



ITEM# UJTA055

A TSUGUYOSHI TANTÔ

SIGNED, LATE KAMAKURA TO NAMBOKUCHÔ PERIOD (1326~1368)

Swordsmith:	<i>Bitchû no Kuni jû Tsuguyoshi (4th generation, near ubu-nakago)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 26.2cm Curvature: 0cm Moto-haba: 2.33cm Weight: 125g
Jihada:	<i>Beautifully forged itame & mokume-hada with namazu-hada, ji-nie, plentiful chikei</i>
Hamon:	<i>Snow white suguha-chô mixed with ko-ashi and sunagashi</i>
Horimono:	<i>Koshi-bi on both sides running kaki-nagashi through the nakago</i>
Certificate #1-2:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (sword & koshirae Especially Worthy of Preservation)
Certificate #3-4:	NTHK Yushûsakû (sword & koshirae designated as MasterWork)
Certificate #5-7:	NTHK Kanteisho (soroi kanagu, kôgai/kozuka, koshirae designated as Authentic)
Fujishiro rank:	Jôjô-saku (ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)
Sharpness:	Ô-wazamono (excellent cutting ability)
Authentication:	Sayagaki by Kanzan-sensei (Satô Kan'ichi)
Included:	Shirasaya, Edo aikuchi koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, booklet, description

SOLD

This remarkable signed 650-year-old *tantô* was crafted by fourth generation *Tsuguyoshi*, who is considered the finest swordsmith of the *Chû-Aoe* school. *Tsuguyoshi's* given name was *Genjirô* and he received honorary title *Sakon Shôgen*. The sword is beautifully forged in *itame* and *mokume-hada* with a snow-white *hamon* that glistens with *ji-nie*. It comes housed in a spectacular *aikuchi-koshirae* with matching silver fittings in a rolling wave theme signed by metalsmith *Anjû*. There is also a profound sense of authority to this blade as it is as sharp as any blade will come. *Tsuguyoshi* is rated *ô-wazamono* for his excellent cutting ability and it's clear to see why.

Moto-kasane: 4.8mm

Omosa: 125g

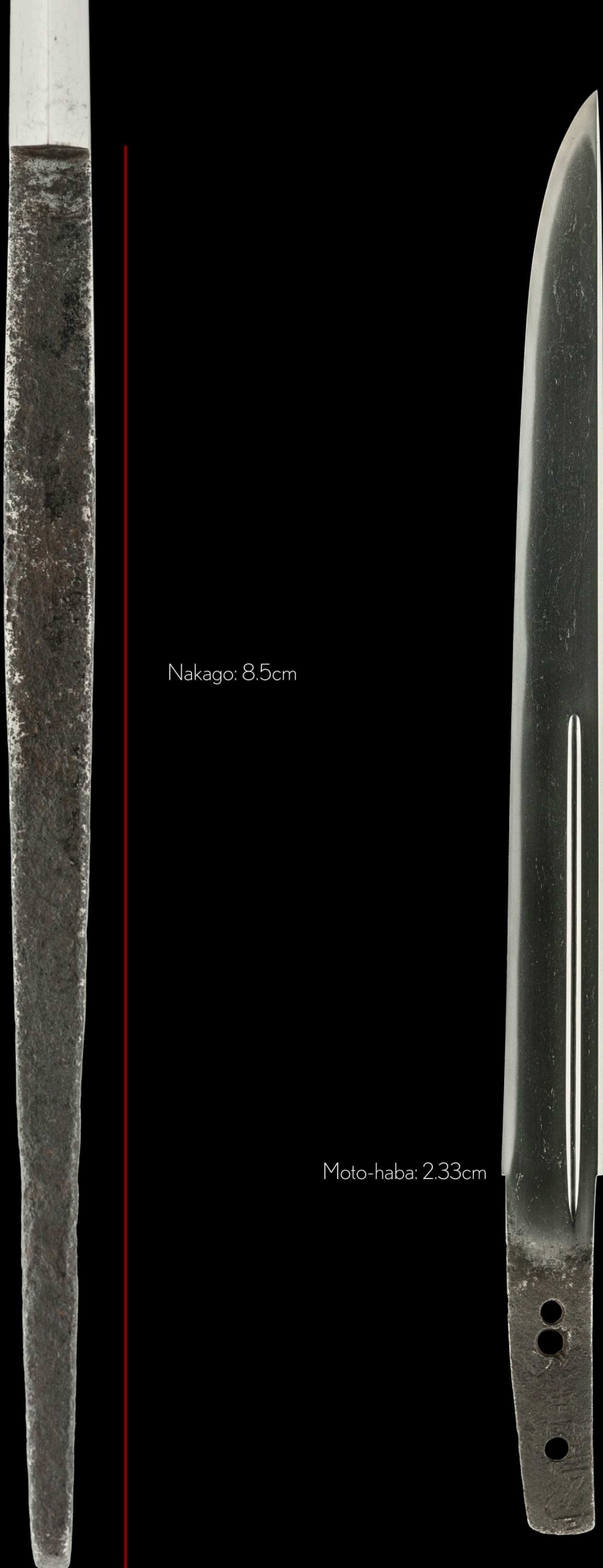
Nakago: 8.5cm

Moto-haba: 2.33cm

Nagasa: 26.2cm

Sori: 0.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 3



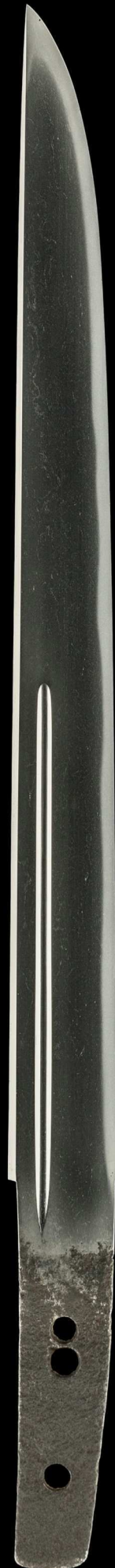
Fourth generation Tsuguyoshi of the famed *Aoe* school is considered the finest swordsmith of the *Chû-Aoe* school that ran from mid-*Kamakura* (~1240) to the end of the *Nambokuchô* period (~1393). Tsuguyoshi given name was *Genjirô* and received honorary title *Sakon Shôgen*.

The *uchi-zori* shaped sword is beautifully forged in *itame* and *mokume-hada* with a snow-white hamon that glistens with *ji-nie*. Dark 'catfish-like' spots swimming in the steel known as *namazu-hada* can also be seen - a unique trait of the *Aoe* school that is an enjoyable study.

The tantô comes in a spectacular *aikuchi-koshirae* from the late Edo period with matching silver fittings in a rolling wave theme signed by metalsmith *Anjû*. It also has a matching *kôgai* and *kozuka* set signed by *Masamitsu*. The *koshirae* speaks of quality in every way.

Tsuguyoshi is ranked *jôjô-saku*, (highly superior) as well as *ô-wazamono* for excellent cutting ability of his blades. The sharpness is clearly evident in this tantô. Please handle this beauty with care and attention, if not, she'll bite back. ;)

Enjoy.



Location: *Bitchû* (resident of Okayama)
Swordsmith: *Tsuguyoshi* (fourth generation)

ubu-nakago (near original, unaltered tang)

original *mekugi-ana* (hole)

備 (Bi)

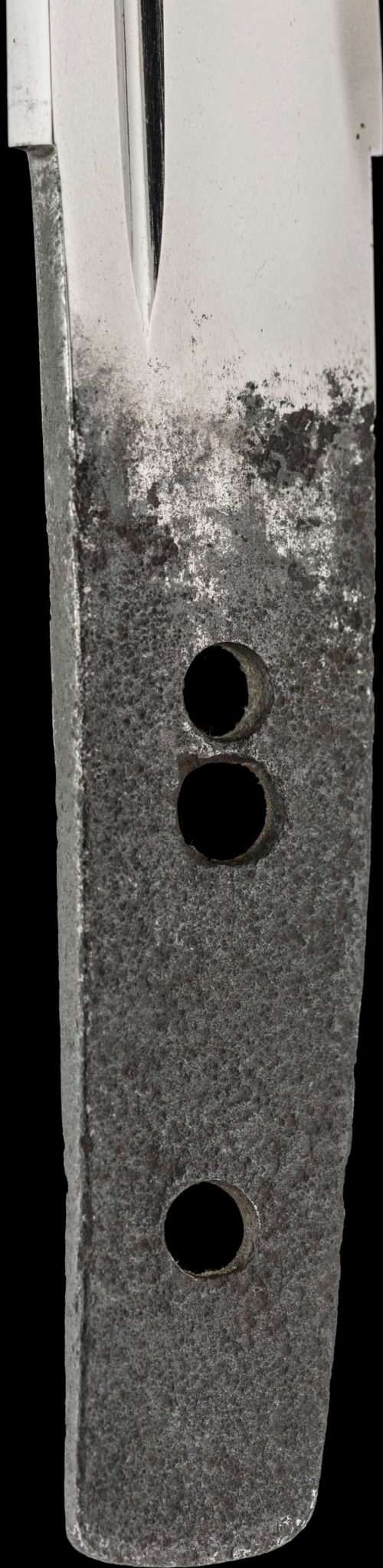
中 (tchû, no)

國 (Kuni)

住 (jû)

次 (Tsugu)

吉 (yoshi)



(ura, reverse)

特 選
26201411

№ 1003100



鑑 定 書

一、短 刀 銘 備中国住次吉
長八寸六分

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

平成二十七年二月五日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



欄 教育委員会
第 13008 号
昭和26年 4月 29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 27th year of Heisei (2015), February 5th

One, Tantô

Mei (signature)
Bitchû no Kuni jû Tsuguyoshi

Nagasa (length)
8-sun 6-bu (26.2cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



備中國住次吉

Bitchû no Kuni jû Tsuguyoshi

Tsuguyoshi, a resident of Bitchû Province

嘉曆頃

Karyaku-goro

Around Karyaku era (1326~1329)

長八寸六分五厘有之

Nagasa 8-sun 6-bu 5-rin kore ari

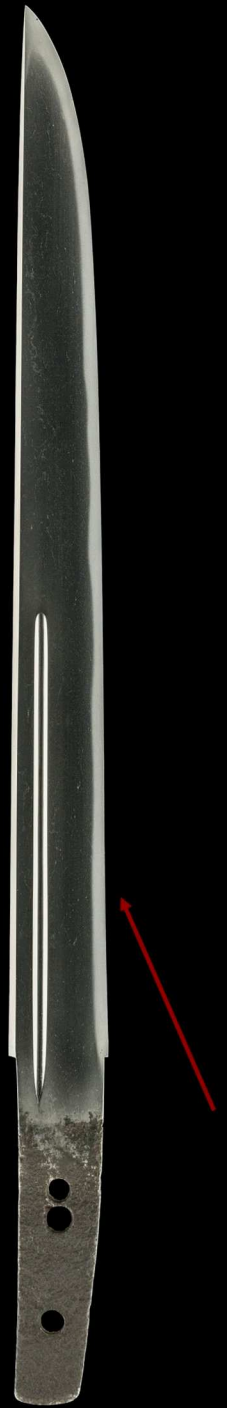
Blade length ~26.2 cm

昭和甲寅年夏寒山誌 (花押)

Shôwa kinoe-tora doshi natsu Kanzan shirusu + kaô

Written by *Kanzan* [Satô Kan'ichi]

Summer of the Year of the Tiger (1974) of Shôwa period
plus his personal monogram

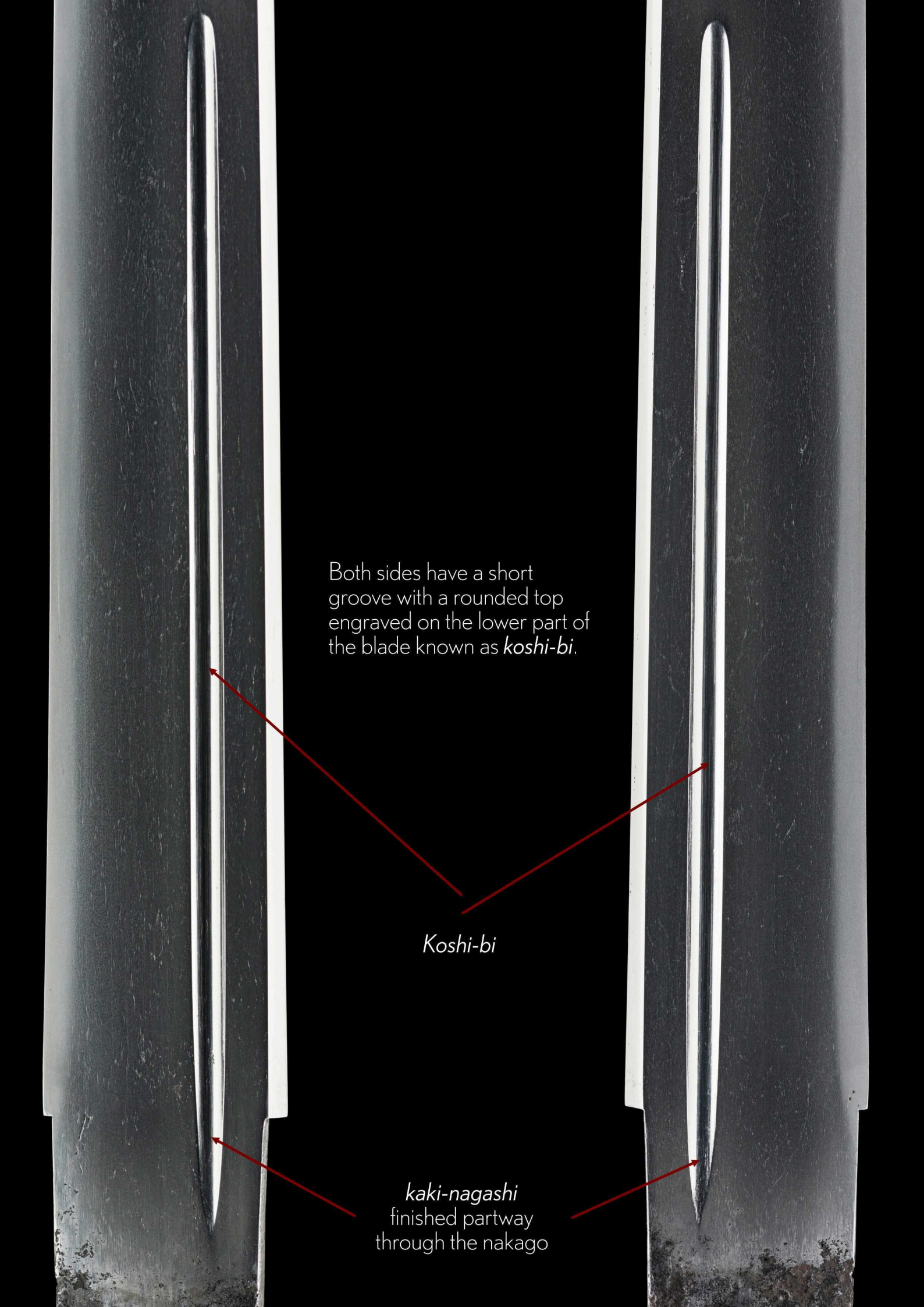


Uchizori

An *uchizori* blade curves in the opposite direction, towards the cutting edge. Seen on tantô and primarily in tantô produced during the Kamakura period.








Both sides have a short groove with a rounded top engraved on the lower part of the blade known as *koshi-bi*.

Koshi-bi

kaki-nagashi
finished partway
through the nakago



Beautifully forged mix of *itame-hada* and *mokume-hada* that speaks to the magic of the *kotô* period.

This is also one *seriously sharp sword*. Tsuguyoshi is rated *ô-wazamono* for the excellent sharpness of his blades.

Fancy a bit of viciousness?

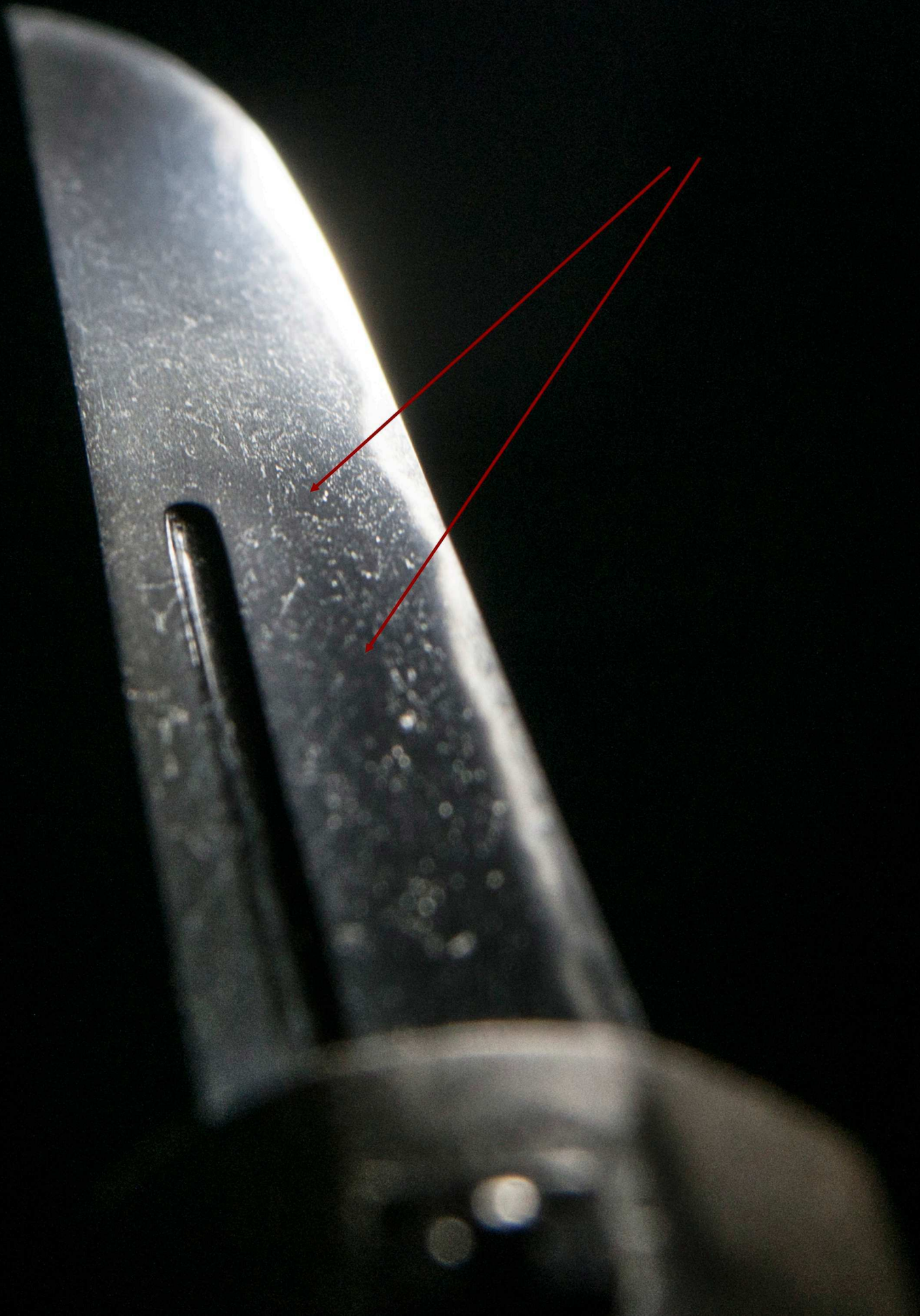
Under the light, the *tantô* shines brightly with *ji-nie*.

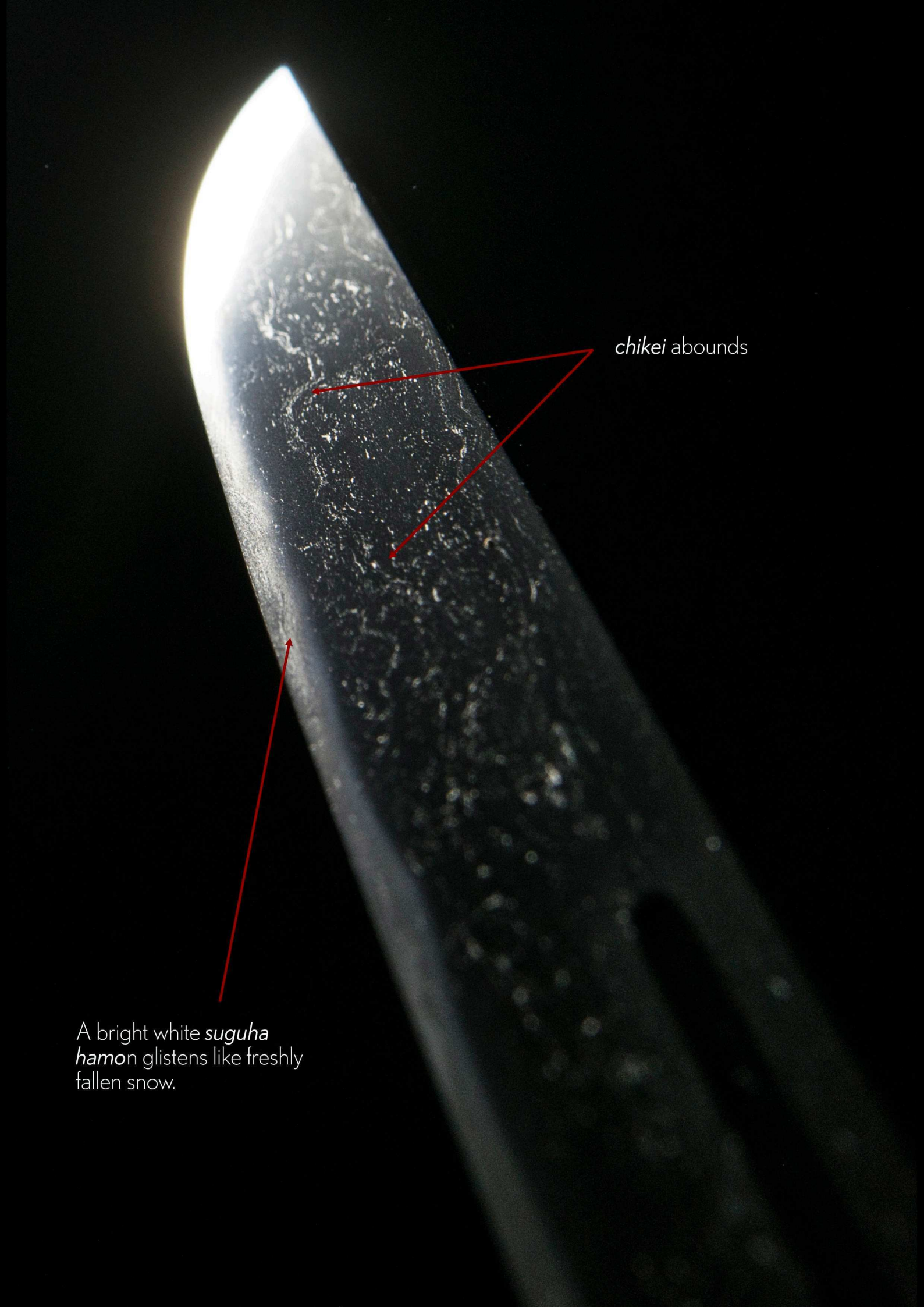
Swordsmiths in the *Aoe* school appear to have used a unique grade of iron sand that resulted in qualities such as *namazu-hada* and *utsuri*.



utsuri (reflections)

Here we see *namazu-hada*, dark spots of nie crystals that resemble the skin of a catfish (*namazu*), a unique feature of the *Aoe* school.





chikei abounds

A bright white *suguha hamon* glistens like freshly fallen snow.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

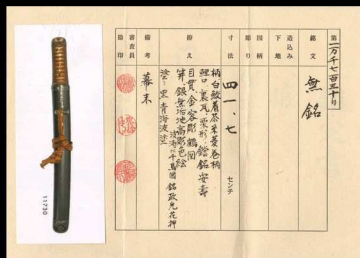


gold-wrapped *niju-habaki*
with crisp marks

*Ginmuku-ji hatô no zu kaigu
tantô-koshirae*
(銀無垢地波濤図皆具短刀拵)

*Tantô-koshirae
with a matching set of
silver fittings depicting waves*

Crafted during the
Edo Bakumatsu period
(1853~1868)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity

特 保
04202208



No 2009013



鑑定書

一、黒漆青海波文塗鞘合口短刀拵

総金具 波千鳥図 鯉口銘 安寿
目貫 舞鶴図
小柄割筭 波千鳥図 銘 政光(花押)
柄 白紙着 茶色糸諸撮巻

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀装具と
鑑定しこれを証する

令和四年十月七日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

An *aikuchi-koshirae* designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 4th year of Reiwa (2022), October 7th

One, aikuchi koshirae

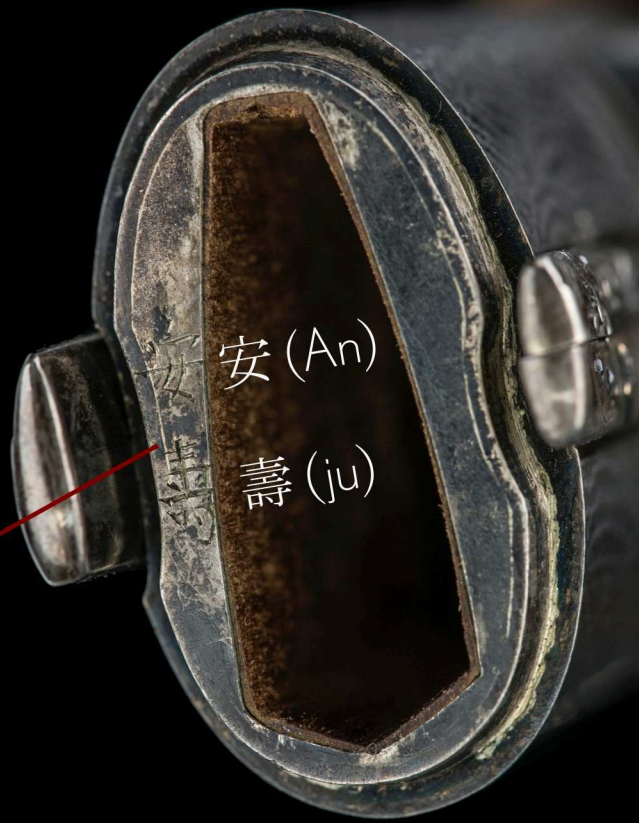
*Matching set of fittings depicting birds on the waves,
signed Anju on the koiguchi*

Menuki depicting a flying crane

*Kozuka and split kôgai depicting birds on the waves
signed Masamitsu + monogram*

*Hilt covered with white same and wrapped
mototsumami-maki style with brown braids*

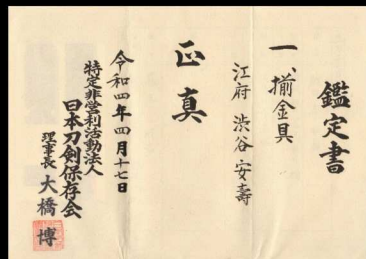
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

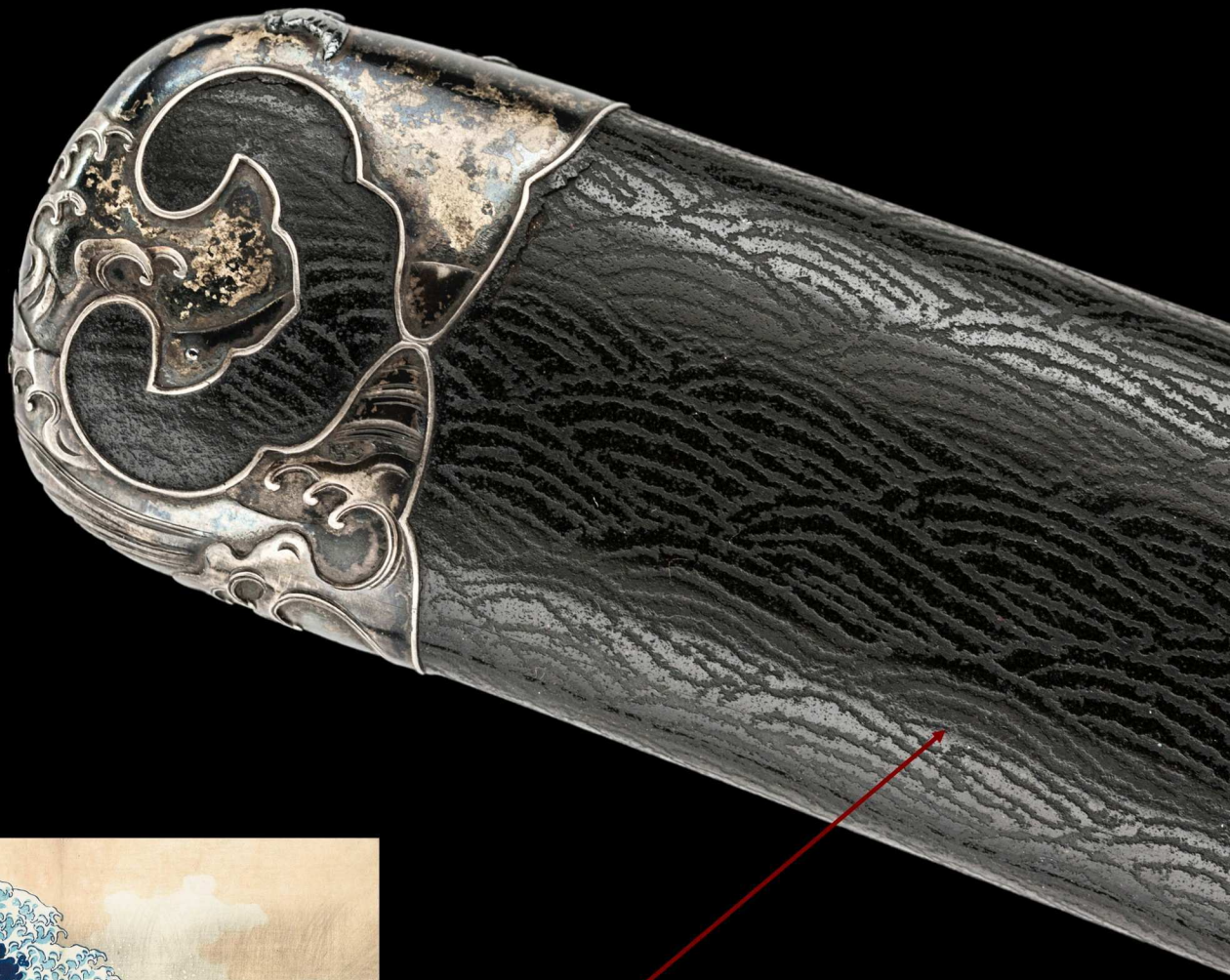


Master metalsmith *Efu Shibuya Anju* from Edo (Tokyo) crafted all of the spectacular silver work featuring birds and waves. The *kôgai* and *kozuka* was completed and signed by *Masamitsu*.

Anju's engraved signature is located on the left side of the *koiguchi* (mouth of the scabbard). He worked from very late Edo to the Meiji era, circa 1853~1912.

An NTHK-NPO *Soroi Kanagu Kanteisho* certificate of authenticity for its matching fittings has been acquired.





nami (waves) lacquered on the *saya*

Kanagawa oki nami ura
The Great Wave off Kanagawa
Katsushika Hokusai (1760~1849)



kojiri (end cap)



Kashira
(pommel)

Breaking waves in all its glory.

Kogai is signed *Masamitsu* and forms a set with the signed *kozuka*.
Certified *Kanteisho* (Authentic) by the NTHK-NPO.



次光
母

A *kogai* is a thick blunt needle that was primarily used as a hair arranging tool by the samurai.

It is fastened into a special notch built inside the *saya* (scabbard).





A *kozuka* (utility knife) used by the samurai to open letters, cut fruit, etc. It was not a weapon per se.





Gorgeous depictions of *tsuru* (cranes) form the *menuki*.

The crane is considered a national treasure in Japan, appearing in art, literature, and folklore. It is a symbol of good fortune and longevity because of its fabled life span of a thousand years. It also represents fidelity, as Japanese cranes are known to mate for life.





Koshirae bag