



ITEM# UJKA441

## A KO-NAMINOHIRA TACHI

UNSIGNED, KOTÔ KAMAKURA PERIOD (EININ ERA: 1293~1299)

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Swordsmith:</b>       | <i>Ko-Naminohira [Yukiyasu - according to Kanzan sayagaki]</i>                                    |
| <b>Measurements:</b>     | <b>Length:</b> 77.2cm (o-suriage) <b>Sori:</b> 2.4cm <b>Moto-haba:</b> 2.93cm <b>Weight:</b> 745g |
| <b>Jihada:</b>           | <i>Nagare-hada mixed with itame and ayasugi with plentiful chikei and shirake utsuri</i>          |
| <b>Hamon:</b>            | <i>Beaming hoso-suguha with kinsuji</i>   |
| <b>Certificate #1:</b>   | <b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</b> (sword Especially Worthy of Preservation)                            |
| <b>Certificate #2-4:</b> | <b>NTHK-NPO Kanteishô</b> (koshirae, fuchi-kashira and tsuba certified as Authentic)              |
| <b>Fujishiro rank:</b>   | <b>Jô-saku</b> (Naminohira Yukiyasu is ranked as a superior swordsmith)                           |
| <b>Authentication:</b>   | <b>Sayagaki by Kanzan-sensei</b> (Dr. Satô Kanzan)  |
| <b>Included:</b>         | Shirasaya, Edo koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description                             |

## SOLD

This long and graceful tachi by the *Ko-Naminohira school* instantly transports you to the beaches of *Satsuma* province from late 1200s, which *Dr. Kanzan Satô* dates it to and further attributes the blade to the work of *Naminohira Yukiyasu*. According to the *sayagaki*, this particular piece was passed down within the *Date* family in *Yoshida* province as a family heirloom. A long *bo-hi* lightens the blade just right - it's easy to envision a samurai on his horse galloping with this dependable tachi by his side. The *hamon* is a straight laser beam of *hoso-suguha*, synonymous with the *Kamakura* time period with contrasting *kinsuji* and bright *shirake-utsuri*. A wonderful set of *koshirae* depicts *Enoshima* shrine on the *fuchi-kashira* and has a glorious over-sized tachi tsuba that references the *Tale of Genji*. If you have adore the freedom of the open water, this *koshirae* will speak to you.



Saki-kasane: 3.4mm

Moto-kasane: 6.9mm

Omosa: 745g

Kissaki: 2.70cm

Saki-haba: 1.79cm

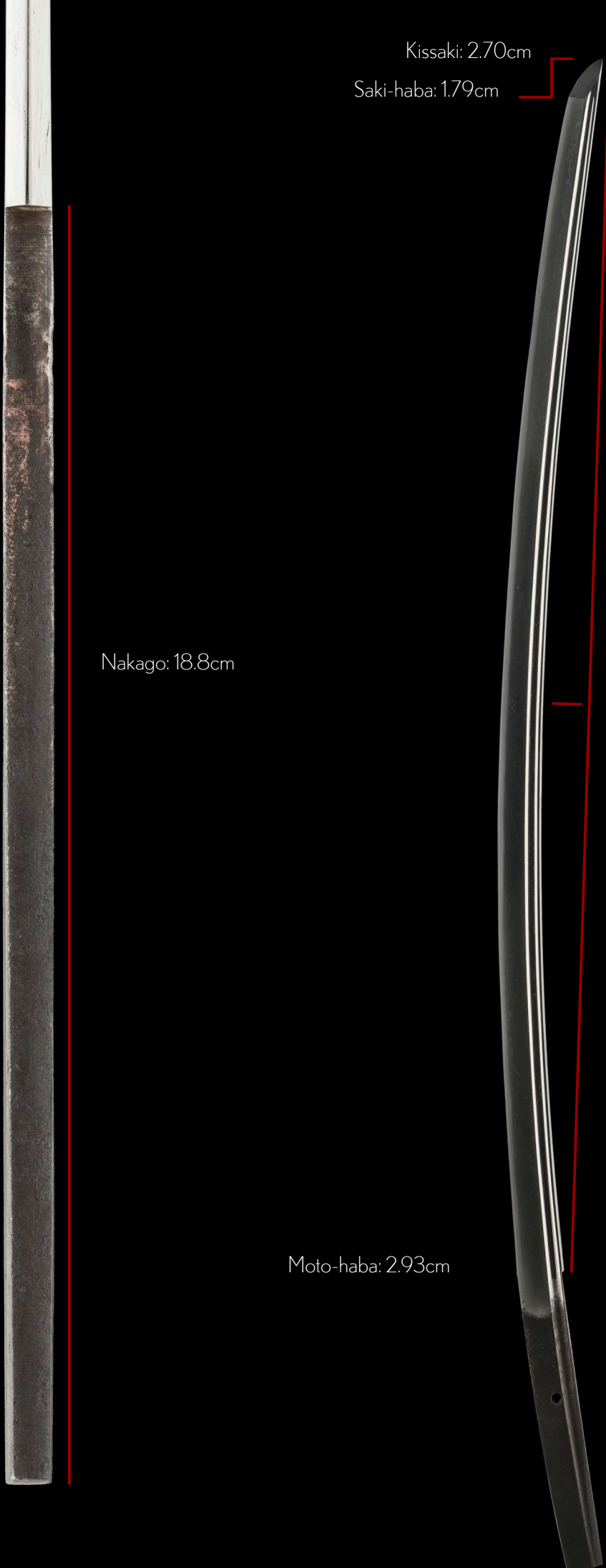
Nakago: 18.8cm

Moto-haba: 2.93cm

Nagasa: 77.2cm

Sori: 2.4cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



The *Naminohira* school is one of the oldest sword-making traditions said to have begun working in *Satsuma* province way back in 987AD. *Satsuma* province is located at the southern end of Japan's southernmost island *Kyûshû*. The island is known for its high-quality sand iron that was found on its rivers and beaches.

The pioneering smiths of the *Naminohira* school originally travelled from Japan's old capital *Yamato* province, present-day *Nara* prefecture, and most impressively, this school worked uninterrupted right up to the end of the Edo-period 1868.

The two *kanji* characters that form *Naminohira* are *Nami*, meaning 'wave', and *hira* being 'flat', thus translating to *calm seas*. Swords of the *Naminohira* school were said to have been prized by the Japanese navy for their name carried such a good omen.

This long and graceful tachi extends for miles into the horizon - a sword that instantly transports you to the beaches of *Satsuma* province from late 1200s, which *Dr. Kanzan Satô* dates it to and further attributes the blade to the work of *Naminohira Yukiyasu*. Also according to the *sayagaki*, this particular piece was passed down within the *Date* (pronounced '*Dah-tay*') family in *Yoshida* province as a family heirloom.

Yes, the sword is somewhat tired in spots (which is completely normal as it is over 700-years-old after all), but the incredible shape of the blade more than makes up for any shortcomings. A long *bo-hi* (groove) lightens the blade just right - it's easy to envision a samurai on his horse galloping with this dependable tachi by his side. The *hamon* is a straight laser beam of *hoso-suguha*, a temper line synonymous with the *Kamakura* time period. Fabulous dark lines of contrasting *kinsuji* can be seen in the *yakiba* and a bright *shirake-utsuri* illuminates the blade held at the correct angle under the light.

A wonderful set of *koshirae* compliments this highly collectible *Tokubetsu Hozon* sword depicts *Enoshima* shrine on the *fuchi-kashira* and has a glorious oversized *tachi tsuba* that makes reference to Japan's oldest novel, the *Tale of Genji*. If you have a passion for boating and adore the freedom of the open water, this *koshirae* will speak to you.





This *tachi* has an *ô-suriage nakago*, where the *nakago* (tang) was greatly shortened, and thus the signature lost. The original length must have been closer to 90cm in *nagasa*, impressive.

The shortening procedure was carefully performed as the overall condition of the *nakago* is clean and gently filed.

A *bo-hi* (groove) runs right through the nakago, known as *kaki-toshi* (no end).



*kaki-toshi*

特 保  
30201812

No 1010644



鑑定書

一太刀 無銘 (古波平)

長二尺五寸四分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀劍と  
鑑定しこれを証する

平成三十一年 二月二十五日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



愛媛県 教育委員会  
第 47021 号  
昭和62年5月20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 Heisei (2019), February 25th

One, Tachi

*Mumei* (unsigned)  
*Ko-Naminohira*

*Nagasa* (length)  
2-shaku 5-sun 4-bu (77.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

波平行安

波平行安  
*Naminohira Yukiyasu*  
Naminohira Yukiyasu

但大磨上無銘也永仁ノ頃雄刀也

但大磨上無銘也永仁ノ頃雄刀也  
*Tadashi ô-suriage mumei nari Einin no koro yûtô nari*  
Ô-suriage, unsigned, valiant sword from *Einin* era  
(1293~1299)

刃長貳尺五寸五分有之

刃長貳尺五寸五分有之  
*Hachô 2-shaku 5-sun 5-bu kore ari*  
Blade length ~77.2 cm

伊予國吉田伊達家傳來品也  
*Iyo no kuni Yoshida Date-ke denrai hin nari*  
Passed down within the *Date* family in *Yoshida* of *Iyo* province

明治三十九年丙午（花押）

*Meiji sanjûkunen hinoe-uma + kaô*  
Signed in the 39th year of *Meiji* era during the Year of the Horse  
(1906) + monogram

昭和甲辰年初夏吉日寒山誌（花押）

*Shôwa kinoe-tatsudoshi shoka kichijitsu Kanzan shirusu + kaô*  
Written by *Kanzan sensei* on a lucky day in early summer in  
*Shôwa* period during the Year of the Tiger (1964)

伊予國吉田伊達家傳來品也

明治三十九年丙午

五

昭和甲辰年初夏吉日

寒山誌



Modern-day genealogy of the *Date* (pronounced Dah-tay) *Yoshida* Family



*Date Masamune* (Main family, Sendai domain)

↓ son

*Date Hidemune* (Branch family, Uwajima domain)

↓ son

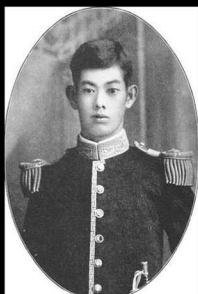
*Date Munezumi* (2nd branch family, Yoshida domain)

⋮

*Date Munesada* (10th head of Yoshida Date family, viscount during Meiji era)



*Date Masamune* in Sendai




Head of the Yoshida Date family in 1906  
when the shirasaya was crafted







A good look at the flowing *nagare/ayasugi-hada*.



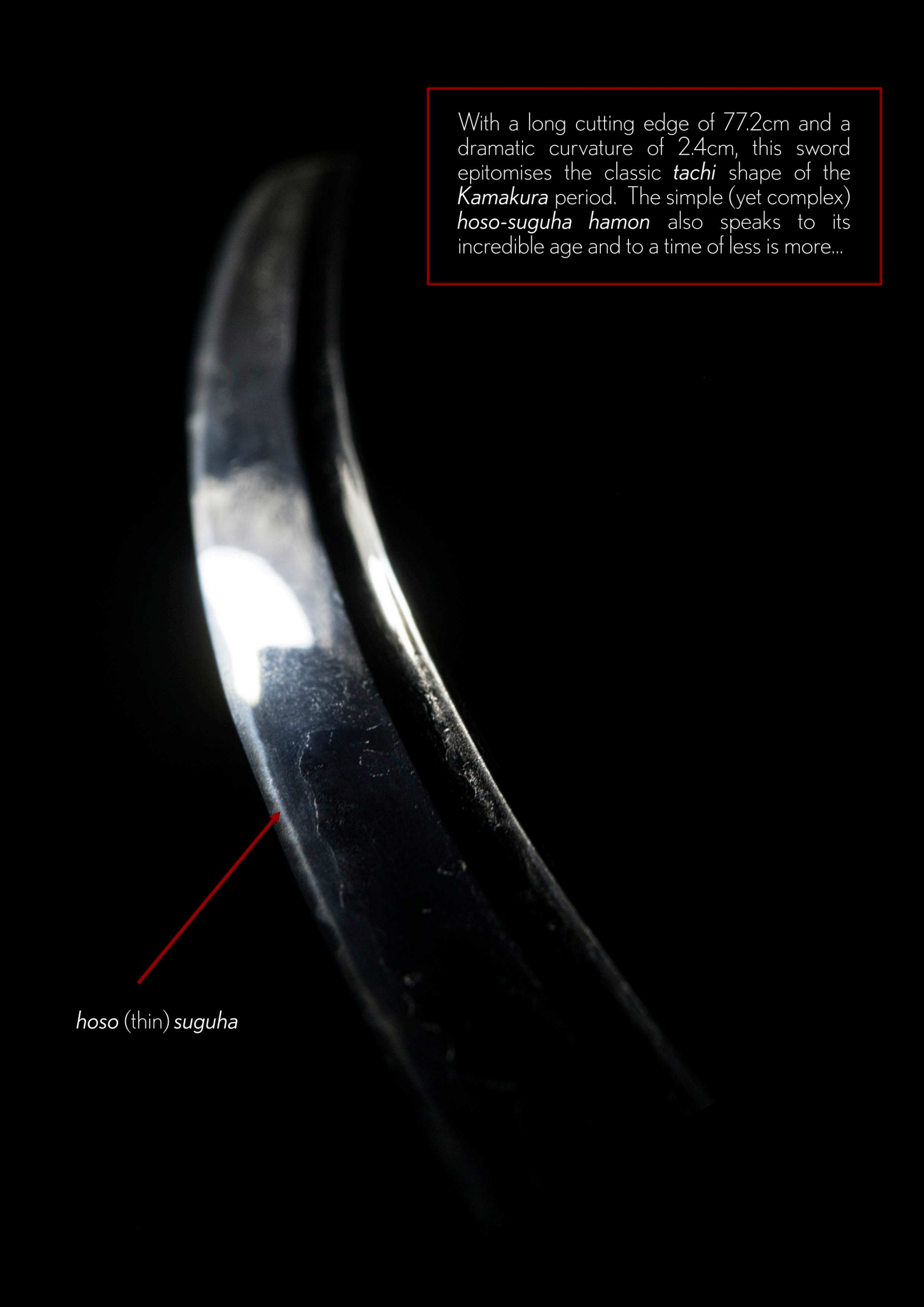
*shingane* (core steel)

This is a graceful *tachi* that is over seven hundred years old. The stories it can tell...

As such, through polishes over its many centuries of existence, the core steel known as *shingane*, can be seen in parts on this blade. If you are seeking a perfectly healthy blade, then consider a younger sword. But if it's age and a wise old soul you desire, then this is a samurai sword to cherish.

A beautiful brushed *hakikake boshi*.





With a long cutting edge of 77.2cm and a dramatic curvature of 2.4cm, this sword epitomises the classic *tachi* shape of the *Kamakura* period. The simple (yet complex) *hoso-suguha hamon* also speaks to its incredible age and to a time of less is more...

*hoso (thin) suguha*

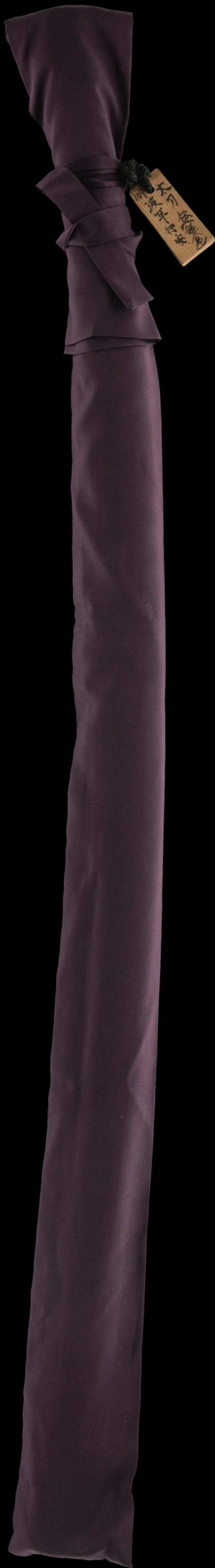


*kinsuji*

An impressive line of *kinsuji* below the *hoso-suguha hamon* inside the *yakiba* - hardened area of the blade.



Holding the sword just right, reveals a delightful bright white *shirake-utsuri* reflecting the *hamon* inside the dark *jigane* (body) of the sword. This is a key feature of swords made in the *Naminohira*, *Kongôbyôe*, *Enju* and *Mihara* schools.



*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)

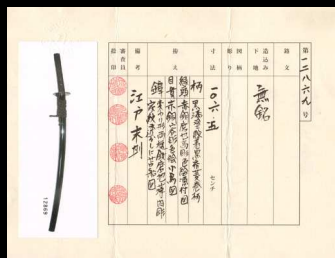


gold *habaki* with  
vertical file marks

*Kuro-roiro-nuri saya  
uchigatana-koshirae*  
(黒呂色塗鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae  
lacquered in glossy black*

Crafted during the  
Late Edo period  
(1780~1868)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity

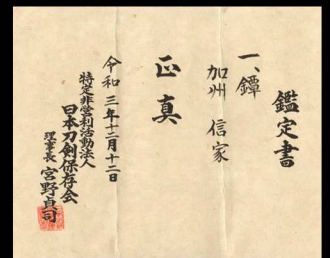


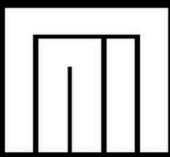
This *tsuba* is crafted by *Nobuie* from *Kashû* province, inspired by master metalsmith *Myôchin Nobuie*.

The symbol on the upper right are those used in the aristocratic game of "*Genji-kô* (Genji incense)", in which each of the 52 symbols represents a different volume of the *Tale of Genji*. The symbol on this *tsuba* represents the 51st volume, "*Ukifune* (a boat)," and thus a small boat is featured in the design of the *tsuba*.

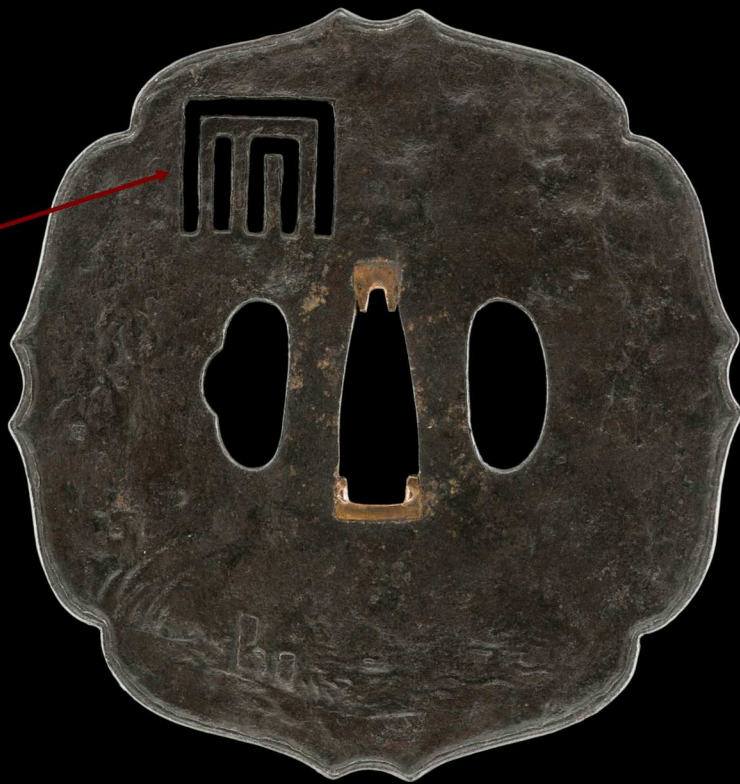


*Ukifune*





ukifune



(reverse)



*Fuchi-kashira* depicting the revered *Enoshima shrine*.  
Attributed to *Yasufusa* (1700s), a student of *Shodai Tsuchiya Yasuchika*



*Enoshima island* by *Utagawa Hiroshige*



*Enoshima shrine* during the *Meiji* period



Beautifully braided by an expert craftsman in Japan.



This charming *menuki* depicts a bird surfing on an oar, complimenting the boat motif on the *tsuba*.





Koshirae bag with  
a traditional crane pattern