



ITEM# UJWA131

A TSUNANOBU WAKIZASHI SIGNED & DATED 13TH YEAR OF BUNSEI (AUGUST, 1830)

Swordsmith: Yonezawa ju TSUNANOBU
Location: Owari province (Aichi prefecture)
Length: 33.1cm
Curvature: 0.7cm
Jihada: Tight ko-itame and mokume majiri
Hamon: Sugu yakidashi, kiku-choji midare (chrysanthemum clove blossoms)
Nakago: Ubu-nakago, kesho, sujikai yasuri
Certificates (x 2): NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword AND fittings designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

This is a magnificent *hirazukuri wakizashi* (flat-style blade construction first crafted in the Heian era about 1,000 years ago) made by the finest swordsmith of the Yonezawa domain, *Tsunanobu*.

Yonezawa was a feudal domain of Tokugawa Japan, controlled by the Uesugi clan. In just a few decades became a very prosperous domain and a shining star of the Tokugawa regime. In fact, Yonezawa was declared in 1830 by the Shogunate to be the model of a well-managed domain.

Interestingly, this wakizashi is dated to exactly this year, 1830. This was an important year for Yonezawa, as this sword encapsulates this spirit of success.

The sword can be best described as a blade in full bloom. The exquisite *kiku-choji midare hamon* (clove blossoms in the shape of chrysanthemums) is such a joy for the eyes. This is the art of sword making at it's finest.

The elegant matching *tsuba* and *fuchi-kashira* depict *Omi Hakkei* - the eight most scenic views of Omi, a neighboring province. Hiroshige as well as other ukiyo-e artists first depicted the sights. Both fittings are signed by the *Jakushi School* in *nunome-zogan* gold inlay on iron.

