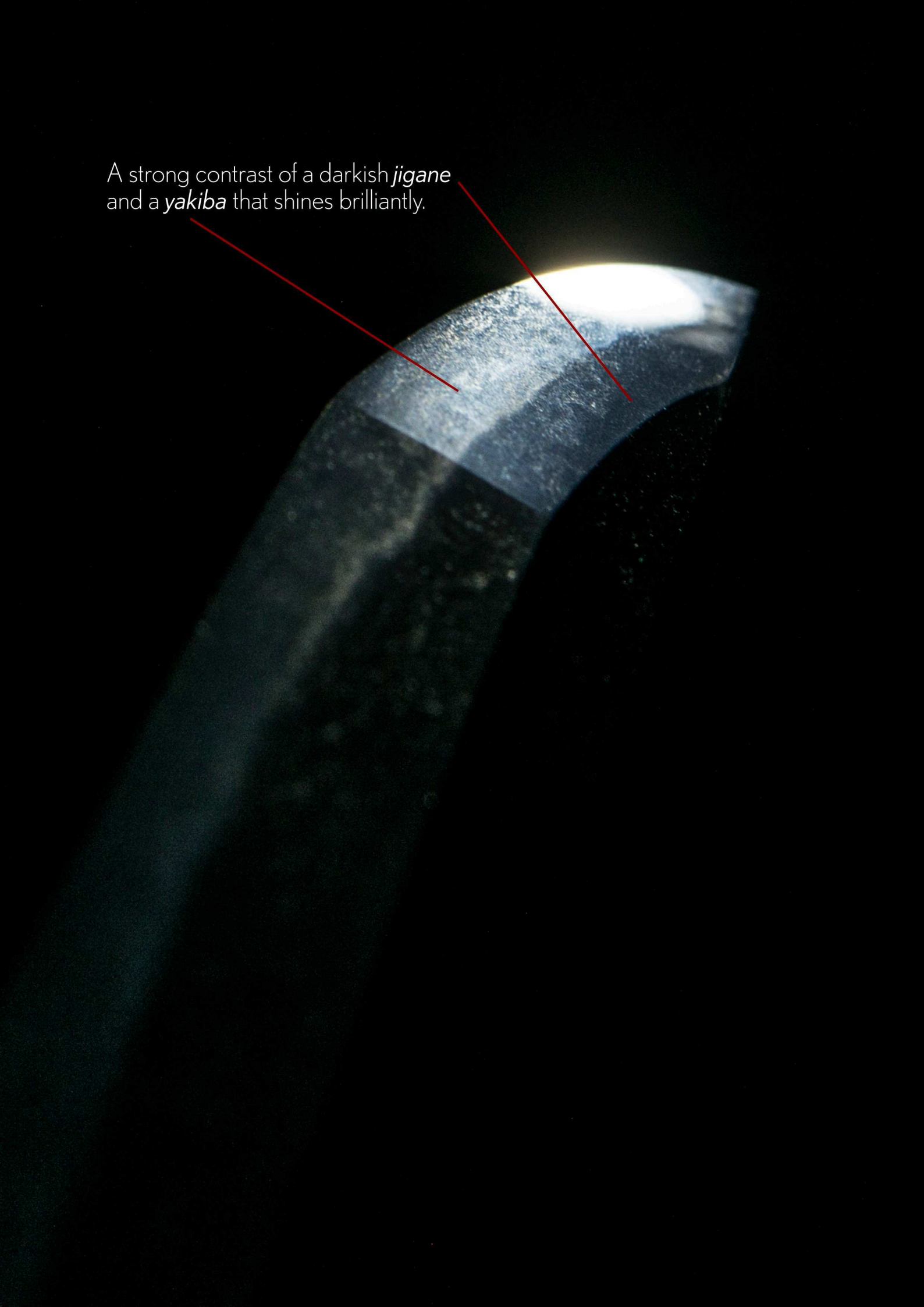
The *jihada* also features sections of a beautiful *mokume-hada*, a rounded burl grain pattern.






A sublime *midare-komi boshi* that features an exciting contortion of *nie-kuzure* (crystals).

A strong contrast of a darkish *jigane*  
and a *yakiba* that shines brilliantly.






Literally meaning "reflection", *utsuri* is a beautiful, rather magical, misty reflection appearing in the *ji* (body of sword) above the *hamon*).


It is much loved and appreciated feature of swords, particular those made in the Bizen tradition in the Koto period.

The type of *utsuri* is called *midare-utsuri* - a smokey pattern that billows in a wavy formation following the hamon pattern.



The Jûyô token white paper describes the sword of having elements of *Aoe tradition*.

Here we see *namazu-hada*, dark spots of nie crystals that resemble the skin of a catfish (*namazu*), a unique feature of the Aoe school.



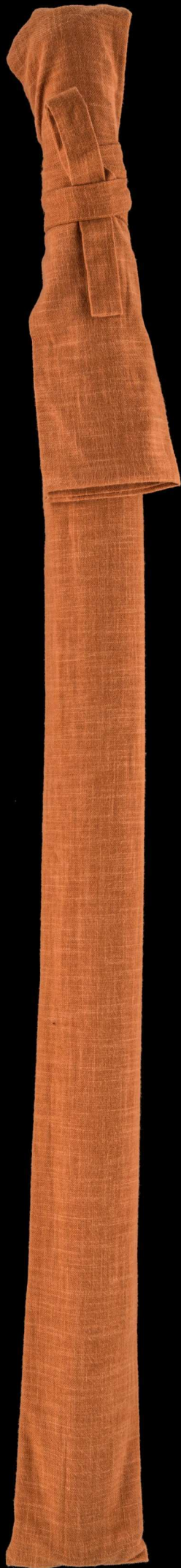
Yo (leaves) are beautiful clusters of nie crystals inside the hamon.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing the hamon (temper line). The blade is dark and metallic, with a bright, glowing edge. Two red lines point from the text to specific areas of the hamon. The upper line points to a section where the hamon is relatively smooth and bright. The lower line points to a section where the hamon is more textured and shows small, shimmering crystals.

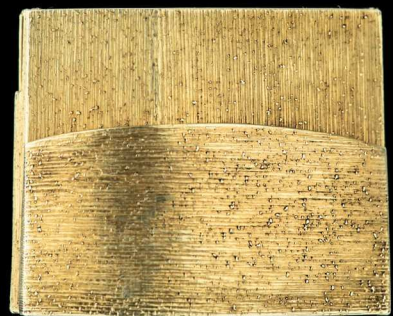
*ko-gunome hamon* in *ko-nie deki* - tiny nie crystals can be seen making up the hamon.

A close-up photograph of a sword's blade, focusing on the hamon (the edge of the blade). The hamon is wide and features a hiro-suguha pattern, which is characterized by sections of angularity that pulse like a heartbeat. The blade is dark, and the hamon is highlighted by a bright, glowing light. Two red lines point from the text to the hamon.

A wide, captivating *hiro-suguha hamon* contains sections of angularity that pulse like a heartbeat.



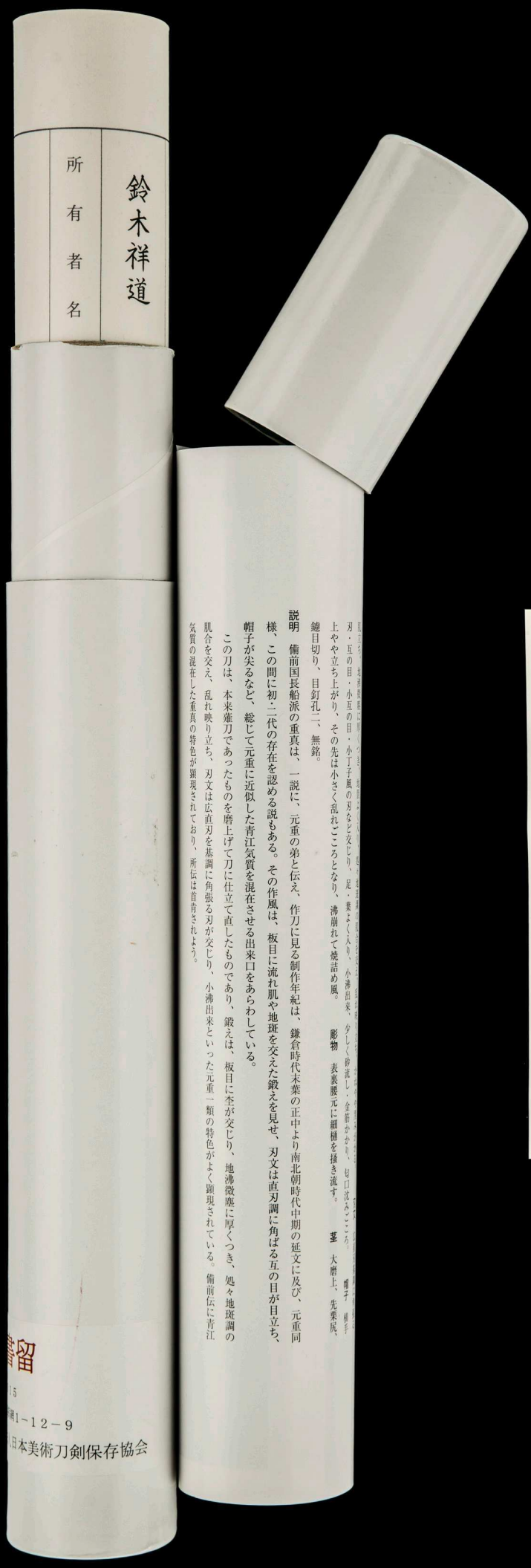
*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)



*gold ni-ju habaki*



A beautiful gold *niju habaki* secures the sword in the shirasaya.



所有者名  
鈴木祥道

留  
1-12-9  
日本美術刀剣保存協会

刃・互の目・小五の目・小丁風の刃など交じり、足・葉よく入り、小沸出来、少しく砂流し、全幅小かり、切口沈みこころ、帽子、横手、上やや立ち上がり、その先は小さく乱れこころなり、沸削れて洗詰め風。彫物 表裏腰元に細樋を掻き流す。莖 大磨上、先栗尻、鈍目切り、目釘孔二、無銘。

**説明** 備前国長船派の重真は、一説に、元重の弟と伝え、作刀に見る制作年紀は、鎌倉時代末期の正中より南北朝時代中期の延文に及び、元重同様、この間に初二代存在を認める説もある。その作風は、板目に流れ肌や地斑を交えた鍛えを見せ、刃文は直刃調に角ばる互の目が目立ち、帽子が尖るなど、総じて元重に近似した青江気質を混在させる出来口をあらわしている。

この刀は、本来雄刀であったものを磨上げて刀に仕立て直したものであり、鍛えは、板目に李が交じり、地沸微塵に厚くつき、処々地斑調の肌合を交え、乱れ映り立ち、刃文は広直刃を基調に角張る刃が交じり、小沸出来といった元重一類の特色がよく顕現されている。備前伝に青江気質の混在した重真の特色が顕現されており、所伝は首肯されよう。

平成二十五年十一月十七日指定  
第六十三回 重要 刀 剣  
鈴木祥道

刀 直刃、無銘、重真  
二口

遺蹟 長七、八、九、十、十一、十二、十三、十四、十五、十六、十七、十八、十九、二十、二十一、二十二、二十三、二十四、二十五、二十六、二十七、二十八、二十九、三十、三十一、三十二、三十三、三十四、三十五、三十六、三十七、三十八、三十九、四十、四十一、四十二、四十三、四十四、四十五、四十六、四十七、四十八、四十九、五十、五十一、五十二、五十三、五十四、五十五、五十六、五十七、五十八、五十九、六十、六十一、六十二、六十三、六十四、六十五、六十六、六十七、六十八、六十九、七十、七十一、七十二、七十三、七十四、七十五、七十六、七十七、七十八、七十九、八十、八十一、八十二、八十三、八十四、八十五、八十六、八十七、八十八、八十九、九十、九十一、九十二、九十三、九十四、九十五、九十六、九十七、九十八、九十九、一百

形状 直刃、無銘、重真、先へびで、元重の作風を踏襲し、刃文は直刃調に角ばる互の目が目立ち、帽子が尖るなど、総じて元重に近似した青江気質を混在させる出来口をあらわしている。

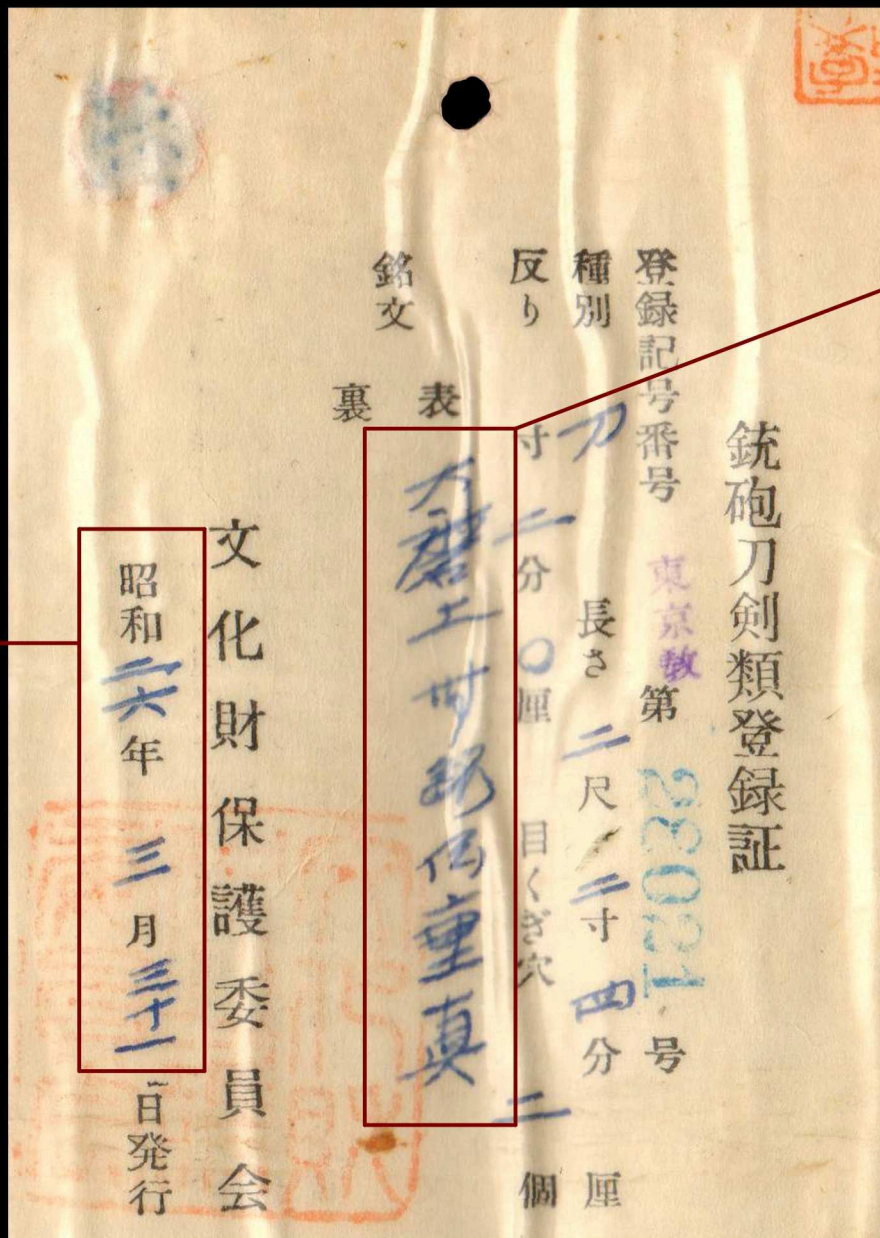
刃・互の目・小五の目・小丁風の刃など交じり、足・葉よく入り、小沸出来、少しく砂流し、全幅小かり、切口沈みこころ、帽子、横手、上やや立ち上がり、その先は小さく乱れこころなり、沸削れて洗詰め風。彫物 表裏腰元に細樋を掻き流す。莖 大磨上、先栗尻、鈍目切り、目釘孔二、無銘。

**説明** 備前国長船派の重真は、一説に、元重の弟と伝え、作刀に見る制作年紀は、鎌倉時代末期の正中より南北朝時代中期の延文に及び、元重同様、この間に初二代存在を認める説もある。その作風は、板目に流れ肌や地斑を交えた鍛えを見せ、刃文は直刃調に角ばる互の目が目立ち、帽子が尖るなど、総じて元重に近似した青江気質を混在させる出来口をあらわしている。

この刀は、本来雄刀であったものを磨上げて刀に仕立て直したものであり、鍛えは、板目に李が交じり、地沸微塵に厚くつき、処々地斑調の肌合を交え、乱れ映り立ち、刃文は広直刃を基調に角張る刃が交じり、小沸出来といった元重一類の特色がよく顕現されている。備前伝に青江気質の混在した重真の特色が顕現されており、所伝は首肯されよう。

63rd 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.



March 31, 1951

Ô-suriage mumei  
den Shigezane

The original *torokusho* (registration card) has been preserved for the *Shigezane katana*. The card was registered on the 31st day of the 3rd month in the 26th year of the Shōwa era (March 31, 1951).

This is significant as 1951 was the very first year that swords were formally registered in Japan. Many former Daimyo families were invited to submit their collections suggesting this blade was once held by a prominent family.

What makes this *torokusho* particularly noteworthy is that we read on the card *Ô-suriage mumei den Shigezane* (greatly shortened, unsigned, attributed to Shigezane). This is extremely unusual because protocol dictates that the *torokusho* should simply state *mumei* (unsigned) if there is no signature on the *nakago*. Attributions are left to sword preservation societies like the NBTHK to assess.

What is possible is that on the registration day the sword had an old *shirasaya* with *sayagaki* or *origami* (paper certificate possibly from the Hon'ami family) stating that this sword was attributed to Shigezane. The registration officer then decided it was appropriate to record this attribution on the *torokusho*.

# Building Your Own Custom Koshirae



ujka211 - A Shodai Hisamichi Katana  
'Red dragon' Koshirae



ujwa130 - A Tadashige o-Wakizashi  
'Ray skin' Koshirae

Many top quality samurai swords that Unique Japan acquires come stored in a *shirasaya* only. A *shirasaya* acts like a humidifier, protecting the steel for the long term.

Just as the samurai would have ordered a custom *koshirae* (outdoor mounts) during the Edo period, you too can have a traditional set of *koshirae* crafted for your sword (or daisho) like a tailored suit in a theme that connects with your spirit.

At Unique Japan, we have proudly created dozens of custom *koshirae* projects for our clients over the years - each with their own style and energy.

The *tsuka* (hilt), *saya* (scabbard), *samekawa* (ray skin), silk, and lacquer is all handcrafted by skilled craftspeople in Japan. The *tsuba*, *fuchi-kashira*, *menuki* and other fittings are carefully sourced samurai antiques largely from the Edo period.

This unique blend of modern life meeting traditional history is what makes each creation so personally rewarding for every client.

The investment required ranges from \$4,000 to over \$10,000 depending on the quality of the fittings and the complexity of the lacquerwork. Each project also demands patience as many will take one year to complete (but it's well worth it).

Please contact Unique Japan for further details.

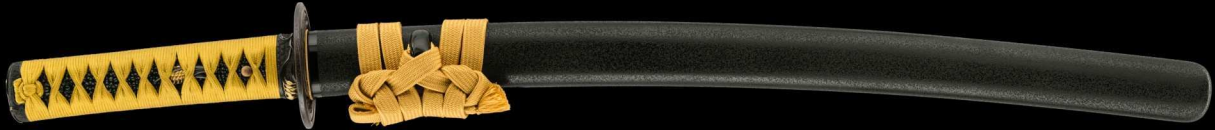


ujka173 - A Sadatsugu Juyo Katana  
'Wave theme' Koshirae

# Recently completed custom koshirae projects



ujka270 - A Ko-Naminohira Katana  
Traditional Akechi Mitsuhide Koshirae



ujwa154 - A Kanekuni Wakizashi  
Rice & harvest theme, stone lacquered finish



ujwa244 - A Yasustugu Wakizashi  
Chrysanthemum theme, stone & gloss lacquered finish



ujwa234 - A Sadahide/Masahide Wakizashi  
Goto dragon theme, gloss lacquered finish



ujka271 - A Korehira Katana  
Celebration theme, gloss lacquered finish



ujka179 - A Kanenaga Juyo Katana  
'Gazing at the stars' theme, gloss lacquered finish



ujdi001 - A Hizen Yukihiro Daisho  
Dragon & chrysanthemum theme, stone lacquered finish