



ITEM# UJWA251

SOLD

A TADAYUKI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MIDDLE EDO PERIOD (HÔEI ERA: 1704~1711)

- Swordsmith:** *Yamato no Kami Fujiwara Tadayuki (shôdai, first generation)*
Measurements: **Length:** 44.0cm (*ubu*) **Curvature:** 1.6cm **Moto-haba:** 2.89cm
Jihada: *Itame-hada with chikei and a darkish jigane*
Hamon: *Bright notare with ko-gunome and kinsuji*
Certificate #1: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (*Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
Certificate #2-4: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (*tsuba, fuchi-kashira & koshirae designated as Authentic*)
Fujishiro rank: **Chû-saku** (*ranked as an average swordsmith*)
Cutting ability: **Ryô-Wazamono** (*maker of very sharp swords*)
Included: Shirasaya, Mid-Edo koshirae, fabric bags, stand, kit, booklet, description

SOLD

This sharp wakizashi was crafted by *Yamato no Kami Fujiwara Tadayuki*, a first-generation swordsmith that worked in *Bungo province* during the *Hôei era* (1704~1711). Born *Nakama Banpei*, he changed his name to *Nakama Shingobei* and later received a stipend that could support ten people from the powerful *Hosokawa Daimyô* family. This wide blade has impressive curvature for a wakizashi. Its flowing *notare hamon* mixed in with *ko-gunome* that gives it an appearance of snowy mountain tops. Tadayuki is rated *ryô-wazamono* for the excellent sharpness of his blades.

The sword is housed in a unique *Inrô-kizami koshirae* that also dates back to the mid-Edo period. There is a good chance that this koshirae is original to the blade itself, resting together faithfully for 300 years. There is a cheerful vibe that permeates this piece of Japanese history.



Saki-kasane: 4.1mm

Moto-kasane: 5.8mm

Omosa: 390g

Kissaki: 2.84cm

Saki-haba: 1.93cm

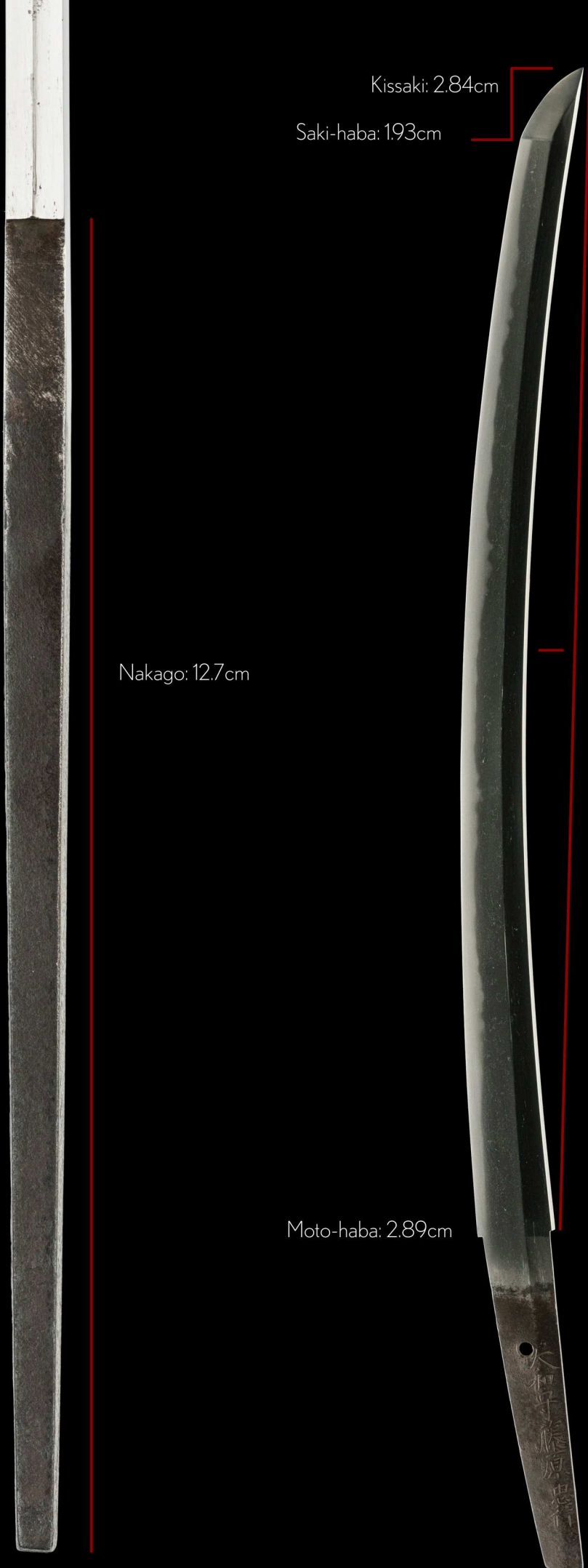
Nakago: 12.7cm

Moto-haba: 2.89cm

Nagasa: 44.0cm

Sori: 1.60cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



This solid wakizashi was crafted by *Yamato no Kami Fujiwara Tadayuki*, a first-generation swordsmith that worked in *Bungo province* during the mid-Edo period circa the *Hôei era* (1704~1711).

Born *Nakama Banpei*, he changed his first name later to *Shingobei* and later received a stipend that could support ten people from the notable *Hosokawa Daimyô family*.

Tadayuki crafted swords in *Tsurusaki Takada* and in *Kumamoto* in *Higo province*.

This relatively wide blade has impressive curvature for a wakizashi. The *jigane* has a dark hue and features a flowing *notare hamon* mixed in with *ko-gunome* that gives it an appearance of snowy mountain tops.

The sword is housed in a lovely and unique *Inrô-kizami koshirae* that also dates back to the mid-Edo period. There is a good chance that this koshirae is original to the blade itself.

Tadayuki is rated *ryô-wazamono* for the excellent sharpness of his blades, and *chû-saku* by *Fujishiro*, but this blade is more inline with *chûjô-saku*, above average smiths.





Location: *Bungo* (resident of Ôita prefecture)
Title: *Yamato no Kami* (Lord of Yamato province)
Clan: *Fujiwara*
Swordsmith: *Tadayuki* (first generation)

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)
katte-sagari yasurime (slanting file marks)

大 (Ya)

和 (mato, no)

守 (Kami)

藤 (Fuji)

原 (wara)

忠 (Tada)

行 (yuki)

特選
01201912

No. 1013101



鑑定書

一脇指 銘 大和守藤原忠行

長一尺四寸五分弱

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

令和二年二月十九日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



大阪府 教育委員会
第 27850 号
昭和34年6月16日
(再)令和1年9月20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 2nd year of Reiwa (2020), February 19th

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

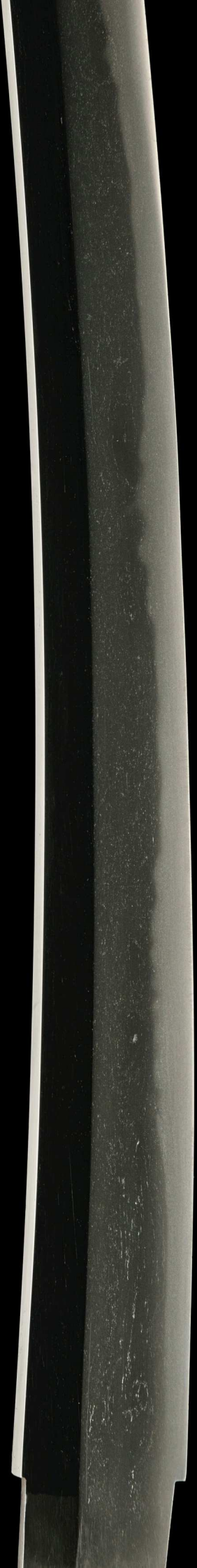
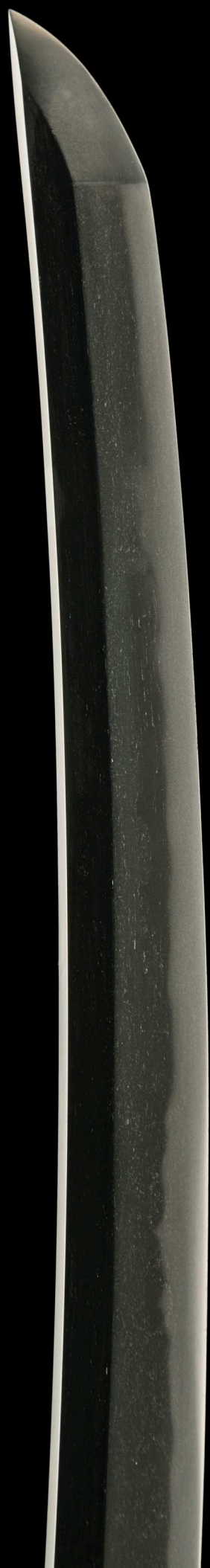
Yamato no Kami Fujiwara Tadayuki

Nagasa (length)

1-shaku 4-sun 5-bu jaku (44.0cm)

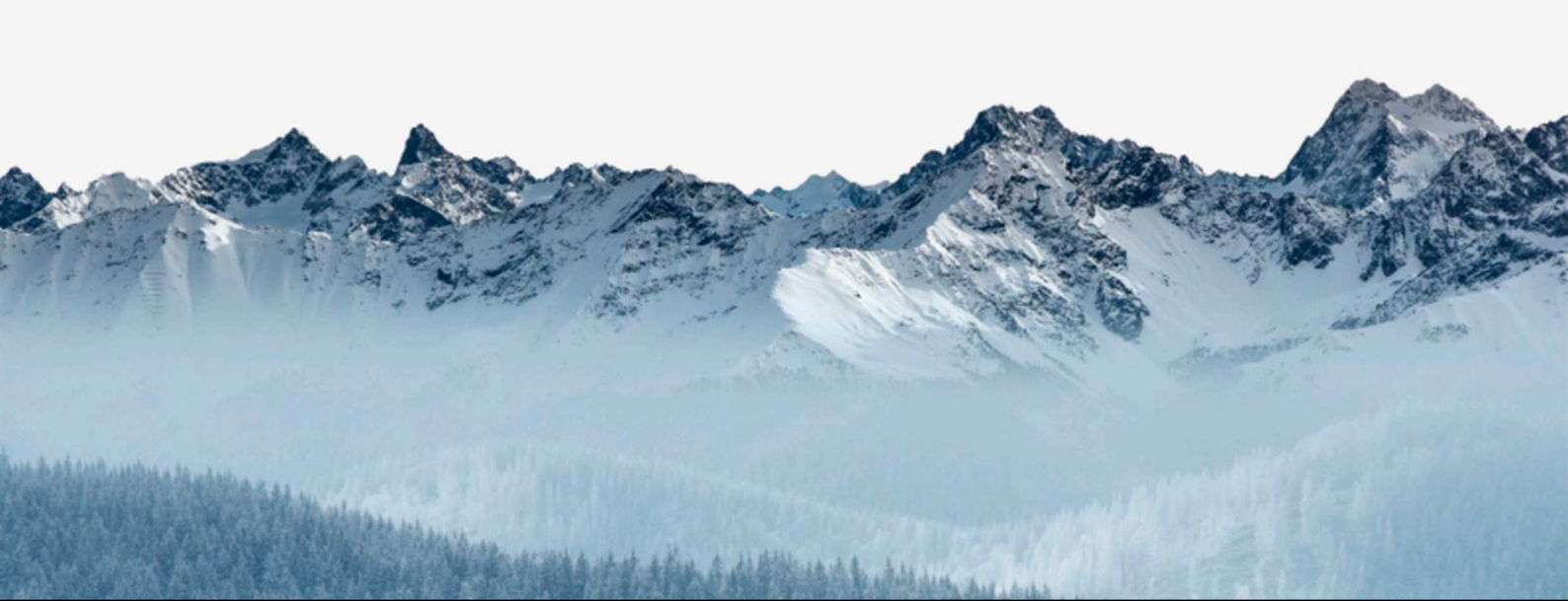
Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)





A close-up, low-angle photograph of a sword blade, focusing on the hamon (the edge of the blade). The blade is dark, possibly black or dark blue, and shows a prominent, wavy, light-colored line along its edge, known as a notare hamon. This pattern resembles a snowy mountain range. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture and the undulating line of the hamon against a dark background.

A gentle wavy *notare hamon* that resembles a snowy mountain range.



Snowy Mountain, source: SEEKPNG





Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

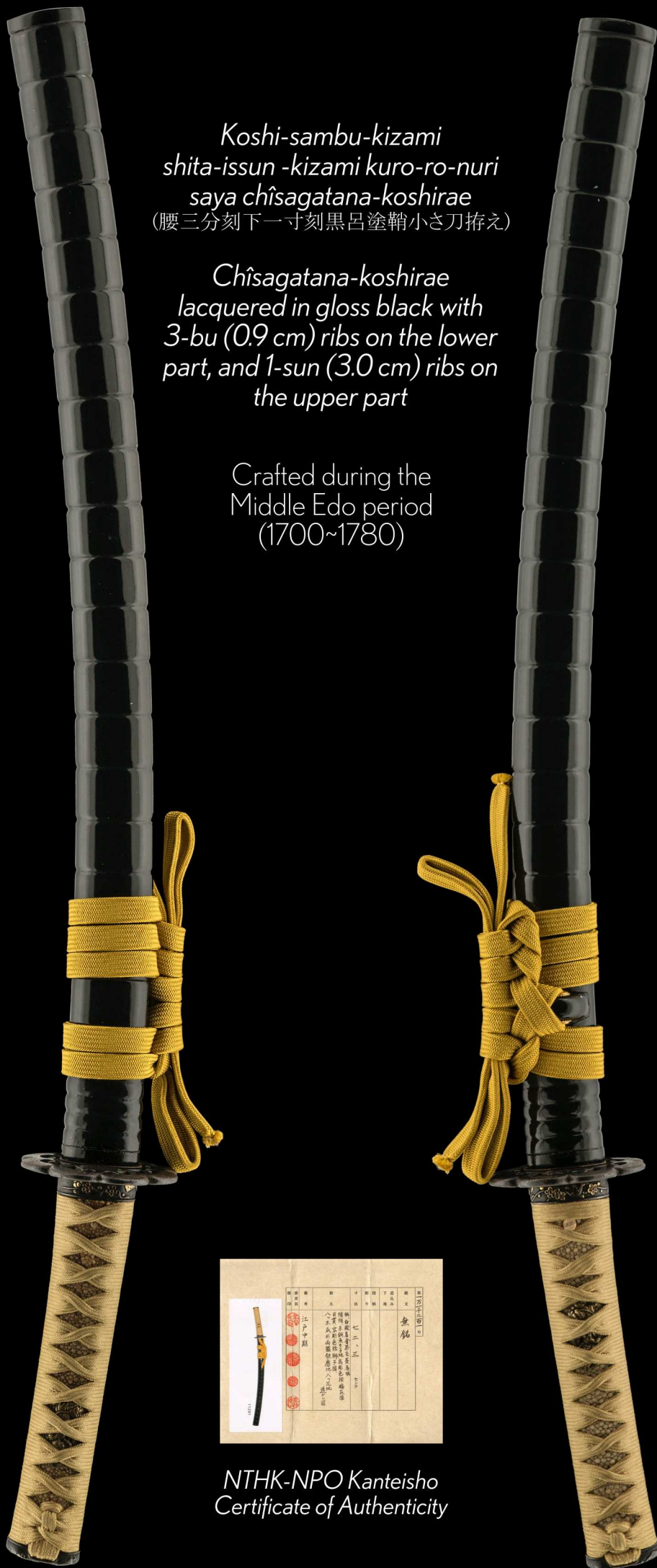


copper & silver *habaki* with
kiri (paulownia leaf) design

*Koshi-sambu-kizami
shita-issun -kizami kuro-ro-nuri
saya chîsagatana-koshirae*
(腰三分刻下一寸刻黒呂塗鞘小き刀拵え)

*Chîsagatana-koshirae
lacquered in gloss black with
3-bu (0.9 cm) ribs on the lower
part, and 1-sun (3.0 cm) ribs on
the upper part*

Crafted during the
Middle Edo period
(1700~1780)



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity



The individual segments featured on the *saya* (scabbard) are an abstraction of *Inrô* - small decorative containers cherished by aristocracy during the Edo period.

This design is called *Inrô-kizami koshirae*.



Inrô meaning 'seal-basket' are quaint decorative containers that hang from the waist. They originated at the end of the sixteenth century and were worn by men to hold seals and herbal and other medicine.

They were considered a particularly good way of keeping the contents sealed and fresh. By the eighteenth century they had become decorative accessories and were commissioned by the merchant class, provincial rulers and their samurai, and those that could afford them.



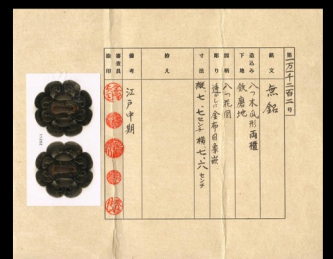
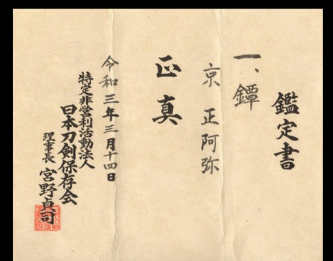
Examples of *Inrô*, including *ukiyo-e* artwork by *Totoya Hokkei* circa 1817



Dated to the same age of the koshirae (1700~1780), this unique and attractive polished iron tsuba from the *Shôami school* appears to have remained faithful to the koshirae for over 300 years.

The rhythmic eight lobed-design features eight flowers. The number 8 in Japan is considered lucky because of the way the kanji for eight (八) widens at the bottom (like Mount Fuji) inviting prosperity to grow over time.

This tsuba comes with NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification as illustrated on the right.





Menuki (decorative grips on the hilt) carry guarding *shisa* lions.

Shishi (or shisa lions) traditionally stand guard outside the gates of Japanese shinto shrines and buddhist temples. Shishi are depicted in pairs, one with mouth open and one with mouth shut. The shisa with the open mouth is said to scare off demons, and the closed mouth to shelter and keep in the good spirits.





Koshirae bag.