



ITEM# UJKA371

## A MAGO'EMON KIYOMITSU KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD (EIROKU ERA: AUGUST 1570)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Bizen no Kuni jû Osafune Mago'emon no jô Kiyomitsu (ubu nakago)</i>
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 70.45cm <b>Curvature:</b> 1.7cm <b>Motohaba:</b> 3.13cm
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Well-forged itame and mokume with chikei and faint Bizen utsuri</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Suguha-kuzure with ko-ashi, yô and sunagashi</i>
<b>Certificate 1:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</b> ( <i>designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation</i> )
<b>Certificate 2-4:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Kanteisho</b> ( <i>a koshirae, tsuba &amp; fk designated as Authentic</i> )
<b>Fujishiro rank:</b>	<b>Jô-saku</b> (ranked as a superior smith)
<b>Sharpness:</b>	<b>Wazamono</b> (ranked as a maker of good sharp swords)
<b>Authentication:</b>	<b>Sayagaki by Kanzan</b> (Dr. Satô Kanzan, dated in autumn 1965)
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, Dragon koshirae, stand, bag, kit, DVD, printed description

**SOLD**

Here is an extremely powerful katana from the late Muromachi period dated in August 1570 by superior swordsmith *Bizen Kiyomitsu*. This collectible katana features a rare *zokumei* signature - signed with Kiyomitsu's personal *Mago'emon no jô*. *Zokumei* pieces were reserved for custom-made orders by high-ranking samurai and are regarded the finest works by the swordsmith.

There are several points to admire in this katana. Its formidable structure with a thick *kasane* (spine) has comfortably stood the test of time, weighing an impressive 900grams. The smoky *suguha-kuzure hamon* is interwoven with *kinsuji*, *yô* and *sunagashi*. A custom koshirae of brave cloud dragons features a certified polished silver *fuchi-kashira* signed by *Ishiguro Koretsune*.



Saki-kasane: 4.2mm

Moto-kasane: 7.8mm

Omosa: 900g

Kissaki: 3.65cm

Saki-haba: 1.99cm

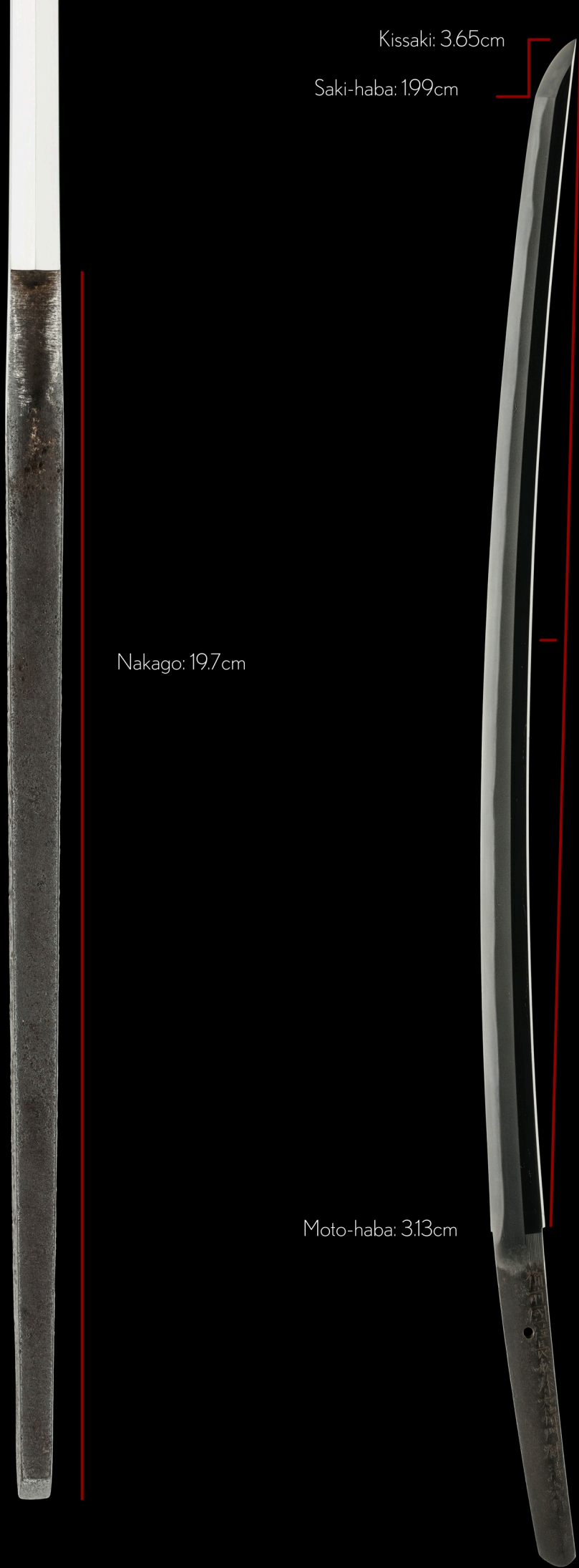
Nakago: 19.7cm

Moto-haba: 3.13cm

Nagasa: 70.45cm

Sori: 1.70cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Swordsmith *Kiyomitsu Mago'emon* was active during the *Eiroku era* (1558~1570).

This powerful katana was dated in August 1570, at the peak of his career.

Kiyomitsu was the son of *Gorôzaemon Kiyomitsu*, a highly respected swordsmith in his own right.

As there were many artisans using the Kiyomitsu name, it is thought that works which do not have a *zokumei* (signed with one's personal name) were crafted by this smith.

*Kiyomitsu Mago'emon* is ranked as *jô-saku* (a superior swordsmith) and *wazamono* for his reputation for crafting sharp swords.





Location: *Bizen* (province)

Village: *Osafune*

Personal name: *Mago'emon no jô*

Swordsmith: *Kiyomitsu* (son of *Gorôzaemon*)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)

備 (Bi)

前 (zen, no)

國 (kuni)

住 (jû)

長 (Osa)

船 (fune)

孫 (Mago)

右 (')

衛 (e)

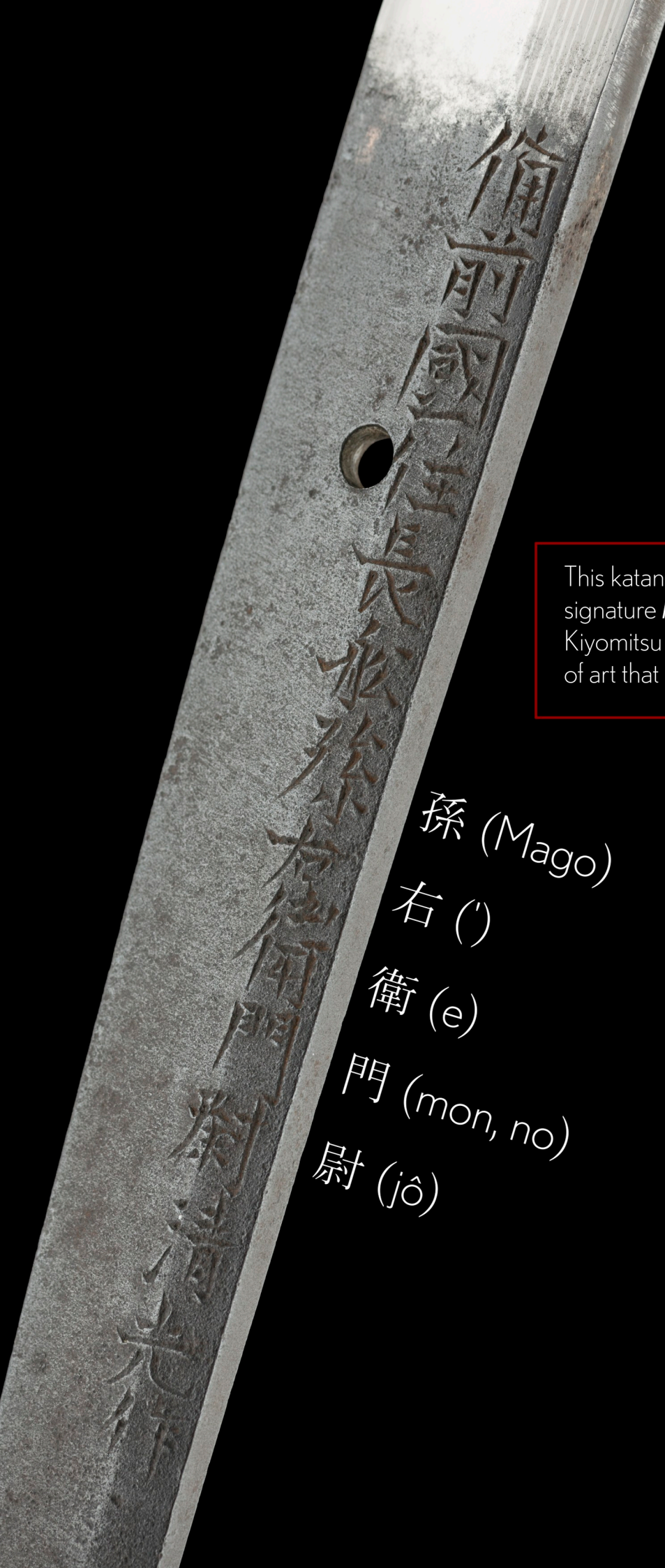
門 (mon, no)

尉 (jô)

清 (Kiyô)

光 (mitsu)

作 (saku)



This katana features the collectible *zokumei* signature *Mago'emon no jô* - the first name of Kiyomitsu - generally seen on his finest works of art that were custom ordered.

孫 (Mago)  
右 (')  
衛 (e)  
門 (mon, no)  
尉 (jô)

*Eiroku jûsan-nen hachigatsu kichijitsu*

This katana was dated on a lucky day in August in the 13th year of Eiroku period (1570).

(Ei) 永

(roku) 禄

(jû) 十

(san) 三

(nen) 年

(hachi) 八

(gatsu) 月

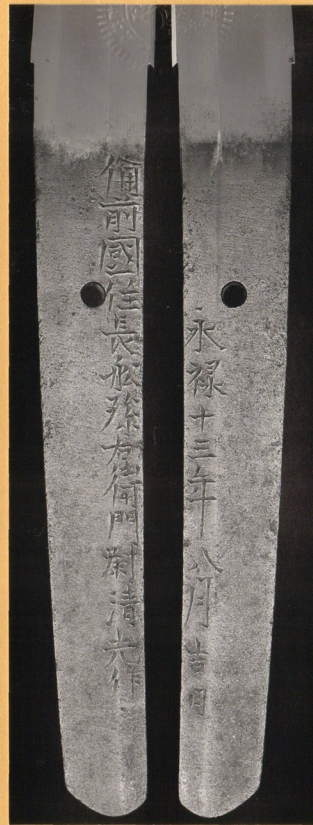
(kichi) 吉

(jitsu) 日



27201501

No 1003400



鑑定書

一刃 銘 備前国住長船孫右衛門尉清光作  
永禄十三年八月廿日

長二尺三寸二分半

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

平成二十七年三月二十六日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



東京 教育委員会  
第 312239 号  
平成26年 9月 9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 27th year of Heisei (2015), March 26th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

*Bizen no kuni jû Osafune Mago'emon no jô Kiyomitsu saku  
Eiroku jûsan-nen hachigatsu kichijitsu*

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 2-bu han (70.45cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



備前國住長船孫右衛門尉清光

*Bizen no kuni jû Osafune Mago'emon no jô Kiyomitsu*

Osafune Mago'emon no jô Kiyomitsu from Bizen province

永禄十三年紀有之優作之一也

*Eiroku jûsan-nen ki kore ari yûsaku no hitotsu nari*

Masterwork dated in the 13th year of Eiroku period (1570)

昭和乙巳歳初秋吉日

*Shôwa kinoto-mi doshi shoshû kichijitsu*

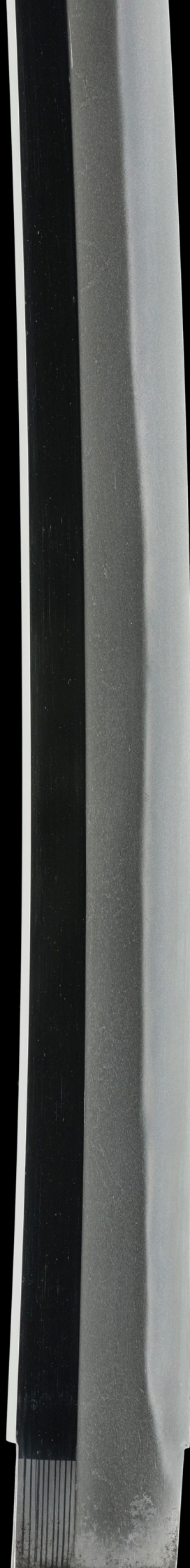
On a lucky day in early autumn of the snake year in Shôwa period (1965)

寒山誌「花押」

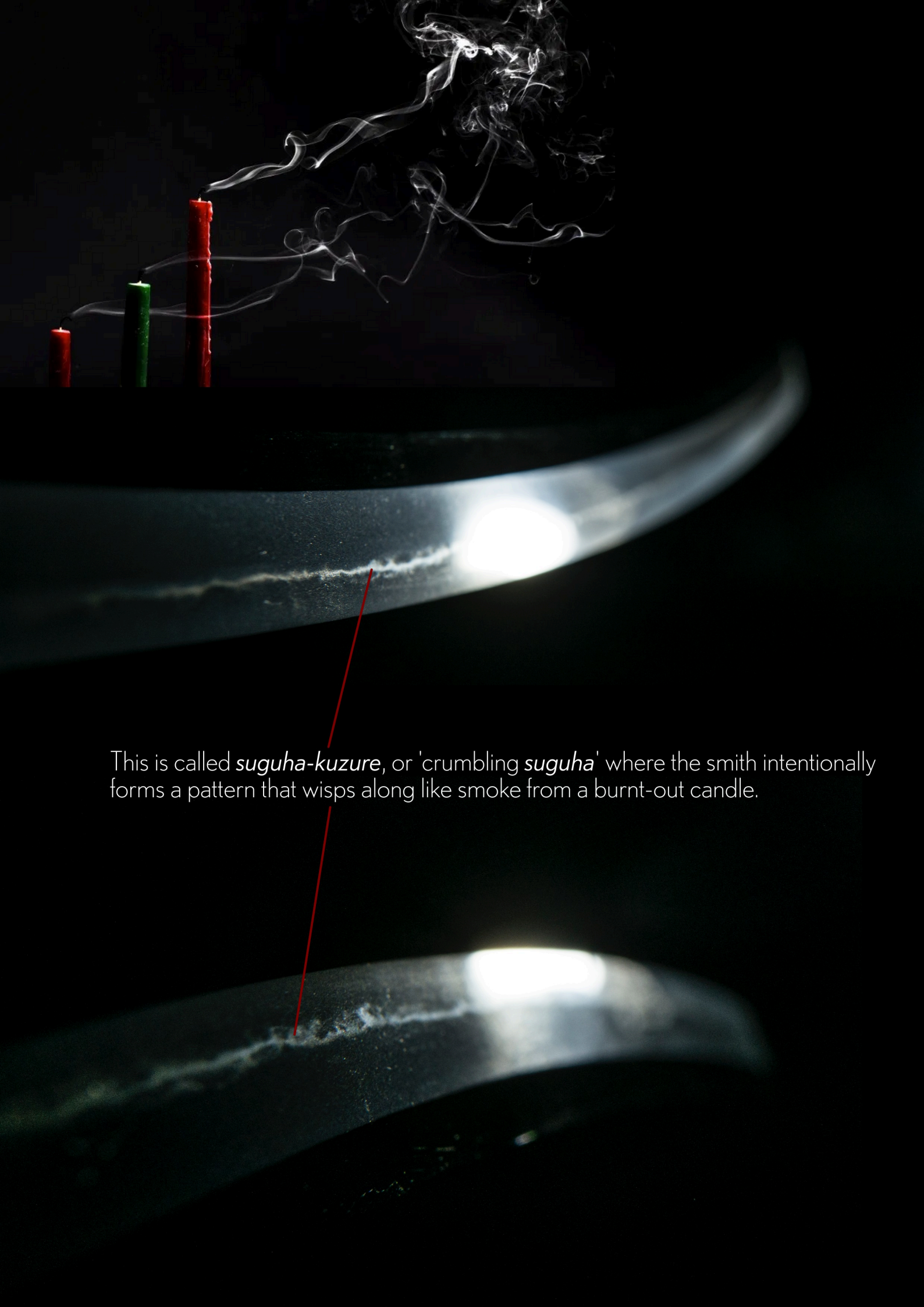
*Kanzan shirusu + kaô*

Written by Kanzan + monogram

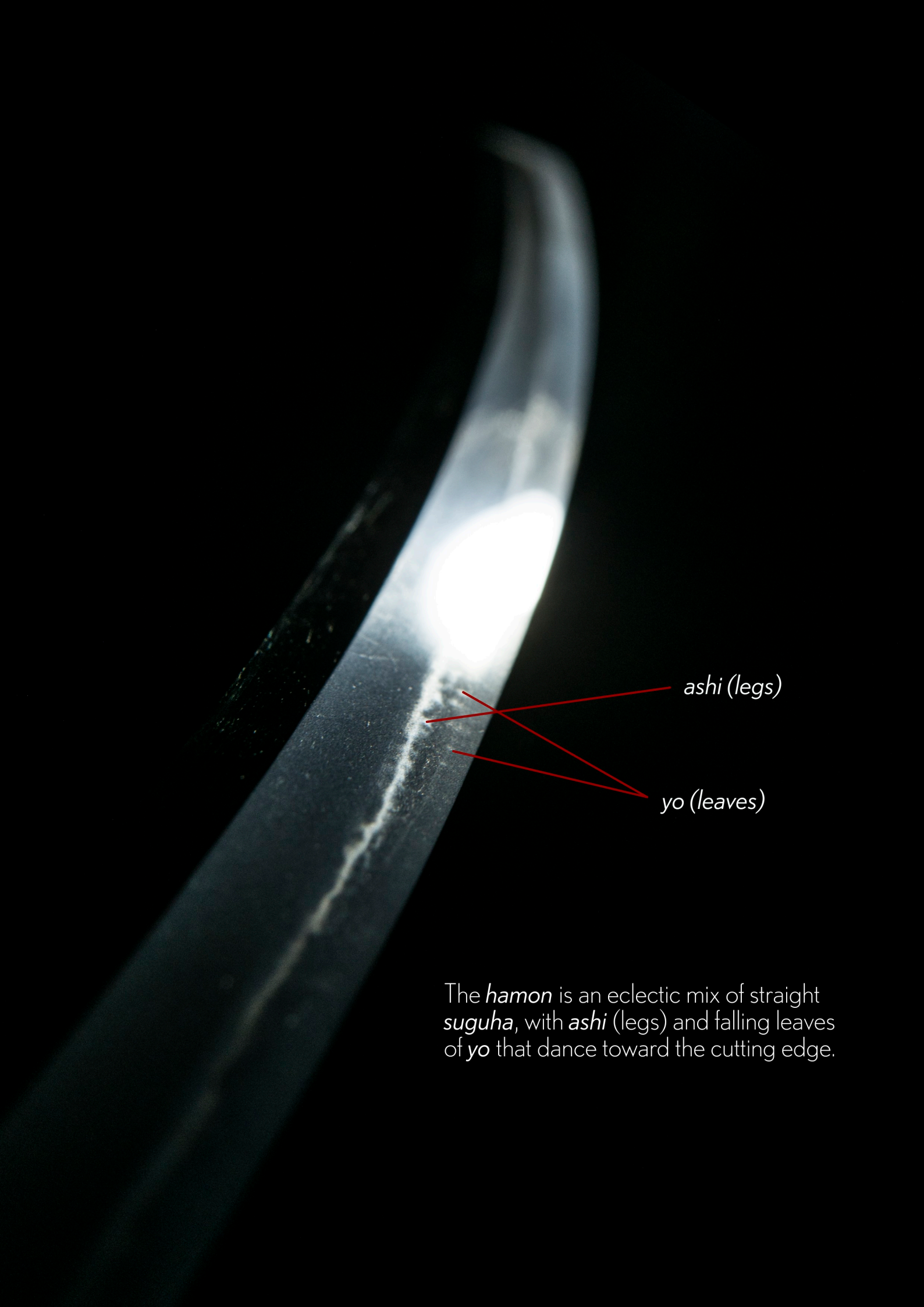
*tokushoku ga akiraka no yûhin nari.*








This is called *suguha-kuzure*, or 'crumbling *suguha*' where the smith intentionally forms a pattern that wisps along like smoke from a burnt-out candle.



*ashi (legs)*

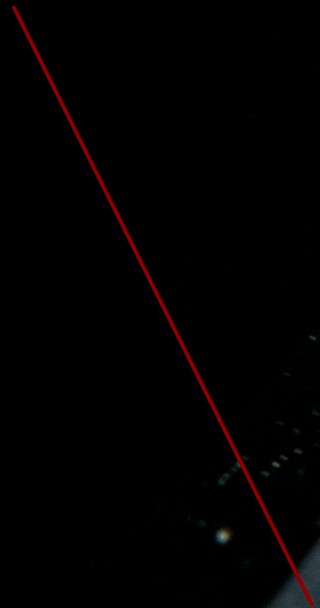
*yo (leaves)*

The *hamon* is an eclectic mix of straight *suguha*, with *ashi* (legs) and falling leaves of *yo* that dance toward the cutting edge.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing a prominent line of kinsuji (a crack or rip) through the hamon (the temper line). The blade is dark and the background is black. A red line points from the text to the kinsuji.

An impressive line of *kinsuji* rips through the hamon that bleeds into the ji to become *chikei*.

A light *utsuri* (shadow hamon) can be seen in respect to classic Bizen tradition.





*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)

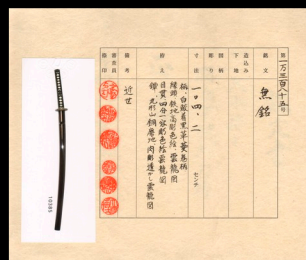


gold *habaki* with  
straight file marks

*Urumi-iro-nuri saya  
uchigatana-koshirae*  
(潤色塗鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae  
of daishô koshirae  
lacquered in dark red*

Crafted during the  
Modern period

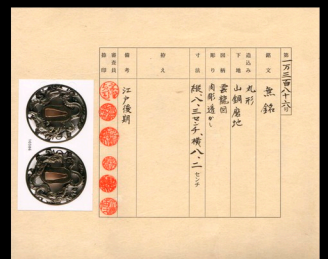
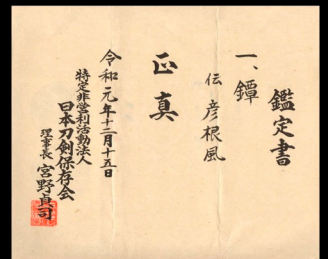


*NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity*



This is a polished raw copper *tsuba* by the *Hikone school* in a spectacularly detailed dragon motif.

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





(reverse)





Guardian cloud dragons known as *unryū* are depicted on both the *menuki* (ornamental grips) and on the *fuchi-kashira* (collar/pommel). The hilt is wrapped in leather which gave the samurai a dependable grip.



(Kore) 是  
(tsune) 常  
+ kaô (seal)



This striking *fuchi-kashira*, uniquely crafted in polished silver was crafted and signed by *Ishiguro Koretsune*.

*Koretsune*, known by the name *Shûkichi*, was the eldest son of the 1st generation master metalsmith *Masatsune*. Despite being the eldest son of Masatsune, but did not succeeding as 2nd generation, it is assumed that he died young, when his father was still alive.



*Fuchi-kashira* crafted by  
*Ishiguro Koretsune*  
(1780-1867)

*Unryû* (cloud dragon)

According to Japanese mythology, the breath of the dragon changes into clouds from which come either rain or fire.

It is able to expand or contract its body, and in addition it has the power of transformation and invisibility.