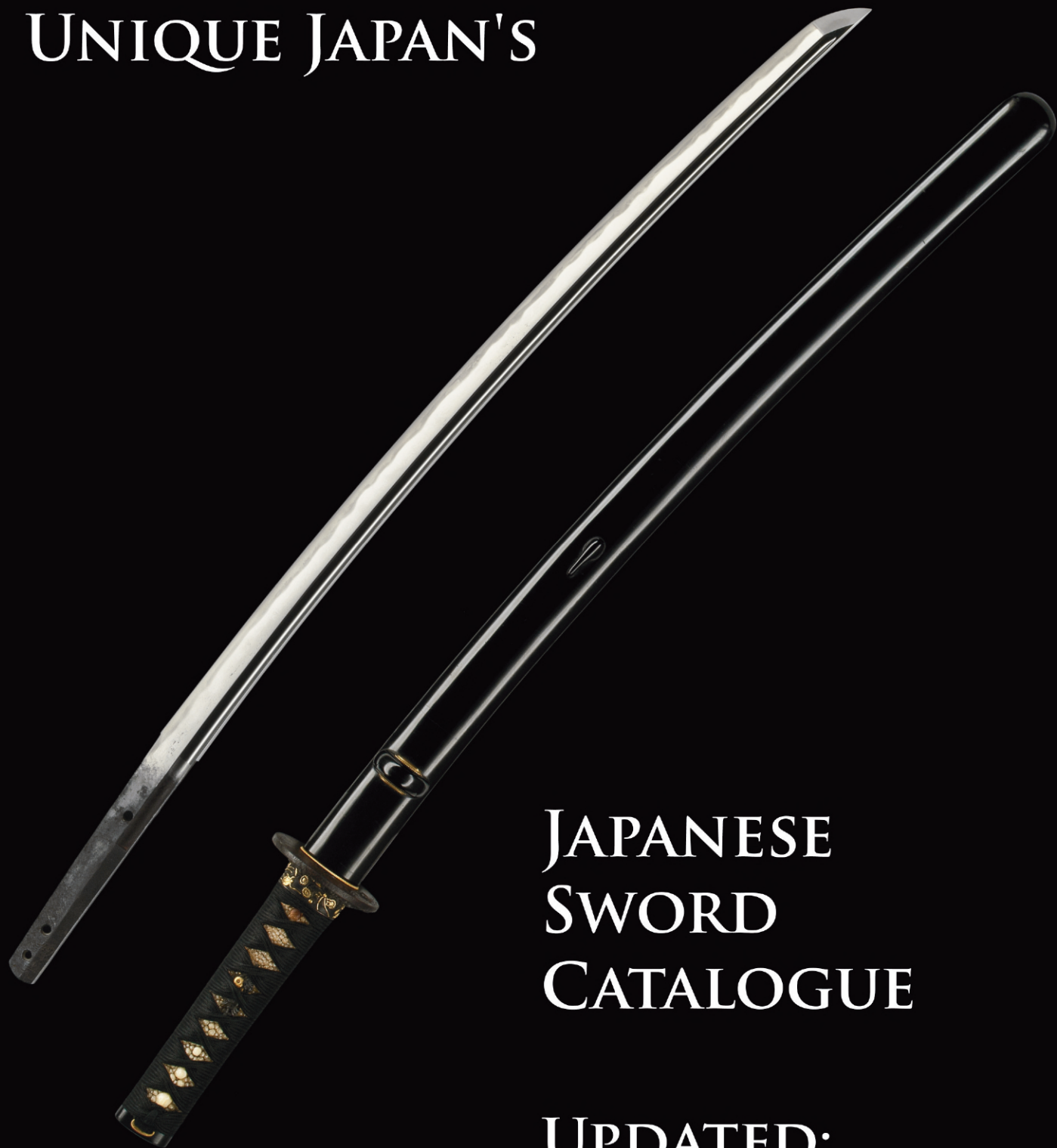




UNIQUE JAPAN'S



JAPANESE  
SWORD  
CATALOGUE

UPDATED:  
SEPTEMBER 3/2012

# ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE!

AS OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2012  
TOKYO, JAPAN

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS OF FINE  
JAPANESE SWORDS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR OWNERSHIP.

*EACH AUTHENTIC SWORD CAN BE LEGALLY OWNED AND  
EXPORTED OUTSIDE OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED STATES OR  
MOST ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.*

DESCRIPTIONS AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITHOUT NOTICE.

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HERE AND WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION INCLUDING  
PHOTOS, PLEASE CONTACT ME (PABLO) AT  
[SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM](mailto:SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM).

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1

## A SADAHIDE ARMY GUNTO

SIGNED + DATED, 12<sup>TH</sup> SHOWA PERIOD (AUGUST, 1937)

**Swordsmith:** Ecchu Koku ju Miyamoto Sadahide (越中国住宮本貞秀造之)  
**Dated:** August, 1937 (昭和拾二年八月吉日)  
**Length:** 68.0cm  
**Curvature:** 1.5cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha* (straight)  
**Included:** Gunto Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥510,000 (~\$6,600)

This is a very fine handcrafted WWII Army Gunto *signed and dated "August 1937"*.



It is blessed with excellent curvature and a length of almost 70cm. This a hand-folded sword made just before the outbreak of WWII. It is made completely by traditional methods, very rare to see in Gunto swords.

*All Army and Navy guntos carry a Sakura (cherry blossom) theme. The Sakura is the national flower of Japan and the most masculine one.*

*The Sakura is an important Samurai symbol because the cherry tree blooms for a very short time, and then they disappear. Like the Samurai warrior, the cherry blossom dies at the peak of its maturity.*

All *seppa* (washers) and *tsuba* (guard) match in numbers. This shows that the blade and scabbard are original to the blade.



**3 (SOLD!)**

## A HIROSHIGE KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA KANBUN ERA 1661~1673)

- Swordsmith:** BUSHU JU FUJIWARA NO HIROSHIGE (武州住藤原広重)  
**Length:** 71.2cm  
**Curvature:** 1.6cm  
**Hamon:** *Midare Gunome with beautiful nie* (wavy temper line with crystals)  
**Certificate:** *Tokubestu Kicho* (Sword designated as *Especially Precious* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, exportation paperwork

**¥1,100,000 (SOLD)**

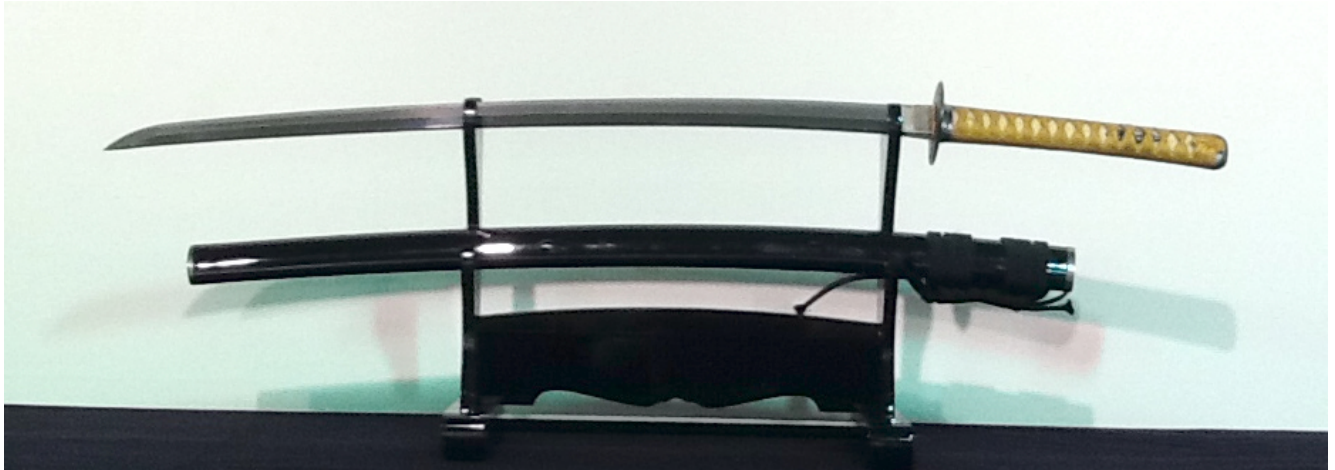
Behold a big, beefy Kanbun Shinto katana from the early Edo period. Being more than 70cm in length, with strong tapering from the base to the kissaki (tip), signed and in its original condition makes this piece a very collectible Samurai sword.

The beautiful Edo-period elements of the *koshirae*, features a *fuchigashira* (collar and pommel) signed by 埋忠重義 (Umetada Shigeyoshi). The bow and arrow are set in gold and silver on an iron base.

*Umetada Shigeyoshi of the Umetada School in Musashi (modern-day Tokyo and Saitama) was a skillful sword-fitting maker and held in high esteem. Swordsmith Hiroshige, also from Musashi, making this sword a fine artistic unit.*

*The menuki (ornamental grips under the silk handle) are of dragons bringing power and good fortune. The scabbard is partly wrapped in rare sharkskin.*

The *tsuba* (guard) features waves and the moon. The Japanese symbolism of these elements says that once you are on waves, you will receive good luck. This is not just a Samurai sword, it's a "Samurai's sword."



## 4

### A SHINSHINTO KATANA

UNSIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (CIRCA 1850)

**Length:** 73.0cm  
**Curvature:** 2.1cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha* (straight) and *Ko-midare* (small peaks of waves)  
**Included:** *Koshirae* (complete sword mountings), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥545,000 (~\$7,000)**

This is an awe-inspiring Samurai katana, produced in an attempt to protect their land effectively from imminent foreign attack in the 19th century.

The *hamon* (temper line) of this formidable piece is a mixture of straight *suguha*, and several beautiful tiny waves appear when drawn to the light.

*Made at the time when the last Samurai were fighting for survival over 150 years ago, sword makers in the later parts of the 19th century produced katanas that were designed to fend off the most towering opponents.*

A gold-colored silk hilt and other quality *koshirae* mounts make up this very enviable example from the Shinshinto period.



## 5

### A MASAIE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MID-LATE MUROMACHI (CIRCA 15<sup>TH</sup>-16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

- Swordsmith:** Mihara Ju Masaie (三原住正家)  
**Location:** Mihara (Bingo province, Hiroshima area)  
**Length:** 51.5cm  
**Curvature:** 0.8cm  
**Hamon:** Combination of Chusuguha with Nie and Komidare. Koashi and Uchinoke  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Kicho (Sword designated as *Precious* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Certificate, *Koshirae*, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥600,000 (~\$7,700)

The Mihara school in Bingo province (modern-day Hiroshima area), was founded by master swordsmith Masaie. Their workmanship was heavily influenced by the Yamato tradition, which has a 1000-year-old history, originating in Nara.

*This signed Masaie wakizashi was made by a succeeding generation of Masaie that carried on the family name about 500 (or more) years ago.*



*The sword is blessed with a beautiful set of *koshirae* mounts around a dragon-inspired theme.*

*(left) The tsuba in this piece is referred to as being a "4 lobed Mokko". The name is derived from the cross section of the tree melon.*

The influential *Oda Daimyo Family Clan* had a *Mokka kamon* (family crest).



## 6

### A KANEMUNE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, END OF MUROMACHI (CIRCA 1532-1555)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Yamato no Kuni Kanemune (大和国包宗)</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Unknown
<b>Length:</b>	48.9cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	0.8cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome Midare (circular waves) with Sunagashi (sand streaks) and Kinsen</i>
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Masame (straight grain – typical of Yamato tradition workmanship)</i>
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>NBTHK Hozon</b> (A sword designated worthy of conserving by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Certificate, <i>Koshirae</i> , shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥625,000 (~\$8,100)**

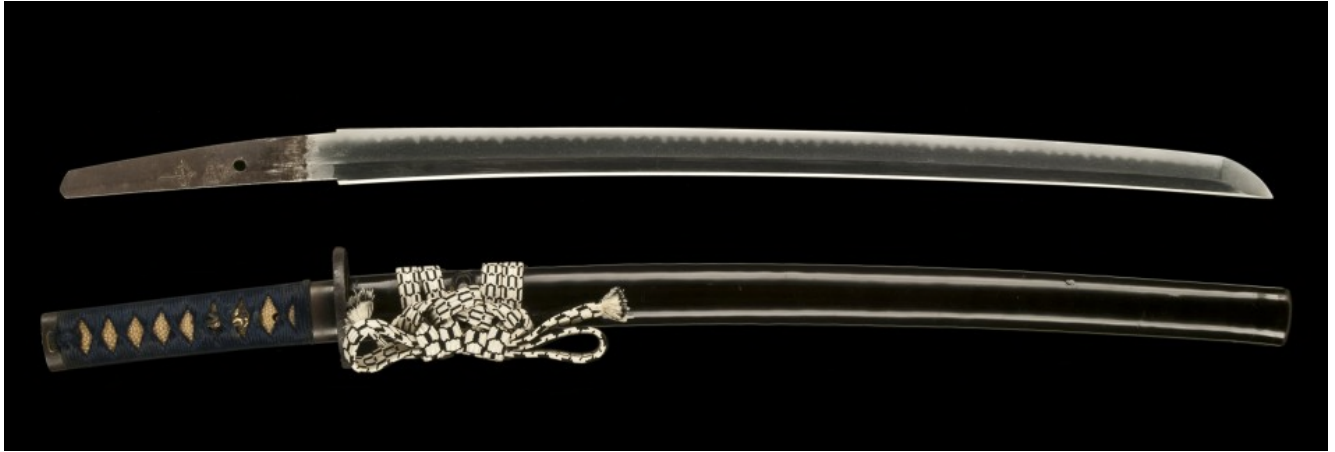
According to the *Toko Soran* (book of swords), swordsmith Kanemune belonged to the infamous *Yamato Tegai school*. He worked in the Tenbun Era (1532-1555).

*On the NBTHK Hozon certificate, it reads "Shinto", which is a term technically reserved for swords that are made after 1600. However, the Tenbun Era is around the end of Muromachi period and when examining the beautifully ancient state of the nakago (tang), this is clearly a sword closer to 500 years old (Koto sword).*

*An important point to observe on this sword is where the hamon (temper line) originates at the bottom of the blade. For about 5 or 6 cm, the hamon is suguha (straight), and then extends into a fantastic wavy midare hamon.*

This unique *hamon* is referred to as a *suguha yakidashi*. Typically, the expression is used to refer to *Shinto blades* (thus Shinto is written on the certificate).

The *fuchi-gashira* (collar/pommel) is of *Shakudo* (gold copper) Japanese plum flowers. The *menuki* (ornamental grips) features a horse, plants and flowers for a healthy life.



7

## A JUMYO (LONG LIFE) WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MID-EDO PERIOD (CIRCA 1780)

**Swordsmith:** Jumyo School Smith  
**Length:** 51.7cm  
**Curvature:** 0.8cm  
**Hamon:** Gunome (wavy temper line)  
**Included:** Koshirae (complete sword mountings), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥450,000 (~\$5,800)**

*Their unique name, Jumyo, means life span or longevity. As it's meaning is so hopeful, their swords were prized as celebrated gifts to Daimyo (great) families amongst the Samurai society.*

What makes this over 200 year-old wakizashi is that it is signed with the characters, 寿命 (Jumyo) on the tang.

*Its koshirae (mounting) is very beautiful. Behold the finely handcrafted powerful dragon menuki (eyelets under the silk handle).*

*The tortoise shell pattern on the very old and meaty tsuba (guard) is symbolic for a long life. The thick, robust tsuba (guard) is also signed by Nobuie (1596-1615).*

The symmetric wavy gunome hamon (temper line) is truly delightful.



**8 (SOLD!)**

## A TSUGUHIRO WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (CIRCA KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

- Swordsmith:** Omi no Kami Fujiwara no Tsuguhiko (近江守藤原継広)  
**Location:** Signed Echizen (Fukui prefecture)  
**Length:** 53.1cm  
**Curvature:** 1.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare* (random wave temper line)  
**Certificate:** **NBTHK Hozon** (A sword designated as worthy of conserving by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** *Koshirae* (complete sword mountings), shirasaya (magnolia wood scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥525,000 (SOLD)**

This extra long signed *350 year-old wakizashi* was expertly crafted and signed by Tsuguhiko who belonged to the Fujiwara clan in the Echizen region on the Sea of Japan.

The blades overall balance is sublime – notice how the base of the sword is thick and gradually tapers to the tip, this is a prominent feature of swords made during the Kanbun Period, circa 1673-1681.

The sword's bold *gunome midare* (wavy temper line) and a red celebratory koshirae mounting for good luck compliment this sword well.

*As this sword was made in Echizen, one of our finest Echizen-made kitchen knives from our collection will be included with this sword.*



## 12

### AN IESUKE UTSURI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA TENBUN ERA: 1532-1555)

- Length:** 49.2cm  
**Curvature:** 1.3cm  
**Hamon:** *Midare gunome (wavy circles) with choji (cloves) and a lots of utsuri!*  
**Jihada:** *Itame nagare (rolling grain) and masame (straight grain)*  
**Certificate:** *NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)*  
**Included:** Edo period koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, exportation paperwork

**¥600,000 (~\$7,700)**

\*This sword has just been given a full polish and was awarded NTHK Kanteisho as Kaga no Kuni Iesuke who was a swordsmith that lived in the Tenbun Era (1532-1555).

Please inquire for further details on this near 500-year-old wakizashi.



## 14

### A MOMIJIGARI MASAMUNE TANTO

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA MANJI ERA: 1658-1660)

- Swordsmith:** Ise Daijo Tsunahiro  
**Length:** 17.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Notare* (long waves), *Sunagashi* (looks like streaks of sand on a river), *Yubashiri* (concentrated spots of nie crystals), and *Kinsuji* (shiny black line in the hamon)  
**Jihada:** *Masame* (straight grain folding)  
**Certificate:** *NTHK Kanteisho* (A sword designated as *Authentic* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Signed shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥495,000 (~\$6,500)

Here is a splendid example of the *Soshu tradition* pioneered back in the late 1200s, early 1300s by Masamune in the Kamakura region.

This tanto reads もみじがり (Momijigari) on one side and まさむね (Masamune) on the back of the famous “*funa-gata nakago*” (a tang with a wide bulge like a boat).

*The shirasaya (magnolia scabbard) is further signed (Sayagaki) and reads 相州住綱 広 (Soshu Ju Tsunahiro), 5 Sun 8 Bu (the traditional measurement of the blade).*

*High-ranking 5<sup>th</sup> generation swordsmith Tsunahiro paid homage to the greatest of all sword makers (Masamune), and signed the piece as Momijigari. “Momijigari” means appreciating the turning of the maple tree leaves in autumn.*

In the same spirit *Ohanami* (appreciating the blooming of sakura blossoms), it was popular to observe the maple trees change color by the Yoshino River in the fall. Maple leaves fall on river turning the water into a flowing canvas of color.

This is one of the most fabulous tantos I have ever laid eyes on.



15

## A MITO SUKEMITSU KATANA

UNSIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (CIRCA. 1864)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Mito Sukemitsu</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Mito domain (present day Ibaraki prefecture)
<b>Length:</b>	70.8cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	0.8cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome Midare</i> (random waves)
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>NBTHK Hozon</b> (A sword designated worthy of conserving by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	<i>Shirasaya</i> , silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥295,000 (~\$3,800)**

Known by family as *Yokoyama Zenjuro*, swordsmith *Fujiwara Sukemitsu* was most active in times around Genji period (1864-1865).

*At the recommendation of the famous smith Katsumura Norikatsu, Sukemitsu became the personal swordsmith of the Mito Han, a prestigious feudal clan during the Edo period.*

*The Mito Han were Samurai of the highly martial nature due to the mounting pressure of Bakumatsu (Late Edo period) times. This is evident by their diligent practice of Aratameshi (sword cutting tests) with extremely enviable results.*

The *hamon* (temper line) features the classic Sukemitsu's *gunome* (wave) pattern.

Offered at very special price.



16

## A KUNIYASU TANTO

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA ENPO ERA: 1673-1681)

**Swordsmith:** Buko Jouka Kuniyasu (武江城下国保作之)  
**Length:** 9 Sun 1 Bu  
**Hamon:** Chu Suguha with lots of Nie (straight packed with tiny crystals)  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (A sword designated as *Especially Precious* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** NBTHK certificate, koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services

¥520,000 (~\$6,700)

Crafted in the classic Yamato tradition, this is one **very special tanto** by swordsmith Kuniyasu made approximately 350 years ago.

Kuniyasu's was originally known as Dewa no Kami Fujiwara no Kuniyasu. He is from Yamato (Nara) and was related to the Kanenaga school. He then moved to Edo (Tokyo) in Enpo Era (late 1600s) where traditional Samurai ethics flourished.

*This sword was registered with this koshirae mounting on the 26th of Showa (1951), which only swords from great Daimyo families were invited.*

*All clasps are original. The fuchi-kashira (collar and pommel) is signed by Akao Yoshitsugu and made to a formidable standard. You'll be able to see peonies, shisa lions (dogs), which ward off evil spirits as at the entrance of Japanese shrines.*

*The tsuba (guard) features a koi (carp) swimming up a waterfall. According to Japanese legend, if a koi succeeds in climbing the waterfalls at a point called the Dragon Gate on the Yellow River, it would transform into a dragon. The koi swimming up a waterfall is a symbol of the soul moving towards enlightenment.*

Look for the lovely oversized ray fish node on the hilt!



## 17

### A NOBUTAKA TANTO

SIGNED, MOMOYAMA PERIOD, KEICHO SHINTO (1596-1615)

**Swordsmith:** Houki No Kami Nobutaka  
**Location:** Owari province (present day Aichi prefecture)  
**Length:** 20.0cm  
**Curvature:** 0cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha with Ko-Ashi (straight with tiny legs)*  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥530,000 (~\$6,800)**

Houki no Kami Nobutaka, chairman of the Seki Swordsmiths Association, was the personal swordsmith of Owari Tokugawa Shogun family.

*This is a very high-class Samurai tanto made 400 years ago during the Momoyama Period - the cultural renaissance of Japan - a time when the Edo Period just being formed in Japan.*

*The kasane (spine) is very thick, built to penetrate armor.*

*Complimenting the power of the piece is a Higo Zougan koshirae that elegantly secures the sword. The saya (scabbard) features crushed blue shells, which are skillfully decorated layer-by-layer with Japanese lacquer.*

The *shakudo kozuka* (paper knife) is signed by 志津三郎兼氏 (Shitsu Saburou Kaneuchi), a well-known sword-fitting craftsman.



19

## A MUSASHI DAIJO KOREKAZU KATANA SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA SHOHO ERA: 1644-1648)

<b>Location:</b>	Musashi, Edo (Tokyo)
<b>Length:</b>	68.7cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.8cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Daichoji Midare (large waves and cloves)</i>
<b>Certificate:</b>	<i>NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon</i> (A sword especially worthy of preserving issued by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Vintage koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services

**¥3,200,000 (~\$41,500)**

Korekazu was one of the very greatest swordsmiths during the Shinto era (16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries). *Korekazu was a member of the Ishido school and eventually became the finest swordsmith of the Edo Ishido school about 350 years ago.*

The Ishido School originated at the Sekido Temple in Omi Province around the Kanei period (1624). From there the smiths went to various sections of the country to found branch Ishido schools.

*Some went to Kii Province and came to be known as the Kishi Ishido. Later Tameyasu led this group to Osaka. Others went to Edo, the most famous of these being Ishido Musashi Korekazu who forged this sword.*

*The Ishido school smiths were best known for their ability to make swords in the Bizen tradition of the Ichimonji School. They were well known for their hamon, which was a robust choji midare, which sometimes reached the shinogi.*

A spectacular leather-bound tachi koshirae (~400 years old) mounts this King of Katanas.



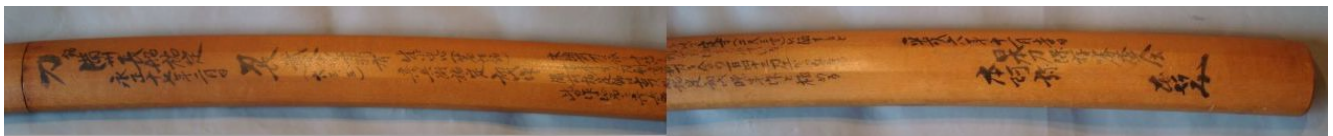
21

## AN OSAFUNE HIKOBEI SUKESADA KATANA SIGNED + DATED, 17<sup>TH</sup> OF EISHO (FEBRUARY 1520)

**Location:** Bizen province (present day Okayama prefecture)  
**Length:** 63.3cm  
**Curvature:** 2.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare*  
**Certificate:** NBTHK *Tokubetsu Kicho* (Both sword AND koshirae designated *Especially Precious* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, *Shirasaya* (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥2,400,000 (~\$31,000)

The *Sayagaki* (sumi-e writing on shirasaya attesting to authenticity) was written by Honami Sensei from 6th of Heisei (1994) reads: "*This sword was made by the first generation of 彦兵衛祐定 (Hikobei Sukesada) in his later years.*"

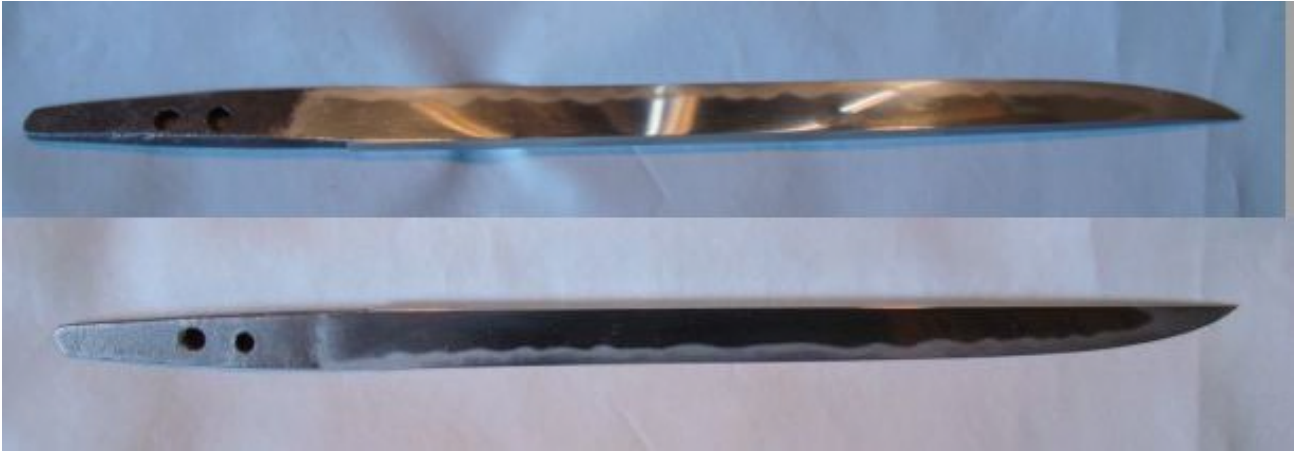


*This is a masterpiece by the head of Sukesada family [Hikobei-no-jo], a father of Yoso-zaemon-no-jo Sukesada. Hikobei is Sukesada's given name, and Bishu Osafune Sukesada is the name he was known as a swordsmith 500 years ago.*

*The koshirae (mounting) is also certified as especially precious. The iron tsuba's design represents the good fortunes of Shougatsu (Japanese New year).*

*The fuchi (collar) and menuki (ornamental grips) are expertly crafted depictions of seashells.*

This is an absolutely top class uchigatana sword for the discerning collector.



22

## A YOSHIMITSU TANTO

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA DAIEI ERA: 1521-1527)

- Swordsmith:** Tosa no Kuni Yoshimitsu (吉光)  
**Length:** 21.3cm  
**Curvature:** *Uchizori* (inward curving)  
**Hamon:** *Kogunome with Sunagashi* (small semi-circular waves with streaks of sand in the temper line)  
**Certificate:** *NTHK Kanteisho* (A sword designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services

¥450,000 (~\$5,800)

\* This sword has just been given a full polish and was awarded NTHK Kanteisho as Tosa no Kuni Yoshimitsu who was a HIGH RANKING swordsmith that lived in the Daie-ei Era (1521-1527) during the Muromachi period.

Yoshimitsu has lineage to the infamous Awataguchi school in the Kamakura period.

Please ask within for further details.

Thank you!



23

## A SUKEHIRO WAKIZASHI\*

SIGNED, 8TH MONTH OF THE 4TH YEAR ENPO (AUGUST, 1677)

<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Echizen no Kami Sukehiro</b> (false signature)
<b>Location:</b>	Echizen province (present day Fukui prefecture)
<b>Length:</b>	41.9cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	0.1cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Toranba</i> (waves rolling in the ocean)
<b>Included:</b>	Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services

**Special price → ¥300,000 (~\$3,900)**

This splendid wakizashi is a replica of the great *Nidai Sukehiro* swordsmith who was born in 1636 and pioneered the infamous *Toranba hamon* (temper line) which is said to resemble powerful waves rolling in the ocean.

*The jihada (body) contains outstanding activity such as nie (larger twinkling crystals) and kinsuji (lightning bolts) are present in the hamon (temper line).*

*The dragon-themed koshirae (mounting) is all from mid-Edo period (18<sup>th</sup> century). The tsuba (guard) is signed as 成龍幹栄寿 Seiryukan Eiju.*

A dragon-designed *kozuka* (paper/utility knife) caps off this handsome collectible.



24

## A “FUYUHIRO” TACHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENBUN ERA; 1532-1555)

**Length:** 71.6cm  
**Curvature:** 2.0cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare with Choji and Hitatsura and Sunagashi*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** NTHK certificate, koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services

¥1,200,000 (~\$15,500)

*This is a marvelous sword.* In its original submission to the NTHK, there was no apparent signature on the *nakago* (tang). It was judged as a sword crafted by Fuyuhiko in the latter part of the Muromachi period.

However, after carefully brushing a section of the *nakago*, a signature has been revealed! The characters 相州住□□ translate to mean a “Soshu Ju..” – a sword crafted in the Soshu tradition (Kamakura). As the sword was slightly shortened from its original tachi length, the characters of the smith have been removed.

This is a sword made much earlier. A conservative estimation would be the Nambokucho Period (1333-1392) that was made famous by the great Masamune.

*The hamon is magnificent with rolling waves; carrying with it desired elements such as sunagashi (streaks of sand-like patterns) and hitatsura in the temper line. The koshirae (mounts) are made as a collective set. All clasps are Higo Kinzogan – an intricate craft of Damascening from Higo (Kumamoto prefecture).*

The *kojiri* (tip of scabbard) is of a dragon motif, the *menuki* is a plum tree, *tsuba* is bamboo and the *saya* itself encompasses a turtle shell design signifying long life.



25

## A YOSHIIE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED + DATED, 8TH MONTH, 3RD YEAR ENPO (AUGUST 1675)

**Swordsmith:** Kayou Kanafu no Ju Fujiwara no Yoshiie  
**Location:** Kaga province (present day Kanazawa prefecture)  
**Length:** 53.6cm  
**Curvature:** 0.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Notare Midare* (undulating waves)  
**Certificate:** NBTHK *Tokubetsu Kicho* (sword designated *Especially Precious* by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Certificate, koshirae, signed shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

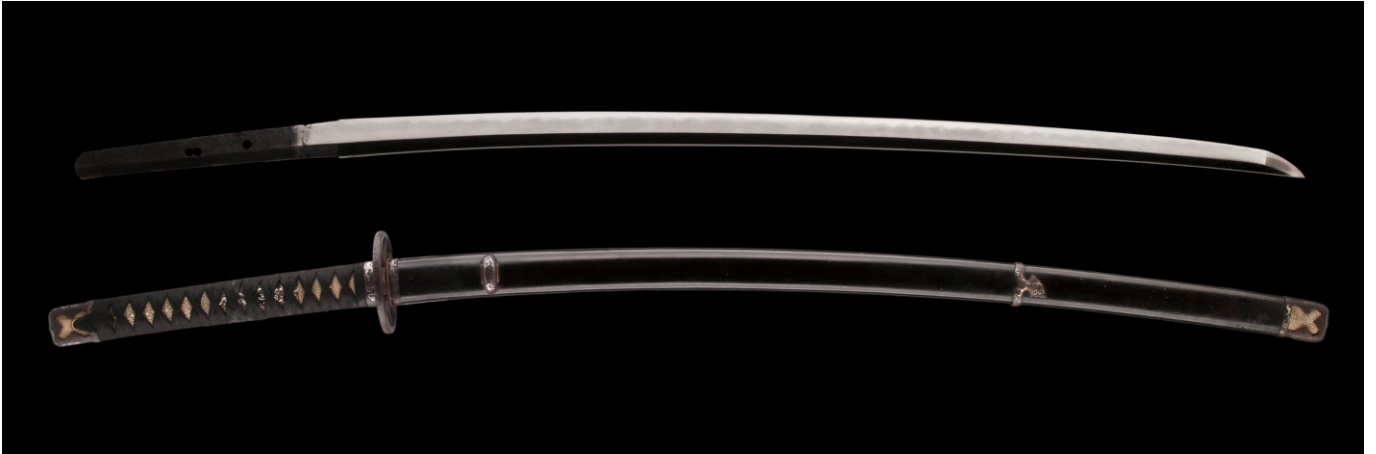
¥495,000 (~\$6,500)

Yoshiie was a highly ranked swordsmith, rated as a *Jo-Saku* (superior swordsmith) by Fujishiro. The *sunagashi* (waves of sand) in the *hamon* (temper line) speak to the absolute quality of this piece.

*Born "Darani Kichiemon", Yoshiie engraved on the nakago (tang) both his smith and birth name, making this wakizashi very rare. The nakago is dated to August 1675, plus the sword is certified as "Especially Precious" by the NBTHK.*

*The Edo-period koshirae (mountings) are culturally very symbolic and expertly crafted. They are a beautiful collage of pure gold dragons with gold-leaf traditional Japanese musical instruments on an iron tsuba (guard) from the 1700s.*

This is a brilliant keepsake to remember your time in Japan.



**27 (SOLD!)**

## A RAI KUNIYOSHI KATANA\*

SIGNED, MID MUROMACHI PERIOD (15<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY)

**Signed:** Rai Kuniyoshi (*gimei*, false signature)  
**Length:** 68.8cm  
**Curvature:** 0.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome* (undulating waves)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

**Special price → ¥300,000 (~\$3,900)**

\**Rai Kuniyoshi* founded the infamous *Rai School* from Yamashiro province (Kyoto) back in the 13<sup>th</sup> century during the Kamakura period.

However, no extant swords have ever been discovered by *Kuniyoshi*, so it is his son, *Rai Kuniyuki* that is traditionally given credit as the founder.

*This katana bears the signature Rai Kuniyoshi therefore we can determine that it is a sword replicating the sword expertise of the Rai School.*

*There is much to admire in this katana. The gorgeous suguta (shape) is that of swords made in the Nambokucho period 650 years ago. The sword is also blessed with a fine gunome hamon (wavy temper line) and a matching handachi koshirae!*

The *jihada* (body) features a lovely *ko-mokume* (small wood grain swirls) pattern. It has just been given a fresh polish and looks completely rejuvenated.

Offered at a special price for a very happy new owner. Act fast.



28

## A KANEFUSA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MID-EDO PERIOD, (CIRCA 1750)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Kanefusa</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Mino province (present day Gifu prefecture)
<b>Length:</b>	43.6cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.4cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome Midare</i> (undulating waves)
<b>Certificate:</b>	NTHK <i>Kanteisho</i> (sword designated as genuine by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Certificate, koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥395,000 (~\$5,000)

This signed Kanefusa belonged to one of the seven biggest sword schools, the *Zenjo School*. He is forever respected as being the founder of the *Kanefusa Midare Hamon* (Kanefusa-style wild wavy temper line).

The *koshirae* (mounts) are all from Edo period (in the 1700s-1800s) except for just the *tsuka maki* (silk wrapping) along the hilt of the wakizashi.

*The fuchi-gashira (collar and pommel) is made from shokudo nanako (a tiny fish egg design) with the kashira representing the battle of Sumaura (a clash between Taira and Minamoto families in 1184 (culminating to the start of the Kamakura period when the Minamoto army won)).*

The iron *tsuba* (guard) depicts the outline of a symbolic goose. *A goose never leaves one of its own family behind*; a most honorable warrior trait.



30

## A FUYUHIRO KATANA

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA EIROKU ERA: 1558-1570)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Jakushu Ju Fuyuhiro</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Jakushu province (present day Fukui prefecture)
<b>Length:</b>	67.0cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.6cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome Midare</i> (undulating random waves with <i>choji</i> and <i>utsuri</i> !)
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho*</b> (sword designated especially precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Certificate, koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥630,000 (~\$7,900)

Skilled swordsmith Fuyuhiro crafted this brilliant katana in the *Bizen-den* (sword kingdom) tradition with beautiful *utsuri* (a shadow of the *hamon* or temper line).

The *nakago* (tang) of the sword shows some evidence that it escaped a massive fire during its lifetime. Thankfully the sword remains in a reputable state.

*The 18th-19th century fittings are stunning and symbolic. Koi (carp fish) are featured prominently on the fuchi and kashira. Koi are associated with perseverance in adversity and strength of purpose. They symbolize good luck, abundance, perseverance and courage.*

*According to Japanese legend, if a carp fish succeeds in climbing the waterfalls at a point called the Dragon Gate on the Yellow River, it will transform into a dragon. The determined koi swimming up a waterfall is symbolic of one's soul moving towards enlightenment (spiritual revelation).*



**33 (SOLD!)**

## A SADAMUNE WAKIZASHI\*

SIGNED, KAMAKURA PERIOD (CIRCA EARLY 1300'S)

~ 700 YEARS AGO

**Swordsmith:** Houshou Sadamune  
**Location:** Soshu province (present day Kanagawa prefecture)  
**Length:** 41.9cm  
**Curvature:** 0.6cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha* (straight)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥330,000 (~\$4,250)**

Soshu Sadamune is one of the greatest *Soshu-den* tradition swordsmiths from the Kamakura period, circa 700 years ago.

Sadamune was regarded as having a comparable level of skill as the great *Masamune*.

\* This wakizashi has not received any NTHK or NBTHK papers (yet) to certify that the sword's signature is genuine, so it may be a fine copy of a masterpiece.

*The nakago (tang) appears extremely old and the blade has been polished significantly. It is possible that it has never been submitted to NBTHK or NTHK, so there is an outside chance it could become certified.*

*The fuchigashira is carved in high relief depicting a powerful dragon. A gold-color dragon forms the menuki. The tsuba (guard) represents a tool for horseback riding!*

A very appealing piece at a superb price!



**34 (SOLD!)**

## A HARUKUNI DAIMYO WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA TENWA ERA 1681-1683)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Hachiman Hokusou Harukuni</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Osaka province
<b>Length:</b>	41.6cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	0.6cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	Hoso-Suguha, Midare with Utsuri
<b>Included:</b>	Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥600,000 (~\$7,700)**

Behold a purely delightful sword by Harukuni, who was a student of the great *Inoue Shinkai*, honored for being known as the “*Osaka Masamune*.” Harukuni was skilled at creating *Toran-ba*, an Osaka temper line symbolizing rolling waves.

*This sword was a custom made creation for a Daimyo (great) family for “Genpuku”, a coming-of-age celebration for a boy turning about 8 years old. Genpuku has been a Japanese tradition since the Nara period (8<sup>th</sup> century).*

*Blue and white light flare out from the hamon and midare utsuri is beautiful on the blade. A stylistic signature dominates the nakago (tang) of the sword.*

*An outstanding set of fuchigashira is made out of shakudo and damascening. A gold rooster forms the menuki. Gold seppa and a shakudo polished tsuba (guard) all compliment a saya (scabbard) that is polished sharkskin!*

This is one remarkably rare sword to collect.



35

## A SUKEHIRO WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA EISHO ERA 1504-1520)

- Swordsmith:** Soshu Ju Sukehiro  
**Location:** Soshu province (present day Kanagawa prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 46.4cm  
**Curvature:** 1.3cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome and Togari with some Nijuba*  
**Certificate:** NTHK *Kanteisho* (sword designated as genuine by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥600,000 (~\$7,700)

The Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword (NTHK) judged this sword as *Soshu Ju Sukehiro* taking it to the Eisho Era (1504-01520), 500 years ago.

*Signed Soshu swords are a rare treat and Sukehiro is a highly ranked swordsmith.*

*The koshirae (mounts) features a mouse and dango (rice dumplings)! Look out for the Samurai on a horse with a gunbai (war fan) on the menuki.*

*Referees in Sumo tournaments carry a similar gunbai.*

A shakudo polished tsuba finishes off this piece quite nicely indeed.



36

## A SUKEMITSU WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA EIROKU ERA 1558-1570)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Bizen Osafune Sukemitsu</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Bizen province (present-day Okayama prefecture)
<b>Length (ubu):</b>	54.4cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.3cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Utsuri and Gunome Choji (cloves) temper line</i>
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>NTHK Kanteisho</b> (sword designated as genuine by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**Only → ¥545,000 (~\$7,000)**

This is an acquisition that I am particularly proud of. It is a sword crafted in the *Bizen tradition* by Sukemitsu in the Kingdom of Japanese swords, Osafune in Bizen, present-day Okayama prefecture.

*The gorgeous Edo-period (18th-19th century) koshirae (mounts) symbolize the beauty of nature and reminds us that we are all part of this world, together. It also has a lovely kozuka (Samurai paper knife) nestled in the mounting.*

*The sword's jihada is blessed with "Botan Utsuri", a unique second shadow temper line that resembles peonies (botan is a peony flower). That is why all the fittings of the sword all feature peony flowers!*

*An absolutely fabulous Samurai sword to be proud of owning.*



37

## A KANESHIGE NAGINATA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (CIRCA KANBUN ERA 1661-1672)

**Swordsmith:** Kouzuke no Suke Kaneshige

**Location:** Kozuke (present day Kanto area)

**Overall length with mount:** 2m 36cm (!)

**Blade (cutting edge only):** 36.2cm (!)

**Blade with nakago (tang):** 73cm(!)

**Hamon:** Gunome and Notare (wavy temper line)

**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (sword designated as genuine by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)

**Included:** Original Edo-period mounted koshirae, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**Only → ¥545,000 (~\$7,000)**

This is a Samurai antique that very few people will ever get a chance to own.

*A naginata is a pole-arm with a curved blade. The Samurai class of feudal Japan originally used naginata, and naginata were also used by ashigaru (foot soldiers) and sōhei (warrior monks). This naginata was meant for the wives of Samurai husbands to defend 'her castle' so to speak if her husband might not be present.*

What's so special is that the sword and mounting are both original to the 17<sup>th</sup> century - even the sleeve to cover the tip. The signature has also been authenticated.

Most naginata were eventually shortened down to make a wakizashi (known as a *naginata naoshi*), this one escaped such fate.

If you have the space to display it well, conversations will abound.



## 38 (AS SEEN ON DISCOVERY CHANNEL!)

### A KATSUKUNI KATANA

SIGNED + DATED FIRST YEAR OF GENJI (AUGUST, 1864)

<b>Type:</b>	Katana
<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Katsukuni, signed 勝国</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Kashu province (Kanazawa, northern Japan)
<b>Length:</b>	66.5cm (ubu)
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.4cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Sanbonsugi</i> (three cedar zigzag temperline)
<b>Certificate:</b>	<i>NBTHK Hozon</i> (A sword worthy of preserving issued by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	<i>Koshirae</i> (sword mounts), <i>shirasaya</i> (magnolia scabbard), brocade carry bag, maintenance kit, DVD, illustrated maintenance guide, sword stand

**Only! → £4,000 (~\$6,500)**



I had the privilege of appearing on a TV series called *Dealers* on Discovery Channel where I showcased two brilliant Samurai swords.

[Watch the full video clip here \(~8min\)](#)

This katana managed to escape the dealers' hands because they did not ask quite the right questions to get to know it better.

This is an awesome katana, made by the 8th generation of Katsukuni in 1864 at the time when the Samurai were facing their final days at the cusp of the Meiji Period. Katsukuni VIII's name at birth is *Eijiro Matsudo*, a highly respected swordsmith, ranked as *O-wazamono* as his swords were tested and could cut extremely well.

Katsukuni was skilled at creating the famous "*Sanbonsugi hamon*" (three cedar zigzag temper line) in the great *Magoroku Kanemoto* tradition (circa 1530). The sword was also registered in prestigious 1951 (Showa 26), the first year of registration whereby only *Daimyo* (great name) families were invited to submit their swords.



39

## A KOREKAZU WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA SHOHO ERA 1645-1648)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Judged as Musashi Daijo Korekazu</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Edo province (present day Tokyo)
<b>Length:</b>	50.7cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.0cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gyaku Choji (reverse clove pattern temper line)</i>
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>NTHK Kanteisho</b> (sword designated as genuine by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥555,000 (~\$7,500)**

Korekazu was one of the very greatest swordsmiths during the Shinto era (16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries). *Korekazu was a member of the Ishido school and eventually became the finest swordsmith of the Edo Ishido school about 350 years ago.*

The Ishido School originated at the Sekido Temple in Omi Province circa the Kanei era (1624). From there smiths set up branches of Ishido schools around the country.

*Some went to Kii Province and came to be known as the Kishi Ishido. Later Tameyasu led this group to Osaka. Others went to Edo, the most famous of these being Ishido Musashi Korekazu who forged this sword. The Ishido school smiths were best known for their ability to make swords in the Bizen tradition of the Ichimonji School.*

This lovely wakizashi features a matching set of dragonfly mounts that signify courage. A dragonfly never retreats as he flies forward in pure commitment.



**40**

## AN IEMASA WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA MEIO ERA 1492-1501)

**Swordsmith:** Judged as Iemasa (2nd generation)  
**Length:** 53.8cm  
**Curvature:** 1.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare (wild wavy temper line)*  
**Certificate:** NTHK *Kanteisho* (sword designated as genuine by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥625,000 (~\$8,000)**

*Please inquire for details, as this is a brand new addition to our collection.*



41

## A KANEMUNE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA TENBUN ERA 1532-1555)

**Swordsmith:** 大和国包宗 (Yamato no Kuni Kanemune)  
**Length (ubu):** 48.9cm  
**Curvature:** 0.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare (wild wavy temper line with sunagashi and kinsuji)*  
**Certificate:** NBTHK *Hozon* (sword designated as worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥600,000 (~\$7,700)

According to the Toko Soran (a kind of sword bible), Kanemune belonged to the Yamato Tegai school and worked in the Tenbun Period (1532-1555).

The Yamato Tegai School is one of the oldest, most respected sword-making traditions that date back to the Kamakura Period of the 12th century.

On the NBTHK Hozon certification, it says "*Shinto*", but Tenbun Era is around the end of Muromachi period (around the cusp of Koto and Shinto periods), so NBTHK wrote as "Shinto".

Judging the condition of rust on *nakago* (tang), the blade is clearly pre 1600s, making it a formidable Koto blade. Look for the straight *yakidashi* line in the temper line.

The striking *fuchigashira* is shakudo Japanese plum flowers. The *menuki* features horse and plants and flowers. These elements all represent life, health and longevity. The *tsuba* (guard) is of *makidashi* design.



42

## A MASANOBU WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA ENPO ERA 1673-1681)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>Tosa no Kami Masanobu</b>
<b>Length (ubu):</b>	49.5cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.0cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome Midare (wild wavy temper line with sunagashi)</i>
<b>Certificate:</b>	<b>NBTHK Hozon</b> (sword designated as worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
<b>Included:</b>	Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥575,000 (~\$7,500)

Swordsmith Masanobu) hails from Kai province, which is currently Yamanashi prefecture (home of Mount Fuji). His career took him to Yamato province, currently Nara prefecture, where he continued to forge swords until he retired.

The strong *gunome* hamon is very powerful indeed.

The Fuchigashira's material is Shakudo in Mino style, and its design is a flower and a butterfly on Nanako designed base. *Menuki's* design is Kiku in Mino style. *Tsuba* is made out of iron and its design is Mt. Fuji.

*Kozuka* (paper knife) is made out of Shakudo and its design is of a *Koto* (Japanese musical instrument) and a bunch of flowers with Mei "*Inoue Shinkai*". Inoue Shinkai worked in Settsu (Osaka) during the early Edo period.

Inoue-san was also called "大坂正宗 (Osaka Masamune)". There are Katana and Tachi which are treated as *Important Cultural Properties of Japan*. *Kojiri* is made out of iron, made in the Edo period and saya is made out of black lacquer.



43

## A MORIIE KATANA

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (CIRCA EISHO ERA 1504-1521)

**Swordsmith:** Hoshu Taira Takada Moriie  
**Length:** 71.0cm  
**Curvature:** 1.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Choji Midare (wild wavy temper line with clove blossoms)*  
**Certificate:** NTHK *Hozon* (sword designated as authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥1,050,000 (~\$13,500)

Taira Takada School was active from the Nambokucho period (1333-1392) right through to the Edo Period. This school worked in both the Bizen and Mino traditions. This katana has distinct Bizen tradition qualities.

Koshirae comprises of *shakudo* and its design is *Nanako-uchi* (eggs). *Fuchigashira* is gold damascening with the design of an ear of rice. The *menuki* is made out of *shakudo* gold and silver damascening in the design of a Japanese ginger.

The *tsuba* is made out of iron and gold and silver damascening with the design of *Amidayasuri* (a halo of Amitabha Tathagata), with dragon and clouds.

A revered paulownia flower, which symbolizes justice and benevolence, is featured in the fittings as well.

Saya is coated with the color of Shu. A red saya holds only special swords.



## 44

### A TADAKUNI KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (CIRCA JOKYO ERA 1684-1688)

**Swordsmith:** Shinano Daijo Fujiwara Tadakuni (2nd generation)  
**Length (ubu):** 65.3cm  
**Curvature:** 1.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Choji Midare (wild wavy temper line with clove blossoms)*  
**Certificate:** NBTHK *Hozon* (sword designated as worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥1,150,000 (~\$15,000)**

First generation Tadakuni was a pupil for Kunimichi Horikawa from Yamashiro province and moved from Heian castle to Inabanokuni (Tottori prefecture) and flourished there.

There were four generations of Tadakuni. From examining the signature on the *nakako* (tang), this blade shows it is by second generation Tadakuni (ni-dai). Born *Yamamoto Hachiryodayu*, Tadakuni II died in November 1688 at the age of 70.

The gorgeous *shakudo* designed *nanako-uchi fuchi-gashira* depicts a nobleman praying by a waterfall and a traveler resting by a pine tree.

The *fuchi-gashira* is signed by 彦根住入道宗典 (*Hikone ju Nyudo Soten*). The *menuki* features more travelers within a golden boat.

An iron-based *Akasaka* School tsuba represents Mt. Fuji and a sail. The *saya* is coated with black polished lacquer.

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