



ITEM# UJKA509

SOLD

A HACHIDAI NAGAMICHI KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, SHINSHINTÔ PERIOD (GENJI ERA: FEBRUARY 1864)

Swordsmith:	Ôshû Aizu-jû Miyoshi Nagamichi (奥州会津住三善長, 8th gen.)
Measurements:	Length: 73.9cm (<i>ubu</i>) Sori: 1.8cm Moto-haba: 2.82cm Weight: 635g
Jihada:	<i>Nagare-hada mixed with itame-hada with chikei</i>
Hamon:	<i>Gunome-midare mixed with tobiyaki, kinsuji and sunagashi</i>
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Hozon (sword Worthy of Preservation)
Fujishiro rank:	Chujô-saku (ranked as an above average swordsmith)
Included:	Edo koshirae, fabric bag, stand, kit, printed description

This long and very curvy katana is by *hachidai* (eighth-generation) **Miyoshi Nagamichi**, a member of a prestigious lineage of swordsmiths that served the *Aizu* clan from the early Edo period through the *Meiji* era. *Hachidai* served as official smith to the *Matsudaira* family of the *Aizu* domain, eventually earning the title of *Aizu Katana-kaji Tôryô* - Head of the *Aizu* Swordsmiths. This sword bears a *nakago* date inscription from the first year of the *Genji* era (February 1864) - just four years before the *Boshin* War, which would bring the *Aizu* domain to its tragic end and close the Edo period entirely. This sword was the property of a former police officer who is now a retired *iaidô* (drawing sword) master and was used for decades. Minor scratches and natural patina has formed on the word from actual use. The accompanying *koshirae* also carries the weight of years of genuine training. The *tsuka* (hilt) in particular has developed a unique character from decades of being gripped. A brilliant set of *koshirae* that balances quiet beauty with honest, rugged practicality.

Moto-haba: 2.82cm

Mekugi-ana: 1

Nakago: 24.0cm

Kissaki: 3.55cm
Saki-haba: 1.93cm

Nagasa: 73.9cm

Sori: 1.80cm

Omosa: 635g



This work is by the eighth-generation Miyoshi *Nagamichi* (三善長道), a member of a prestigious lineage of swordsmiths that served the *Aizu* clan from the early Edo period through the *Meiji* era. The first-generation *Nagamichi* was the son of *Miyoshi Masanaga* (三好政長), a disciple of *Umetada Myôju* (埋忠明寿). Following his father's passing, he studied under his uncle *Nagatoshi* (長俊) and the great master of *Ôsaka Shintô*, *Tsuda Sukehiro* (津田助広). He also mastered the art of cutting under the renowned sword-tester *Yamano Kanjûrô Hisahide* (山野勘十郎久英). His blades were so exceptionally sharp that he was praised as the "Kotetsu of *Aizu*" and the "*Masamune* of *Aizu*," earning the highest rank of *saijô-ôwazamono*.

Inheriting this lineage, the eighth-generation *Nagamichi* served as official smith to the Matsudaira family of the *Aizu* domain, eventually earning the title of "*Aizu Katana-kaji Tôryô*" – Head of the *Aizu* Swordsmiths – a testament to the trust he commanded.

This sword bears a *nakago* date inscription from the first year of the *Genji* era (1864) – just four years before the *Boshin War*, which would bring the *Aizu* domain to its tragic end and close the Edo period entirely. It is a blade forged at the edge of one world, before everything changed. It is a practical work with a unique provenance, having been used for many years by a former police officer who is now a retired *laidô* master. The *ji-gane* exhibits a refined *itame* grain, while the *hamon* is based on *gunome-midare* with frequent *sunagashi*, *kinsuji*, and *tobiyaki*, displaying a wealth of activity throughout the blade. Minor scratches from actual use are visible, but the piece offers numerous highlights as a Japanese sword. This work is accompanied by a *Hozon* certificate from the NBTHK.

The accompanying *koshirae* carries the weight of years of genuine training. The *tsuka* in particular has developed a unique character from decades of being gripped – a true martial tool, not a display piece. It features a polished iron *tsuba* with refined *sukashi* openwork of plum blossoms, a *fuchi-kashira* depicting a waterwheel, and *menuki* adorned with gold dragons. A mount that balances quiet beauty with honest, rugged practicality.



Location: *Aizu in Mutsu province*

Family name: *Miyoshi*

Swordsmith: *Nagamichi* (eighth generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

katte-sagari-yasurime (slanting file marks)

奥 (Ô)

州 (shû)

會 (Ai)

津 (zu)

住 (jû)

三 (Mi)

善 (yoshi)

長 (Naga)

道 (michi)

Genji gan kinoe-nedoshi nigatsu hi

Crafted on a day in the second month in the first year of the *Genji* era, the Year of the Rat (February 1864).

(Gen) 元

(ji) 治

(gan) 元

(kinoe) 甲

(ne) 子

(doshi) 年

(ni) 二

(gatsu) 月

(hi) 日

The *nakago* terminates in a *ha-agari kurijiri*, a form in which the rounded tip rises toward the cutting-edge side.



保 存
07202506

熊本県 教育委員会
第 4461 号
昭和26年3月30日



№ 3037593

鑑定書

一、刀 銘 奥州会津住三善長道
元治元甲子年二月日

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 長二尺四寸四分

令和七年八月二十二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 7th year of Reiwa (2025), August 22nd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Ôshû Aizu-jû Miyoshi Nagamichi
Genji gan kinoe-nedoshi nigatsu-hi

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 4-sun 4-bu (73.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

A Blade Forged for Fate: The Genji 1864 Nagamichi

The first year of *Genji* era (1864) date inscription places this blade at the very end of the Edo period – one of the most turbulent stretches in Japanese history. The *Ikedaya* Incident and the *Kinmon* Rebellion had turned *Kyôto* into a battleground, and the demand for swords that could handle real combat had never been higher.

The eighth-generation *Nagamichi* was official smith to the *Aizu* domain, working under the direct patronage of *Matsudaira Katamori* – the *Kyôto Shugoshoku* – whose men were on the streets of *Kyôto* risking their lives to keep order. This was not a ceremonial commission. *Nagamichi* came from a lineage ranked *saijô ôwazamono* – supreme cutting ability – and at this moment in history, that ranking meant something very real.

Four years after this blade left the forge, the *Aizu* domain was destroyed in the *Boshin War* and the Edo period came to an end. Japan changed overnight. The samurai class that had carried swords like this one was abolished, and a new era – the Meiji – began dismantling everything that had come before.

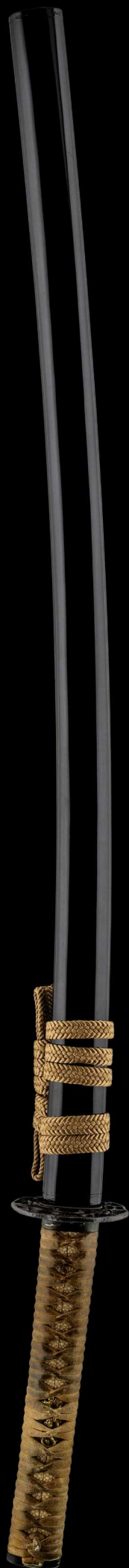
This sword survived all of it, and it shows. The *koshirae* appears to be original and unchanged – the *same* fittings that accompanied this blade when it was made for active use. The steel almost certainly has not been polished since the Edo period. What you are looking at is not a sword that has been refreshed and reconditioned over the centuries. It is, as near as we can tell, frozen in time – a genuine working sword of the final samurai era, preserved exactly as it was.



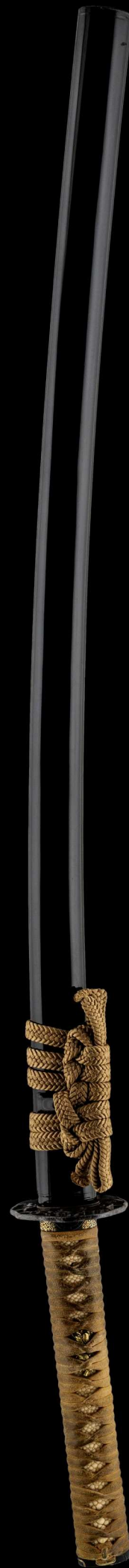
Matsudaira Katamori



Boshin War



Koshirae





The *tsuba* is of polished iron with a *sukashi* carving of a plum tree – branches sparse, buds just forming, not yet in bloom. Early spring, before the flowers open. The plum blossoms first in Japan, while frost is still on the ground, which is precisely why it carries the associations it does – resilience, quiet optimism.

The craftsman chose an understated moment of beautiful potential.



(reverse)





The *fuchi-kashira* features a *shakudô* base adorned with a meticulous *nanako* pattern, depicting a waterwheel alongside flowers and grass by a water's edge.

The design captures a tranquil scene of the Japanese countryside as seen below.





The *tsuka* is wrapped over white *samekawa*, and the wrap itself tells you something – worn smooth in the grip area from years of handling, the surface carrying the kind of patina that only comes from genuine use. This is not a sword that sat in a rack.

The *menuki* are gold dragons, visible through the wrap. Simple, high-quality, and entirely in keeping with a sword made under domain patronage.



銃砲刀剣類登録証

登録記号番号 熊本縣 第 四、一六、一 号

種別 刀 長さ 尺 四、寸 四、分 一、厘

反り 寸 六、分 匣 目くぎ穴 一個

銘文 表 奥州会津姓三喜長道
裏 元治甲子年二月日

居合刀

文化財保護委員会

昭和廿六年 年 三月 拾日 月 日發行

(特)

This is the original *torokusho* (registration card) for the *Nagamichi 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.

One of the very first swords registered in Japan. It was number 1,461 sword registered in *Kumamoto prefecture*, former *Hizen province*.

Congratulations Kyle.

Warm regards,
Pablo