



ITEM# UJWA118

A SHODAI NAGAMICHI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661~1673)

Swordsmith:	<i>Mutsu Daijô Miyoshi Nagamichi (1st generation, ubu-nakago)</i>
Measurements:	Length: 53.9cm Curvature: 1.21cm Moto-haba: 2.83cm Weight: 535g
Jihada:	<i>Expertly forged itame-nagare with ji-nie, plentiful chikei</i>
Hamon:	<i>Surging gunome-midare mixed with long ashi and brushed sunagashi</i>
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation)
Certificate #2:	NTHK Kanteisho (a koshirae designated as Authentic)
Fujishiro rank:	Jô-saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Sharpness:	Saijô-ôwazamono (grandmaster, supreme cutting ability)
Included:	Shirasaya, dragon koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, booklet, description

SOLD

Miyoshi Nagamichi was born *Miyoshi Tôshirô* in Iwashiro province, modern-day Fukushima. Nagamichi is a celebrated swordsmith ranked *saijo-ôwazamono*, producing the sharpest of swords with the highest level of cutting ability. He was nicknamed *Aizu-Kotetsu*, as some of his masterworks rivalled that of grandmaster *Kotetsu*. This long wakizashi has been freshly polished and beams a bright, wavy *gunome-midare* hamon with long *ashi* and brushed *sunagashi* resembling the snow-capped mountains of *Mutsu* province. The sword's custom produced koshirae features powerful dragons that are staking out their prey both deep in the forest and within turbulent waters. The koshirae matches the sheer intensity of this very sharp, collectible wakizashi.



Saki-kasane: 3.8mm

Kissaki: 3.38cm

Saki-haba: 1.97cm

Moto-kasane: 6.1mm

Nagasa: 53.9cm

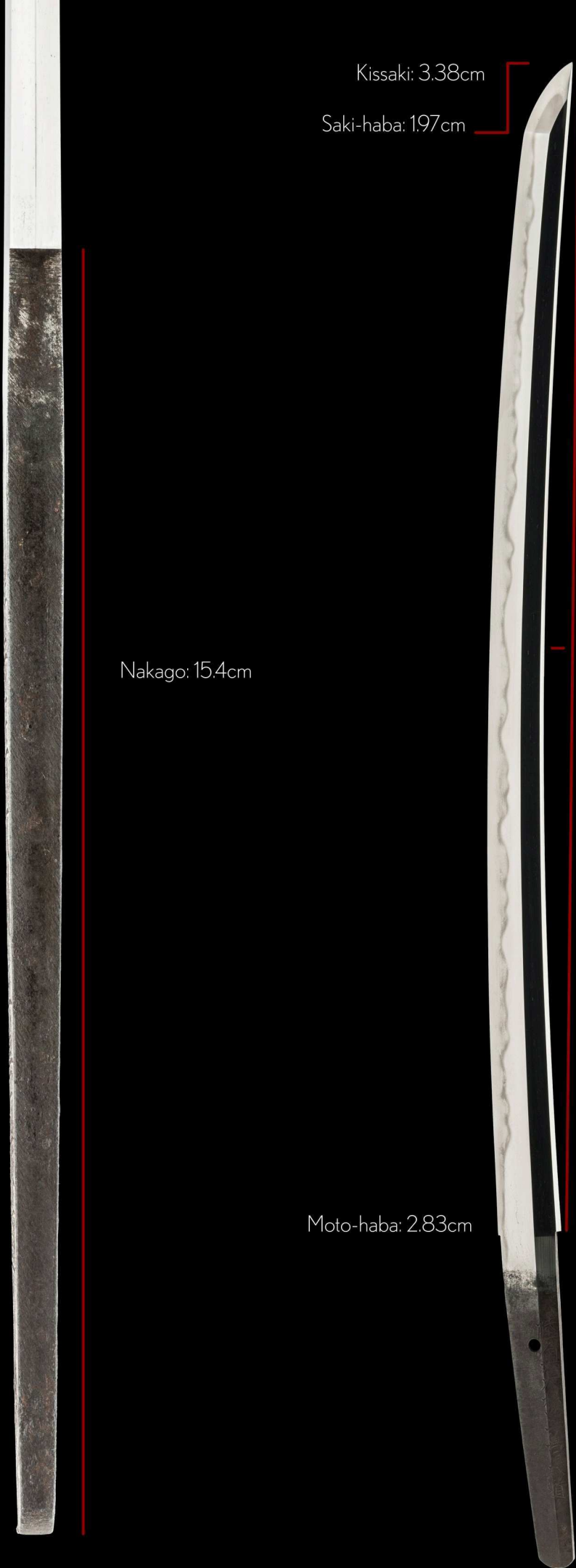
Nakago: 15.4cm

Sori: 1.21cm

Omosa: 535g

Moto-haba: 2.83cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Shodai (first generation) *Miyoshi Nagamichi* was born *Miyoshi Tôshirô* in *Iwashiro* province, modern-day *Fukushima*.

His father *Masanaga* was retained by *Daimyo Lord Kato Yoshiaki*. He originally signed his name as *Michinaga*, changed to *Nagamichi* in 1659 when he received his title of *Mutsu Daijô* at the age of 27.

Nagamichi is a celebrated swordsmith ranked *saijo-ôwazamono*, a grandmaster in producing the sharpest of swords with the *highest level of cutting ability*. He is further rated *jô-saku* (superior smith) and considered one of finest smiths of the 17th century, early Edo period.

He was nicknamed *Aizu-Kotetsu*, as some of his masterworks rivalled that of grandmaster *Kotetsu*.

This long wakizashi has been freshly polished and beams a bright, wavy *gunome-midare hamon* with long *ashi* and brushed *sunagashi* resembling the snow-capped mountains of *Mutsu* province.

The sword is housed in a Unique Japan produced custom *koshirae* with powerful dragons that are staking out their prey both deep in the forest and within turbulent waters. The *koshirae* matches the sheer intensity of this very sharp, collectible wakizashi.





Location: *Mustu province*

Title: *Mutsu Daijô* (Lord of Mutsu province)

Family name: *Miyoshi*

Swordsmith: *Nagamichi* (first generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

sujikai-yasurime (diagonal file marks)

陸 (Mu)

奥 (tsu)

大 (Dai)

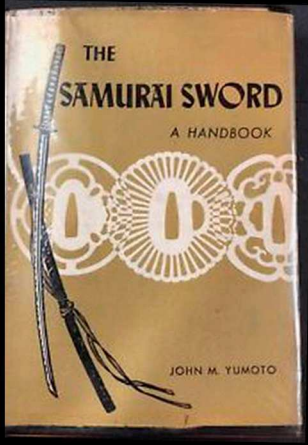
掾 (jô)

三 (Mi)

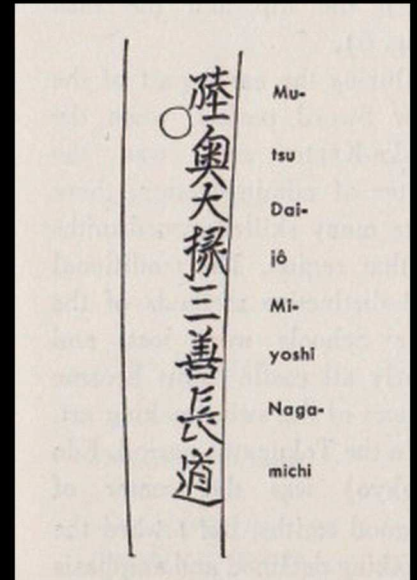
善 (yoshi)

長 (Naga)

道 (michi)



THE SAMURAI SWORD
by John M. Yumoto is a classic
handbook to the study of Japanese
swords. First published in 1958.



A reference *nakago* inscription for
Miyoshi Nagamichi, page 35.

The following list shows some of the leading smiths of the early (Azuchi-Momoyama) part of this period. Titles or surnames are enclosed in parentheses:

Yamashiro Province	(Umetada) Myōju, (Shinano no Kami) Kunihiro, Kuniyasu, (Deba Daijō) Kunimichi, (Echigo no Kami) Kunitomo, (Ōsumi no Jō) Masahiro, (Iga no Kami) Kanamichi, (Tamba no Kami) Yoshimichi, (Etchū no Kami) Masatoshi, (Izumi no Kami) Kunisada, (Kōchi no Kami) Kunisuke
Settsu Province	(Izumi no Kami) Kunisada, (Kōchi no Kami) Kunisuke, (Soboro) Sukehiro, (Tamba no Kami) Yoshimichi, (Omi no Kami) Tadatsuna, (Mutsu no Kami) Kanemori
Mino Province	(Sagami no Kami) Masatsune, (Mino no Kami) Masatsune, (Hōki no Kami) Nobutaka, (Hidachi no Kami) Ujifusa
Musashi Province	Hankei, Yasutsugu, (Musashi Daijō) Korekazu
Ōmi Province	Ippō
Iwashiro Province	Nagakuni, <u>(Mutsu Daijō) Nagamichi</u>
Rikuzen Province	(Yamashiro Daijō) Kunikane, (Yamato Daijō) Yasusada

Miyoshi Nagamichi listed as a leading smith during the early Edo period, page 37.



(*ura*, reverse)

特 保
12200001



No 145274



鑑定書

長一尺七寸九分

一脇指 銘 陸奥大掾三善長道

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成十二年二月九日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



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 12th year of Heisei (2000), February 9th

One, Wakizashi

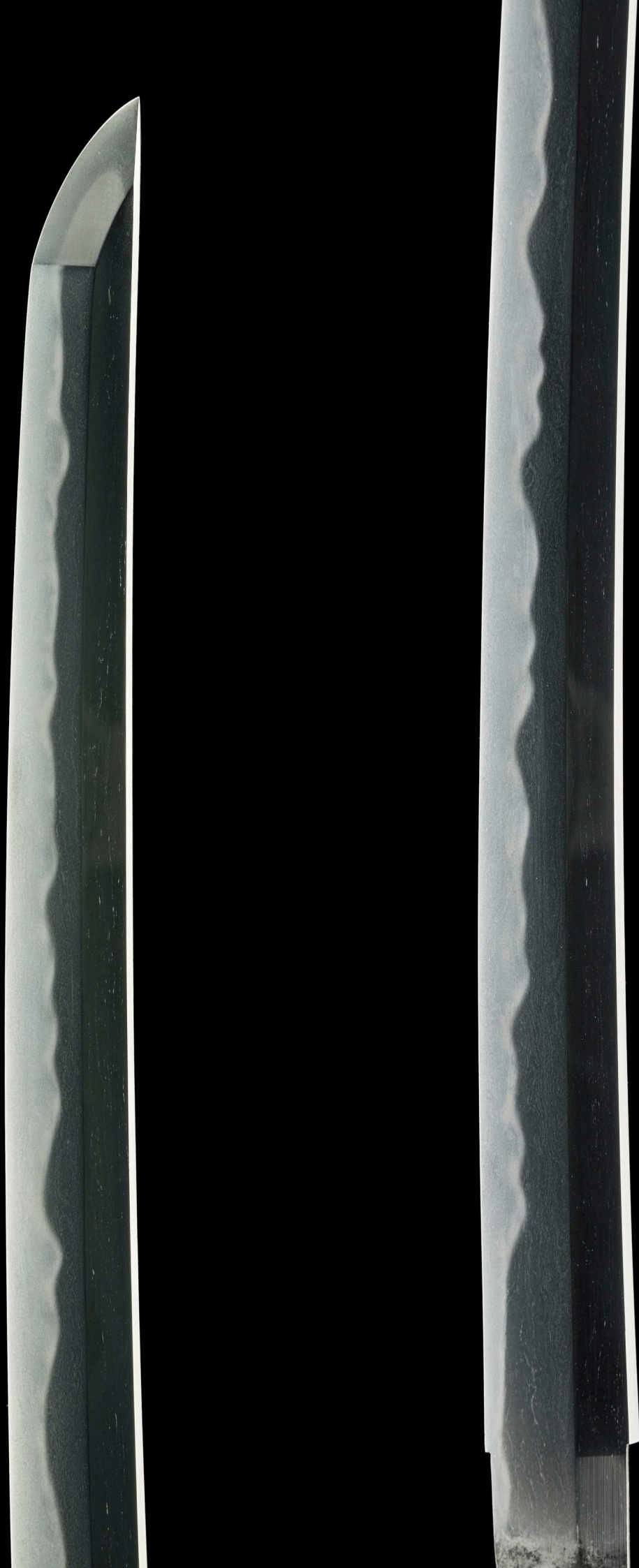
Mei (signature)

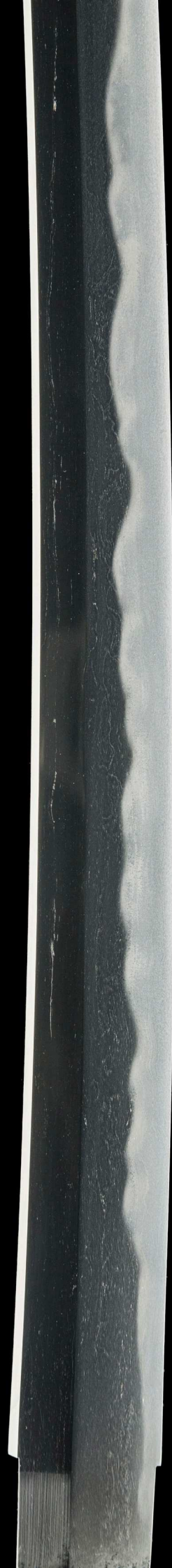
Mutsu Daijō Miyoshi Nagamichi

Nagasa (length)

1-shaku 7-sun 9-bu (53.9cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)







There is an electrifying intensity found in *shodai* Nagamichi swords. In this close-up we see a bright, beaming *gunome-midare hamon* that illuminates the rolling *itame* forming dark swirls of *chikei*.



mune-yaki
hardend spine

interesting outline of *itame* in
the *ha*, hardened edge.

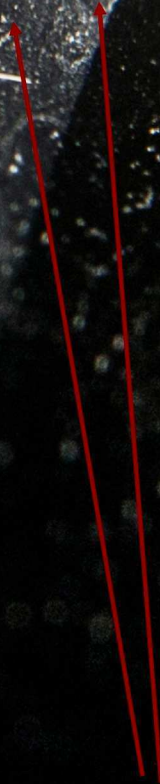
gorgeous brushed *sunagashi*

oo la la... that is sharp...



itame-nagare

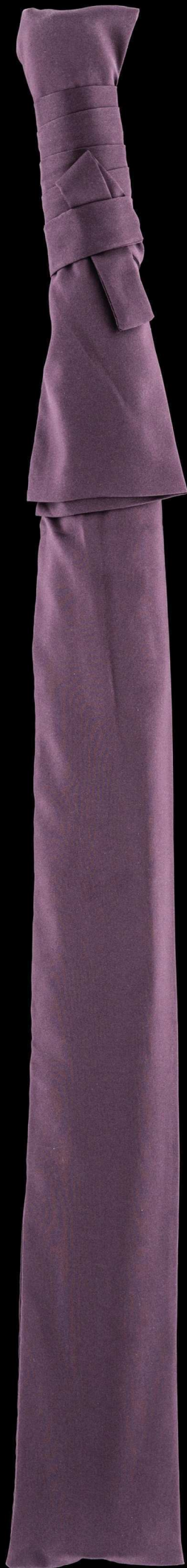
A beautiful flowing plank grain that resembles teardrops.



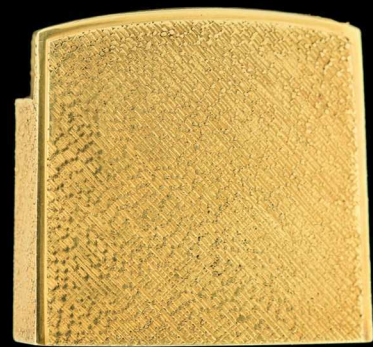


Noda Jewel River in Mutsu Province
Artist: *Utagawa Hiroshige*

The *gunome-midare hamon* reflects the rugged snow-swept mountains of *Mutsu province*.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

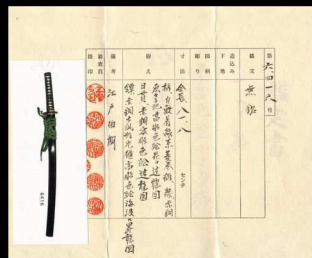


gold-wrapped *habaki* with
criss-cross file marks

*Kuro-roiro-nuri
chîsagatana-koshirae*
(黒呂色塗小さ刀拵え)

*Chîsagatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy black*

Crafted during the
Modern era



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



A dragon on the hunt within rough seas...

We'll help the next caretaker of this wakizashi to attain a Kanteisho certificate from the NTHK-NPO to learn more about this striking tsuba.



(reverse)



Crawling dragon *menuki* crafted from black *shakudô* with fabulous golden eyes and whiskers.

Green was used in the koshirae production to reflect the fact the dragons appear hiding in a forest.





A dragon slithering its way along an *ume* (*plum*) blossom branch. Plum blossoms are a symbol of spring and protection against evil.





An intricately carved crawling dragon
on a branch, eyeing its prey.



Koshirae bag