



ITEM# UJKA467

## A KANEGISHI KATANA

SIGNED, SUE-KOTÔ PERIOD (KYÔROKU ERA: 1528~1532)

**Swordsmith:** Kanegishi (Sue-Seki)  
**Measurements:** Length: 74.5cm (*machi-okuri*) Sori: 1.3cm Moto-haba: 3.01cm Weight: 840g  
**Jihada:** Nagare-hada mixed with masame-hada with chikei, and shirake-utsuri  
**Hamon:** Kenbô-midare with togari mixed with yahazu-ba, tobiyaski and sunagashi  
**Certificate #1:** NBTHK Hozon (a sword Worthy of Preservation)  
**Certificates #2-4:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (*tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae designated Authentic*)  
**Authentication:** Sayagaki by Nozomi-san (*shodô artist*)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, printed description

**SOLD**

Swordsmith *Kanegishi* (also read *Kanekishi*) worked in *Seki* city in *Mino* province five hundred years ago during the *Kyôroku* era within the turbulent *Muromachi* period, circa 1528~1532. If you are seeking a long sword that has almost certainly seen battle, then consider claiming this blade for your collection. This is a very sharp and sturdy *Sue-Seki* katana that carries an eye-catching *kenbô-midare* hamon that pays tribute to first generation *Kanefusa* about a century earlier. Its handsome *koshirae* features an iron *tsuba* adorned with a *suhama* (sandbar) motif, thoughtfully chosen to complement the blade's swirling *hamon* pattern which evokes the natural curves of a sandbar. The unique diamond-shaped *renbishi fuchi-kashira* from the famed *Yoshioka* school gives the sword an armoured presence, built to protect the samurai. Very few signed examples of *Kanegishi* katana are in existence making this formidable *Sue-Seki* katana a fine discovery indeed.

^  
Saki-kasane: 4.5mm

Moto-kasane: 5.9mm

Kissaki: 3.7cm  
Saki-haba: 1.96cm

Nakago: 19.5cm

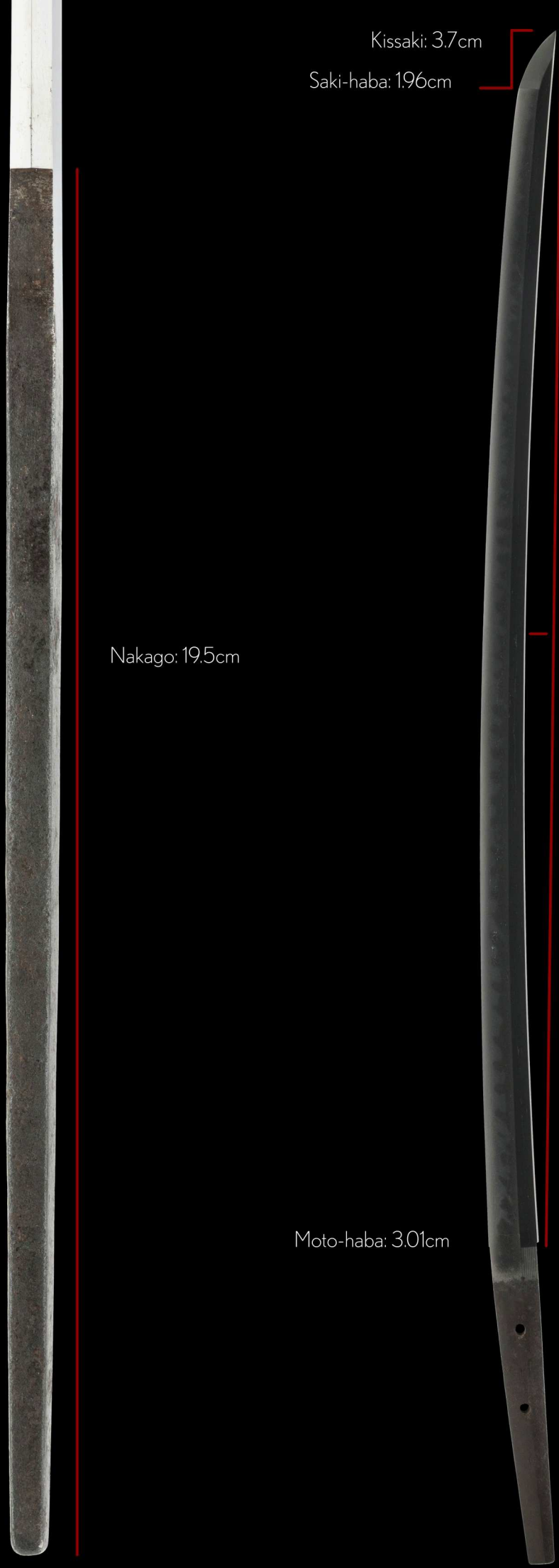
Omosa: 840g

Moto-haba: 3.01cm

Nagasa: 74.5cm

Sori: 1.3cm

Mekugi-ana: 2



Swordsmith *Kanegishi* (also read *Kanekishi*) worked in *Seki* city in *Mino* province 500 years ago during the *Kyôroku* era during the turbulent *Muromachi* period, circa 1528~1532.

If you are seeking a long sword that has almost certainly seen battle, then this is a sword to consider claiming for your collection. After all, it was made right in the thick of the *Sengoku-jidai* - warring states period when the whole country was at odds with each other.

This is a very sharp and sturdy *Sue-Seki* katana that carries all the hallmarks of this school of sword-making. The eye-catching *kenbô-midare hamon* is a temper line pioneered by first generation *Kanefusa* back in the *Eikyô* era circa (1429~1441). You'll also see a strong presence of *masame-hada*, *nagare-hada*, arrow notch *yahazu-ba*, *togari-gunome*, *sunagashi*, *shirake-utsuri* and bright tempered spots of *tobiyaki*.

Its handsome *koshirae* centres around an iron tsuba adorned with a *suhama* (sandbar) motif, thoughtfully chosen to complement the blade's swirling *kenbô-midare* pattern which evokes the natural curves of a sandbar. And the unique diamond-shaped *renbishi fuchi-kashira* from the famed *Yoshioka* school gives the sword an armoured presence, built to protect the samurai.

Very few signed examples of *Kanegishi* katana are in existence making this formidable *Sue-Seki* piece a rather fine discovery indeed.





Location: *Seki, Mino province*

School: *Kanetsune school*

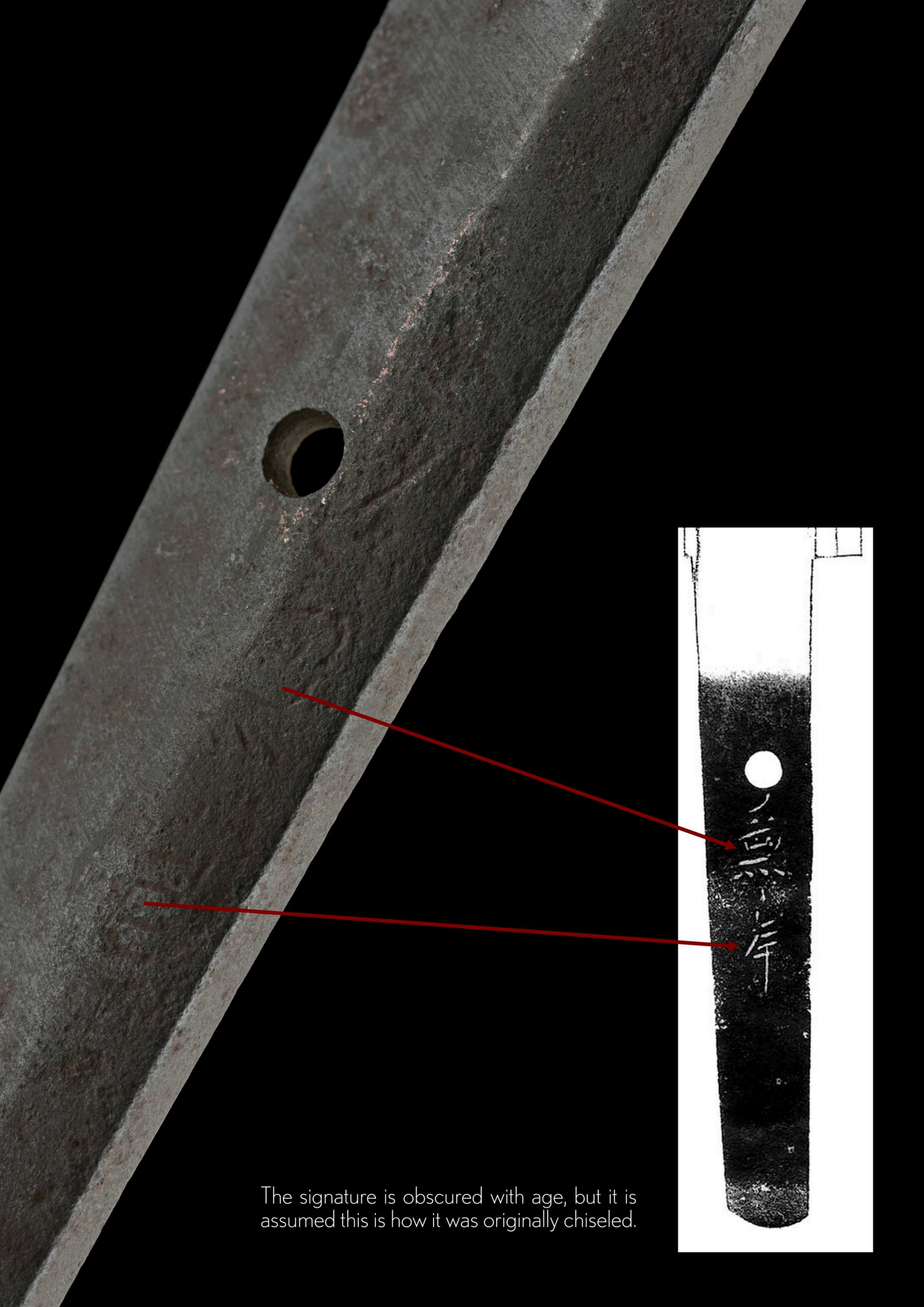
Swordsmith: *Kanegishi*

*machi-okuri-nakago* (shortened tang)

*sujikai-yasurime* (diagonal file marks)

兼 (Kane)

岸 (gishi)



The signature is obscured with age, but it is assumed this is how it was originally chiseled.

### *Machi-okuri nakago*

As warfare changed over the centuries, swords needed to be drawn from a standing position. Therefore the *nagasa* (length) had to be physically viable given the height of the warrior. In most cases, a longer blade needed to be shortened, often times by several centimetres.

A way to shorten a sword is through a process called *suriage* where the sword is cut from the nakago and a new nakago is formed where the cutting edge used to be.

In other cases, such as on this blade, the shorter nagasa is achieved by simply moving the *machi* (notch) upwards. This process is called *machi-okuri*.

The overall length of the sword is unchanged, only the cutting edge is shorter, typically by about 1-sun or 3cm.

A new hole (*mekugi-ana*) is created for the new hilt that is required. It should also be noted that with *machi-okuri* the *mei* (signature and date) has been left intact and preserved, a true blessing.



05202312

No 3033889



鑑定書

一刀銘兼岸(関)

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と  
鑑定しこれを証する  
長二尺四寸六分半

令和六年二月二十一日

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 43119 号  
昭和40年5月6日

NBTHK Hozon  
Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 6th year of Reiwa (2024), February 21st

One, Katana

Mei (signature)  
Kanegishi (Seki)

Nagasa (length)  
2-sun 4-sun 6-bu han (74.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



濃州関住兼岸

*Nôshû Seki jû Kanegishi*

Kanegishi, a resident of Seki in Nôshû province

濃州関住兼岸

時代享禄頃

時代享禄頃

*Jidai Kyôroku-goro*

Around Kyôroku period (1528~1532)

刃長貳尺四寸六分半有之

刃長貳尺四寸六分半

*Hachô 2-shaku 4-sun 6-bu han*

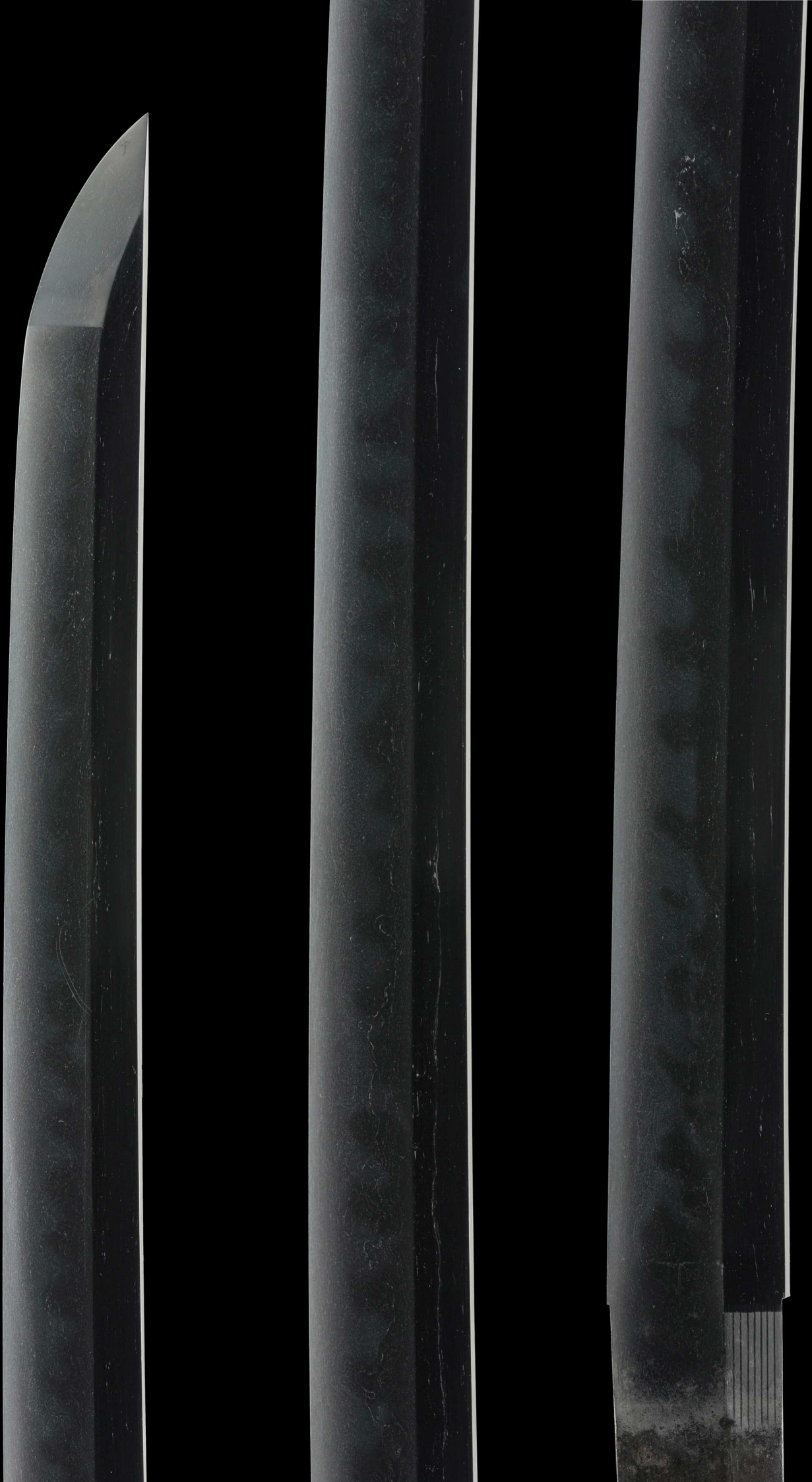
Blade length 74.5 cm

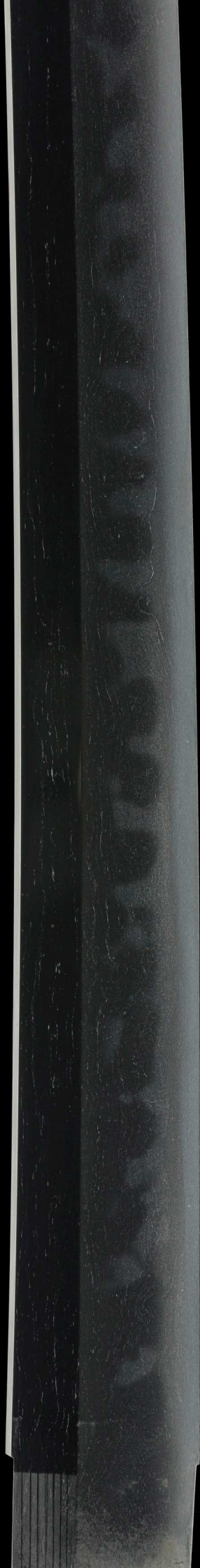
令和七乙巳年正月吉日誌之

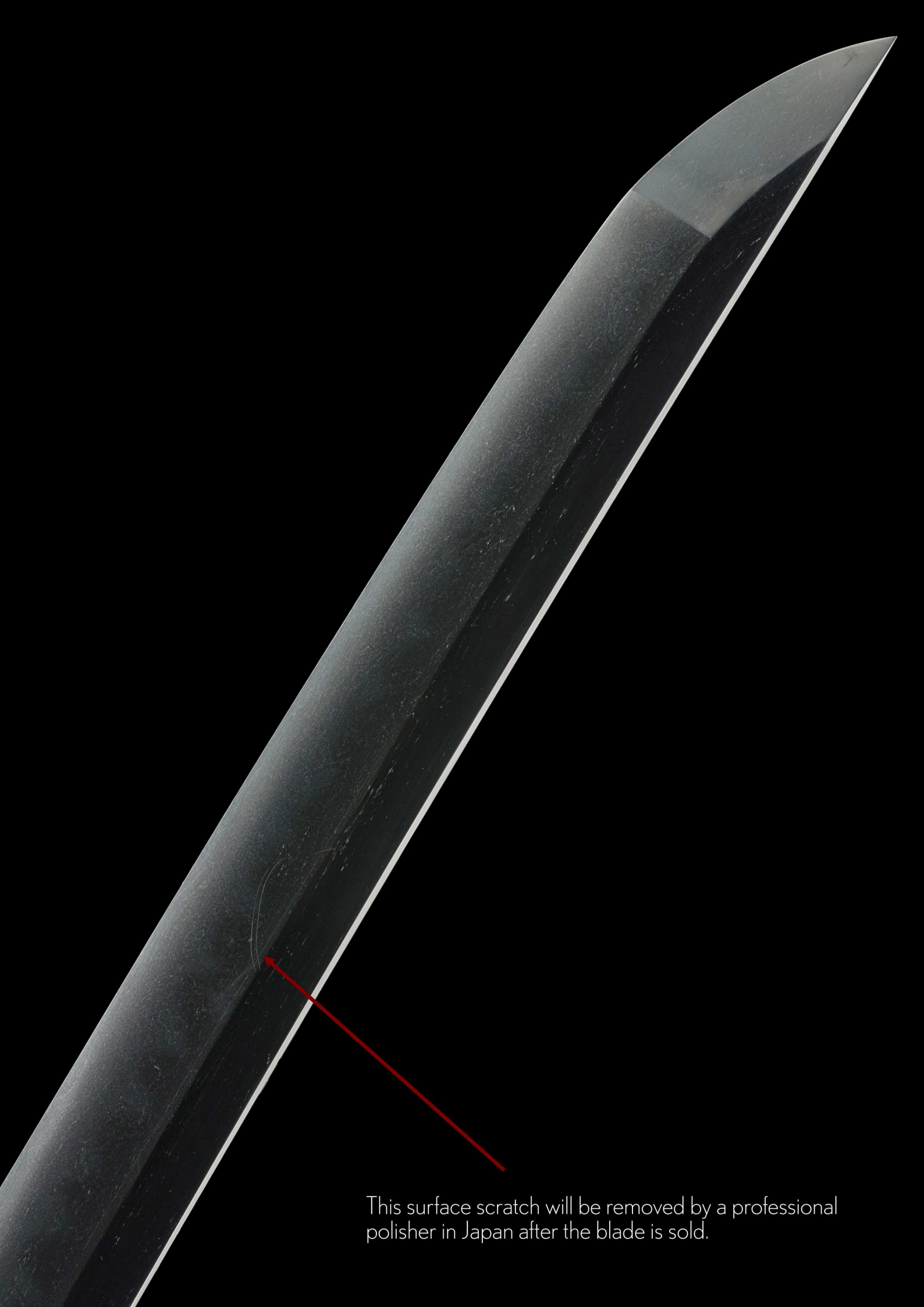
令和七乙巳年正月吉日誌之

*Reiwa nana kinoto-midoshi Shôgatsu kichijitsu kore o shirusu*

Written on a lucky day in the first month in the seventh year of Reiwa era during the Year of the Snake (January 2025)







This surface scratch will be removed by a professional polisher in Japan after the blade is sold.



A time to reflect.

*togari* (pointed section)

A sandbar of *sunagashi*





*masame-hada*

*nagare-hada*

*Masame-hada* (straight grain) in the *shinogi-ji* and a flowing *nagare-hada* in the body of the blade are prime characteristics of blades crafted in *Seki* during the late *Muromachi* period, known collectively as *Sue-Seki* swords.



A bright consistent hamon.  
The hallmark of a healthy, well made sword.

Note the touch of straight *shirake-utsuri* on the back of the *ji* (body).

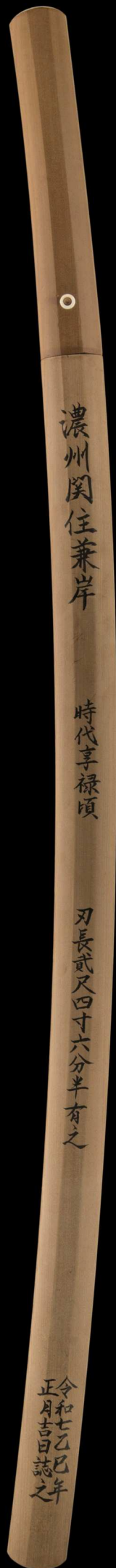
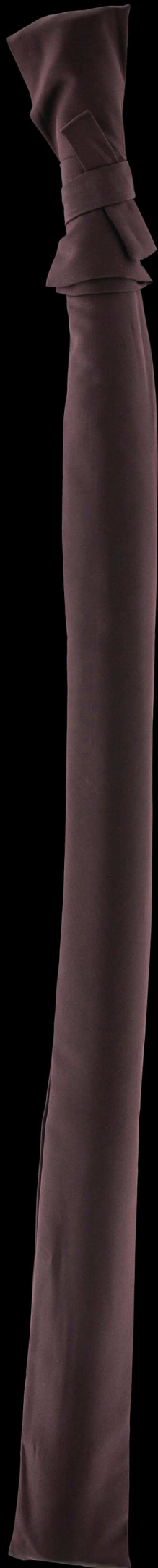
*shirake-utsuri* (shadow hamon).

This hamon is called *kenbô-midare* a rather large *chôji-midare* that can be traced back to its pioneer *shodai Kanefusa* (1429~1441).

yahazu-ba

A visual treat on certain *Sue-Seki* swords is the presence of *yahazu-ba* - a unique dovetail shape resembling arrow notches (*yahazu*).





*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)

濃州関住兼岸

時代享祿頃

刃長貳尺四寸六分半有之

令和七乙巳年  
正月吉日誌之

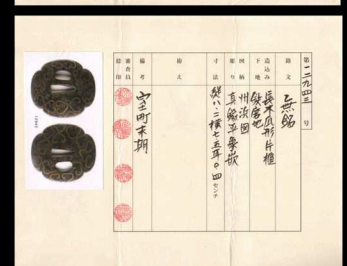
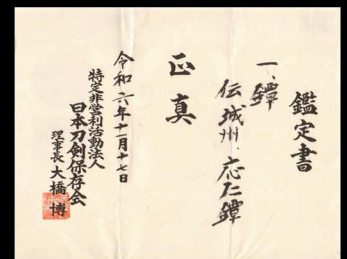


silver *habaki* with  
copper base





This tsuba has a motif of *suhama*, meaning 'sandbar'. The shape of *suhama* is also used in family crests, etc. The origin of this shape is a *suhama-dai* which is a stand decorated with wood, stone, flowers, birds, and other scenic objects and used as a decoration for banquets and to serve food at weddings, New Year's, and other occasions.

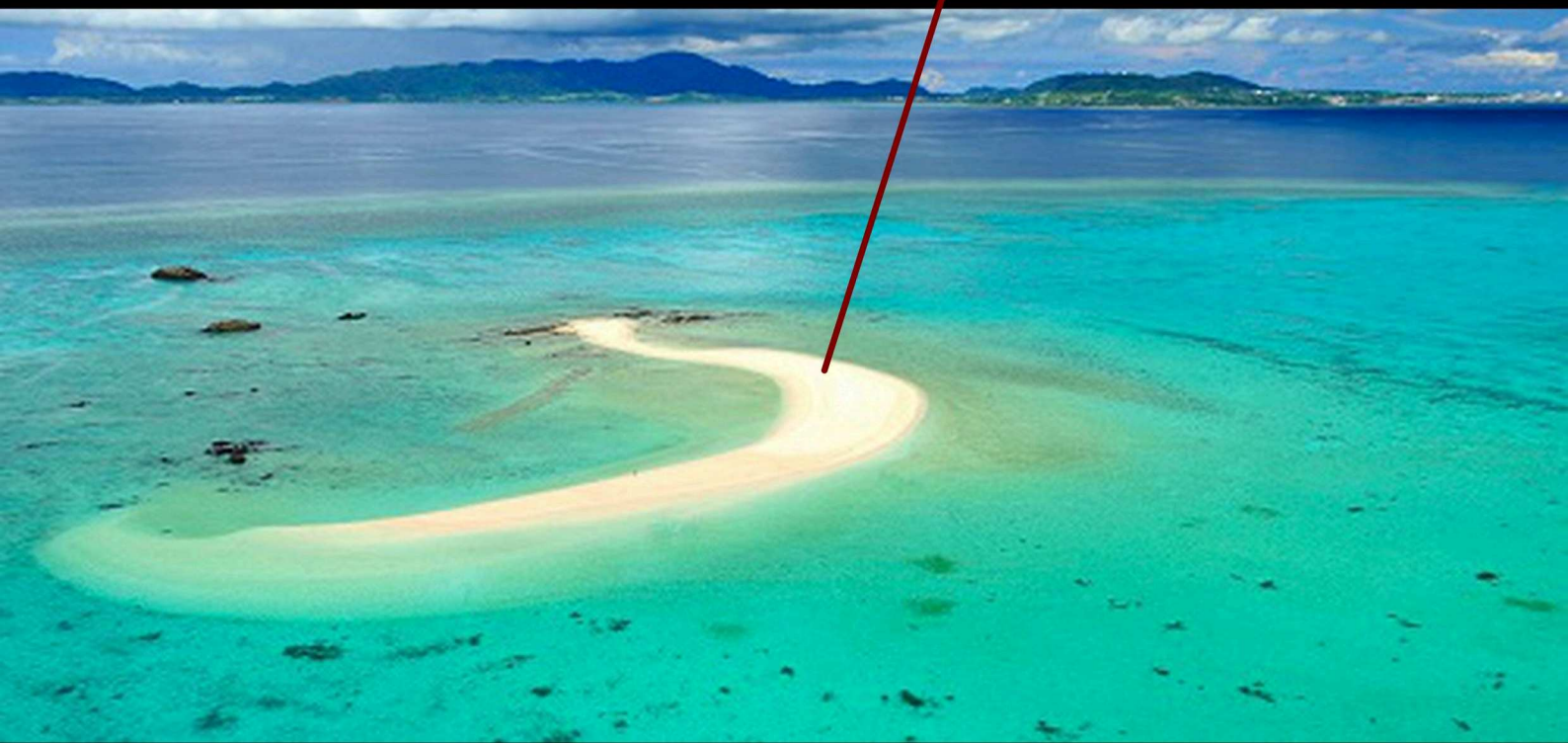




The curvy *gunome* pattern in the hamon works in harmony with the *suhama* sandbar design on the tsuba.



*suhama* (sandbar)

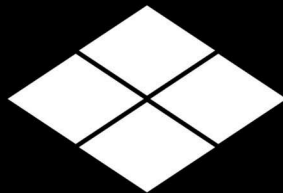


*Fuchi-kashira*  
attributed to  
*Yoshioka school*  
(Late Edo period, 1780~1868)



*Renbishi* (diamond shape)

This diamond-shaped pattern was used on the costumes of emperors and aristocrats. It was established around 1370 as the *kamon* (family crest) of the great Takeda samurai clan as a symbol to honour the deeds of ancestors.



*Takeda kamon*



antique *tsuka* (hilt) provides a true samurai feel



*Menuki* (decorative grips on the hilt) depict antique books. The sageo helps bring out the gold geometric pattern on the menuki.



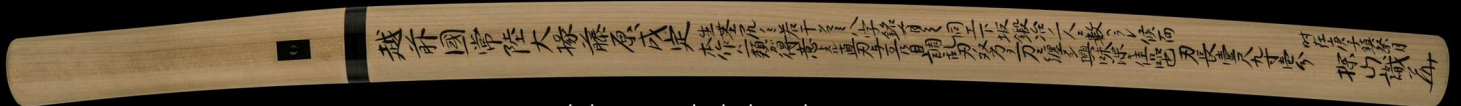
Koshirae bag

# Submit, Repair, Sell & Create!

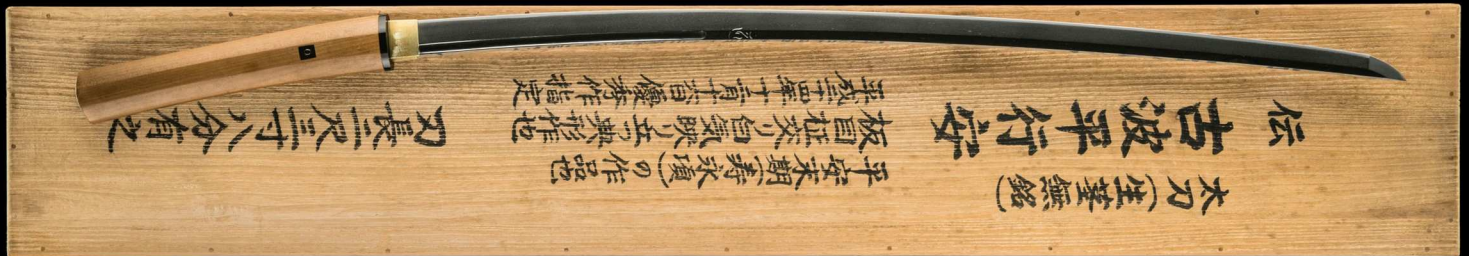
Unique Japan offers a *full-service menu* to assist clients with their Japanese swords and fittings. All services are performed in Japan with top quality craftsmen and women.

## Services include (non exhaustive):

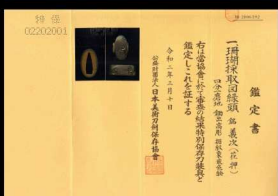
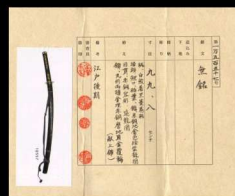
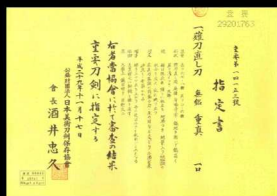
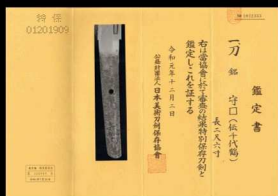
- \* NBTHK and NTHK-NPO *shinsa* certification (swords and fittings)
- \* polishing for all types of Japanese swords (standard to Jûyô-level quality polish)
- \* *shirasaya* making (standard to high quality with horn fittings)
- \* *habaki* making (gold, silver, copper in most any design pattern)
- \* fix wobbly koshirae, repair cracked scabbards, new lacquer work, etc.
- \* *otoshi* presentation boxes for your beautiful *tsuba*, *menuki*, *fuch-kashira*, etc.
- \* *tsuka-maki* (re-wrap your hilts in silk or leather in most any colour, weave or braid)
- \* *oshigata* (sword/hamon tracing on a scroll with a large choice of background)
- \* *sayagaki* services with *Tanobe-sensei* and *shodô* artist Nozomi-san
- \* *sword boxes with hakogaki* (with humidifying options for dry climates)
- \* custom koshirae projects (see separate page)
- \* sell your sword(s) on consignment (qualifying conditions apply)



polish, sayagaki, hakogaki



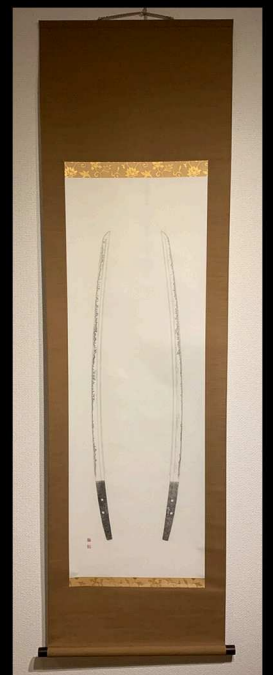
tsuka-maki



habaki creations



otoshi boxes



oshigata scrolls

All NBTHK and NTHK-NPO Shinsa authentication services