



ITEM# UJWA153

## A YOSHITAKE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (ENPÔ ERA: 1673~1681)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Izumo Daijô Fujiwara Yoshitake (shodai, first generation, ubu nakago)</i>
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 49.6cm <b>Curvature:</b> 0.8cm <b>Motohaba:</b> 3.05cm
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Skillfully forged ko-mokume hada and lovely chikei</i>
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Bright suguha mixed with ko-midare</i>
<b>Certificate #1:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Yûshû-saku</b> ( <i>designated as Highly Excellent Masterwork</i> )
<b>Certificate #2:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Kichô</b> ( <i>FK designated as Especially Precious</i> )
<b>Certificate #3-5:</b>	<b>NTHK-NPO Kanteisho</b> ( <i>tsuba, kogai &amp; koshirae designated as Authentic</i> )
<b>Fujishiro:</b>	<b>Jô-saku</b> ( <i>ranked as a superior swordsmith</i> )
<b>Sharpness:</b>	<b>Wazamono</b> ( <i>rated as a maker of good sharp swords</i> )
<b>Included:</b>	Shirasaya, koshirae, bag, stand, kit, booklet, printed description

**SOLD**

Introducing a handsome wakizashi by *Izumo Daijô Yoshitake* - a leading smith from the mid-1600s who lived in *Yamashiro province* (Kyôto) - the cultural capital of Japan. *Yoshitake* was the son of *Horikawa Kunitake* who studied under grandmaster swordsmith *Horikawa Kunihiro*. This sword is splendidly healthy, extra wide and sharp - essentially in the same condition from when it was first crafted. It has been certified *Yûshû-saku* (Masterwork), top honours from the NTHK-NPO. A custom koshirae was built for the sword a few years ago by Unique Japan featuring a *tsuba* depicting the gentle slopes of Mount Fuji, a unique boat tugging scene on the *fuchi-kashira* and the pair of *menuki* celebrating the 1300-year-old *Ukai* cormorant fishing festival.



*Shodai* (1st generation) *Yoshitake*, originally from *Yamashiro* (Kyôto), flourished as a swordsmith during the *Enpô era* (1673-1681).

He signed his swords as:

*Izumo no Daijo Fujiwara Yoshitake*

*Heianjô-ju Izumo no Daijo Fujiwara Tae Yoshitake*

*Heianjô-ju Yoshitake*

*Izumi no Kami Hotetsu Nyudo Yoshitake*

His real name was *Kawate Ichitayû* and was the son of *Horikawa Kunitake* - a skilled smith from the lineage of *Sanjo Yoshinori*.

Later in his career *Yoshitake* moved to Edo where he died in the fifth month of the seventh year of *Genroku era* (May 1694).

*Yoshitake* is formally ranked as a *jô-saku* (a superior smith) and *wazamono* for his brilliantly sharp swords.





Location: *Kyôto*

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

Clan name: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Yoshitake* (first generation)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)

*sujikai-yasurime* (diagonal file marks)

出 (Izu)

雲 (mo)

大 (Dai)


掾 (jô)

藤 (Fuji)

原 (wara)

吉 (Yoshi)

武 (take)

捺 審 査 員 印	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 柄	彫 り	銘 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造り 込み	銘 文	第 五 七 三 六 号
	延宝頃			目釘穴 一個  鍔 文少ゆき		表裏 俵樋 已下 下拵 流	真 子 丸	太 茂 子 巾 の 真 子 調 浅 小 灣 水 走 じ り		板 自 詰 七	瑞 造	出 雲 大 孫 藤 原 言 武	
											巻 棟		



## NTHK-NPO Yûshû-saku Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Yûshû-saku* (Highly Excellent Masterwork) by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Wakizashi

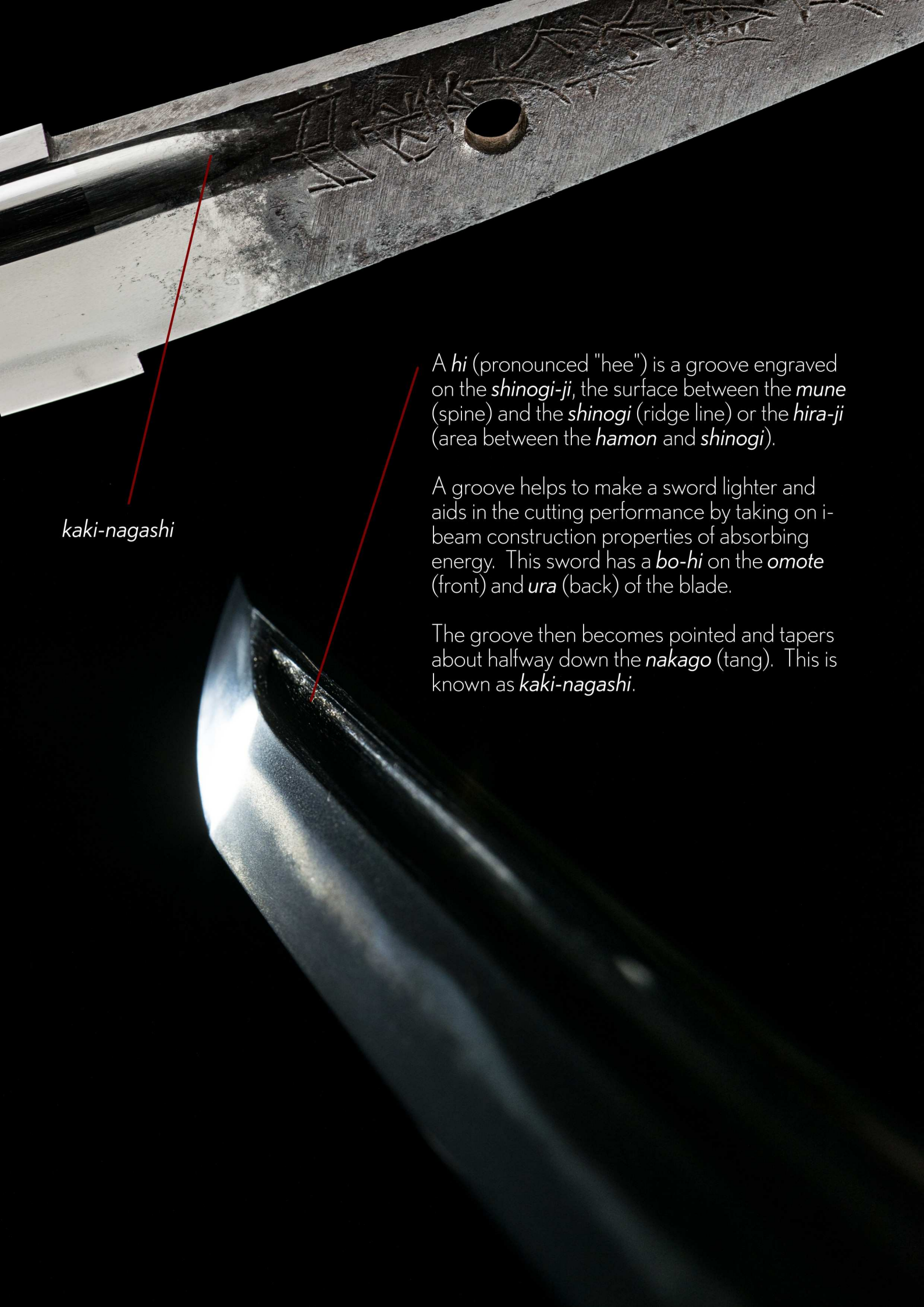
*Mei* (signature)  
*Jôshû Izumo Daijô Yoshitake*

*Nagasa* (length)  
1-shaku 6-sun 3-bu kore ari (49.6cm)

Issued in 26th year of Heisei (2014), July 23rd

Nihon Token Hozon Kai  
(NTHK-NPO)

This sword has reached the highest level of honour at the NTHK-NPO.  
Five judges have stamped their names to the certificate.



*kaki-nagashi*

A *hi* (pronounced "hee") is a groove engraved on the *shinogi-ji*, the surface between the *mune* (spine) and the *shinogi* (ridge line) or the *hira-ji* (area between the *hamon* and *shinogi*).

A groove helps to make a sword lighter and aids in the cutting performance by taking on i-beam construction properties of absorbing energy. This sword has a *bo-hi* on the *omote* (front) and *ura* (back) of the blade.

The groove then becomes pointed and tapers about halfway down the *nakago* (tang). This is known as *kaki-nagashi*.

*nijuba* - area of the hamon where it splits and runs parallel. This is a characteristic of top blades traditionally forged in *suguha* (straight temper line).

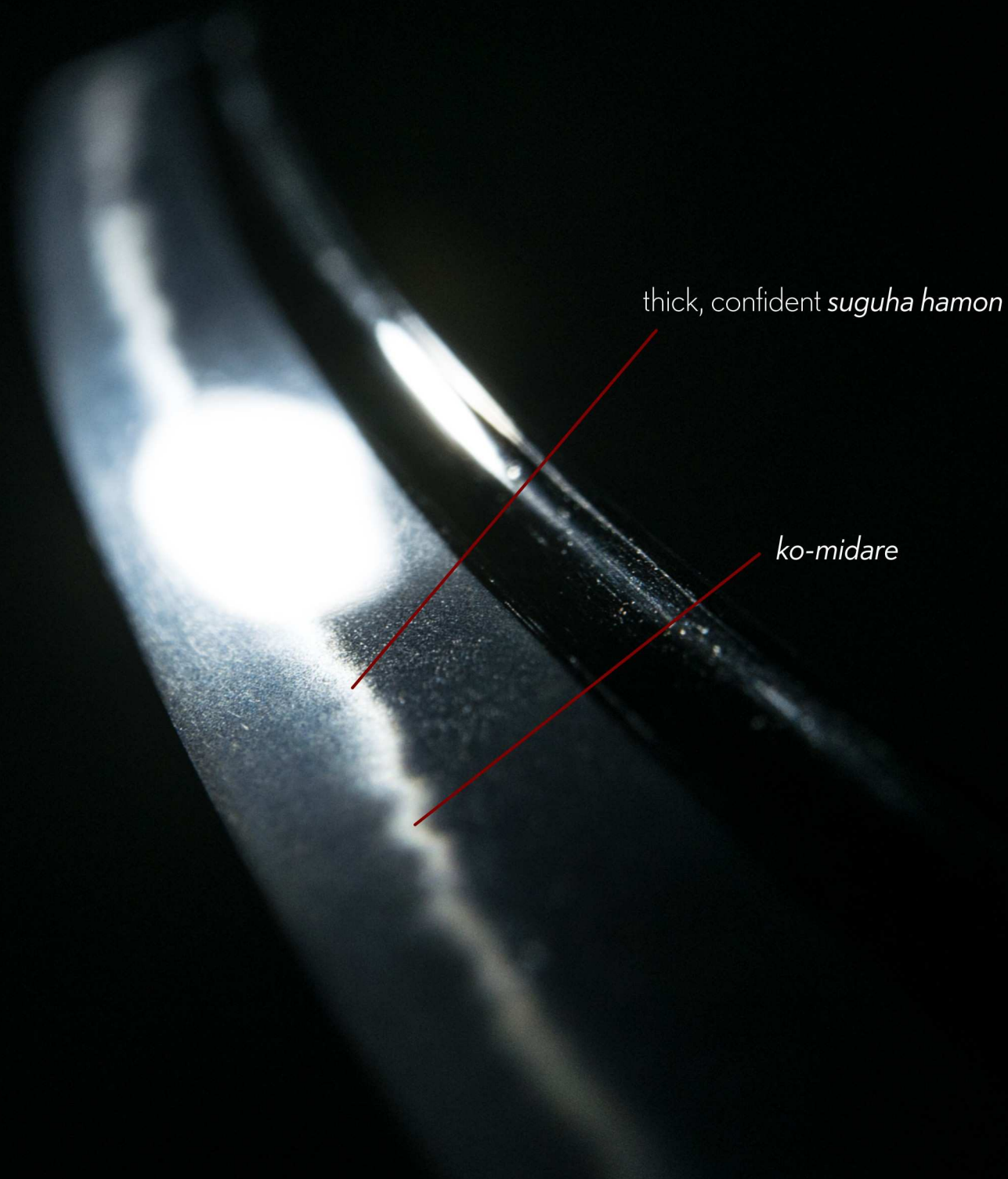


*nijuba*

A master's brush of *suguha* that is as bright as the stars.

Notice the *nie* crystals twinkling away...

Little waves of *ko-midare* add an extra dimension to the steel.



thick, confident *suguha hamon*

*ko-midare*

Tightly forged *itame-hada*.

The steel is dense and packs a punch.





*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)

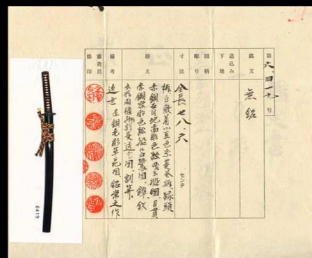
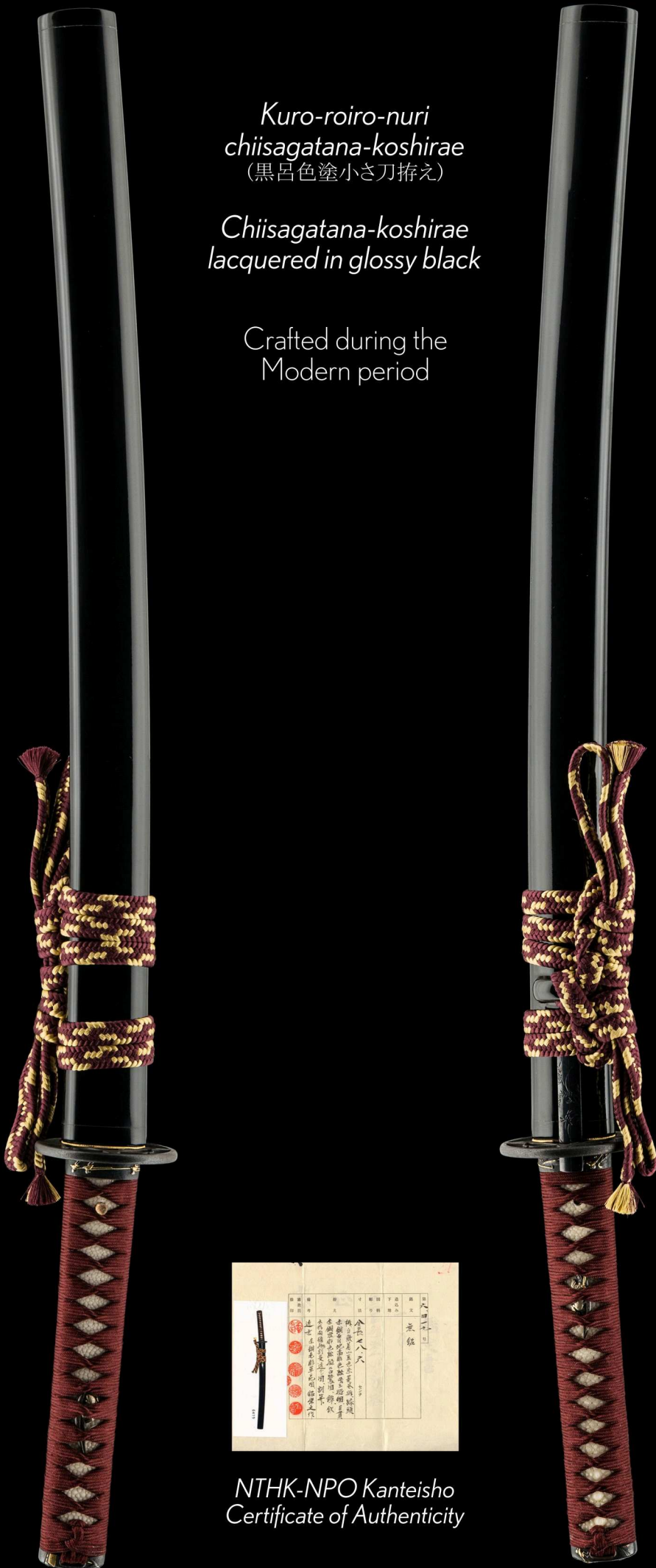


silver *habaki* with  
diagonal file marks

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

*Chiisagatana-koshirae  
lacquered in glossy black*

Crafted during the  
Modern period



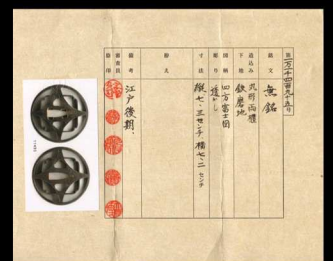
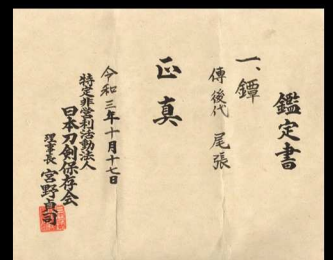
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity



This lovely polished iron tsuba has been attributed to a latter generation smith of the *Owari* school from modern-day *Aichi-ken* (prefecture).

Designs and the patterns of the *Owari* school are generally symmetrical but exceptions with independent patterns like landscapes or symbolized historic events also appear.

This particular piece displays elegant silhouettes of Japan's cherished Mount Fuji in all four corners. An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity attributing the piece to the *late-Edo period* circa 1780~1867 has been attained.





Mount Fuji and Shoji Lake  
Artist: *Tsuchiya Koitsu*

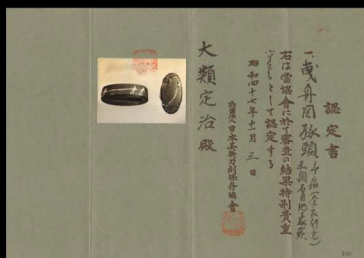
The four oval corners of the *tsuba* (guard) depicts Japan's much loved volcanic cone, Mount Fuji. A frequent subject of Japanese art, *Fuji-san* has been a sacred site for practitioners of Shinto since at least the 7th century. Shinto is the indigenous faith or spirituality of Japan. Many Shinto shrines dot the base and ascent of Mount Fuji. Shinto shrines honour *kami*, the supernatural deities of the Shinto faith.





*Fuchi-kashira*  
attributed to  
*Nara Toshimitsu*  
(Edo period, 1800s)

*shakudô with stone surface  
depicting people towing a boat*



*Vintage Tokubetsu Kicho Certificate of Authenticity  
Issue in 1972, serial number 406*

Teamwork, friendship, community.  
We are stronger, together.





PULL!





These *menuki* depict the 1,300 year old *Ukai* festival. *Ukai* is practiced by master fisherman working from long wooden boats. Each fisherman leads about a dozen cormorant birds on leashes who swim alongside the boat and dive under the water to catch fish by swallowing them whole. The fish are kept in a special pouch in the cormorant's throat to be retrieved later and are prevented from being swallowed by a snare around the bird's neck. Each boat carries a large fire to provide light for the boatmen to steer and the birds to fish by.



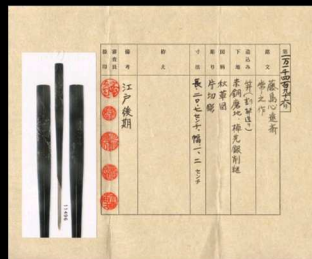
(Tsune) 常  
(yuki) 之  
(saku) 作



藤 (Fuji)  
島 (shima)  
心 (Shin)  
遠 (en)  
齋 (sai)

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) and drawn through the 'bumpy' hole in the *tsuba*.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho  
Certificate of Authenticity

*Wari kôgai* (hair pick) crafted by *Fujishima Shin'ensai Tsuneyuki*  
Autumn leaves design





Koshirae bag