



ITEM# UJWA227

A KATAYAMA ICHIMONJI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, LATE KAMAKURA TO NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (1260~1390)

- Swordsmith:** *Katayama Ichimonji (attribution)*
Measurements: **Length:** 46.0cm (*o-suriage*) **Curvature:** 0.9cm **Moto-haba:** 2.6cm
Jihada: *Fine mokume-hada with chikei and beautiful midare-utsuri*
Hamon: *Spectacular saka-choji with long ashi and yo*
Certificate: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Preservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Sword*)
Authenticity: **Sayagaki by Honami Soukei** (13th generation of the Honami Koumi family)
Included: Shirasaya, fabric bags, stand, kit, DVD, booklet, description

SOLD

The Ichimonji School's name derives from the early *Fukuoka Ichimonji* smiths that signed their blades with the single kanji character *ichi* (one) meaning *muteki* or 'no enemy'. Sword appraiser and scholar *Fujishiro Yoshio* wrote that *muteki* meant that no blade and no warrior could ever hope to stand against one who wielded an Ichimonji sword.

This rare treat of a wakizashi has been attributed in *sayagaki* to *Katayama Ichimonji School* by *Honami Soukei* of the Honami family and later the NBTHK as *Tokubetsu Hozon*. Katayama is an area of Bitchu province and one of several branches of the Ichimonji school that prospered in the late Kamakura to end of the Nanbokuchō period. The spectacular *saka-choji hamon* (slanted clove blossom) of this blade is their recognized trademark with vibrant *midare-utsuri*. A large *kirikomi* (battle scar) on the spine shows that this glorious blade forever means business.

Saki-kasane: 4.5mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 5.0mm

Omosa: 350g

Saki-haba: 2.1cm

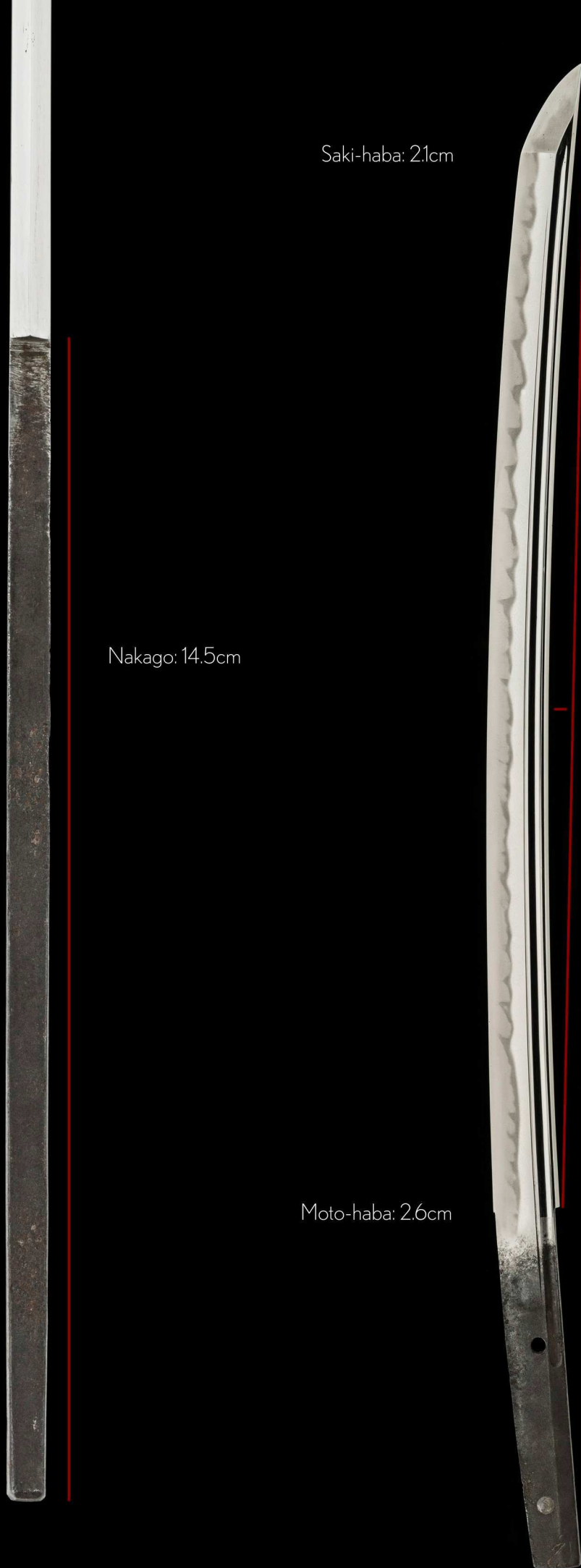
Nakago: 14.5cm

Moto-haba: 2.6cm

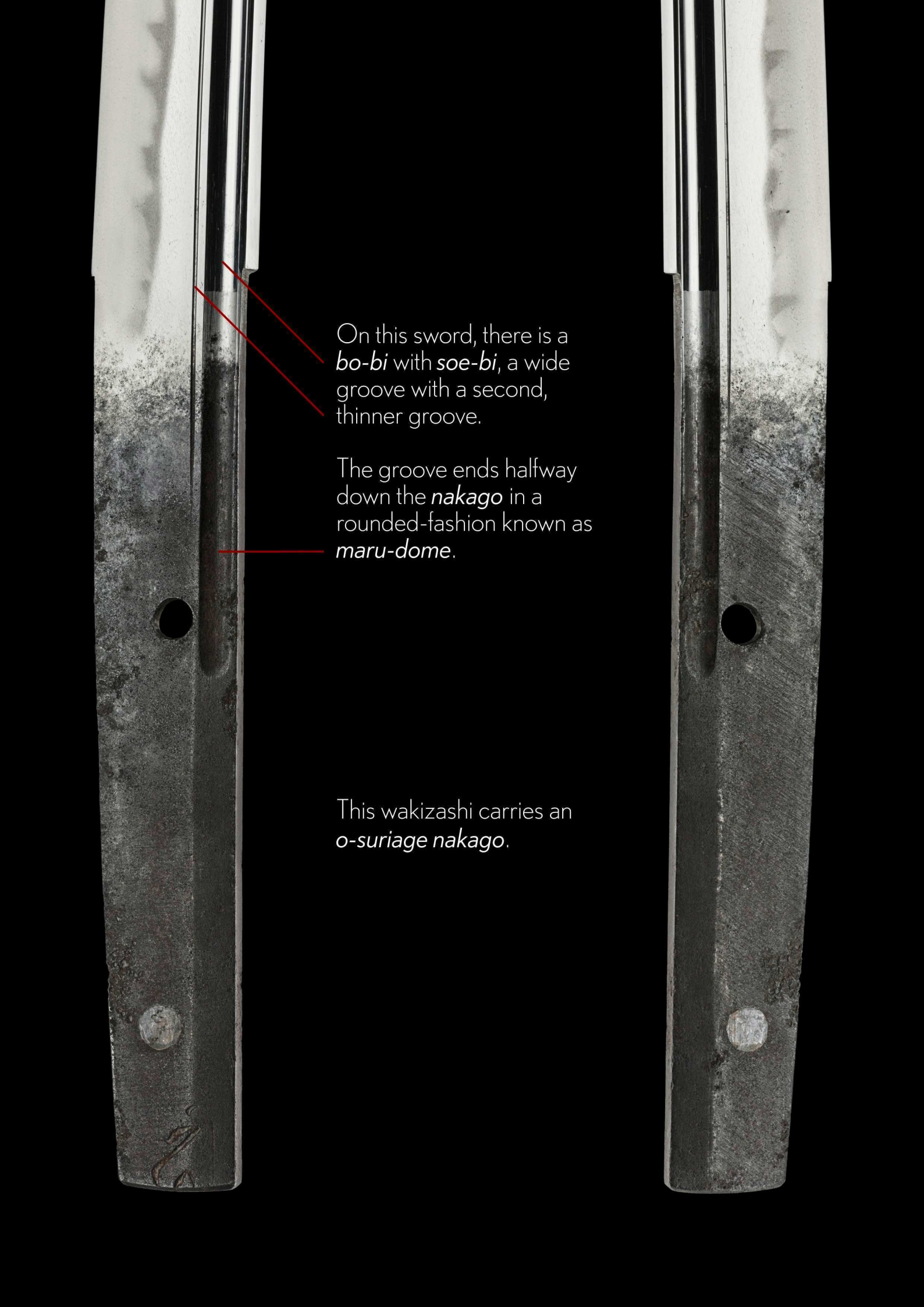
Nagasa: 46.0cm

Sori: 0.9cm

Mekugi-ana: 2







On this sword, there is a *bo-bi* with *soe-bi*, a wide groove with a second, thinner groove.

The groove ends halfway down the *nakago* in a rounded-fashion known as *maru-dome*.

This wakizashi carries an *o-suriage nakago*.



Many, many moons ago this sword was almost certainly a tachi. Looking closely at the *nakago*, the remains of a *bonji* character was saved in the shortening process.

Feel the history...

特 保
29201703

№ 1007315



鑑定書

一脇指 無銘 (片山一文字)

長一尺五寸二分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十九年五月三十日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



神奈川県 教育委員会
第 15146 号
昭和 28 年 8 月 24 日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 29th year of Heisei (2017), May 30th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

Mumei (Katayama Ichimonji)

Nagasa (length)

1-shaku 5-sun 2-bu (46.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



Bichu

(no) Kuni

Katayama

Ichimonji

Nagasa 1-shaku 5-sun 2-bu ari kore
(46.0cm)

Omote ura hi ari ni
double-groove on both sides

Suriage mumei nari
shortened and unsigned



Sou Yujo Yasuri-habaki
(silver)

Showa 29-nen 5-gatsu sue In Shirusu Kore

Written at the end of May 1954

Honami Soukei (Kaou)

Signed by Honami Soukei sensei
with his personal seal

[Honami Soukei is the 13th generation of Honami Koumi family]



Kirokomi - this a large battle scar from another sword when defending in combat.

These prized marks of courage are intentionally left by polishers over the centuries.



Bravery.



The stunning *saka-choji hamon* (slanted clove blossoms) continues to flow into the *kissaki* (tip) forming the *boshi*.

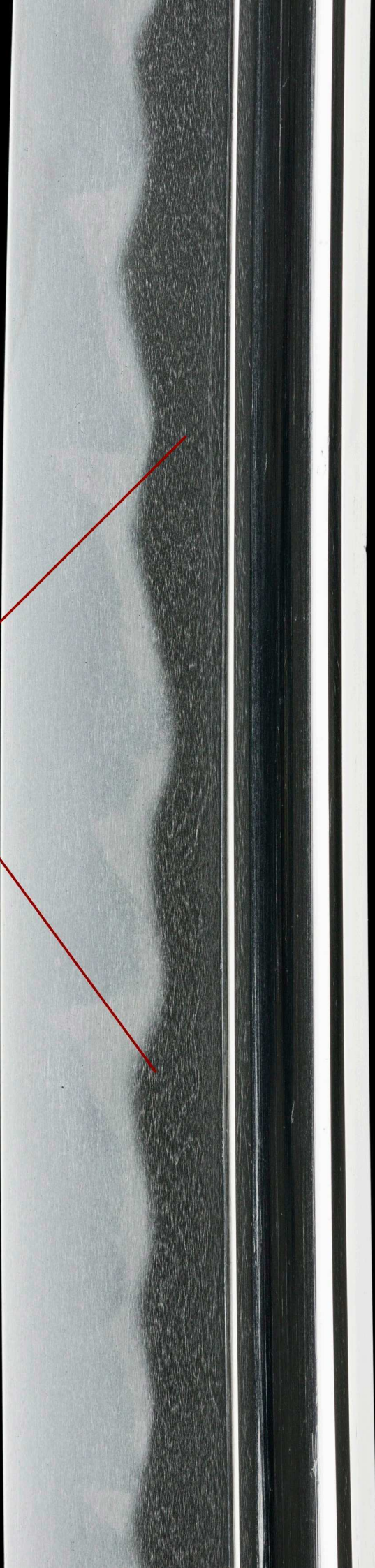




The *saka-choji hamon* dances like waves in the ocean.



A refined *mokume-hada*, note the circular burl grain pattern.



Literally meaning "reflection", *utsuri* is a beautiful, rather magical, misty reflection appearing in the *ji* (body of sword) above the *hamon*.

It is much loved and appreciated feature of swords, particular those made in the Bizen tradition in the Koto period (pre 1600).

The type of *utsuri* found on this Katayama Ichimonji blade is called *midare-utsuri* - a smokey pattern that billows towards to the *shinogi* (ridge line).



The apex of the hamon flares
in the form of *ashi* (legs)
towards the edge of the blade.

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing the hamon (temper line) patterns. The blade is dark and polished, with a prominent hamon running along its length. The hamon features a distinct 'ashi' (leg) pattern near the apex, which flares outwards towards the edge. Further down the blade, there are 'chikei' (leaf) patterns and 'yo' (leaf) patterns. Red lines point from the text labels to these specific features on the blade.

chikei

yo (leaves)



Pure Bizen.