



ITEM# UJWA144

(ON CONSIGNMENT)

A HIZEN TADAHIRO II WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KAN'EI ERA: 1630~1641)

- Swordsmith:** HIZEN KUNI JU FUJIWARA TADAHIRO (second generation)
Location: Hizen province
Length: 47.5cm **Curvature:** ~1.0cm
Jihada: *Very tight itame leading to konuka hada*
Hamon: *Classic suguha with ko-ashi*
Nakago: *Ubu nakago, kiri yasuri*
Boshi: *Ko-maru*
Certificate: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)
Included: Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

Born Hashimoto Heishiro in Saga, Hizen in 1614, renowned swordsmith second generation (Nidai) Tadahiro began working with his father, maestro Shodai (first generation) Tadayoshi at the tender age of ten.

Guided by his father and other great smiths such as Shodai Masahiro and Yoshinobu, Tadahiro took over leadership of the school at the age of nineteen when his father died in 1632. He then changed his name from Hashimoto Heishiro to Hashimoto Shinsaemon.

Curiously, it is understood that his new name appears on a family document pledging to the Shogunate that the Hashimoto family would not sell swords for export to foreign countries.

As head of the Tadayoshi School, second generation Tadahiro always signed his name Tadahiro and never Tadayoshi. In July of 1641, after only nine years after taking over the Tadayoshi School, he was given the honorific title of "Omi Daijo". He was only 28.

Nidai Tadahiro died at the age of 81 in the sixth year of Genroku or 1693. His works span an incredible 60 years. The sheer quantity and quality of his work makes him one of the most prized artisans, legendary among Hizen smiths.

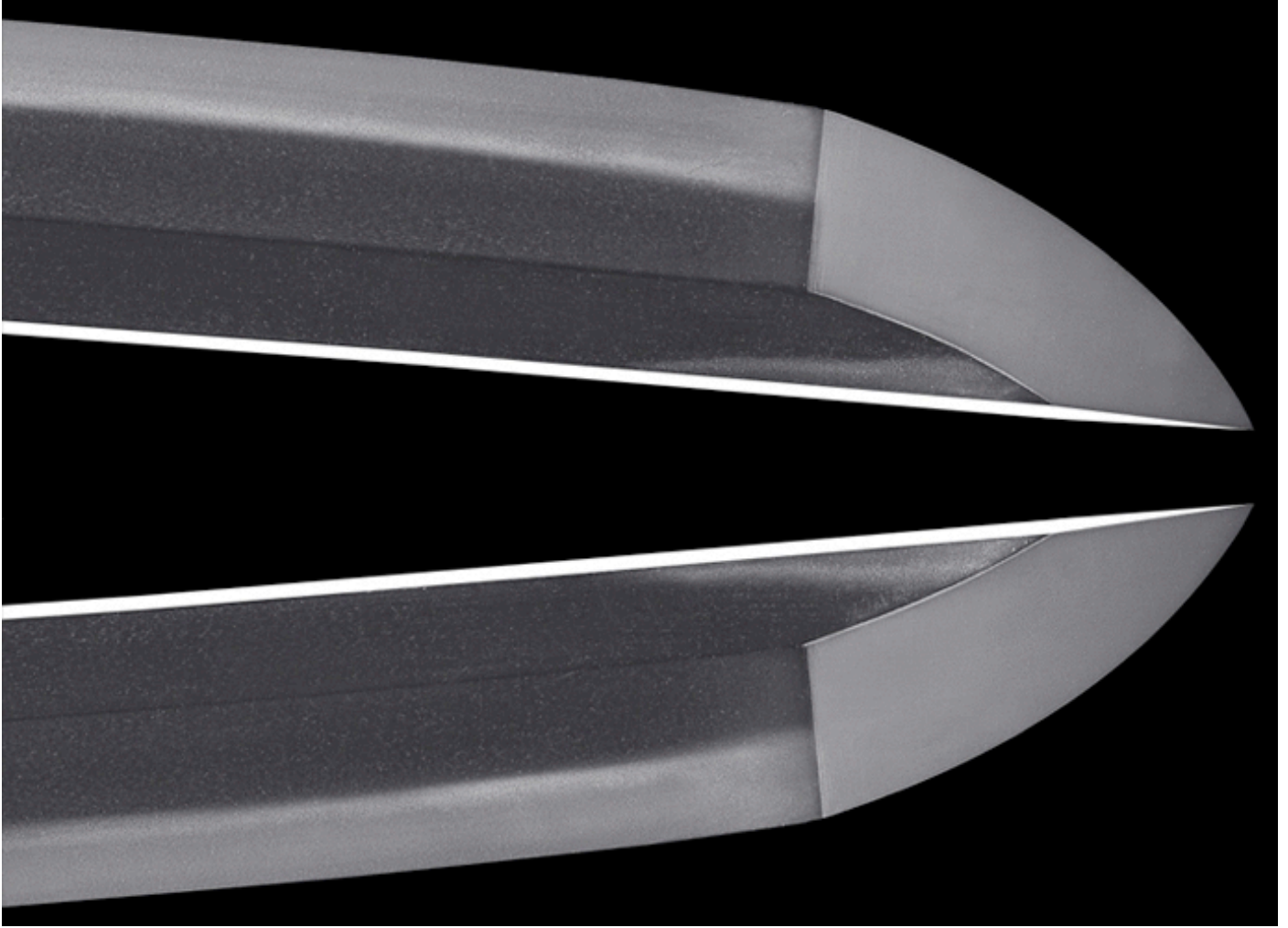
This signed wakizashi made prior to 1641 is everything you would hope for in a Tadahiro II sword. It features his masterful and iconic *suguha hamon* (straight temper line) coupled with a flawless body packed so tightly resulting in the much-desired *konuka hada*.

The delightful Edo-period koshirae pays respect to the long life and good fortune of the tortoise – as seen on the fuchi-kashira and *kozuka* (utility knife). There is also a finely carved octopus on the fuchi. The *tsuka* (hilt) is skillfully wrapped in a braided jabara-maki.

The menuki depicts a unique dragon turtle, which is a rather unusual find. It is said that the powerful dragon turtle will attract prosperity to one's business and bestow luck, security and protection. Unlike some menuki that gets lost under a wrap, this piece floats within the navy-blue silk thread.



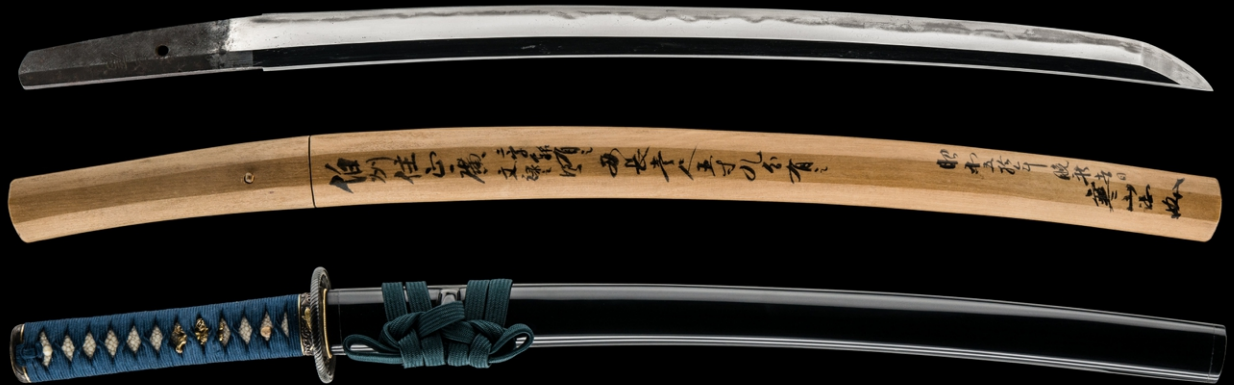
The beaded-design *sukashi* (openwork) iron tsuba gives the sword a tone of elegance and sophistication. This highly collectible wakizashi is currently in England and can be shipped globally. Sword will be duty-free for shipments within the European union.



RECENTLY COMPLETED KOSHIRAE PROJECTS

Below are photos of swords that we have recently built a custom koshirae for. All projects are very rewarding. If you are interested in your own, please let us know!

A MASAHIRO WAKIZASHI
BUNROKU (1592-1596)



A KUNITSUGU DAISHO
EARLY EDO (17TH CENTURY)





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