



ITEM# UJTA030

## A YOSHISHIGE TANTO

SIGNED & DATED, 2ND MONTH IN THE 5TH YEAR OF ANSEI  
(FEBRUARY 1858)

**Swordsmith:** Hasebe YOSHISHIGE  
**Location:** Kozuke province (modern-day Gunma prefecture)  
**Measurements:** **Length:** 27.5cm (ubu) **Curvature:** 0.cm **Moto-haba:** 2.5cm  
**Jihada:** *Ko-itame* (wood grain pattern)  
**Hamon:** *Gunome choji-midare* (lovely wavy clove blossoms), long *ashi*, *sunagashi*  
**Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (a sword designated as *Especially Precious* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword)  
**Certificate #2:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword *koshirae* (fittings) designated as *Important* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Edo-period *aikuchi-koshirae*, *shirasaya*, carry bag, stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

## SOLD

Talented swordsmith Yoshishige studied under Masayoshi who he himself studied under the great Masahide – the Shinshinto period maestro. He is said to be a descendant of Hasebe Kunishige, one of Masamune’s ten formidable students thus signs his name *Hasebe Yoshishige*.

Tragically Yoshishige died in 1859 at the age of just 35. This sword would have been one of the very last he ever made as it was produced in 1858 (dated on blade, a year before he died).

There is so much to love in this sword. First, the quality of the blade is sublime. This is a very healthy tanto with a spectacular *gunome choji midare hamon* (clove blossom temper line) that carries brush strokes of sandy *sunagashi*. The *jihada* is a clean tight *ko-itame*.

The tanto is mounted in an Edo-period matching *issaku aikuchi koshirae* that pays tribute to the

ocean. Skillfully carved wave patterns are found on the *kojiri* (scabbard tip) and *fuchi-kashira* (collar/pommel) with an exquisite *ebi* (shrimp) portrayed on the *kozuka* (utility knife).

The *ebi* can be found in a large range of Samurai art. Its message is one of congratulations and wishing longevity in life. The *saya* (scabbard) is formed of shells, interwoven in lacquer in a pristine work of mosaic art. This is 19th century Japanese craftsmanship at its finest.





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2nd month in 5th year of Ansei (February 1858)

*Aikuchi-koshirae* circa Late Edo period  
Featuring a kozuka with *ebi* (shrimp)