



ITEM NO. UJWA091

A NOBUKUNI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI PERIOD (OEI ERA: 1394~1427)

Swordsmith: Yamashiro Shikibunojyo Nobukuni (attribution)
Location: Yamashiro province (present-day Kyoto)
Length: 51.3cm
Curvature: 1.5cm
Jihada: *Itame*
Hamon: *Small Gunome-Midare and Naka-Yakihaba (Yahazu midare), a family trait*
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

This wakizashi is registered in the 26th year of Showa (1951), where only *Damiyo* families (great feudal lords) were invited to submit their swords. It is a mark of great distinction.

Son of *Saemonnojo Nobukuni*, *Shikibunojo Nobukuni* is a prestigious swordsmith ranked with the likes of Bizen's *Morimitsu* and *Yoshimitsu*. Early on he was known as *Nobusada*.

Works span from Oei to Eikyo (1394~1429). The *hamon* (temper line) is very distinctive, in some places two continuous *gunome* are fused together, becoming *yahazu* (fish-tail shaped). The Nobukuni School was considered one of the very best makers of *horimono* (engravings). This particular wakizashi has a striking long *bo-hi* (groove) extending the length of the blade.

The *fuchigashira* is formed of *shakudo* and *ishime-ji* and gold inlay in the design of a pine needle and family crest. The *menuki* is formed of *shakudo* and gold with the design of traveler on a ship on the wave of the sea.

The *mokko tsuba* is of *yamagane* with *sukashi* openwork in the design of paulownia flowers. Hundreds of tiny black lines thread their way around the red *saya* to form a lucky silk spool.