



ITEM# UJWA184

## A CHIKANORI SUNNOBI TANTO

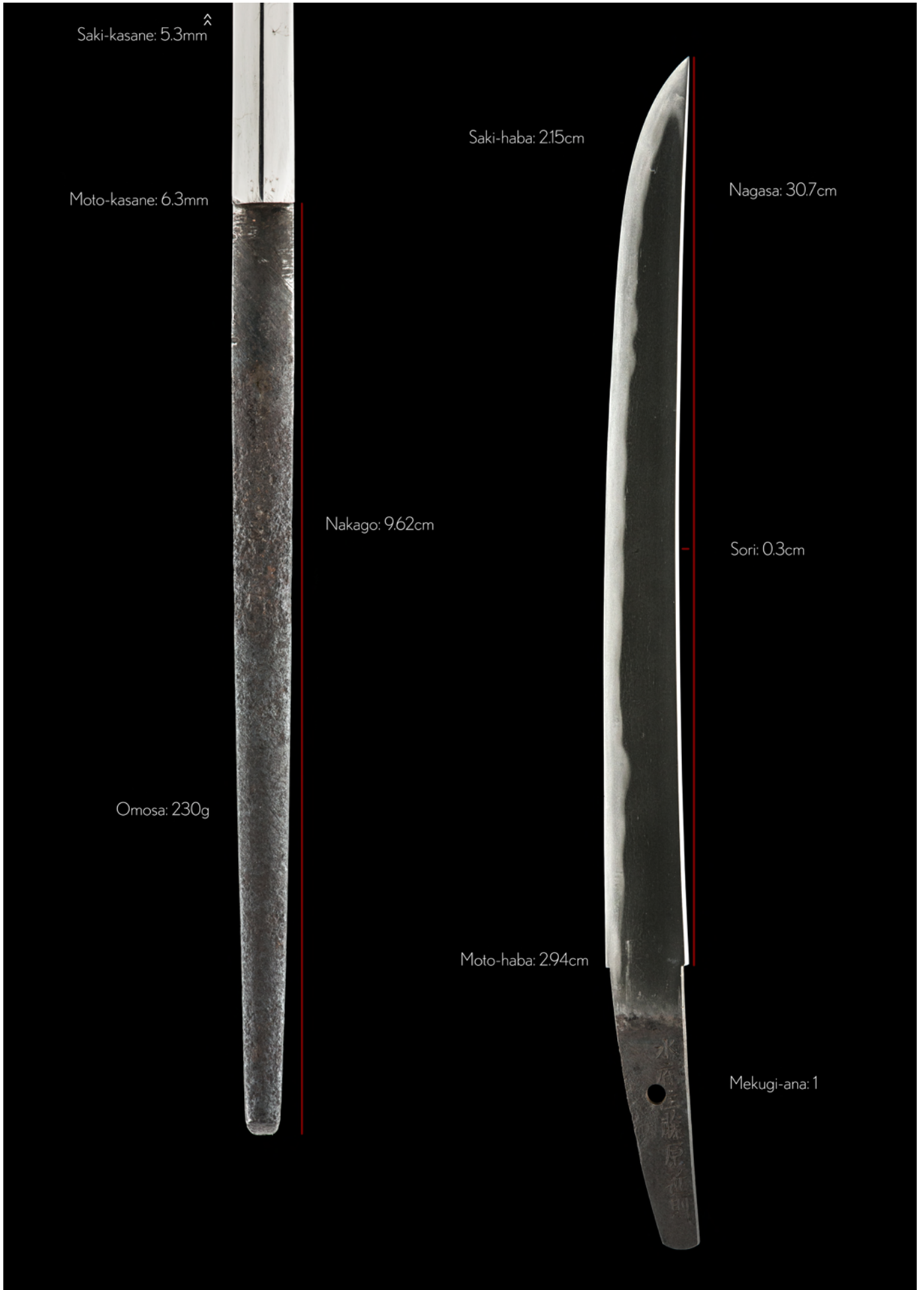
SIGNED, SHINSHINTO PERIOD (KAEI ERA: 1848-1864)

- Swordsmith:** *Suifu Ju Fujiwara CHIKANORI (first generation)*  
**Location:** Hitachi province  
**Length:** 30.7cm (ubu)      **Curvature:** 0.3cm      **Moto-haba:** 2.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome & notare midare*  
**Jihada:** *Itame, part masame, jinie*  
**Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho** (a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Certificate #2,3:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a koshirae and tsuba designated as Important by the Non-Profit Japanese Sword Appraisal Association)  
**Fujishiro:** *Chu-Josaku* (ranked as an above average swordsmith)  
**Included:** Edo-period koshirae, shirasaya, sword fabric bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and legal export paperwork

Here is a powerful sword with a heroic story. Swordsmith *Chikanori* is a descendant of *Zenjo School*. He began as a student of the great *Taikei Naotane* in Edo (Tokyo) and moved back to his home town of Suifu to become a retained smith of the Mito Domain.

Technically a wakizashi as it measures just over *1-shaku* (30.3cm), this sword is to be regarded as a *sunnobi tanto* (extended tanto). The *hirazukuri* (flat-shaped) blade is active with *sunagashi* and *kinsuji*. The *koshirae* fittings pay tribute to peasant farmer *Sakura Sogoro* who, in the mid-1600s, challenged feudal lords for high taxes when his fellow villagers were suffering from a terrible drought. In wake of such confrontation, Sogo-san may have lost his life, but he is not forgotten.

**SOLD**



Saki-kasane: 5.3mm<sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 6.3mm

Omosa: 230g

Saki-haba: 2.15cm

Nakago: 9.62cm

Moto-haba: 2.94cm

Nagasa: 30.7cm

Sori: 0.3cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



This *wakizashi* was crafted by swordsmith *Chikanori* of the *Fujiwara* clan while living in *Suifu* (village) in Mito province, present day Ibaraki prefecture.



Sui

fu

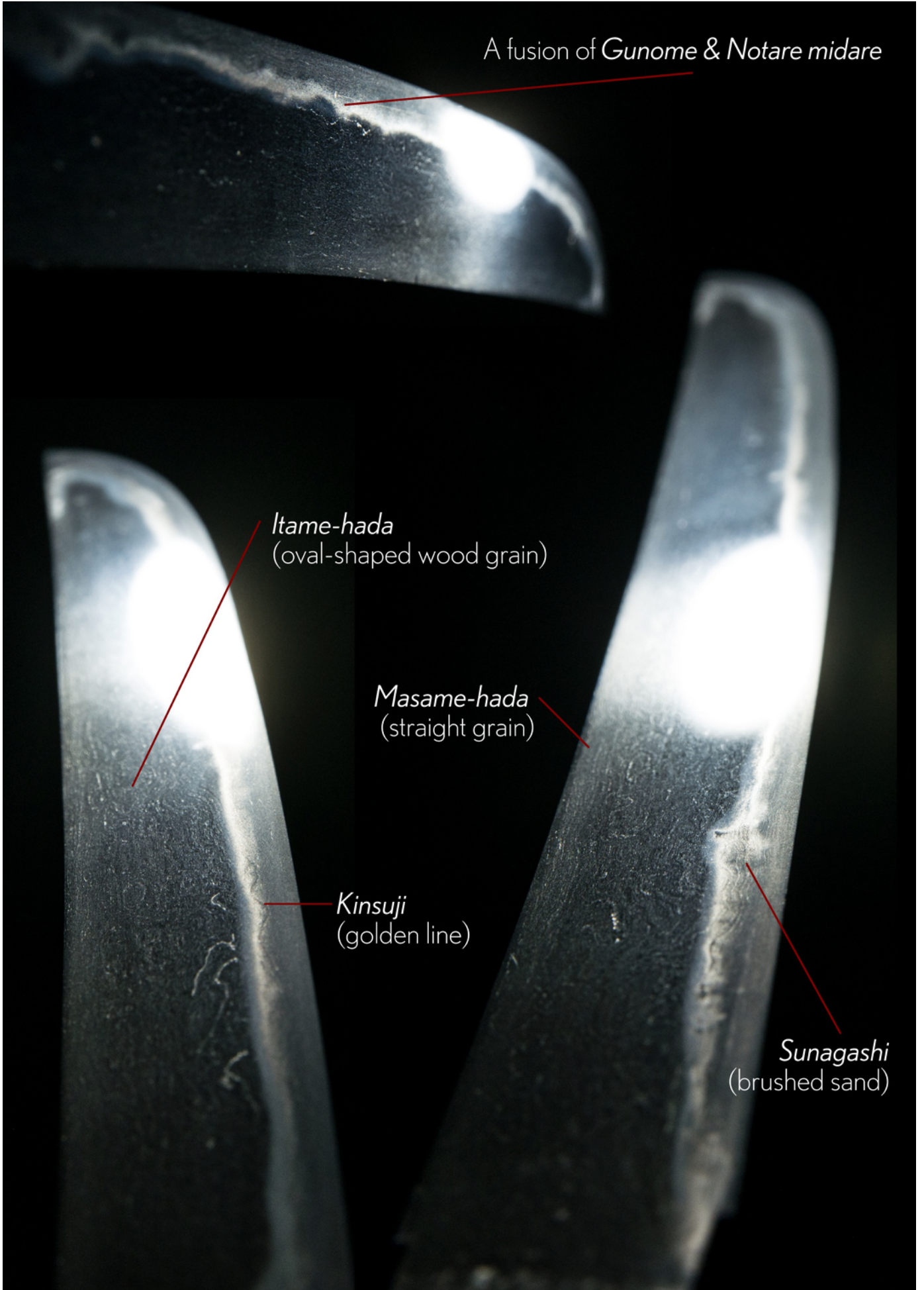
ju

Fuji

wara

Chika

nori





zoom in  
to view the  
gorgeous lacquer  
pattern.



## The Story of Sakura Sogoro

According to legend, peasants of the *Sakura domain* in the mid-1600s experienced extreme hardships and starvation due to poor crops coupled by rising taxes by the daimyo.

After the refusal of their petition to local officials for tax relief, a group of peasants petitioned the shogunate directly but their demands were denied once again.

As a result, local hero *Sakura Sogoro* (1605-1653), the unofficial leader of these peasants, approached the shogun independently.

Since direct appeals to the *bafuku* were illegal, Sogoro was arrested and subsequently executed.

The legend of Sakura Sogoro has been made into numerous stories and plays. He is enshrined in *Sogo-reido* of Toshoji temple in Narita city.

Admired by many today as a selfless *gimin* (martyr), on September 2nd (the day before the execution) all night gatherings take place at the Toshoji temple in remembrance.



*Sakura Sogo bids farewell to his wife and children*

Woodblock print by *Tsukioka Yoshitoshi*  
Meiji Era (1885-1886)



Yoki (broad axe)

The heroism of *Sakura Sogoro* for his fellow peasant farmers is depicted on a copper *tsuba* inlaid with common farming tools used in the 17th century. The *tsuba* comes with a certificate of authenticity from the NTHK-NPO.



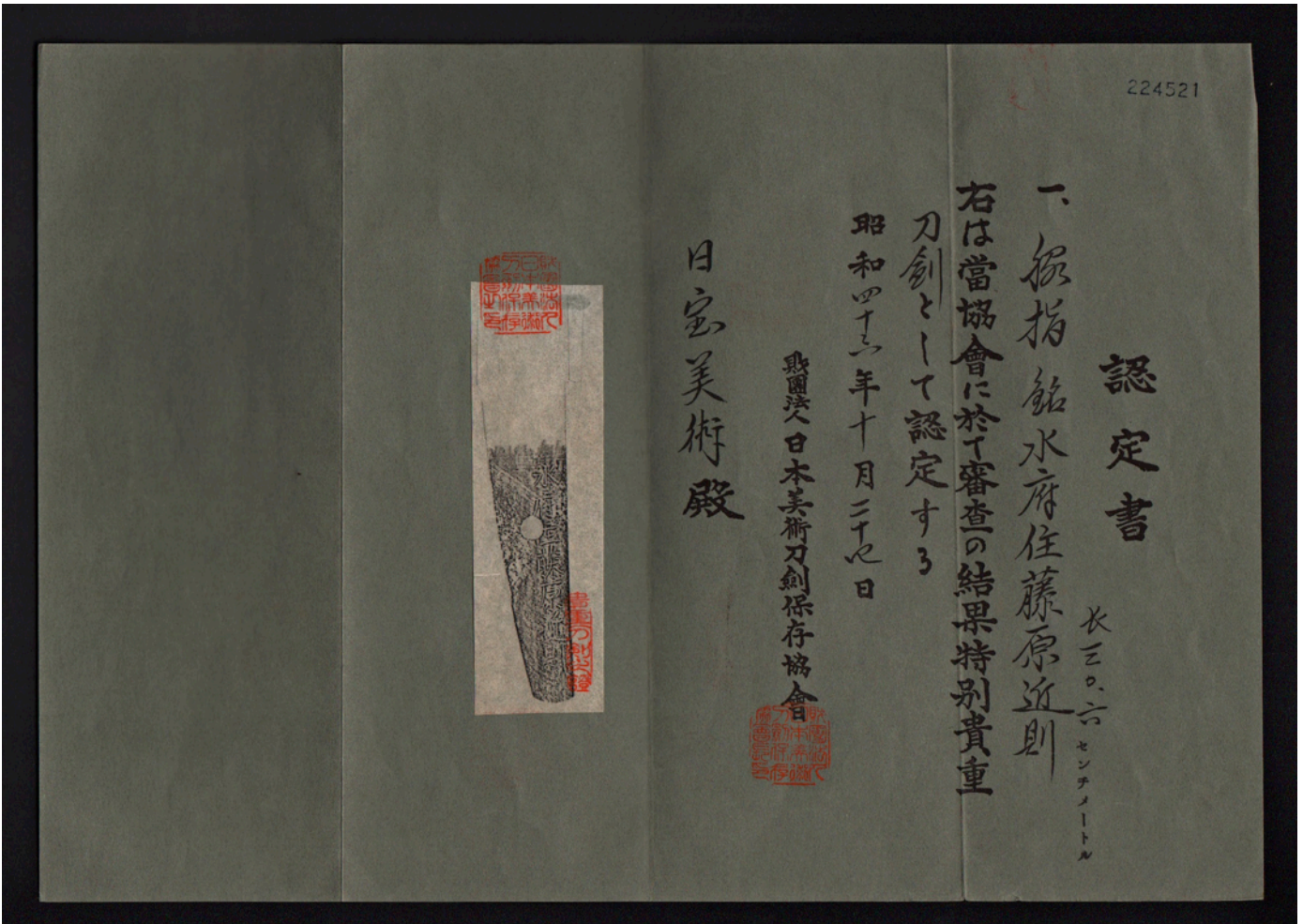
Kama (sickle)

## Kozuka (utility knife)

A scene of a peasant looking up in hope at the birds above is portrayed on the *kozuka*.

*Noshu Ju Kaneharu Saku*





## NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

(a sword designated as *Especially Precious*  
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)

Issued in the 46th year of Showa (1968), October 28th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)  
Suifu Ju Fujiwara Chikanori

Nagasa (length)  
30.6cm

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



*Tsuba* attributed to the *Umetada School*  
*Koshirae and Tsuba* certified as crafted from the Late-Edo Period

