



ITEM# UJKA433

A KINMICHI KATANA

SIGNED, SHINTÔ PERIOD (MANJI ERA: 1658~1661)

Swordsmith: *Iga no Kami Kinmichi (nidai, 2nd gen.)*
Measurements: **Length:** 72.0cm (*ubu*) **Curvature:** 1.7cm **Moto-haba:** 3.00cm **Weight:** 790g
Jihada: *Well-forged itame and mokume-hada with ji-nie and plenty of chikei*
Hamon: *Gunome-midare with hako-midare with sunagashi ashi, and hakikake-bôshi*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate #2: **NBTHK Hozon** (*Fuchi-kashira Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate #3-6: **NTHK-NPO Kanteishô** (*koshirae, fk, menuki and tsuba certified as Authentic*)
Fujishiro rank: **Chûjô-saku** (*ranked as an above average swordsmith*)
Sharpness: **Wazamono** (*maker of sharp swords*)
Authentication: **Sayagaki by Nozomi-san** (*shodô artist*)
Included: *Shirasaya, Edo-koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description*

SOLD

Born *Mishina Kanbei*, this brilliant katana was crafted by *nidai Iga no Kami Kinmichi* who flourished in *Yamashiro* province (*Kyôto*) during the *Manji* era. The *Mishina* school was a prestigious and powerful family with deep connections to the ruling *Tokugawa* family and the imperial court. There is so much to cherish in this structurally sound and most lively katana containing a string of rich cultural elements that the following pages happily expand upon. This is a sharp, and definitive samurai sword from the early Edo period to collect and admire for generations to come.

Saki-kasane: 4.9mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 71mm

Kissaki: 3.75cm

Saki-haba: 2.11cm

Nagasa: 72.0cm

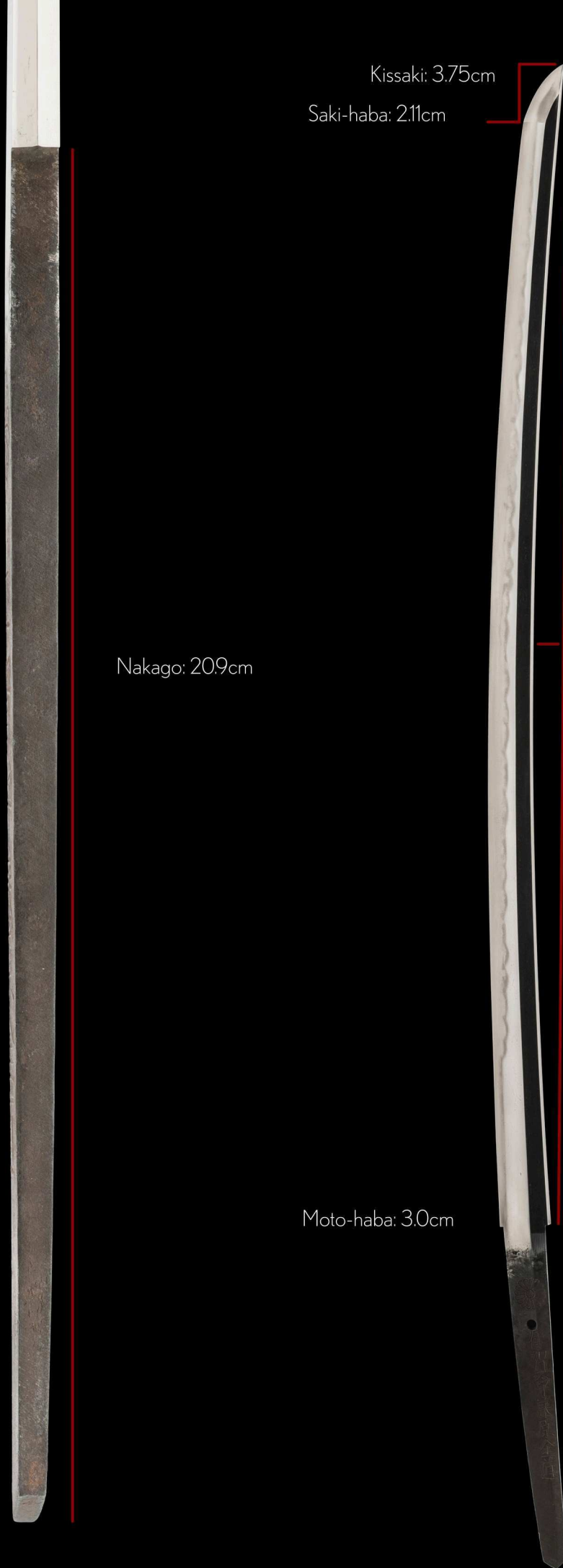
Nakago: 20.9cm

Sori: 1.70cm

Omosa: 790g

Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



This stately katana is crafted by *nidai* (2nd gen.) *Iga no Kami Kinmichi* who worked in *Yamashiro (Kyôto)* - Japan's old cultural capital. Known as *Mishina Kanbei*, he is the first son of *shodai* (first gen.) *Kinmichi* and the elder brother of *Izu no Kami Fujiwara Kinmichi*.

The *Mishina* school was a prestigious and powerful family with deep connections to the ruling *Tokugawa* family and the imperial court. Several generations of swordsmiths worked throughout the Edo period.

Japan's largest and arguably most important event in its feudal history was the *Battle of Sekigahara* that took place on October 21, 1600 in Mino province. Prior to the battle, *Tokugawa Ieyasu* ordered no less than 1,000 tachi from shodai Kinmichi. Due to the skilful management of all workers involved in this mission, and Tokugawa's eventual victory, Kinmichi was granted with the honorary title *Nihon-kaji-sôshô* meaning "*Master swordsmith of Japan*".

This title gave Kinmichi the unique authority to register swordsmiths and award them with titles. Second generation Kinmichi assumed these responsibilities from his father and was actually the first smith to sign *Nihon-kaji-sôshô* on his swords adding a special chrysanthemum in a stylized cartwheel design.

Structurally, this impressive katana is fairly long and wide with a *nagasa* of 72cm, exhibiting a lovely curvature and robust weight of nearly 800grams. A straight *kyô-yakidashi* starts the hamon off and then explodes into a wavy *gunome midare* with beautiful *sunagashi* resembling sweeping strokes over sand. This brushed effect continues into the *Mishina bôshi* in the form of *hakikake*.

The character "*Kin*" of *Kinmichi* means 'gold' as thus the gold elements found on this stunning Mid-Edo period koshirae brings this work of art all together. Look for the *kenjô* presentation *tsuba* from *Kyôto* and marvellous rooster and chick themed *fuchi-kashira* signed by *Ômori Terutsugu*. Its *kizami saya* (ribbed scabbard) is completely brilliant as is the hilt with impressive *gunbai menuki* attributed to *Gotô Unjô*.

Kinmichi is respectfully ranked as *chûjô-saku* and *wazamono* for the excellent sharpness of his swords. Kinmichi died on October 21, 1680.





Title: *Iga no Kami* (Lord of Iga province)

Family name: *Fujiwara*

Location: Yamashiro (Kyôto)

Swordsmith: *Kinmichi* (second generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

sujikai-yasurime (diagonal file marks)

(*Kiku-mon*, chrysanthemum crest)

伊 (I)

賀 (ga, no)

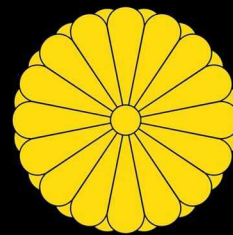
守 (Kami)

藤 (Fuji)

原 (wara)

金 (Kin)

道 (michi)



The Imperial Seal of Japan.

Called *kiku-mon* or 'chrysanthemum seal', it is a *mon* or crest used by members of the Japanese Imperial family.

The chrysanthemum symbolises the sun and the light, thus reflecting a sense of immortality.

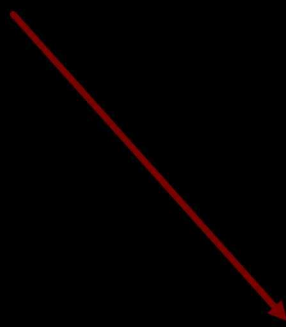
Kinmichi and other swordsmiths of the *Mishina* school were granted permission from the Imperial family to place the 16-petal *kikumon* and variations on their swords.

It was an honour and privilege.



The *nakago-jiri* (butt-end) of the tang comes to a sharp point at the center.

This type of finish is called *kengyô* or sword-shaped.



(*ura*, reverse)

特 保
05202303

No 1020574



鑑定書

一 刀 銘 (菊紋) 伊賀守藤原金道 (二代)

長二尺三寸七分半

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

令和五年五月三十一日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



兵庫県教育委員会
第 210 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 31st year of Reiwa (2019), May 31st

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
(Kikumon)

Iga no Kami Fujiwara Kinmichi (nidai)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu han (72.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



二代伊賀守金道

二代伊賀守金道

Nidai Iga no Kami Kinmichi

Iga no Kami Kinmichi, the 2nd generation

時代萬治頃

時代萬治頃

Jidai Manji-goro

Around Manji period (1658~1661)

刃長貳尺參寸七分半有之

刃長貳尺參寸七分半有之

Hachô 2-shaku 3-sun 7-bu han kore ari

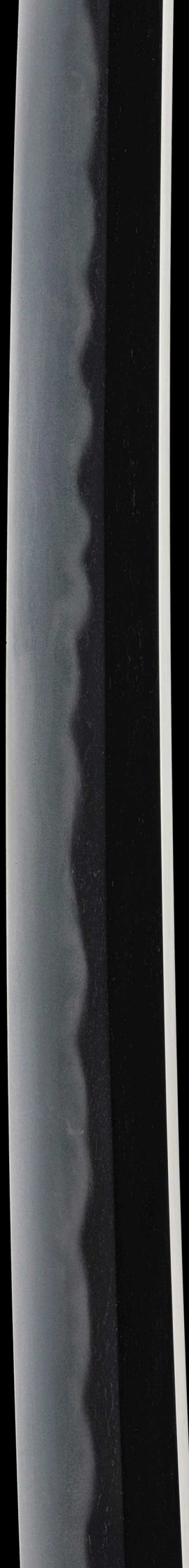
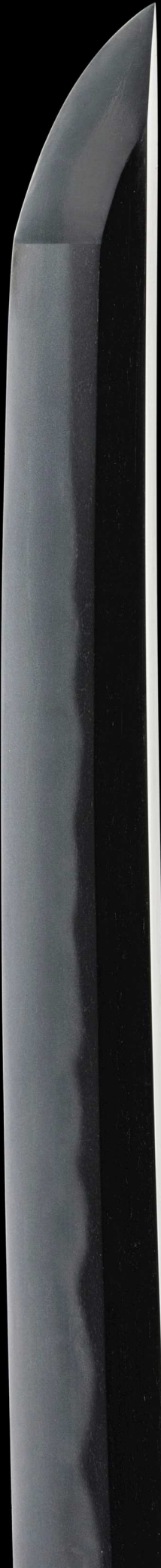
Blade length 72.0 cm

令和六甲辰年
皐月吉日誌之

令和六甲辰年皐月吉日誌之

Reiwa roku kinoe-tatsudoshi Satsuki kichijitsu kore o shirusu

Written on a lucky day in the fifth month in the sixth year of
Reiwa era during the Year of the Dragon (May 2024)





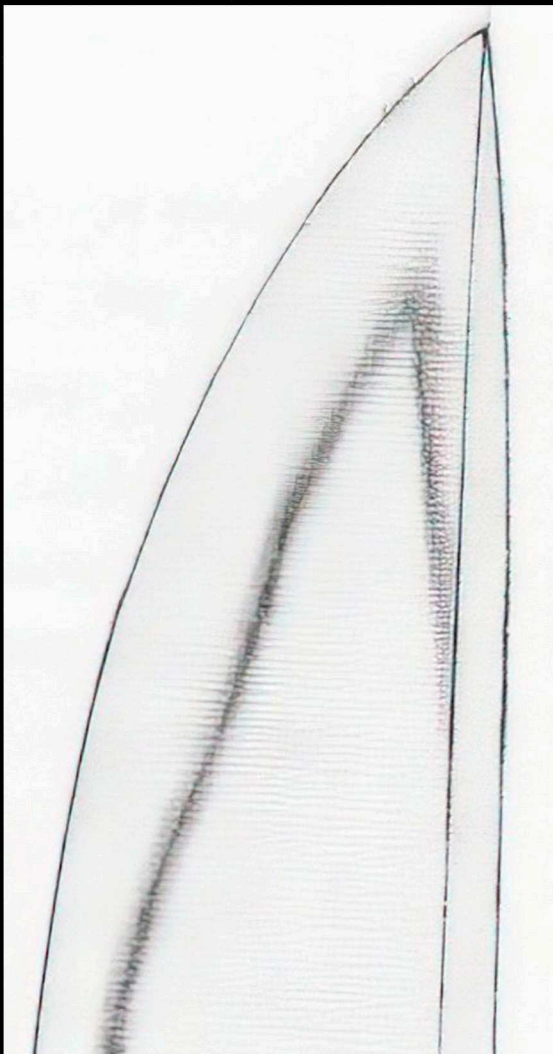
Mishina bôshi



Mishina bôshi

The line of the *bôshi* runs straight from the *yokote* towards a point, and the *kaeri* (return) is slightly wider.

It was often used by swordsmiths within the Mishina school, thus the name.



Mishina-bôshi
source: Markus Sesko



A *hakikake* (sweeping effect) harmonizes with the vast amount of *sunagashi* on this blade.



kyô-yakidashi



gunome-midare

suguha

The *hamon* commences in *suguha* (straight line) and then transitions into a wavy *gunome-midare* shape.

This unique hamon pattern is known as *kyô yakidashi* - iconic to swords made in *Kyôto* (*Yamashiro*).

As seen on swords by his father, *shodai Kinmichi*, there are interesting areas of the hamon that are somewhat box shaped, known as *hako-midare*.



hako-midare (box shaped)



Textbook examples of *sunagashi* (streams of sand) showcasing a broom line effect inside the hamon.

sunagashi

A crisp *gunome-midare hamon* with *ashi* (legs)
billowing out towards the cutting edge of the blade.

ashi





Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

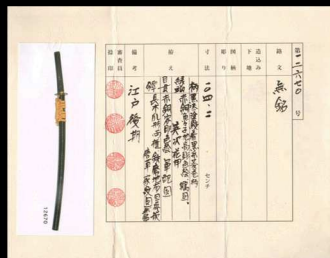
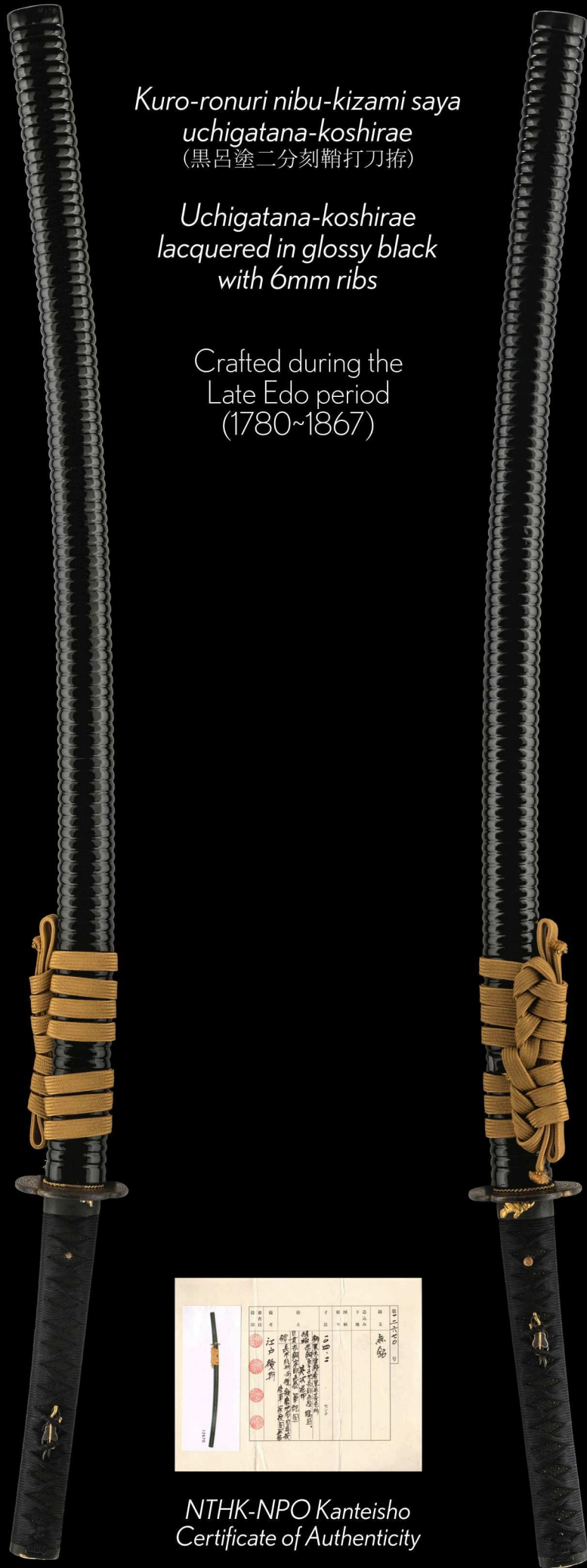


silver *habaki* with
horizontal file marks

*Kuro-ronuri nibu-kizami saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(黒呂塗二分刻鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy black
with 6mm ribs*

Crafted during the
Late Edo period
(1780~1867)



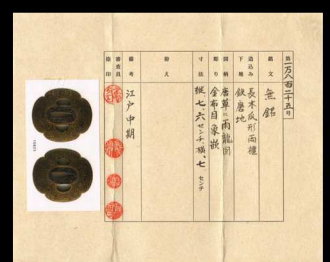
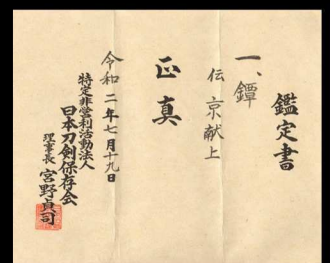
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



This is a *Kyô-kenjô tsuba*, meaning “presentation tsuba from Kyôto.” The *sankin-kotai* system of *daimyô* (great family) attendance is Edo (Tokyo) created special products that were sold along the main travel routes as souvenirs.

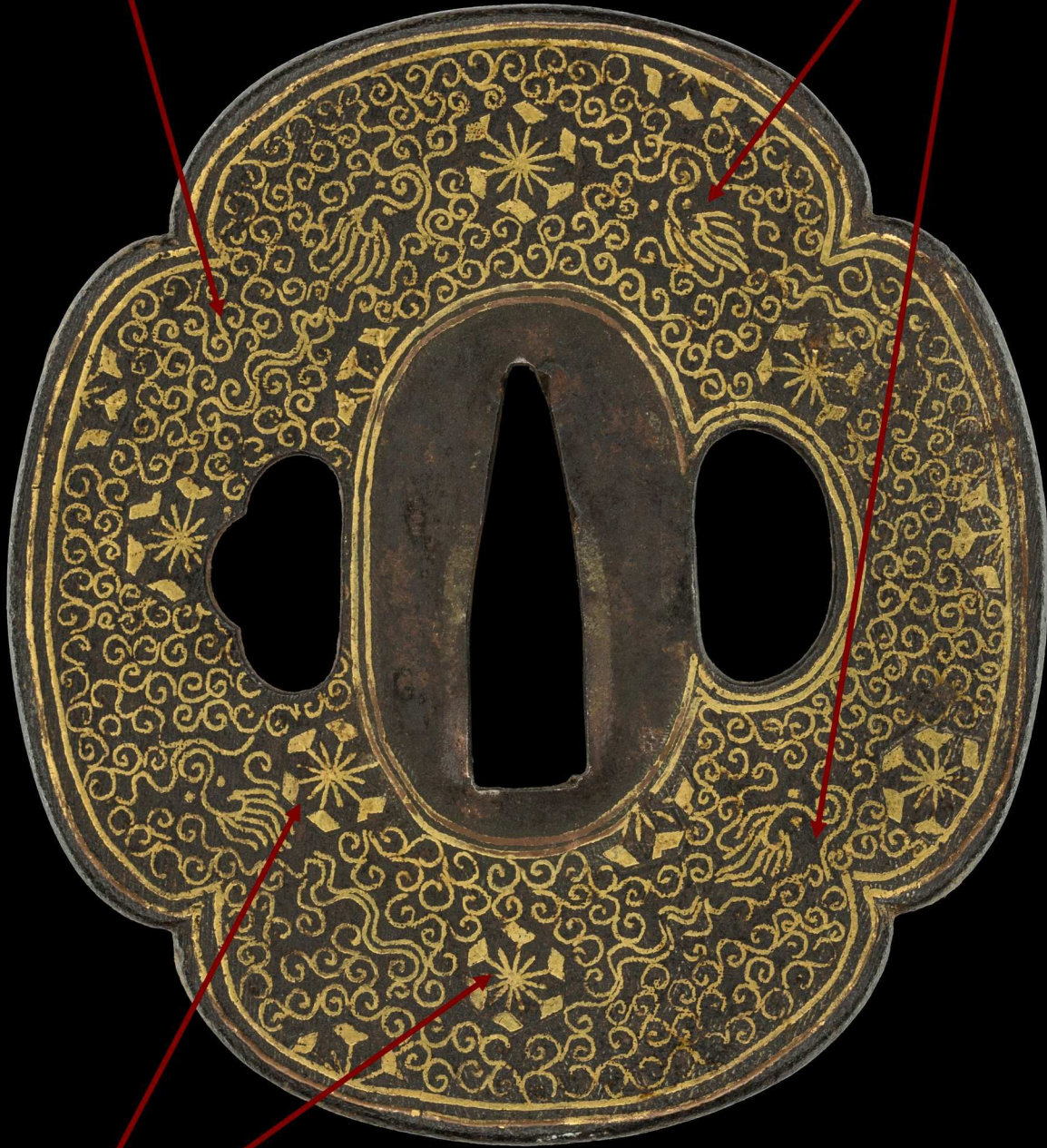
One such souvenir were highly decorative *kenjô-tsuba*. This four-lobed polished iron tsuba features a gold *nunome-zôgan* (gold cross-hatched) design motif of *karakusa* (arabesque) and *unryû* (rain dragons).

Many of these tsubas were made in Kyôto, thus the prefix “Kyô”. They were generally crafted by artists from the *Kyô-Shoami* and *Awa-Shoami* groups. An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the *mid-Edo period* circa 1700~1780 has been attained.



decorative arabesque (floral figures)

rain dragons



snowflakes

ura (reverse)



another chick...and an egg



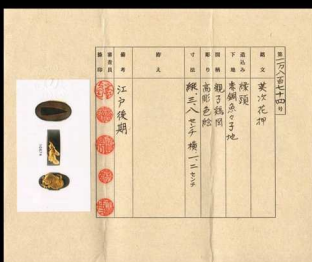
a hen and her chick



英 (Teru)

次 (tsugu)

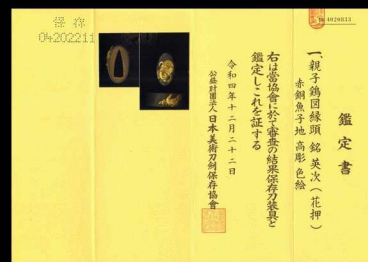
花押 (Kaô)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho

A gorgeous signed *fuchi-kashira* by *Terutsugu* who was trained by *Teruhide* of the very famous *Ômori* school in *Edo*.

Two certificates of authenticity accompany this piece that depicts a rooster, hen and chicks.



NBTHK Hozon Certification



Fuchi-kashira
crafted by
Ômori Terutsugu
(Late Edo period)

A rooster

04202211



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鑑定書

一、親子鶏図縁頭 銘 英次（花押）
赤銅魚子地 高彫 色絵

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

令和四年十二月二十二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Hozon
Certificate of Designation

A tsuba designated as *Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 4th year of Reiwa (2022), December 22nd

One, Fuchi-kashira

Depicting a rooster, hen and chicks

*Mei (signature)
Terutsugu + kaô*

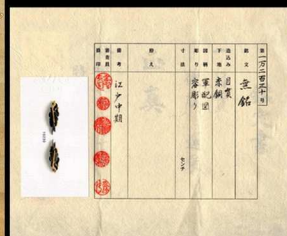
Shakudô with nanako ground, relief with color accents

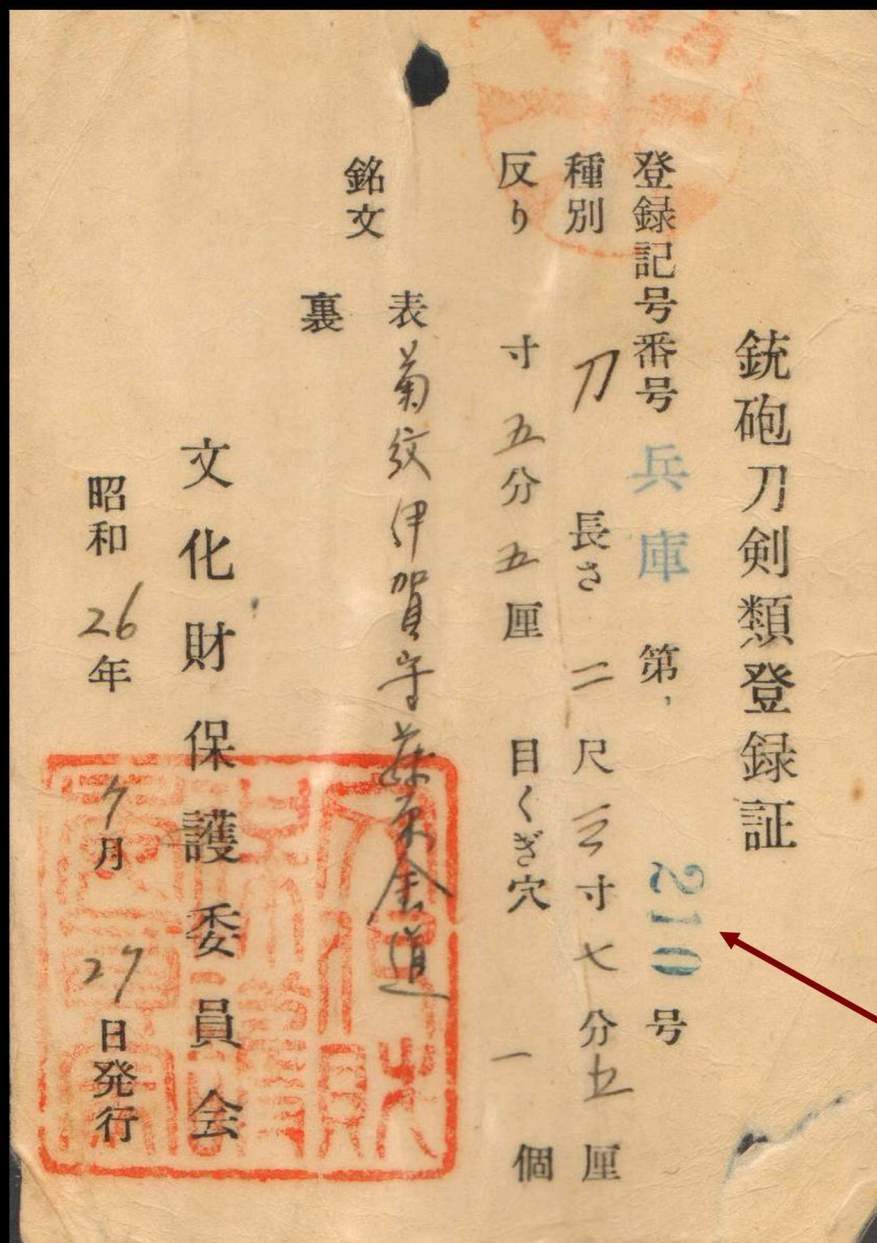
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



The menuki depict *gunbai*, short for *gunbai-uchiwa*, a type of signal baton and Japanese war fan. Once held by military leaders (such as daimyô) and priests in the past. It is used in the modern day by umpires in sumo wrestling.

Certified with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho attributing the menuki to *Gotô Unjô* circa the middle Edo period.





This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the *Kinmichi katana*. 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 *daimyô* (great) families were invited to submit their collections suggesting this blade was once held by a prominent family.

The serial number is just **210**, one of the very first swords registered in Japan. Interestingly, it was registered in *Hyôgo* prefecture, which borders *Kyôto*. It's possible this sword had remained in the *Kyôto* region for most of its life.



Koshirae bag