



ITEM# UJWA187

## A HIROFUSA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED & DATED, ANSEI 5-NEN (NEW YEAR'S DAY 1858)

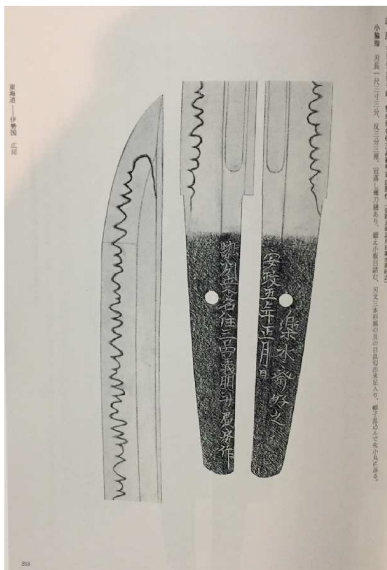
- Swordsmith:** *Seshu Kuzwana Ju Sanpon Gimeisai HIROFUSA*
- Structure:** *Kamuri otoshi zukuri with naginata hi (groove)*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 40.5cm    **Curvature:** 1.0cm    **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
- Jihada:** *Itame (wood grain pattern), nereru*
- Hamon:** *Choji midare habuchi shimari kokoro hachu ni ashi*
- Nakago:** *Ubu nakago, o-sujikai (big acutely slanted file marks)*
- Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho** (a sword designated as Extraordinarily Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
- Certificate #2:** **NTHK-NPO Yushusaku** (a sword designated as Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Certificate #3, 4:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Publication:** Sword is published on pg 353 of *Nihonto Zuikan: Shinto by Kataoka*
- Included:** Custom koshirae, shirasaya with sayagaki, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, export permit from Japan

**SOLD**

Shinshinto period swordsmith *Gimeisai Hirofusa* was a working resident of the *Kuwana domain* (fief) in Ise province, modern-day Mie prefecture in the mid-1800s. According to Fujishiro's *Nihon Shinto Jiten* he was called *Mishina Hanbei* and also lived in Iga province.

His talents were primarily served in the reproduction of masterpieces of the past, particularly forging in the Bizen tradition.

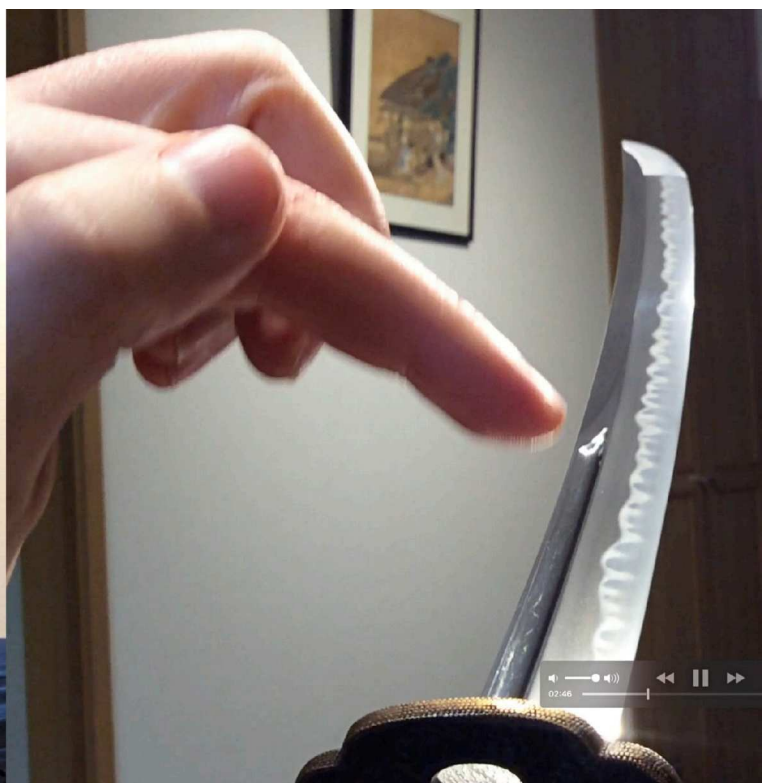
Signed swords by Hirofusa are rare, making this piece such an interesting find. This wakizashi, dated New Year's Day 1858, is surely one of Hirofusa's greatest accomplishments - a work of extraordinary skill. Her powerful construction is called *kanmuri otoshi* (bevels along the spine) and carries a beautifully constructed *naginata* groove. The *kissaki* is a massive 6.3cm long.



The hamon is a classic Bizen *koshibiraki choji midare* that literally jumps off the blade. This very sword has gained many well-deserved accolades.

First, it is published in the prestigious *Nihonto Zuikan Shinto book* by *Kataoka* (left). Secondly, it achieved NBTHK's **Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho Token** (Extraordinarily Precious certificate) and just last December attained *Yushusaku* (Highly Excellent), the top certificate at the NTHK-NPO.

An elegant custom-made koshirae was built for the sword that carries a positive and persevering "*never give up*" message. It's a gem of a sword with immense personality that will light up any room, anywhere. Enjoy.



Please watch presentation video here: <http://tinyurl.com/ujwa187-hirofusa>

Saki-kasane: 5.5mm<sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 415g

Nakago: 13.2cm

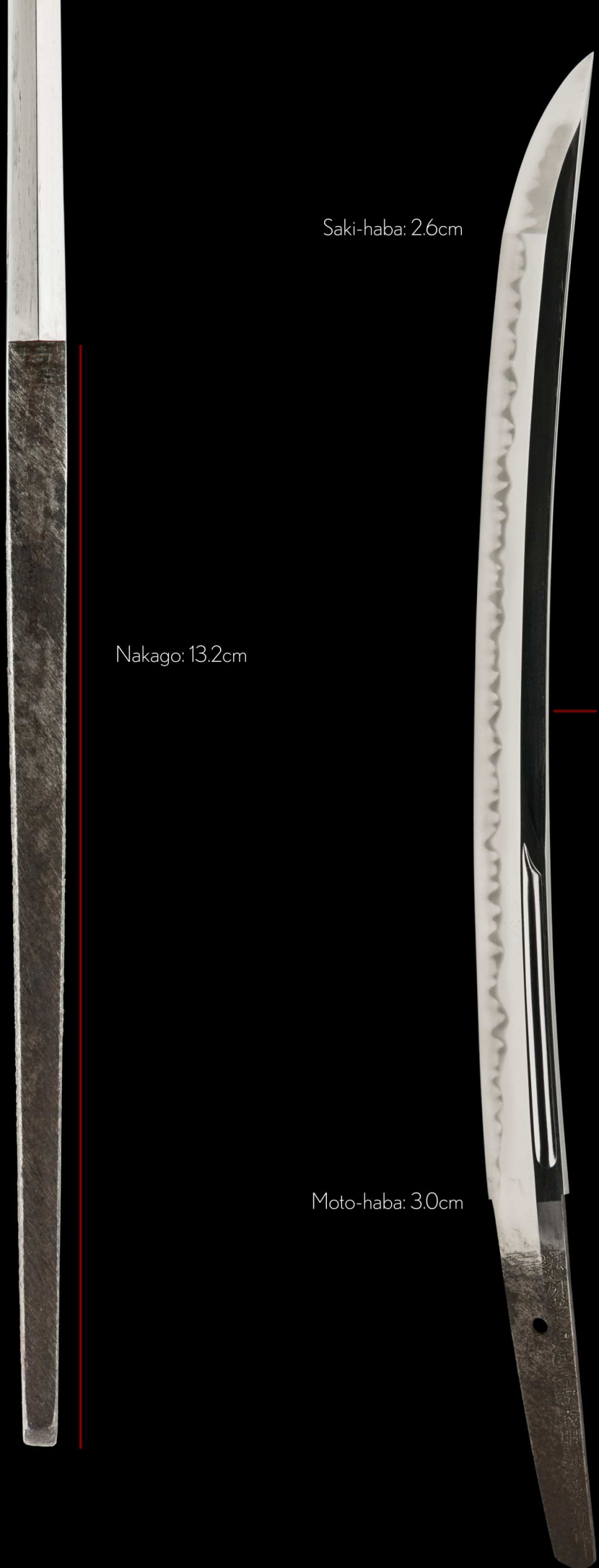
Moto-haba: 3.0cm

Saki-haba: 2.6cm

Nagasa: 40.5cm

Sori: 1.0cm

Mekugi-ana: 1







This sword is dated to  
New Year's Day on the  
5th year of Ansei  
(January 1, 1858)



*This sword is well-liked  
by Rakusuisai.*

An  
sei  
5  
nen  
Sho  
gatsu  
hi

Raku  
sui  
sai  
Konomu  
Kore



認定書

長一尺三寸三分

一 振指 銘

勢洲宗名住三品義朋齋廣房作  
安政五年正月日

右は當協會に於て審査の結果甲種特別  
貴重刀剣として認定す

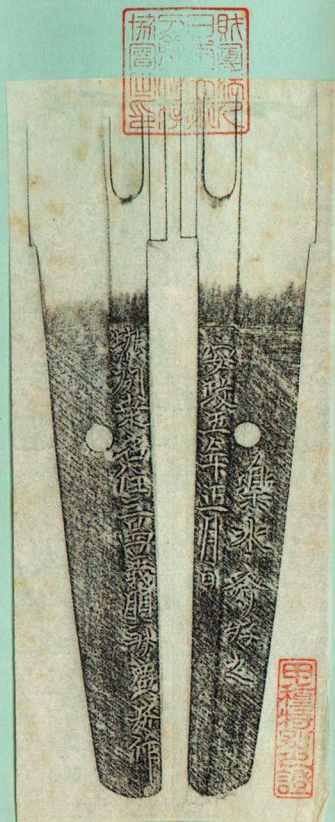
昭和五十年二月四日

財團法日本美術刀剣保存協會

會長 本間 順 治



真下達也殿



# NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho Token Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Extraordinarily Precious*  
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 50th year of Showa (1975), February 4th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

*Seshu Kuwana Ju Mishina Gimeisai Hirofusa Saku*

*Ansei 5-nen Shogatsu hi Rakusuisai Konomu Kore*

Nagasa (length)

1-shaku 3-sun 3-bu (40.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

# Hamon

A sublime *koshibiraki choji midare* (rhythmically patterned clove blossoms)





捺 審 査 印 員	備 考	寸 法	拵 え	中 心	図 柄	形 り	銚 子	刃 紋	下 地	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 七 〇 九 七 号
				目釘穴 一個  鍔 化粧付 三分初 通		表裏 廿五 刀櫃	乱れ込 中込 返り 横子 牙	二 三 一 段 と る 將 開 さ り 牙 乱 れ		小 板 身	冠 落 し 造 り	越 前 州 桑 名 匠 三 品 義 明 宗 辰 房 作 安 政 五 年 正 月 日 樂 永 齋 好 之	

## NTHK-NPO Yushusaku Certificate of Authenticity

This wakizashi was designated as *Yushusaku* (Highly Excellent) by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Wakizashi

*Mei* (signature)

*Seshu Kuwana Ju Mishina Gimeisai Hirofusa Saku  
Ansei 5-nen Shogatsu hi Rakusuisai Konomu Kore*

*Nagasa* (length)  
40.5cm

Issued in 27th year of Heisei (2015), December 13th

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.



*Shirasaya*



*Yujo-habaki*  
(silver rain pattern)



# The Koi and the Waterfall

Koi (or *nishikigoi* meaning *brocaded carp*) are decorative varieties of domesticated common carp.

They have long been respected and greatly loved in Samurai culture since they were introduced to Japan by the Chinese.

\*An ancient legend tells of a huge school of golden koi swimming upstream the Yellow River in China.

Gaining strength by fighting against the current, the school glimmered as they swam together through the river.

When they reached a waterfall at the end of the river, many of the koi turned back, letting the flow of the river carry them away.



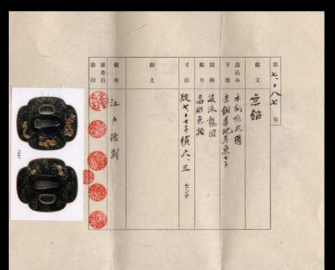
The remaining koi refused to give up.

Leaping from the depths of the river, they attempted to reach the top of the waterfall to no avail. Their efforts caught the attention of local demons, who mocked their efforts and heightened the waterfall out of malice.

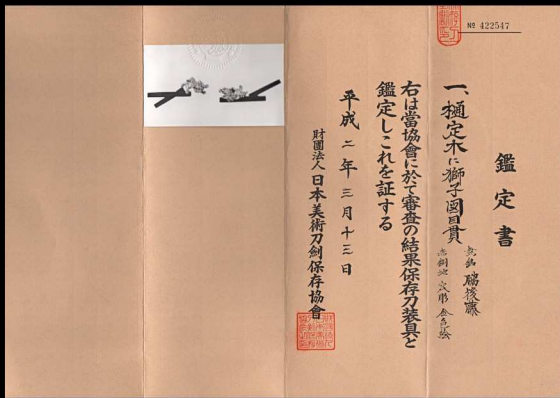
*After a hundred years of jumping, one koi finally reached the top of the waterfall. The gods recognized the koi for its perseverance and determination and turned it into a golden dragon, the image of power and strength.*

Thus the expression "*Toriyumon*" (climbing the dragon's gate) was born.

The *koi* (carp) turns into a golden dragon upon reaching the top of the waterfall.



NTHK Kanteisho Certificate to *Mino School*, Edo Period.



## Menuki

Uniquely designed gold *shisa lion menuki* balancing on sticks of *shakudo* flank both sides of the *tsuka* (hilt).

These guardian *menuki* have NBTHK Hozon certification to *Mino Waki-Goto*.

