



ITEM# UJKA431

A TADAYOSHI 'CUTTING TEST' KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (GENROKU ERA: 1700~1704)

Swordsmith:	<i>Hizen no Kuni Ômi Daijô Fujiwara Tadayoshi (4th gen, Hizen province)</i>
Date of cut:	<i>Kansei jûninen kanoë-saru jûnigatsu jûkunichi kesa-otoshi (Dec 19, 1800)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 66.7cm (<i>ubu, machi-okuri</i>) Curvature: 1.8cm Moto-haba: 3.2cm
Jihada:	<i>Vibrant mix of itame-hada and mokume-hada with ji-nie and plentiful chikei</i>
Hamon:	<i>Ko-gunome midare with many ko-ashi</i>
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (Especially Worthy of Preservation)
Certificate #2-4:	NTHK-NPO Kanteishô (koshirae, fk and tsuba certified as Authentic)
Fujishiro rank:	Jô-saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Authentication:	Sayagaki by Nozomi-san (shodô artist)
Included:	<i>Shirasaya, Edo-koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description</i>

SOLD

Yondai (fourth generation) Tadayoshi was a superior swordsmith from the prestigious *Tadayoshi* school in Hizen province that received the honorary title of *Ômi no Daijô* on March 10, 1700. This is an extremely sharp and powerful katana that was tested on December 19, 1800 by *Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide* severing diagonally through a human body [in one thrust] from the base of the shoulder through to the opposite armpit. A brilliant middle Edo-period *kizami* (sectioned) *koshirae* accompanies the sword with a wickedly attractive *fuchi-kashira* and *menuki* set from the *Tetsugendo* school that features a predatory spider devouring his hornet nemesis. This is a samurai sword.



Saki-kasane: 4.8mm

Moto-kasane: 7.2mm

Kissaki: 3.66cm

Saki-haba: 2.22cm

Nagasa: 66.7cm

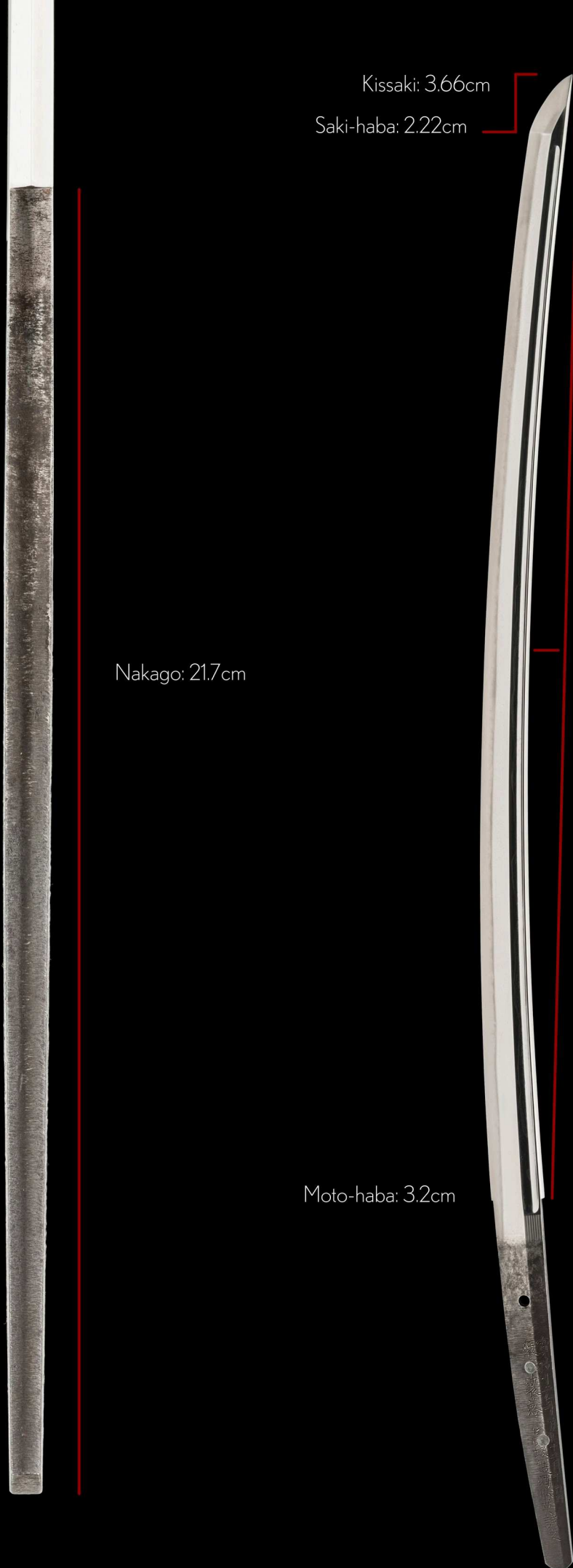
Nakago: 21.7cm

Sori: 1.80cm

Omosa: 780g

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Born *Hashimoto Gensuke* and later known as *Shinzaburô, Yondai* (fourth generation) Tadayoshi was a superior swordsmith from the prestigious Tadayoshi school in Hizen province and the oldest son of talented *sandai* (third generation) Tadayoshi.

He received the honorary title of *Ômi no Daijô* on March 10, 1700 and after the untimely death of his father (who was just fifty years old), he then trained under his grandfather, *nidai* (second generation) Tadahiro for whom he also made *daisaku* (swords made in the name of his master). Yondai Tadayoshi died on September 9, 1747 at the age of 80.

This is an extremely sharp and powerful katana that was tested by *Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide* severing diagonally through a human body [in one thrust] from the base of the shoulder through to the opposite armpit. This *kesa-otoshi tameshigiri* cutting test was performed on December 19, 1800 and the target (a convicted criminal) may have been alive at the time of the cut. Tester *Katsuhide* was retained by the *Aizu* clan that was a domain of the *Tokugawa Shogunate* during the Edo period.

A bright *ko-gunome hamon* with a huge number of *ashi* (legs) appear like razor sharp teeth along this curvy blade with full-length grooves. A vibrant mix of *itame* and *mokume-hada* with loads of *chikei* and other *hataraki* can also be enjoyed when admiring the steel. The cutting edge has been carefully shortened by about one *shaku* (~3cm), which was done almost certainly to better accommodate the height of a previous master samurai swordsman.

A brilliant middle Edo-period *kizami* (sectioned) koshirae accompanies the sword with a wickedly attractive *fuchi-kashira* and *menuki* set from the *Tetsugendo* school that features a predatory spider devouring his hornet nemesis. This is a katana that gets the juices flowing.

Enjoy!



Location: *Hizen province*

Title: *Ômi Daijô* (Lord of Ômi province)

Clan name: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Tadayoshi* (fourth generation)

machi-okuri-nakago (shortened blade length)

kiri-yasurime (straight file marks)

(Hi) 肥
(zen) 前
(Kuni) 國
(Ô) 近
(mi) 江
(Dai) 大
(jô) 掾
(Fuji) 藤
(wara) 原
(Tada) 忠
(yoshi) 吉



These two holes have been filled within the past 20 years by a previous owner.

It looks more presentable this way.

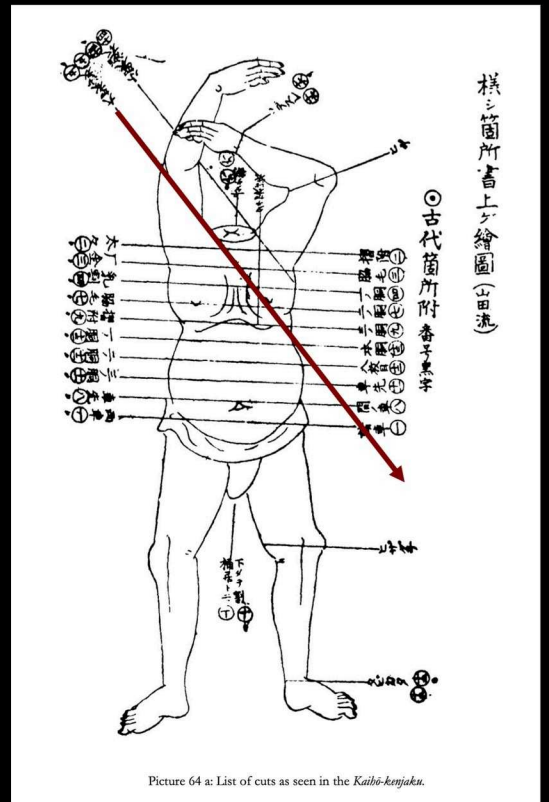
Kansei jûninen Kanoe-Saru jûnigatsu jûkunichi Kesa-otoshi Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide kore o tamesu

On December 19th in twelfth year of Kansei era in the Year of the Monkey (1800), this sword was tested by *Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide* severing from the base of the shoulder through to the opposite armpit.

(Ke) 袈
 (sa) 裟
 (otoshi) 落
 (Naga) 長
 (saka) 坂
 (Mi) 造
 (ki) 酒
 (Katsu) 勝
 (hide) 英
 (tamesu) 試
 (kore) 之



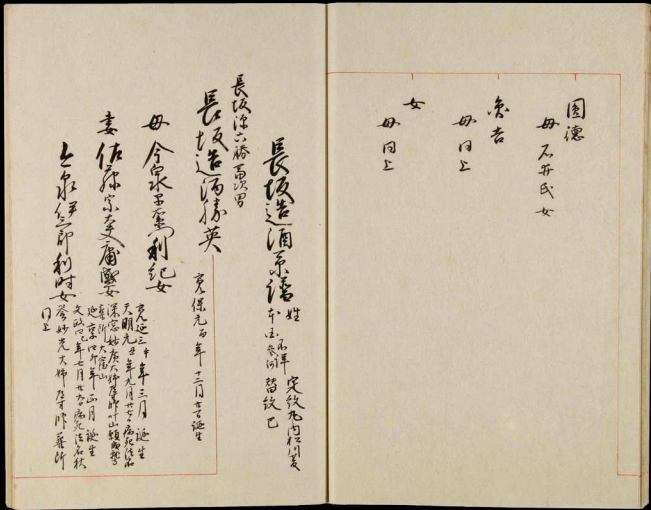
寬 (Kan)
 政 (sei)
 十二 (jû)
 二 (ni)
 年 (nen)
 庚 (Kane)
 申 (Saru)
 十二 (jû)
 月 (ni)
 十九 (gatsu)
 九 (jû)
 日 (ku)
 九 (nichi)



Picture 64 a: List of cuts as seen in the *Kaibō-kenjaku*.

The red diagonal line shows the trajectory of the cut. This cut can be performed on a live or dead 'target'.

Test cutter *Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide* was retained by the *Aizu* clan that was a domain of the *Tokugawa Shogunate* during the Edo period.



Above is the first page of a multi-page biography of *Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide* that has been preserved by *Aizu Wakamatsu* city. This book records each and every *Aizu* clan member from the *Edo* period.



Although a challenging read for any native Japanese speaker, we learned the following about *Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide*:

- Born in *Kanpō* era (1741)
- Salary information (he was not rich)
- Taught at a sword combat school
- Proficient at handling firearms (guns)
- Lived at least until 2nd year of *Bunsei* (1819)

15200407

№ 149702



鑑定書

長二尺二寸一分

一刀銘

肥前国近江大掾藤原忠吉

(切付銘) 寛政十二年庚申十二月十九日
袈裟落長坂造酒勝英試之

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

平成十六年八月十三日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



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 16th year of Heisei (2004), August 3th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Hizen no Kuni Ômi Daijô Fujiwara Tadayoshi
(Kiritsuke-mei) *Kansei jûninen Kanoe-Saru jûnigatsu jûkunichi*
Kesa-otoshi Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide kore o tamesu

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 2-sun 1-bu (66.7cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



肥前国近江大掾藤原忠吉

Hizen no Kuni Ōmi Daijō Fujiwara Tadayoshi

Ōmi Daijō Fujiwara Tadayoshi from Hizen Province

四代作也時代元禄頃

Yondai saku nari jidai Genroku-goro

Crafted by the 4th generation around Genroku era
(1688~1704)

寛政十二年庚申十二月十九日袈裟落長坂造酒勝
英試之

*Kansei jūninen kanoe-saru jūnigatsu jūkunichi kesa-otoshi
Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide kore o tamesu*

On December 19th in Kansei 12, the Year of the Monkey
(1800), the sword was tested by Nagasaka Miki Katsuhide
severing from the base of the shoulder through to the armpit
of the opposite arm.

刃長貳尺二寸一分有之

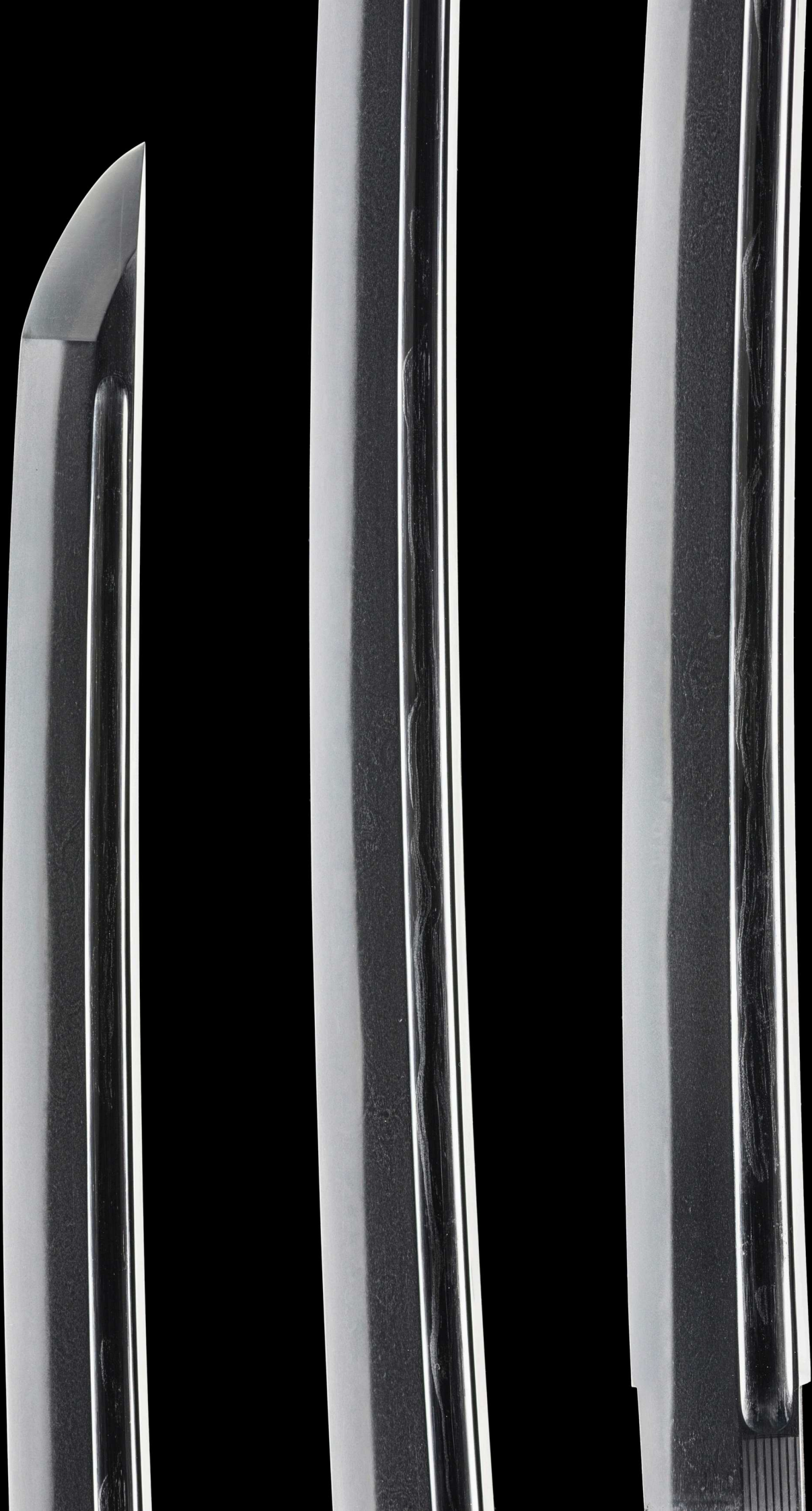
Hachō 2-shaku 2-sun 1-bu kore ari

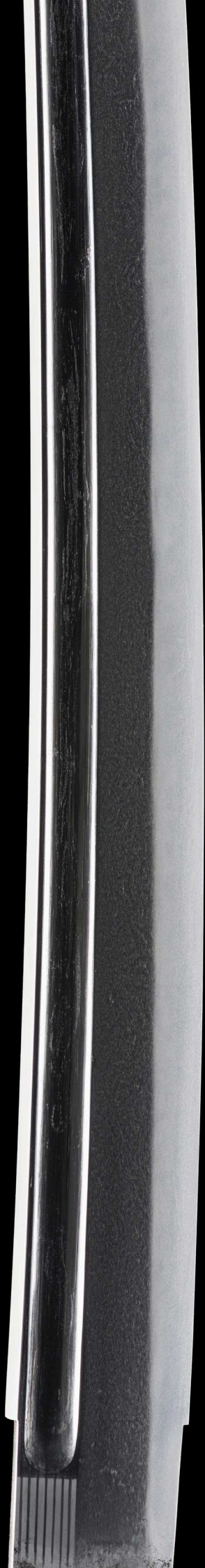
Blade length 66.7 cm


令和六甲辰年卯月吉日誌之

Reiwa roku kinoe-tatsudoshi Yayoi kichijitsu kore o shirusu

Written on a lucky day in the fourth month in the sixth year of
Reiwa era during the Year of the Dragon (April 2024).





A close-up photograph of a sword's blade, showing the intricate herringbone pattern (jihada) on the surface. The blade is dark and highly reflective, with a bright highlight running along its length. A red rectangular box highlights a specific section of the blade, and a red line points from the text to the top-left corner of this box.

A close-up of the *jihada*.

Itame-hada, *mokume-hada*,
an abundance of *chikei*, all
expertly forged in every sense.

Here is a good view of the dark lines of interwoven *chikei* inside the *ji* (body) of the sword. This jihada is not the typical tightly forged *konuka-hada* that one sees on many Hizen blades. This piece has a bit more 'character' in that there is wood grain patterns of *itame* and *mokume* that can be enjoyed.



chikei

A bright *ko-gunome hamon* with a huge number of *ashi* (legs) appear like razor sharp teeth.



ashi attack!

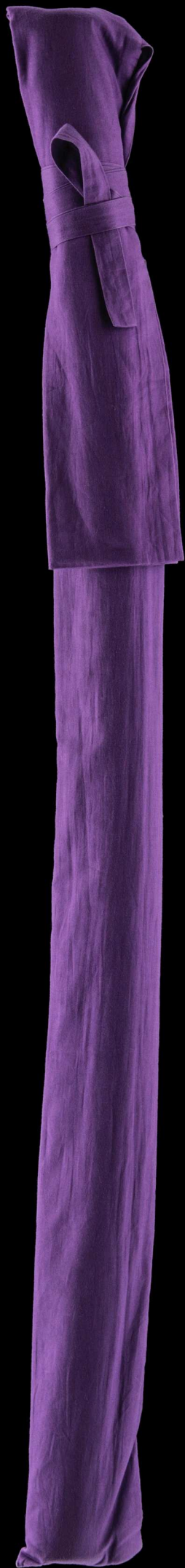




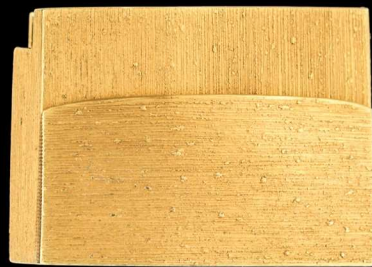
This sword holds a predatorial power. It's weighty, and oh so sharp...



yo (leaves)



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

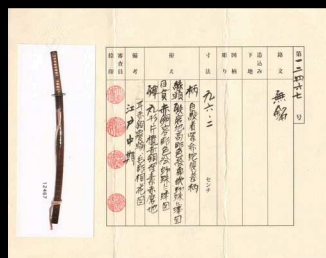


gold *niju habaki* with
kiri file marks

*Cha-urushi-nuri
issun-kizami saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(茶漆塗一寸刻鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in brown
notched in every 3 cm*

Crafted during the
Middle Edo period
(1700~1780)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



(reverse)



Fuchi-kashira
attributed to
Tetsugendô school
Late Edo period

A spider devouring a hornet.



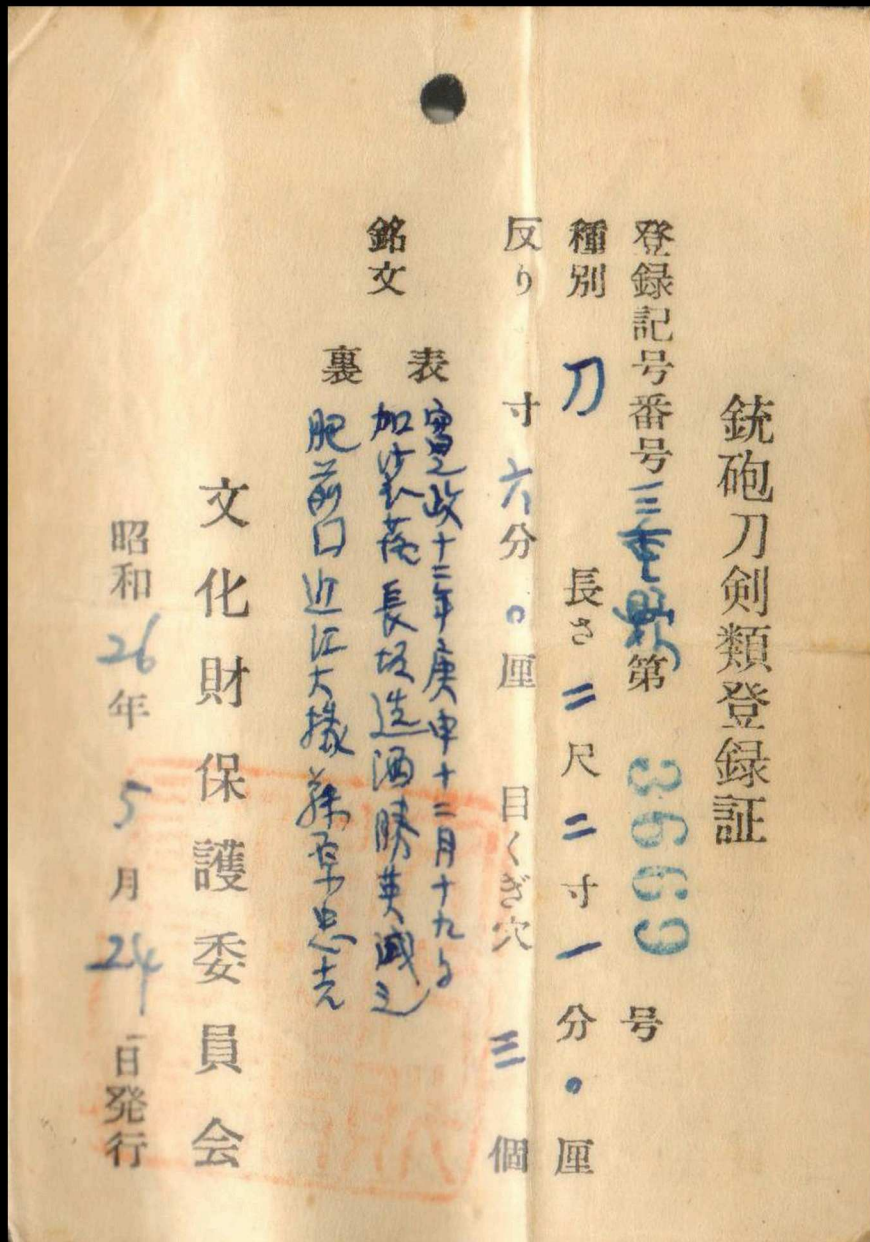


Dinner time.



The menuki continues the theme of a spider making a meal of the hornet. Note the beautifully braided *tsuka* (hilt) wrapped in traditional *jabara-maki*.





This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the *Tadayoshi katana*. The card was registered in the 26th year of Showa (May 24, 1951).

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

The serial number is just 3669, one of the very first swords registered in Japan.



Koshirae bag

We have a new service offering at Unique Japan! Below is an A3 size hand-drawn *oshigata* (tracing) of the *hamon* and *nakago* for the ujka427 *Sukenao katana* dated to August 1690. Professionally produced and the perfect size to frame as you like at your home or office. Makes an impact! Email Unique Japan (service@uniquejapan.com) for further information.

