



ITEM# UJTA029

A HARUMITSU TANTO

SIGNED & DATED, 8TH MONTH IN 10TH YEAR OF TENSHO
(AUGUST 1582)

Swordsmith: Bishu Osafune HARUMITSU
Location: Bizen province (modern-day Okayama)
Measurements: Length: 23.4cm (ubu nakago) Curvature: 0cm Moto-haba: 2.1cm
Jihada: Itame (wood grain pattern)
Hamon: Hira-sugu with tobiyaki and hitatsura
Certificate: NBTHK Hozon (a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword)
Included: Meiji period aikuchi koshirae, brocade carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

During the late Muromachi period, the Great War of Japan, several generations of smiths by the name of Harumitsu took prominent position in Bizen province in the village of Osafune. This splendid tanto, signed and dated to 1582 by Harumitsu is a treasure from this time.

In classic Bizen tradition, the *nioguchi* (whitish band of crystals that form the hamon) is tight and consistent, cutting along the blade like a Milky Way laser beam. The upper area of the steel has been heat-treated, known as *hitatsura*, producing fabulous islands of *tobiyaki*. This tanto is alive.

The Harumitsu family swords were known to have *horimono* (engravings). In fact, not only does the sword carry a curled *tsume* (claw) with *goma hashi* (chopsticks used on the altars of Shinto shrines), but also a magnificent dragon winding around a sword known as *so no kurikura*.

These markings serve as spiritual talismans giving protection to the Samurai owner of the sword.

This tanto is contained in a refined black-lacquered *aikuchi-koshirae* from the Meiji period with three golden illustrations of oak leaves. As oak leaves fall when a new bud appears, it is believed to be a lucky omen for change - harvesting prosperity and protection to descendants.

A silver loop is uniquely fastened on the scabbard in the form of a chrysanthemum, the flower of the Imperial family. Sword is certified with NBTHK Hozon authentication papers.





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Black lacquer *aikuchi-koshirae* circa Meiji period
Featuring depictions of golden oak leaves