



ITEM# UJKA414

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON CONSIGNMENT

A SHIGEZANE KATANA

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

Swordsmith:	<i>Shigezane</i> (attribution, <i>ô-suriage nakago</i>)		
Measurements:	Length: 68.2cm	Curvature: 1.4cm	Motohaba: 2.78cm
Jihada:	Gorgeous mixture of <i>itame</i> , <i>mokume</i> and <i>nagare</i> with <i>ji-nie</i> , <i>chikei</i> , light <i>utsuri</i>		
Hamon:	<i>Chû-suguha</i> in <i>nioi-deki</i> with angularity, <i>ashi</i> , <i>yô</i> and <i>sunagashi</i>		
Certificate:	62nd NBTHK <i>Jûyô Tôken Shômeisho</i> (designated as <i>Profound and Important</i>)		
Fujishiro:	<i>Jô-saku</i> (ranked as a superior swordsmith)		
Sharpness:	<i>Ryô-Wazamonô</i> (rated as a maker of highly sharp swords)		
Authentication:	Sayagaki by <i>Tanobe-sensei</i> (<i>Tanobe Michihiro</i>)		
Included:	Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, stand, kit, booklet, printed description		

\$29,000

This exceptional katana crafted by *Shigezane* of the *Motoshige* school, presents a mesmerizing display of various steel textures - from *itame* and *mokume* to the wave-like grain pattern known as *nagare-hada*, offering endless visual fascination for those that love and appreciate great *jihada*. The blade features an elegant razor-tooth *hamon* with distinctive falling leaf *yô* patterns that enhance the overall aesthetic. This sword has been awarded prestigious *jûyô-tôken* and is mounted in matched Edo-period koshirae from the *Kumagai* school, featuring iron-rich metalwork decorated with rain and sand dragons, lending the sword a compelling, austere character. The accompanying *sayagaki* (inscription) by *Tanobe-sensei* confirms this blade as one of *Shigezane*'s masterpieces.



Saki-kasane: 4.1mm

Kissaki: 3.23cm

Saki-haba: 1.97cm

Moto-kasane: 5.4mm

Nagasa: 68.2cm

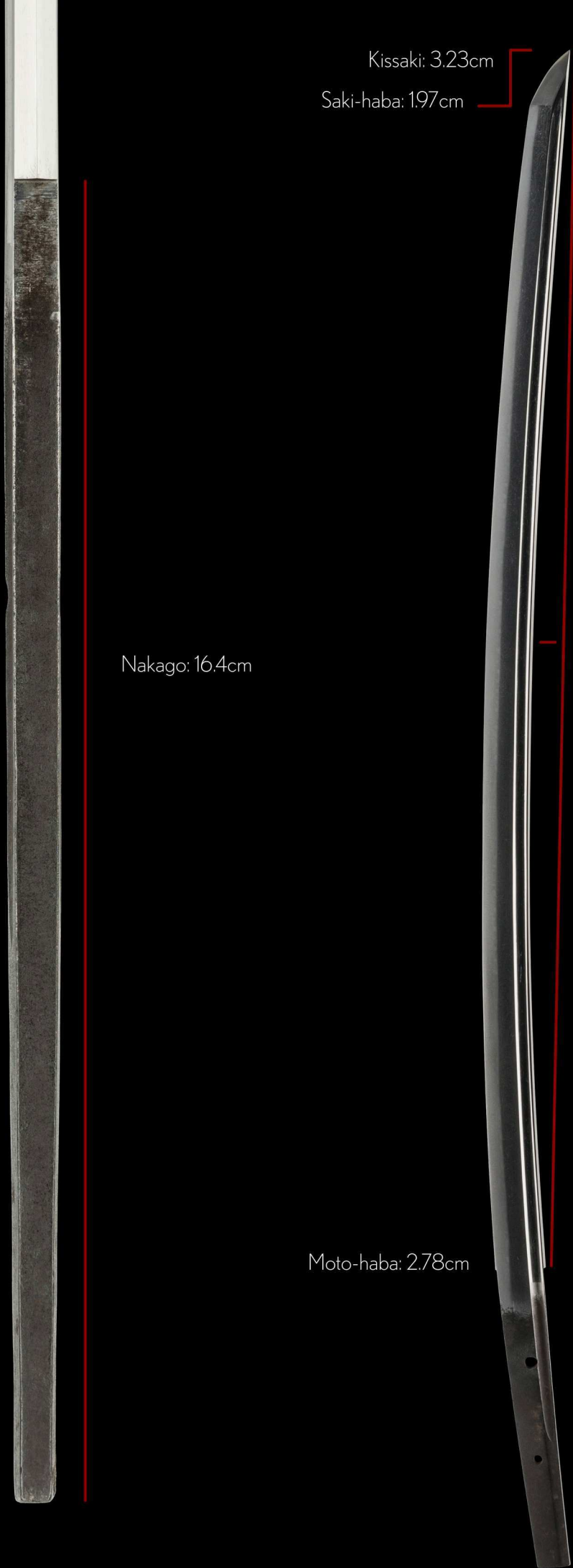
Nakago: 16.4cm

Sori: 1.40cm

Omosa: 615g

Moto-haba: 2.78cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



Shigezane's family name is *Jirôbei* and is said to be the son of the first 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), culminating in 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 *jihada* features a completely eye-catching mix of *itame*, *mokume* and flowing *itame-nagare* and *utsuri*.

The NBTHK certificate states:
"The *jiba* (steel) is perfectly healthy and so we have here a masterwork among all blades attributed to Shigezane."

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



The image displays two views of a sword's nakago (tang). The left view shows a long, tapered metal piece with two circular holes. The right view shows a shorter version of the same piece, also with two circular holes. A red arrow points to a groove on the right-hand piece, which is described in the text as 'kaki-nagashi'.

This sword was once a very long tachi during the *mid-1300s* of the *Nambokuchô period*. The sword is now *ô-suriage nakago* - greatly shortened at least twice since then to suit the battle requirements of the subsequent time periods.

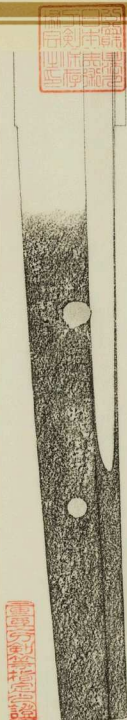
The nakago features *kaki-nagashi* - grooves that extend to the middle of the butt end of the tang.

証明書

指定番号 第一三九七二号

一 刀 無銘 重真 一 口

長さ 六八・二 釐



右は第六二回平成二八年十月十八日付
を以て重要刀 剣 に指定された
ものであることを証明する

令和四年八月十五日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協会

岐阜 教育委員会
第 086644 号
令和 4 年 5 月 18 日

Jûyô Certificate No. 13972
Shômeisho (証明書) Certificate
Katana, mumei: Shigezane (重真)

Nagasa 68.2 cm

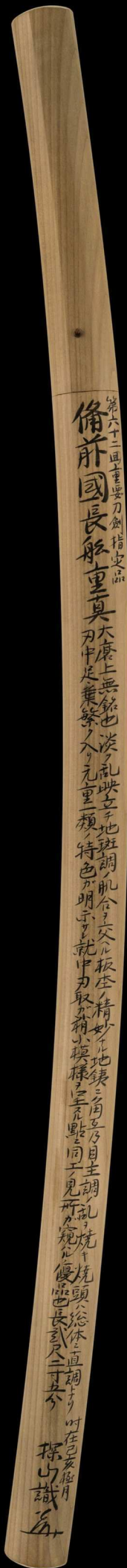
The sword was registered on May 18th in 2022 by the Board of Education of Gifu prefecture

This is to certify that above sword had been designated as *Juyô-Tôken* on October 18th, 2016 at the 62nd session

August 15th, 2022

[Foundation] Nihon Bijutsu Tôken Hozon Kyôkai, NBTHK

** Note: the original *Jûyô Tôken* certificate was lost. By policy, rather than issuing a new certificate, the NBTHK issues a *shômeisho* (a certificate of acceptance) after they carefully review the sword in person ensuring the authenticity and condition of the item.



第六十二回重要刀剣指定品

Dai rokujûni-kai jûyô-tôken shitei-hin

Designated as jûyô-tôken at the 62nd jûyô-shinsa

備前國長船重真

Bizen no Kuni Osafune Shigezane

Osafune Shigezane from Bizen Province

大磨上無銘也淡ク乱映立チ地斑調ノ肌合ヲ交ヘル板空ノ精妙ナル地鍔ニ角互乃目主調ノ乱ヲ焼き焼頭ハ総体ニ直刃トナリ刃中足・葉繁ク入り元重一類ノ特色ガ明示サレ就中刃取ガ稍小模様ヲ呈スル點ニ同工ノ見所ガ窺ハル優品也

Ô-suriage mumei nari awaku midare-utsuri tachi jifu-chô no hada-ai o majieru ita-moku no seimyô naru jigane ni kaku-gunome shuchô no midare o yaki yaki-gashira wa sôtai ni suguha to nari hachû ashi yô shigeku hairi Motoshige ichirui no tokushoku ga meiji sare nakanzuku hadori ga yaya ko-moyô o teisuru ten ni dôkô no midokoro ga ukagawaru yûhin nari

[The blade is] *ô-suriage mumei*. It features a faint *midare-utsuri*, and its finely forged *jigane* appears as *itame-mokume* mix with a tendency towards *jifu*. The hardening of the blade is based on an angular *gunome* whose *yakigashira* are overall aligned as *suguha*. The *ha* is mixed with connected *ashi* and *yô*, and thus we recognize the typical characteristics of the *Motoshige* group. Within this group, the relatively small elements of which the *ha* is composed of is synonymous with *Shigezane* and the blade is a masterwork of his.

長貳尺二寸五分

Nagasa 2 shaku 2 sun 5 bu

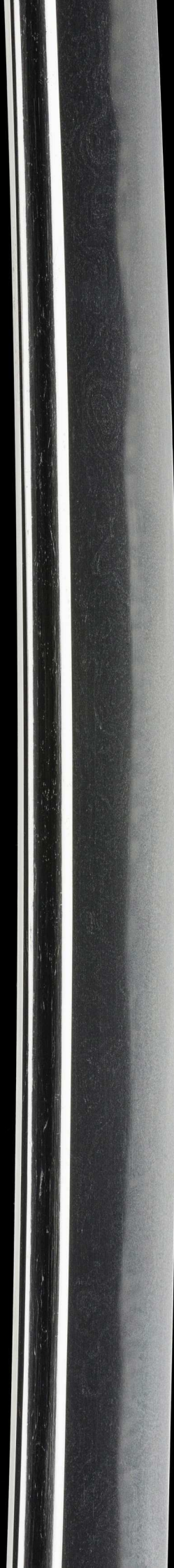
Blade length ~ 68.2 cm

時在己亥極月探山識「花押」

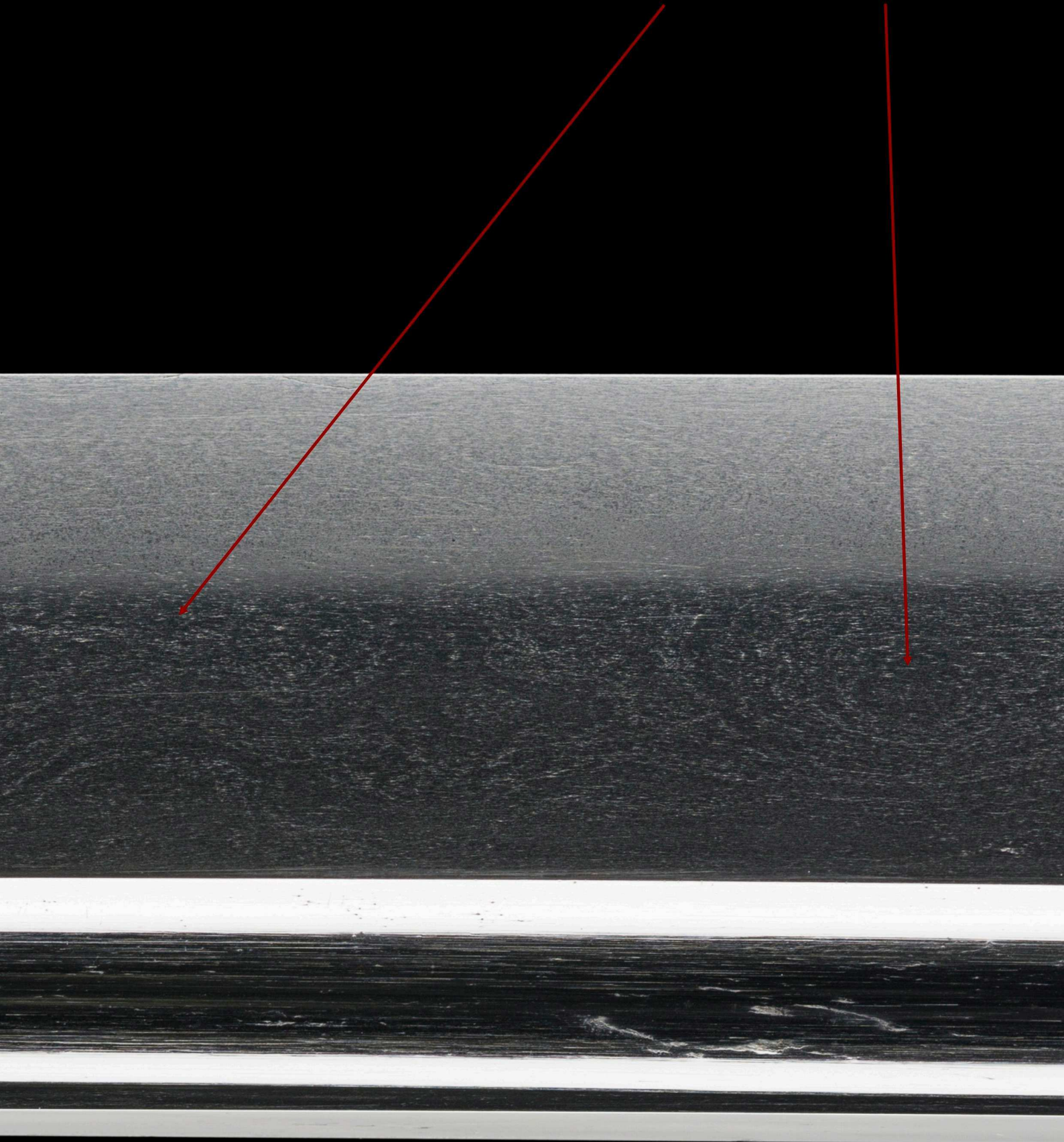
Toki ari tsuchinoto-i gokugetsu Tanzan shirusu + kaô

Written by Tanzan [Tanobe Michihiro] in December of the Year of the Boar of this era (2019) + monogram

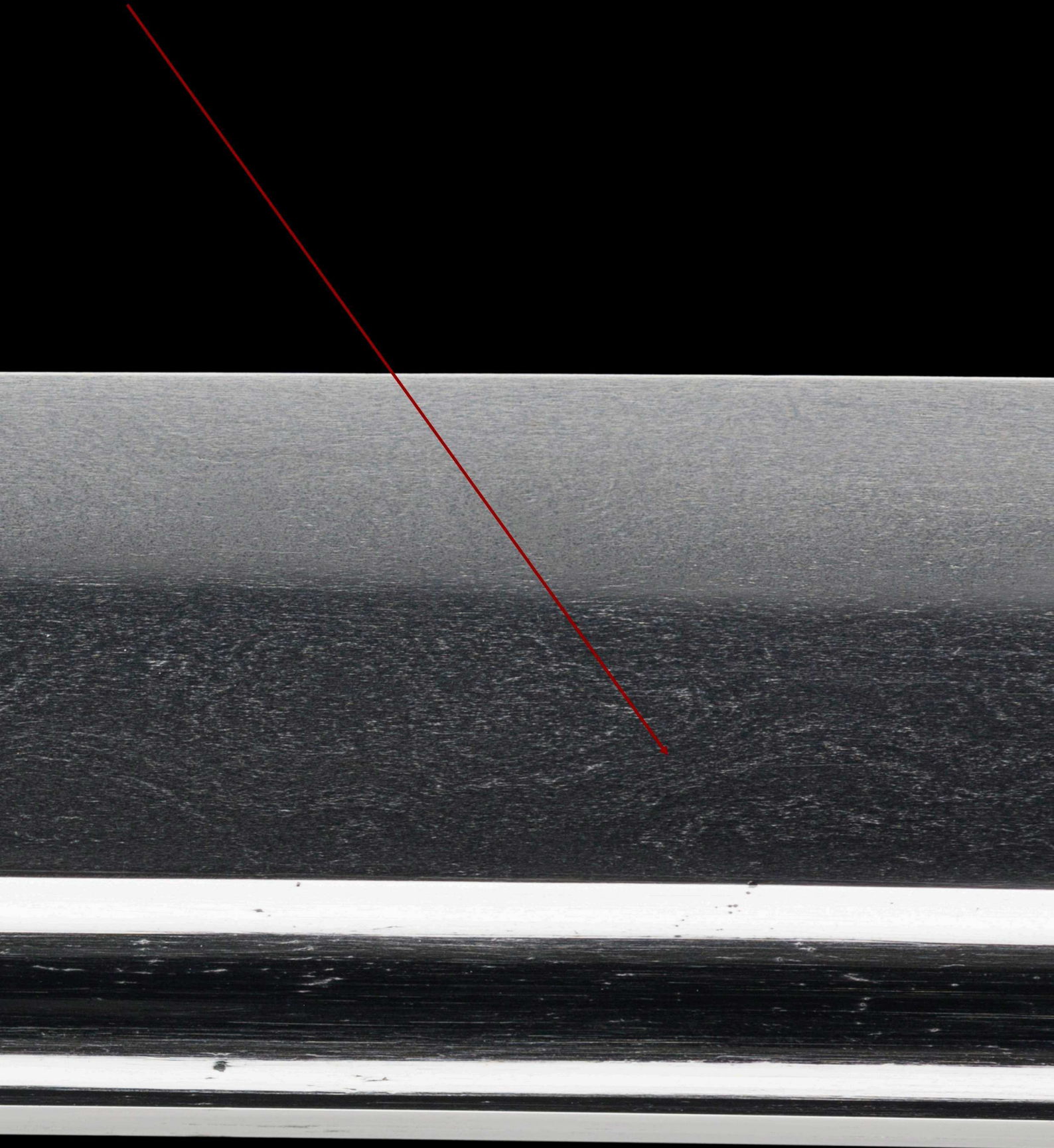




The *jihada* (grain pattern) is a sublime mix of *itame* (plank grain), *mokume* (burl grain)



and *nagare-hada* (running, wavy). This is steel artisanship.




Stand tall.

The *bôshi* (hamon in the *kissaki*, tip) features brushed *hakikake*.





A beautiful tight *nioguchi* with sharp, angular sections of *gunome* and *ashi* (legs) that resemble the teeth of a saw.

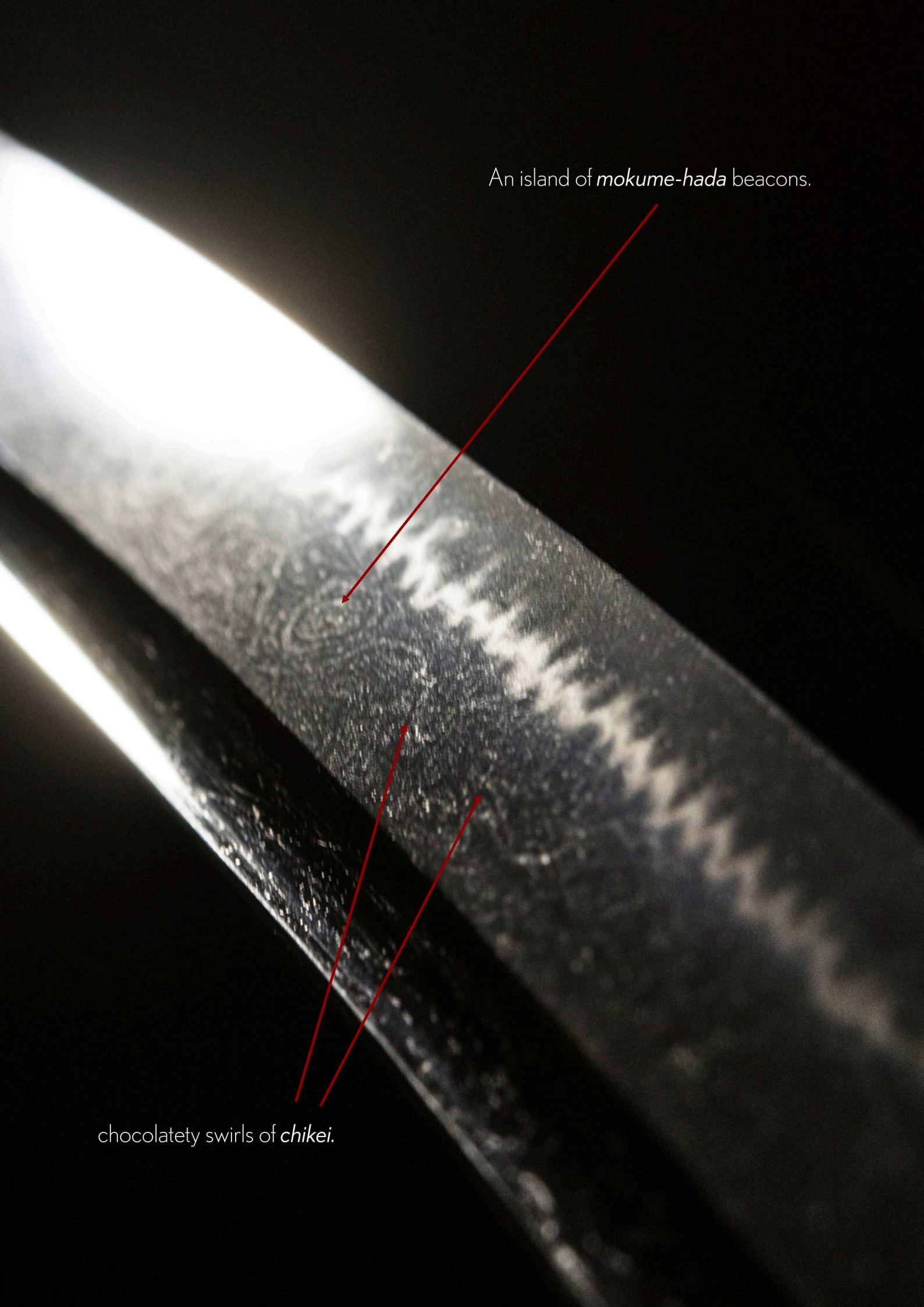
A close-up, low-angle photograph of a katana blade against a black background. The blade is illuminated from the side, highlighting its curved edge and the hamon (temper line). The hamon is a straight line with a series of small, dark, rectangular spots along its length. A red arrow points from the text 'chû-suguha' to the hamon. Two other red arrows point from the text below to the 'yô' spots on the hamon.

chû-suguha

The *hamon* is *chû-suguha* (straight) and these 'spots' are clusters of *nie* crystals called *yô* (leaves) as they appear to 'fall off' the hamon.

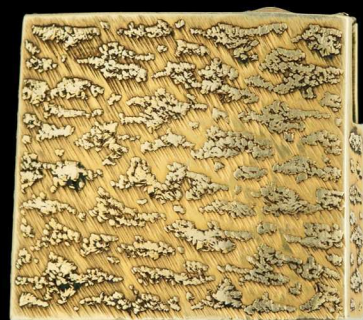
An island of *mokume-hada* beacons.

chocolatety swirls of *chikei*.





Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



gold habaki with
Botan-Yujō file marks

*Kuro-ishime-ji-nuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒石目地塗鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in black with
stone-like surface*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)

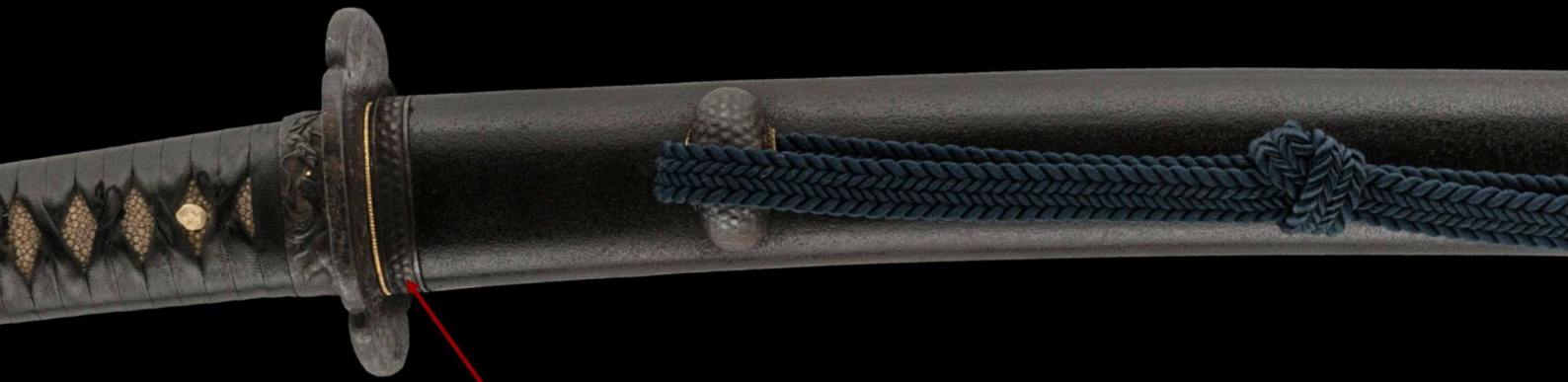


NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



A protective solid iron *kojiri* (butt end scabbard).
A weapon in its own right.





The *koiguchi* (protective mouth of scabbard) and the *kurigata* (loop for *sageo*) match the *kojiri*.



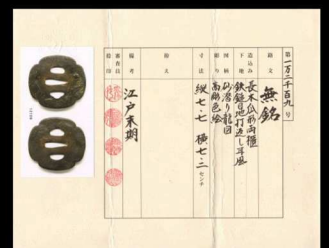
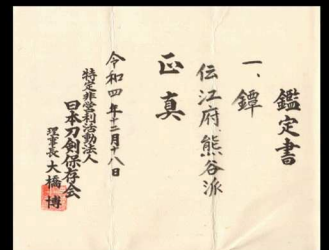


Behold a rather mysterious *mokkô-gata* (multiple lobed) hammered iron tsuba with gold accents that features a *sunamoguri-ryû* theme by which a dragon lurks in the sand.

This tsuba personifies the quintessential rustic *wabi-sabi* essence of Japanese art.

Kumagai school from Edo (Tokyo).

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification
Late Edo period, circa 1780~1867





Through the darkness, I emerge.



fuchi (hilt collar)



kôryû no zu (water dragon)



Kashira (pommel)

The water dragon is hungry...

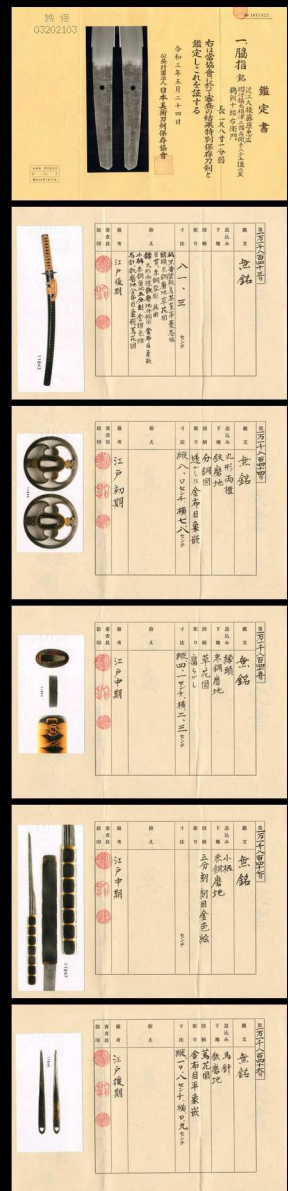


Rain dragon *menuki*, on the lookout.
Uniquely wrapped in linen over a base of antique *samekawa* (ray skin).





Koshirae bag



SOLD, reference only

ujwa256
A Tadahiro Wakizashi
 with body cutting test

Length: 54.8cm
 NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon
 & NTHK-NPO certificates



Saki-kasane: 3.4mm

Moto-kasane: 6.3mm

Omosa: 500g

Kissaki: 3.52cm

Saki-haba: 2.08cm

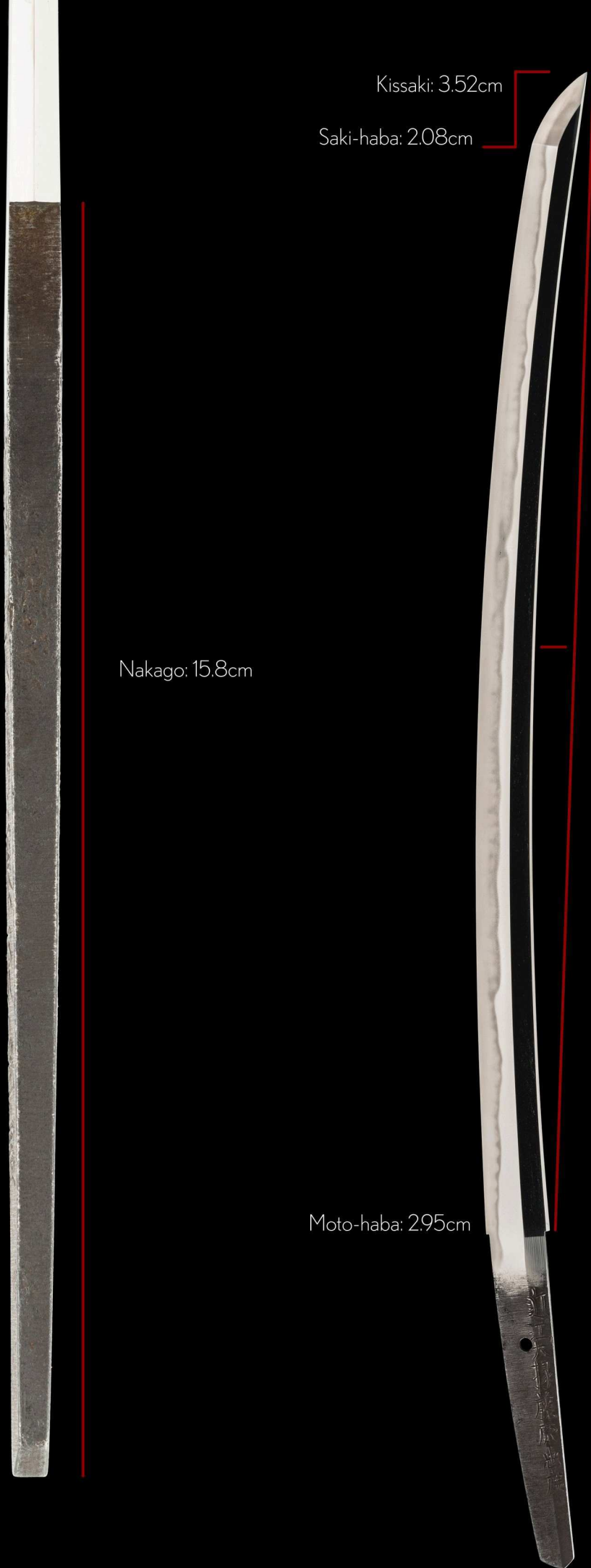
Nakago: 15.8cm

Moto-haba: 2.95cm

Nagasa: 54.8cm

Sori: 1.67cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Born *Hashimoto Heishiro* in *Saga, Hizen* province in 1614, renowned swordsmith second generation (nidai) Tadahiro began working with his father, maestro *shodai* (first generation) Tadayoshi at the tender age of ten.

Guided by his father and other great smiths such as shodai *Masahiro* and *Yoshinobu*, Tadahiro took over leadership of the school at the age of nineteen when his father died in 1632.

Tadahiro then changed his name from *Hashimoto Heishiro* to *Hashimoto Shinsaemon*. Curiously, it is understood that his new name appears on a family document pledging to the shogunate that the Hashimoto family would not sell swords for export to foreign countries.

As head of the Tadayoshi school, second generation Tadahiro always signed his name Tadahiro and never Tadayoshi. In July of 1641, only nine years after taking over the Tadayoshi School, he was given the honorific title of *Omi Daijō*. He was only 28.

Nidai Tadahiro died at the age of 81 in the sixth year of Genroku era or 1693. His works span an incredible 60 years. The sheer quantity and quality of his work makes him one of the most prized artisans, legendary among Hizen smiths. He is ranked *jōjō-saku*, a highly superior smith.

This long wakizashi features a rare *tameshigiri* cutting test in which two testers were involved, severing through the clavicle and chest of a convicted criminal and into the mound below.

The *hamon* (temper line) on the blade is a delightful *gunome choji-midare* and is housed in a fabulous Edo period koshirae that will light up any room. Sayagaki authentication by Dr. Satō Kanzan accompanies this unique piece of history.





Location: *Hizen province*

Title: *Ōmi Daijō* (Lord of Ōmi province)

Family name: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Tadahiro* (second generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

sujikai-yasurime (diagonal file marks)

近 (Ō)

江 (mi)

大 (Dai)

掾 (jō)

藤 (Fuji)

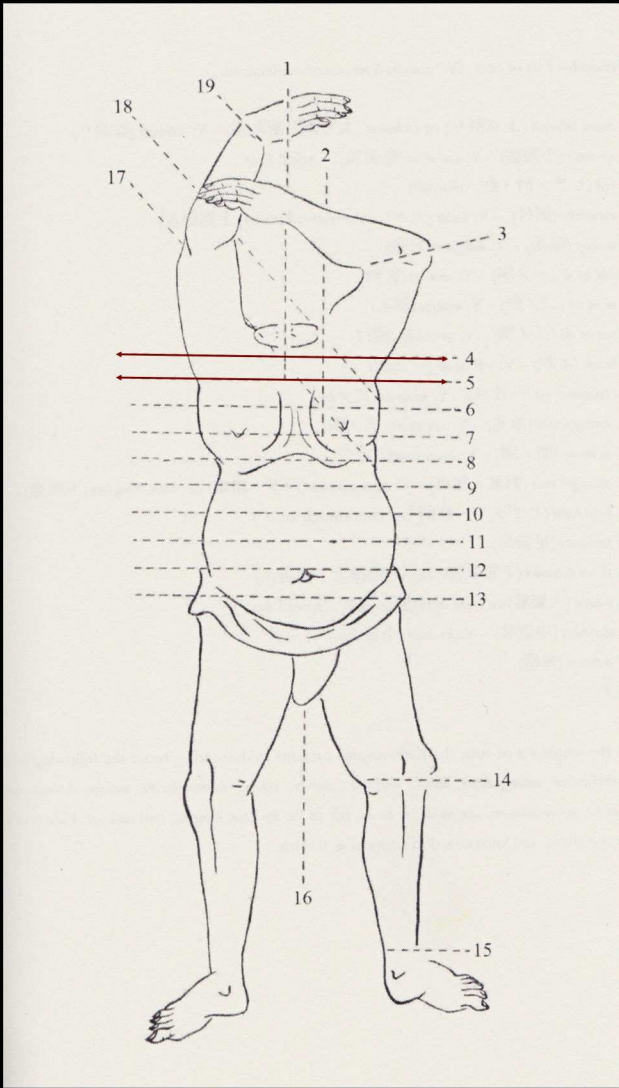
原 (wara)

忠 (Tada)

廣 (hiro)

Suritsuke wakige Nezu Saburôbei tenite dodan ni itaru Ukai Jûrôemon

Sword testers *Nezu Saburôbei* and *Ukai Jûrôemon* tested this blade severing [in one stroke] both through the clavicle and the chest of a human body into the mound below.



(waki) 脇	摺 (Suri)
(ge) 毛	付 (tsuke)
(U) 鶺鴒	
(kai) 飼	根 (Ne)
(jû) 十	津 (zu)
(rô) 郎	三 (Sabu)
(') 右	郎 (rô)
(e) 衛	兵 (be)
(mon) 門	衛 (i)
(te) 手	
(ni) 二	
(te) テ	
(do) 土	
(dan) 壇	
(ni) 二	
(itaru) 至	



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No 1015425



公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協会

令和三年五月二十四日



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

一脇指 銘

近江大掾藤原忠広
摺付脇毛根津三郎兵衛手二土壇二至
鶴飼十郎右衛門

長一尺八寸一分弱

鑑定書

兵庫県 教育委員会
第 151 号
昭和26年7月27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 3rd year of Reiwa (2021), May 24th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

Ômi DaijÔ Fujiwara Tadahiro

Suritsuke wakige Nezu Saburôbei tenite dodan ni itaru

Ukai Jûrô'emon

Nagasa (length)

1-shaku 8-sun 1-bu jaku (54.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



肥前国近江大掾藤原忠廣

Hizen no Kuni Ômi Daijô Fujiwara Tadahiro

Ômi Daijô Fujiwara Tadahiro from Hizen province

摺付脇毛根津鵜飼某々兩人截断切付銘丁子乱見事也

Suritsuke wakige Nezu Ukai daresore ryônin setsudan kiritsuke-mei chôji-midare migoto nari

[This blade was] tested by Nezu and Ukai severing through the clavicle and the chest and has great *chôji-midare hamon*

刃長壹尺八寸壹分有之

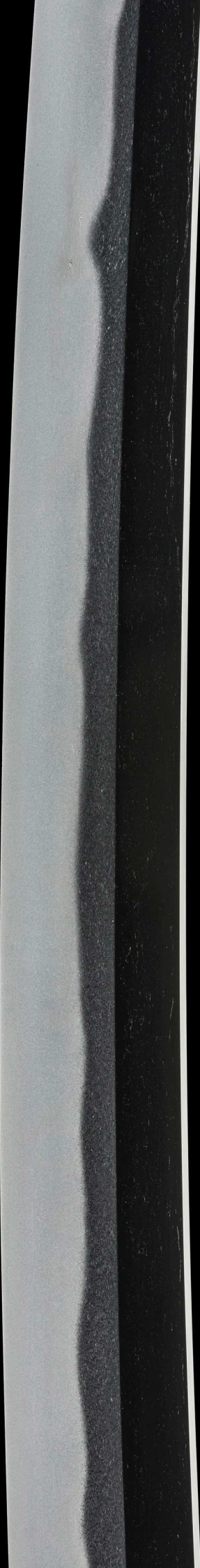
Hachô 1-shaku 8-sun 1-bu kore ari

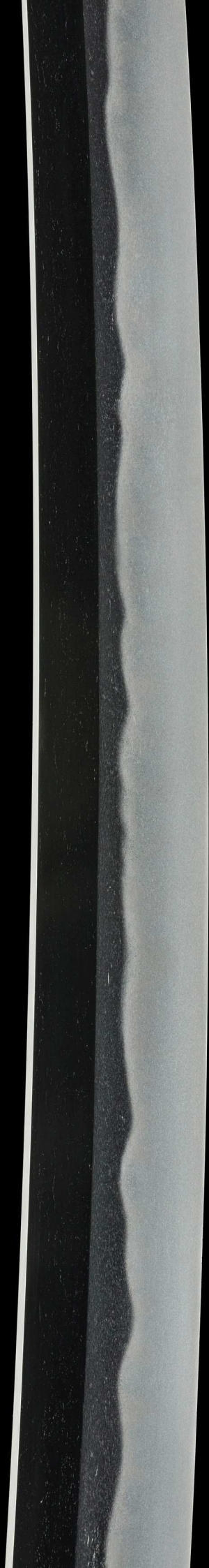
Blade length ~ 54.8 cm

昭和辛亥年夏日寒山誌「花押」

Shôwa kanoto-idoshi natsubi Kanzan shirusu + kâô

Written by Kanzan [Satô Kan'ichi] in a summer day of the year of the boar of Shôwa era (1971) + monogram





Gorgeous view of the *konuka-hada*.


The steel on well-crafted swords have a 'wet' appearance as we see here.





An absolutely brilliant
gunome chôji-midare hamon
illuminates the blade.

The majority of swords
crafted by nidai Tadahiro
feature a straight (*suguha*)
hamon making this piece a
veritable treat for the eyes.

A close-up photograph of two curved blades, likely from a Japanese sword, set against a dark background. The blades are illuminated from the side, highlighting their curved shape and a textured surface. The texture consists of fine, parallel ridges that give the blades a slightly rough, snow-like appearance. The lighting creates a strong contrast between the bright highlights on the blades and the deep shadows in the background.

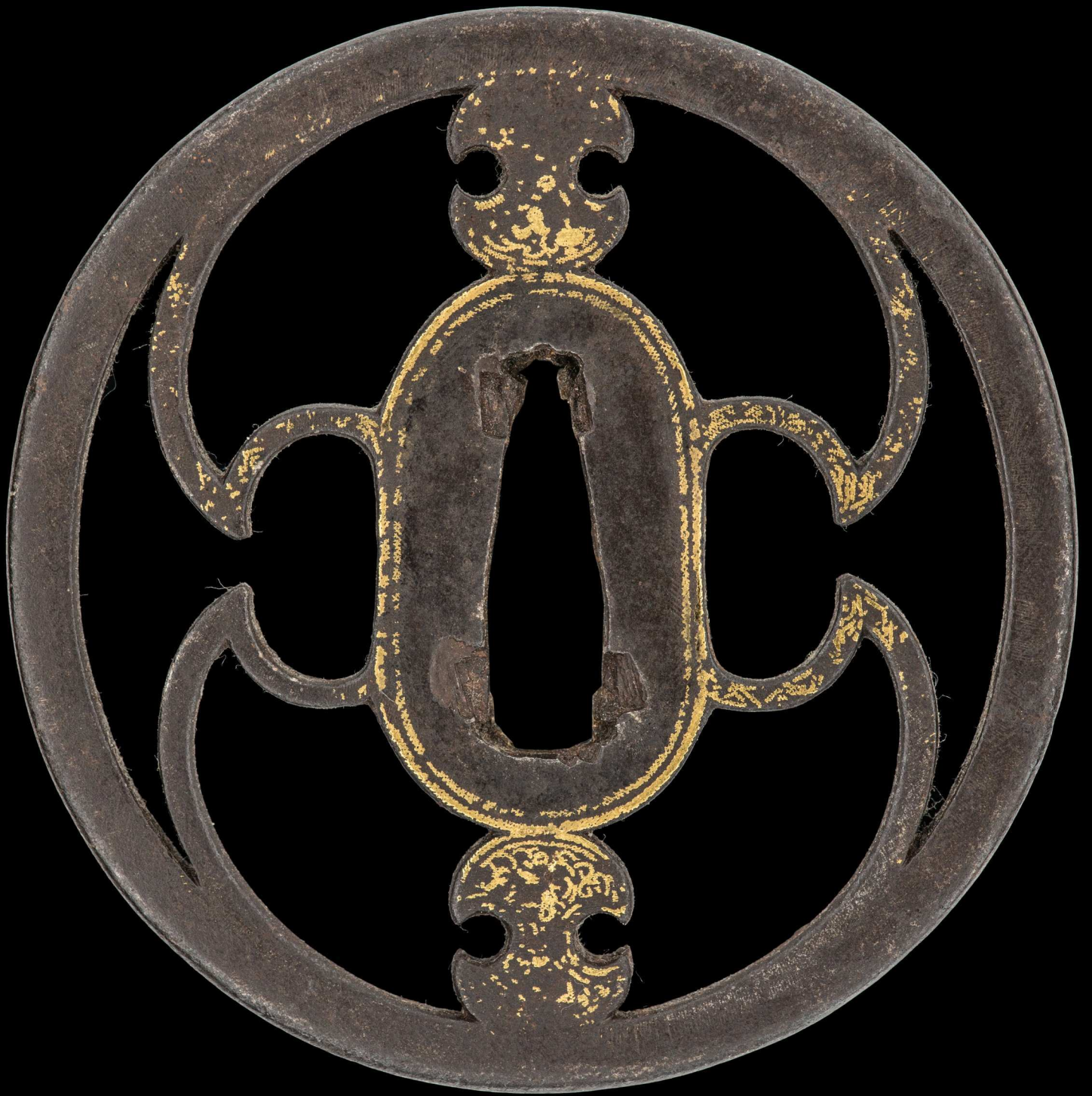
The *omote* side of the blade features a slightly thicker *nioguchi* that resembles freshly fallen snow.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)



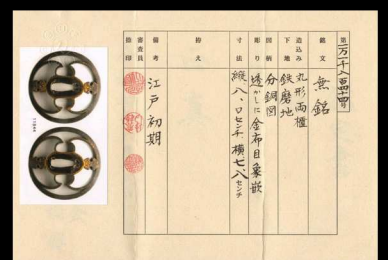
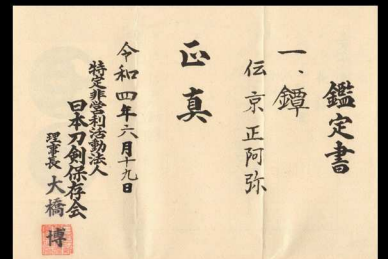
gold-wrapped *niju-habaki*
with crisp file marks



This is a wonderful polished iron tsuba attributed to the *Shōami* school, crafted some 350-400 years ago.

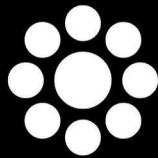
The unique design depicts an old-fashioned scale to measure weight. Traces of gold criss-cross *nunome-zogan* design pattern can be seen on the iron.

An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the *early-Edo period* circa 1603~1700 has been attained.





(Edo period scale)



The kashira features *kuyô-mon*, the nine-planet family crest that was first adopted by the powerful daimyô family leader *Hosokawa Tadaoki* (1563-1646).



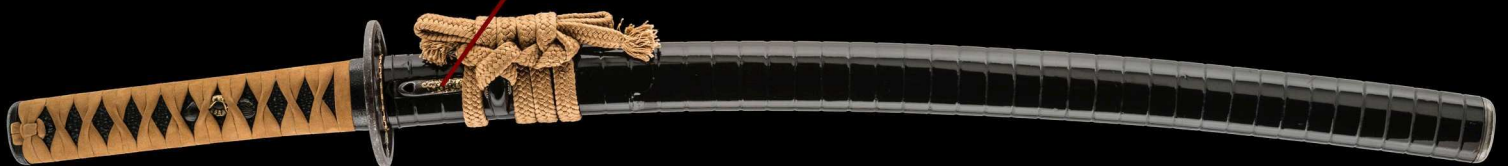
Fuchi-kashira
attributed to
Misumi school from *Higo province*
(1700s)

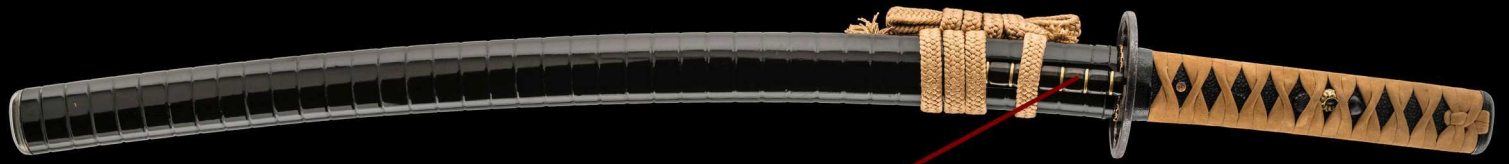


Bashin

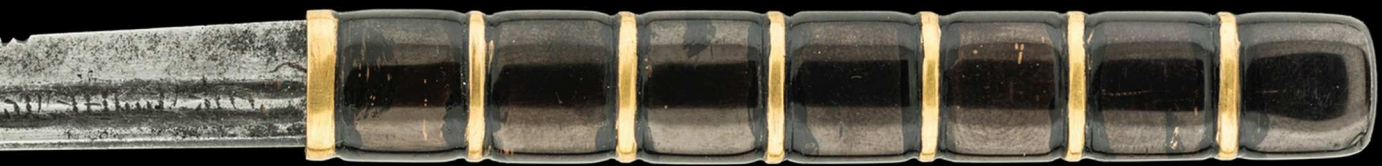
Lit. "horse needle." Was worn - if at all - instead of a *kozuka* or *kôgai* on the saya; the bashin was originally designed to ease a horses' blood congestion after a very long ride by *bloodletting*; later the bashin had more an ornamental character and were mostly worn to a *Higo-koshirae*.

The term bashin can also be read as *umabari*.





ribbed design, in polished *shakudô*



A kogai is a thick blunt needle that was primarily used as a hair arranging tool by the samurai.

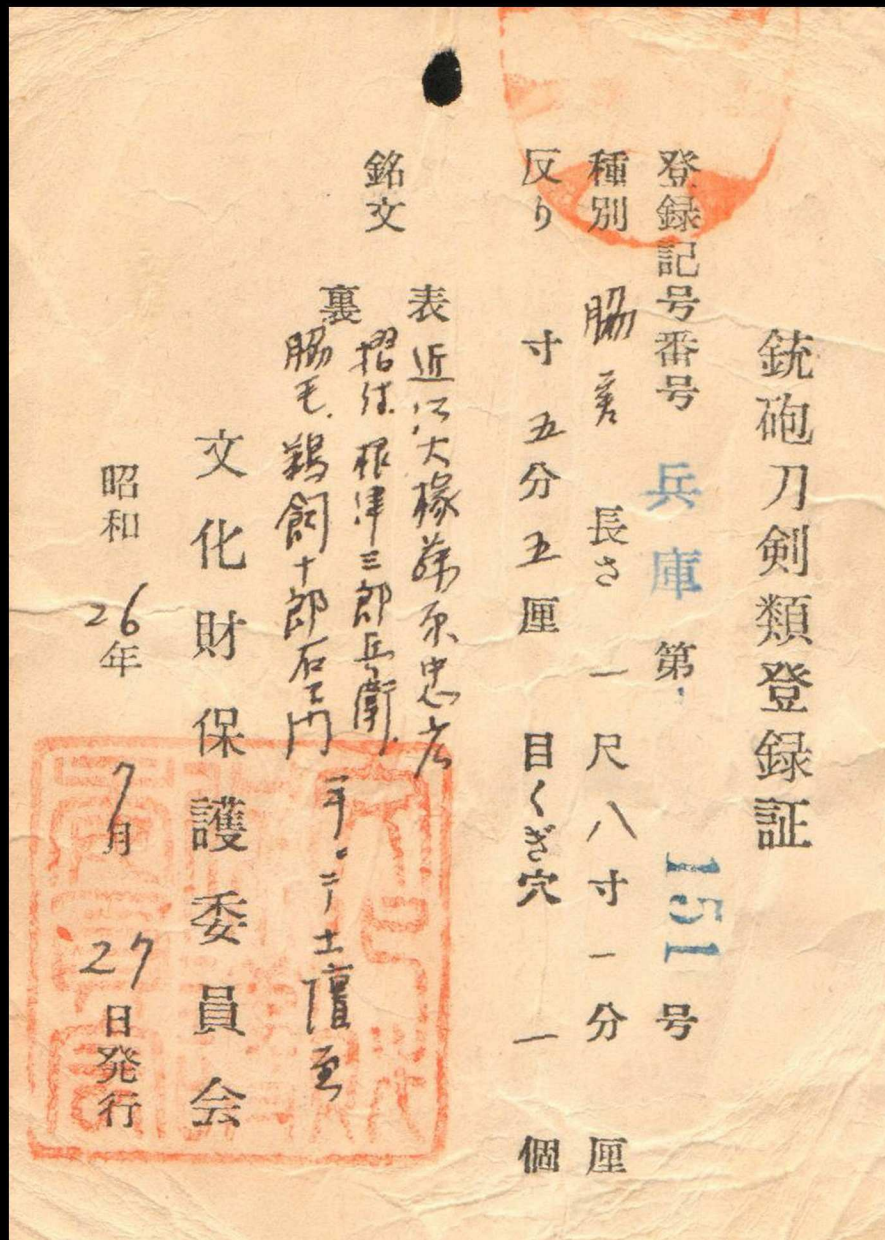
It is fastened into a special notch built inside the *saya* (scabbard) and drawn through the 'bumpy' hole in the *tsuba*.





Menuki (decorative grips on the hilt) carry seashell theme. This choice of *menuki* pays homage to the open sea as *Hizen* province is one of nine islands in *Kyûshû*.





This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the *Tadahiro wakizashi*.
The card was registered in the 26th year of Showa (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.

The serial number is just **151**, one of the very first swords registered in Japan.



Congratulations Jonathan.

Warm regards,
Pablo

ARIGATO!

THANK YOU FOR DOWNLOADING OUR CATALOGUE.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU.



*Nelson (6) and his sister Hannah who turns 16 on March 2nd (time flies!)
Photo taken at the Tower Hill tube station, London.*

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