

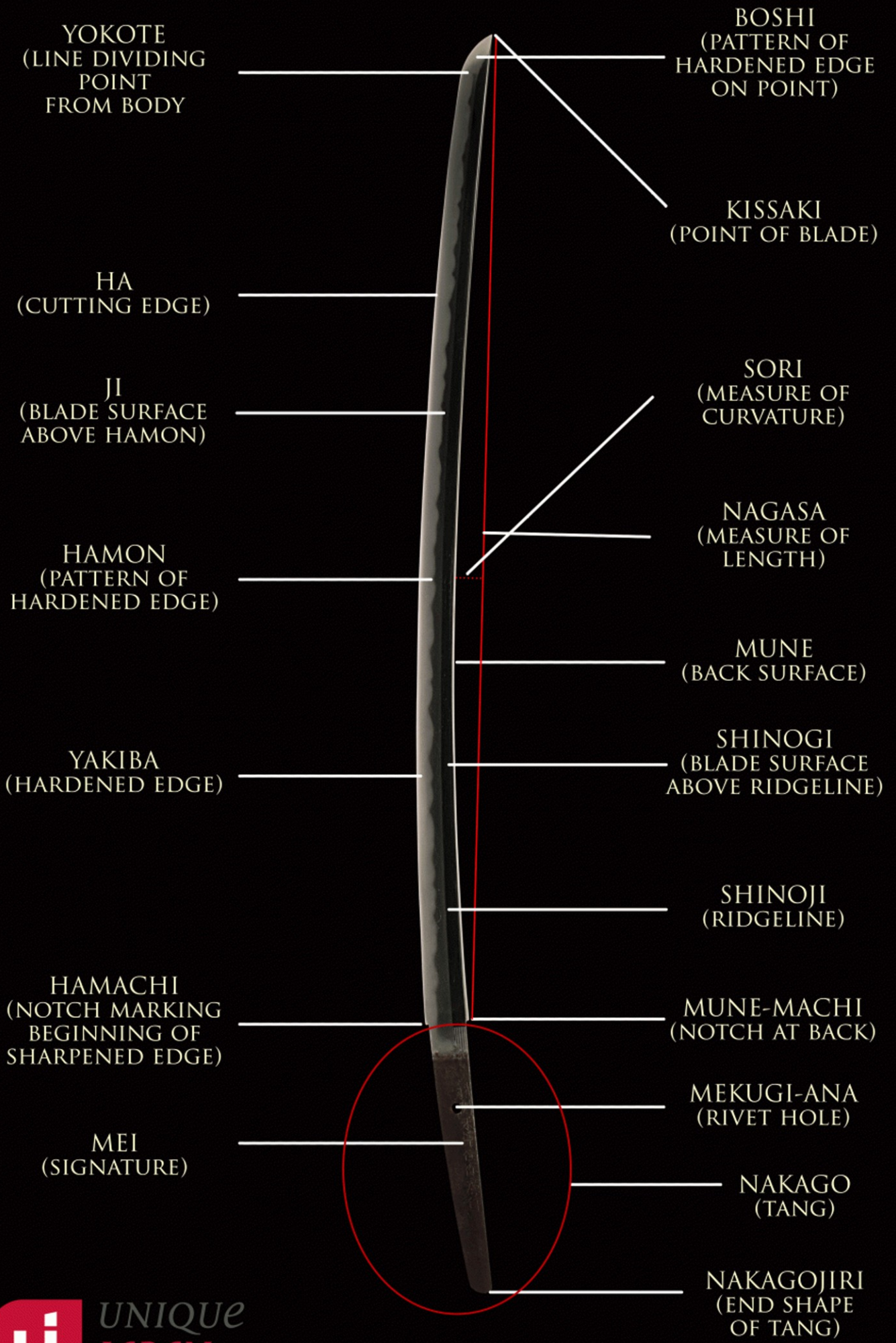


UNIQUE JAPAN



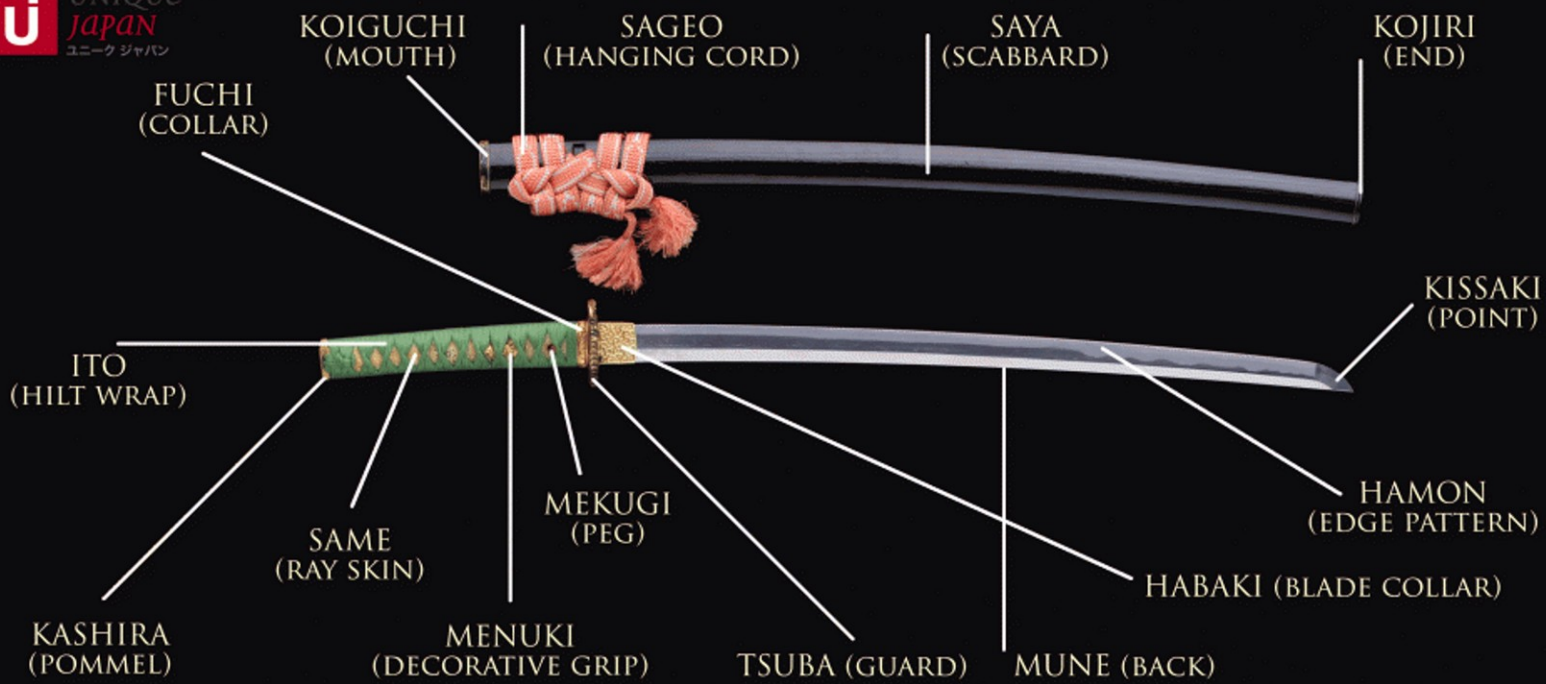
JAPANESE  
SWORD  
CATALOGUE

UPDATED:  
OCTOBER 10/2012



# Koshirae

(Japanese Sword Fittings)



# ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE

AS OF OCTOBER 10, 2012  
TOKYO, JAPAN

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

EACH SWORD CAN BE LEGALLY OWNED AND EXPORTED  
OUTSIDE OF JAPAN.

DESCRIPTIONS AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITHOUT NOTICE.

PLEASE ENQUIRE FOR ADDITIONAL IMAGES AND INFORMATION  
ON SWORDS OF INTEREST TO [SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM](mailto:SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM).

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING YOU.



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## INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE

#	SWORDSMITH & TYPE	CM	NBTHK/NTHK CERTIFICATE	ERA / PERIOD	PRICE
1	A SADAHIDE GUNTO	68.0	NTHK Kanteisho	12th Showa (1937)	¥510,000
2	A SHINSHINTO KATANA	73.0		Shinshinto (~1850)	¥545,000
3	A KOREKAZU KATANA	68.7	Tokubetsu Hozon	Shoho (1644~1648)	¥3,200,000
4	A SUKESADA KATANA	63.3	Tokubetsu Kicho	17th Eisho (1520)	¥2,400,000
5	A 'FUYUHIRO' TACHI	71.6	NTHK Kanteisho	Tenbun (1532~1555)	¥1,200,000
6	A TADAKUNI KATANA	65.3	NBTHK Hozon	Jokyo (1684~1688)	¥1,150,000
7	A MORIIE KATANA	71.0	NBTHK Hozon	Eisho (1504~1521)	¥1,050,000
8	A TAKAHIRA KATANA	69.7	Tokubetsu Kicho	5th Kanai (1628)	<i>Enquire</i>
9	A NOBUHIDE KATANA	72.1	NTHK Kanteisho	2nd Bunkyu (1862)	¥2,500,000
10	A KIYOMITSU KATANA	67.6	NBTHK Hozon	2nd Eiroku (1559)	¥2,500,000
11	A KANEUJI KATANA	69.8	NTHK Kanteisho	Kyoho (1716~1735)	¥2,000,000
12	A NAOTSUNA KATANA	61.8	NTHK Kanteisho	Oei (1394~1427)	¥600,000
13	A YOSHIKUNI KATANA	69.0		Keian (1648~1651)	¥550,000
14	A KANETSUJI KATANA	69.5	NTHK Kanteisho	Koji (1555~1557)	¥750,000
15	A TOSHINAGA KATANA	67.5	NTHK Kanteisho	Kanbun (1661~1672)	¥525,000
16	A YOSHISHIGE KATANA	62.9	NTHK Kanteisho	Showa (Pre WWII)	¥525,000
17	A NAGAHIRO KATANA	60.1		2nd Ansei (1855)	¥500,000
18	A NOBUKUNI KATANA	65.1	NTHK Kanteisho	Eikyo (~1429)	¥830,000
19	A SUKEMITSU KATANA	70.8	NBTHK Hozon	Late Edo (~1864)	¥295,000
20	A FUYUHIRO KATANA	67.0	Tokubetsu Kicho	Eiroku (1558~1570)	¥595,000
21	A KATSUKUNI KATANA	66.5	NBTHK Hozon	1st Genji (1864)	£4,000
22	A JUMYO WAKIZASHI	51.7		Mid Edo (~1750)	¥450,000
23	A SUKEHIRO WAKIZASHI	46.4	NTHK Kanteisho	Eisho (1504~1520)	¥600,000
24	AN IESUKE WAKIZASHI	49.2	NTHK Kanteisho	Tenbun(1532~1555)	¥600,000
25	A MASAIE WAKIZASHI	51.5	NBTHK Kicho	Muromachi Period	¥580,000
26	A SHIGEKUNI WAKIZASHI	40.8	NTHK Kanteisho	Genna (1615~1624)	¥750,000
27	A HARUMITSU WAKIZASHI	54.2	NTHK Kanteisho	Tensho (1573~1592)	¥650,000
28	A KANEMUNE WAKIZASHI	48.9	NBTHK Hozon	Tenbun (1532-1555)	¥625,000
29	A MASANOBU WAKIZASHI	49.5	NBTHK Hozon	Enpo (1673-1681)	¥600,000
30	A KOREKAZU WAKIZASHI	50.7	NTHK Kanteisho	Shoho (1645-1648)	¥555,000
31	AN IEMASA WAKIZASHI	53.8	NTHK Kanteisho	Meio (1492~1501)	¥625,000
32	A MORIMITSU WAKIZASHI	37.7	NBTHK Hozon	Oei (1394-1427)	¥1,450,000
33	A TADAKUNI WAKIZASHI	54.9	NBTHK Hozon	Jyokyo (1684-1688)	¥900,000
34	A MASAHIRO WAKIZASHI	53.8	NBTHK Hozon	Hoei (1704-1710)	¥760,000
35	A HIRAKUNI WAKIZASHI	32.4	NBTHK Hozon	Bunki (1501-1503)	¥580,000
36	A YUKIMITSU WAKIZASHI	52.5	NTHK Kanteisho	Genroku (1688-1704)	¥590,000
37	AN UJIFUSA WAKIZASHI	53.6		Kanbun (1661-1672)	¥560,000
38	A MASAKUNI WAKIZASHI	38.2	NTHK Kanteisho	3rd Kaei (1850)	¥595,000
39	A SUKEHIRO WAKIZASHI	41.9		4th Enpo (1676)	¥300,000
40	A YOSHIIE WAKIZASHI	53.6	Tokubetsu Kicho	3rd Enpo (1675)	¥495,000
41	A KANEFUSA WAKIZASHI	43.6	NTHK Kanteisho	Mid Edo (Early 1700s)	¥395,000
42	A SUKEMITSU WAKIZASHI	54.4	NTHK Kanteisho	Eiroku (1558~1570)	¥545,000
43	A KUNIYASU TANTO	27.6	Tokubetsu Kicho	Enpo (1673~1681)	¥520,000
44	A NOBUTAKA TANTO	20.0		Keicho (1596~1615)	¥530,000
45	A TSUNAHIRO TANTO	17.8	NTHK Kanteisho	Manji (1658-1660)	¥545,000
46	A YOSHIMITSU TANTO	21.3	NTHK Kanteisho	Daiei (1521~1527)	¥450,000
47	A NOBUKUNI TANTO	21.3	NTHK Kanteisho	Eikyo (1429~1441)	¥600,000
48	A HOKKE TANTO	29.8	NTHK Kanteisho	Tensho (1573~1592)	¥585,000
49	A KUNIKANE TANTO	21.2		Kanei (1624~1645)	¥200,000
50	A MUNEAKI TANTO	18.2	NBTHK Kicho	Bunkyu (1861~1863)	¥425,000
51	A TOKUMASA TANTO	20.5	NTHK Kanteisho	Keio (1865~1868)	¥350,000
52	AN UJISHIGE TANTO	20.4	NTHK Kanteisho	Meiwa (1764~1771)	¥400,000
53	A KANESHIGE NAGINATA	236	NTHK Kanteisho	Kanbun (1661~1672)	¥545,000



**1** (ITEM NO. UJGU010)

## A SADAHIDE ARMY GUNTO

SIGNED + DATED

12<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF SHOWA (AUGUST, 1937)

**Inscription:** 越中国住宮本貞秀造之 (omote) 昭和拾二年八月吉日 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** ECCHU KOKU JU MIYAMOTO SADAHIDE  
**Length (ubu):** 68.0cm  
**Curvature:** 1.5cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha* (straight temper line)  
**Included:** Gunto Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

**¥510,000 (~\$6,620)**

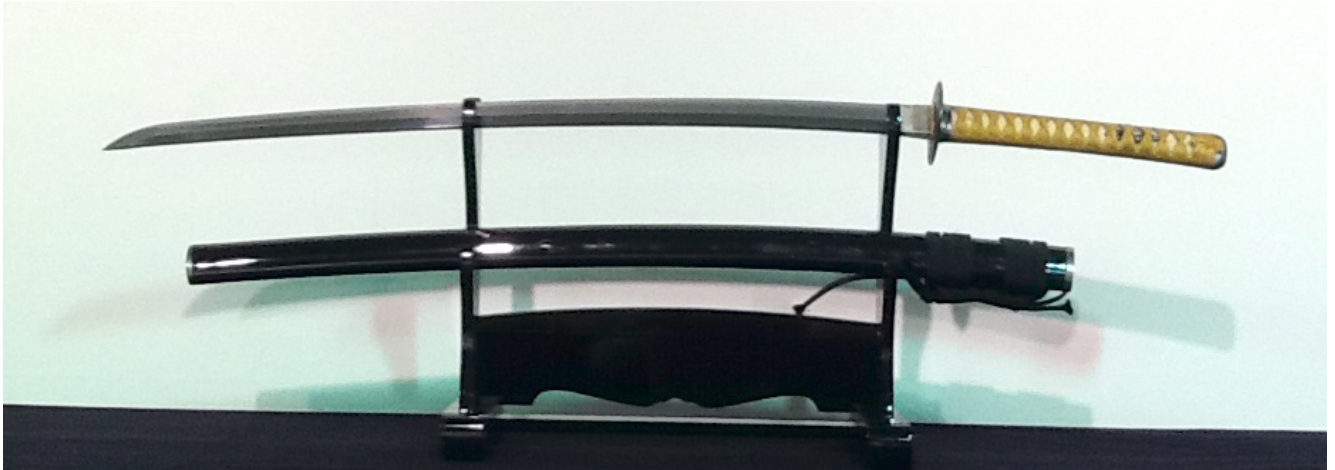
This is a very fine handcrafted WWII Army Gunto signed and dated “August 1937”.

Blessed with excellent curvature, this hand-forged sword was made just before the start of WWII. It is made completely by traditional methods - very rare to see in traditional Gunto swords.

All Army and Navy guntos carry a *sakura* (cherry blossom) *koshirae* (fittings) throughout. The *sakura* is the national flower of Japan and considered to be 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 all original to the blade. This is an important point to look for when investing in quality gunto swords such as this one.



**2** (ITEM NO. UJKA041)

## A SHINSHINTO KATANA

UNSIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (SHINSHINTO)  
CIRCA 1850

**Length (ubu):** 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 (~\$7,077)**

This is a remarkable 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 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.

During the Shinshinto period many swordsmiths drew great inspiration from the swords dating back to the Kamakura periods (circa 1200s). Many swords during this era took the shape and structure of swords in the 13th century.

A gold-colored silk *tsuka* (hilt) and other quality *koshirae* fittings make up this very enviable example from the Shinshinto period. It's heavy and very muscular.



**3** (ITEM NO. UJKA044)

## A MUSASHI DAIJO KOREKAZU KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD

SHOHO ERA (1644~1648)

**Location:** Musashi, Edo (Tokyo)

**Length (ubu):** 68.7cm

**Curvature:** 1.8cm

**Hamon:** *Daichoji Midare (large waves and cloves)*

**Certificate:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (A sword especially worthy of preserving issued by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)

**Included:** 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.



**4** (ITEM NO. UJKA047)

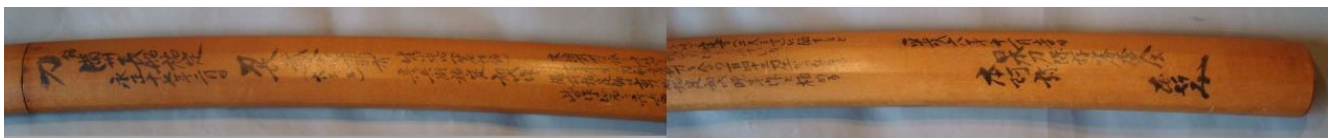
## A HIKOBEI SUKESADA KATANA

SIGNED + DATED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
17<sup>TH</sup> OF EISHO (FEBRUARY 1520)

**Location:** Bizen province (present day Okayama prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 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 Yosozaemon-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.



**5** (ITEM NO. UJKA052)

## 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 Important 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)**

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 tortoise shell design signifying a long and healthy life.



**6** (ITEM NO. UJKA053)

## A TADAKUNI KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD  
JOKYO ERA (1684~1688)

**Inscription:** 信濃大掾藤原忠国 (omote)  
**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 (~\$14,935)**

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-uchifuchi-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.



**7** (ITEM NO. UJKA055)

## A MORIIE KATANA

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
EISHO ERA (1504~1521)

**Inscription:** 豊州平高田盛家 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** HOSHU TAIRA TAKADA MORIIE  
**Length (ubu):** 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 (~\$13,636)**

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* (fittings) comprise of *shakudo* and its design is *Nanako-uchi* (tiny fish 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* (scabbard) is coated with the color of *shu*. A red *saya* holds only special swords...



**8** (ITEM NO. UJKA056)

## A SHODAI TAKAHIRA KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, EARLY EDO PERIOD

5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF KANEI (FEBRUARY 1628)

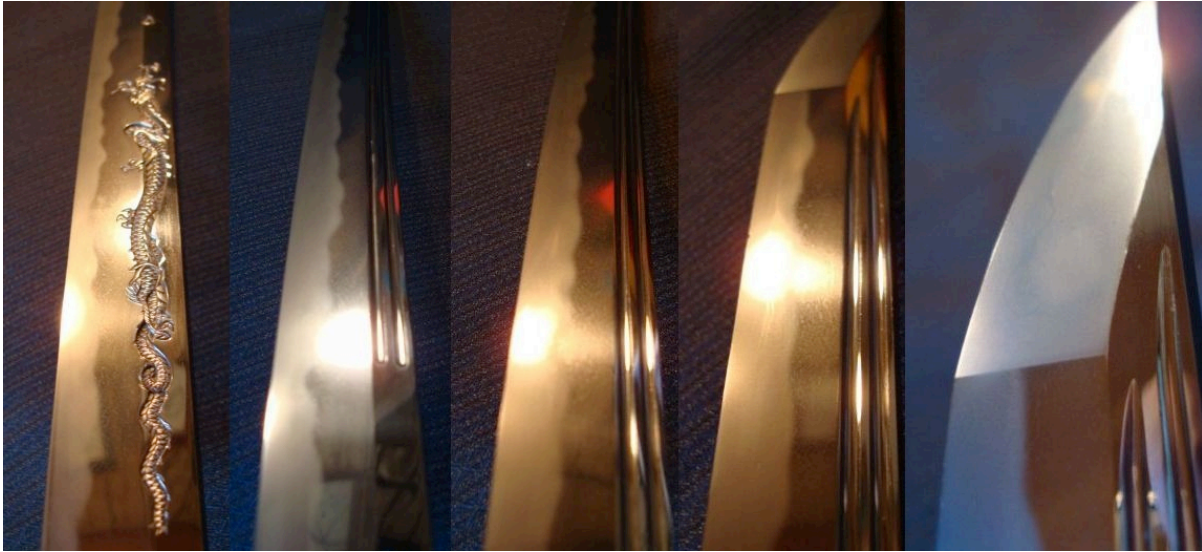
- Inscription:** 越中守藤原高平(omote) 寛永五年二月日(ura)
- Swordsmith:** ECCHU NO KAMI FUJIWARA NO TAKAHIRA
- Location:** Kaga province (present-day Kanazawa prefecture)
- Length (ubu):** 69.7cm
- Curvature:** 1.6cm
- Nakago:** Ubu (unaltered) Mekugi-ana (3)
- Hamon:** Gunome-midare, ji-nie resembling tani-hakoba with ashi, clear nioguchi and bright kinsuji
- Certificate:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (A sword designated as especially precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword in 1968)
- Fujishiro:** Jo-jo Saku (ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)
- Sayagaki:** A signed shirasaya authenticating the smith by Dr. Sato (Kanzan)
- Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

### *enquire about this item*

This is an important sword from an equally important smith from Japan's Shinto era. Born Kanewaka Jinroku, son of Yomosuke, upon receiving his title of **Ecchu no Kami** around Genna (1619, 1620) he changed his *mei* (inscription) to TAKAHIRA.

Ecchu no Kami Takahira is the first generation Kanewaka and this particular katana is considered *to be the best AND his very last work* as featured in the highly respected sword reference book *Shinto-Taikan* (page 122). There is also a description of the sword in the book *Kashu Shinto Taikan* (page 28). TAKAHIRA died later in the year this sword was made in 1628.

A glorious *fuchigaishira* signed by Yanagawa Naotsugu features a *shakudo-nanako* gold crest and old priest, plus a crane *takabori-iroe*. *Menuki* is also *shakudo-nanako* with the design of a crane.



9 (ITEM NO. UJKA057)

## A KURIHARA NOBUHIDE KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, LATE EDO PERIOD  
2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR OF BUNKYU (AUGUST 1862)

- Inscription:** 栗原謙司信秀 (omote) 文久二年八月日 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** KURIHARA KEJI NOBUHIDE  
**Location:** Kyoto  
**Length (ubu):** 72.1cm  
**Curvature:** 1.3cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome-midare, sunagashi and kinsuji*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Jojo-Saku* (Ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk katana bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

¥2,500,000 (~\$32,467)

One of the finest *horimono* (engravers) in the Shinshinto period, Kurihara Keiji Nobuhide is regarded as the supreme protégé of the infamous swordsmith Kiyomaro.

Born in Echigo province, Nobuhide originally travelled to Kyoto to become a mirror maker. After a short 2-year apprentice with Kiyomaro he struck it out on his own with tremendous success.

The skillfully engraved dragon on this commanding katana seems as if it's rising from the steel. Ranked as a highly superior swordsmith, works by Nobuhide are fondly treasured in Japan. This is a fine example of the talent this craftsman commanded.



**10** (ITEM NO. UJKA058)

## A KIYOMITSU KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD  
2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR OF EIROKU (AUGUST 1559)

**Inscription:** 備前国住長船清光作 (omote) 永禄二年八月日 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** BIZEN NO KUNI JU OSAFUNE KIYOMITSU  
**Location:** Bizen province (present-day Okayama prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 67.6cm  
**Curvature:** 1.5cm  
**Hamon:** Wide *suguha* and *notare*, *gunome* and *choji midare*, *midare-utsuri*  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Hozon (A sword designated as worthy of conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Jo-Saku* (Ranked as a superior swordsmith)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥2,500,000 (~\$32,467)**

The Kiyomitsu family were prestigious *Bizen* swordmakers in the Late Muromachi Period. This is a stunning katana made by the second generation (*ni-dai*) known as *Magouemon-no-jo Kiyomitsu* who is the son of *Gorozaemon*.

Fujishiro judged his work to be superior, clearly evident in this katana. A strong *hakikakeboshi* (brush-stroke tip) formed of *nie* crystals demonstrates such skill.

The *koshirae* is made by a metalsmith from Mino province. *Fuchigashira* is *shakudo-nanako-uchi*, its design is the flower of *kiku* (chrysanthemum, the emblem of the Imperial family) with gold high relief engraving (*takabori*).

There is a dragon gold engraving in the *mimi* (the edge of *tsuba*). A pure gold *ise-ebi* (Japanese lobster) *menuki* and a *saya* polished in lacquer with gold dusting caps off this delightful katana.



## 11 (ITEM NO. UJKA059)

### A KANEUJI KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD

KYOHO ERA (1716~1735)

- Inscription:** 志津三郎兼氏 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** SHIZU SABURO KANEUJI  
**Location:** Mino province (present-day Gifu prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 69.8cm  
**Curvature:** 1.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome-midare, notare-kokoro, sunagashi, ashi, nie-kuzure, shirake-utsuri*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

¥2,000,000 (~\$25,974)

Swordsmith Shizu Saburo Kaneuji shares the same name as his great ancestor who originally worked in the Tegai style in Yamato province (Nara) from 1313 - 1315.

Kaneuji then went on to study with the finest swordsmith of all time, **Goro Nyudo Masamune** in Kamakura. He is thought by many to be the best of the *Masamune Jutetsu*, the ten students of Masamune.

Shinto period Kaneuji from Okaki in Noshu (Gifu prefecture), which this blade represents, has succeeded to replicate the extraordinary sword making traditions from the past that the great Koto period Kaneuji helped pioneer in this tremendous katana.

The meandering *hamon* (temper line) is truly spectacular containing an impressive amount of *hataraki* (distinctive features). The sword is further blessed with an exquisite set of Edo-period fittings that include a *shakudo tsuba* (guard) of pine trees, and a *shakudo menuki* (hilt ornaments) depicting *onigawara* - a charm against evil spirits.



**12** (ITEM NO. UJKA060)

## A NAOTSUNA KATANA

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
OEI ERA (1394~1427)

**Swordsmith:** SEKISHU NAOTSUNA 石州直綱 (attribution)  
**Location:** Mino province (present-day Gifu prefecture)  
**Length:** 61.8cm  
**Curvature:** 1.7cm  
**Hamon:** *Nakayaki-haba and ko-notare, Ko-midare, stripes in hachu*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥600,000 (~\$7,792)**

First generation Naotsuna was traditionally considered to be one of the ten great students of Masamune during the early 1300s.

This 600-year old katana was attributed to the third generation Naotsuna and features a very high *shinogi* (ridge line) composing of an attractive *hamon* and a thin *kasane* (thickness).

*Kashira* is *shakudo-nanako-uchi* and depicting *ume* (Japanese apricot trees) and a bird. *Fuchi* is *shakudo-nanakouchi* and its design is of a dog playing in the fields.

*Menuki*'s design is of a gold *tsukushi* - a much loved field horsetail plant in Japan that appears in early spring.

The rustic *tsuba*(guard) is made out of iron in a *Mokko-gata* shape featuring a wild golden goose flying above.

The *saya* (scabbard) is lacquered antique green with sharkskin.



**13** (ITEM NO. UJKA061)

## A YOSHIKUNI KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD  
KEIAN ERA (1648~1651)

**Inscription:** 筑州柳川住吉国 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** CHIKUSHU YANAGAWA JU YOSHIKUNI  
**Location:** Chikugoprovince (present-day Saga prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 69.0cm  
**Curvature:** 0.6cm  
**Hamon:** *Notare and gunome-midare*  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥550,000 (~\$7,142)**

Swordsmith Onizuka Yoshikuni from the Hizen no Kuni Tadayoshi School moved to Yamagawa in Chikugo (Saga prefecture in Kyushu) during Kanbun era(1661-1672).

The sword looks like a Hizen sword, but the curvature is shallower. This katana is typical of those used in Satsuma Jigen-ryu – a traditional swordsmanship school from the 16<sup>th</sup> century that placed an emphasis on an overwhelmingly strong first strike.

*Fuchigashira* (collar and pommel) are metal fittings for *handachi* (half-tachi koshirae) and made out of a copper and gold. The *menuki* (ornamental grips) are of gold *shisa lions* (dogs) with *yo-bori* engraving to bring spiritual protection to the piece.

The *tsuba* is made out of iron in the form of a beautiful blossoming chrysanthemum (*kiku*) – the national flower of Japan used by the Imperial family.

The *saya* (scabbard) is of black *kawari-saya* (an advanced lacquering technique) wrapped in a unique sharkskin kimono-like *obi*.



**14** (ITEM NO. UJKA062)

## A KANETSUJI KATANA

UNSIGNED, LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD  
KOJI ERA (1555~1557)

- Swordsmith:** NOSHU SEKI JU KANETSUJI 濃州関住兼辻 (attribution)  
**Location:** Mino province (present-day Gifu prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 69.5cm  
**Curvature:** 2.0cm  
**Hamon:** *Sugu-yakidashi, togari, ko-gunome-midare*  
**Certificate:** NTHK *Kanteisho* (A sword designated as important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Handachi Koshirae, shirasaya, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥750,000 (~\$9,740)**

Although there were numerous swordsmiths with the prefix “Kane” working in Mino province in the late Muromachi period, swordsmith KANETSUJI rose above the masses.

This is a brilliant 450-year-old katana that holds a well-forged *itame-hada* (plank grain steel body) with a magnificent *ko-gunome hamon* (small wavy temper line). It has a fine curvature of 2cm, which gives the piece elegance.

Complimenting the blade is very well preserved *handachi koshirae* (half-tachi mount) that is also several hundred years old, hailing from the same period the blade was made.

All fittings are made out of prestigious *shakudo*. The design of the *fuchi* (collar) is of a *tsurukusa* (vine) that is engraved with a lovely carving technique known as *katagiri-bori*, which uses a chisel in the same way as a traditional Japanese calligraphy brush.

The *menuki* (ornamental grips) depicts an ox carriage lined with waves of gold. The iron *tsuba* (guard) made for a genuine tachi with *ino-me* (eyes of a wild boar) signifies courage and determination. The *saya* (scabbard) is lacquered in dark-brown with matte *ishime-hada* covered in dustings of gold.



**15** (ITEM NO. UJKA063)

## A TOSHINAGA KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD  
KANBUN ERA (1661~1672)

**Swordsmith:** DEN NOSHU SEKI TOSHINAGA 伝濃州関寿命 (attribution)  
**Location:** Mino province (present-day Gifu prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 67.5cm  
**Curvature:** 0.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Nakayaki-haba, togari, ko-gunome-midare*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥525,000 (~\$6,818)**

Over the centuries in Japan, several swordsmiths, signed with an inscription (Toshinaga), but he who signed Toshinaga from Mino province is highly regarded.

This is a muscular katana with a shallow curvature and wavy temper line making it an ideal sword for use in *Satsuma Jigen-ryu* - a traditional swordsmanship school from the 16th century that placed an emphasis on an awe-inspiring overhead first strike.

The handsome *koshirae* (fittings) feature a *fuchi* (collar) with *shisa lions* (for spiritual protection) and *botan* (peony - the king of flowers) all engraved in gold *takabori*.

The *menuki* (grips) are of gold dragons, appropriate, as 2012 is the *Year of the Dragon*.

The *o-tsuba* (oversized iron guard) is *mokko-shaped* (with a floating cloud design of *Jumonji* made by a gold inlay technique known as *Zogan*). The Satsuma domain *kamon* (family crest) is a *Jyumonji* (a cross within circle), drawing a fine parallel with the blade.

The *saya* is well protected and polished in lacquer with scatterings of gold chips in its decor. Minor surface scratches exist on the blade.



**16** (ITEM NO. UJKA064)

## A YOSHISHIGE KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY SHOWA PERIOD  
(PRE WWII)

- Inscription:** 良重 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** YOSHISHIGE  
**Location:** Mino province (present-day Gifu prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 62.9cm  
**Curvature:** 1.2cm  
**Hamon:** *Sugu-yakidashi, togari, ko-gunome-midare*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Koshirae, silk katana bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, and all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥525,000 (~\$6,818)**

This is a very classy katana signed with a two character inscription by YOSHISHIGE made just years before the start of WWII.

Complimenting the sword is a unique matching set of antique *fuchi-kashira* (collar & pommel) from the Edo period of iron and silver inlay in the design of garden peas wrapped within vines.

During the Edo-period, farmers were highly respected, ranking just below Samurai in the rigid class-structure of the time. This is a tribute to the glory of nature.

The *menuki* (ornamental grips) is made out of gorgeous *shakudo* and gold *takabori* in the design of a *kiku* (chrysanthemum, the imperial flower of Japan).

The expertly made *maru-tsuba* (round tsuba) is made out of *yamagane* (a type of copper) in the form of an *Ume* (Japanese plum) and a daffodil. The *saya* (scabbard) is lacquered in green exquisitely inlaid with mother of pearl and finely polished.



**17** (ITEM NO. UJKA065)

## A NAGAHIRO KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, LATE EDO PERIOD  
2ND YEAR OF ANSEI (FEBRUARY 1855)

**Inscription:** 長州住藤田永弘作之 (omote) 安政二年二月日 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** CHOSHU JU FUJITA NAGAHIRO  
**Location:** Choshu province (present-day Yamaguchi prefecture)  
**Length:** 60.1cm  
**Curvature:** 1.1cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome-midare with tight itame-hada*  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk katana bags, sword stand, DVD, maintenance kit, printed care guide, all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥500,000 (~\$6,493)**

Nagahiro Fujita (born Fujita Kaneware) was a respected smith for the *Chōshū Han* (Choshu Feudal Domain) descendants of the infamous Sengoku warlord Mōri Motonari from 1497-1571.

According to a famous legend still taught today, Motonari, is said to have handed each of his sons an arrow and asked each to snap it. After each snapped his arrow, Motonari produced three arrows and asked his sons to snap all three at once. When they were unable to do so, Motonari explained that one arrow could be broken easily, but three arrows together could not.

Above all, this is a well-constructed blade. This is evident when admiring the very tight *itame-hada* (plank grain body) and its delightful *gunome-midare hamon* (wavy temper line).

This katana was dated the 2nd year of Ansei, 1855. The name *Ansei* means "tranquil government", and was created to herald in a peaceful period in Japan. The motivation behind this change of era name was said to have been the burning of the Imperial Palace in Kyoto during the preceding summer.

In fact 1855 was when work officially began to reconstruct the palace in Kyoto. It should also be noted that US Naval Commander Perry arrived in Yokosuka in 1853, only two years prior.

The striking green silk hilt wrap with Edo-period mounts features a combination of *willows and swallows, vines, rice biscuits and seashells*. Paying tribute to the Motonari legend, the *menuki* is of a gold arrow and a bracer (arm guard). This is superb display piece with a great little story.



**18** (ITEM NO. UJKA066)

## A NOBUKUNI KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI  
EIKYO ERA (~1429)

- Swordsmith:** SHIKIBUNOJO NOBUKUNI (attribution)  
**Location:** Yamashiro province (present-day Kyoto area)  
**Length:** 65.1cm  
**Curvature:** 2.1cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome and gunome that is divided into two, a trait of Nobukuni (Yahazu midare), kinsen and sunagashi, ji-nie, and utsuri*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (a sword designated as important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Jo-Saku* (ranked as a superior swordsmith)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, silk brocade katana bag, sword stand, DVD, maintenance kit, printed care guide, all legal paperwork to export to home country

**¥830,000 (~\$10,779)**

Son of Saemonnojo Nobukuni, Shikibunojo Nobukuni is a prestigious swordsmith ranked with the likes of Bizen's Morimitsu and Yoshimitsu. Early on his was known as Nobusada.

Works span from the Oei (~1394) to Eikyo (~1429). The *hamon* (temper line) is very distinctive, in some places two continuous *gunome* are fused together, becoming *yahazu* (fish-tail shaped). The Nobukuni School is highly stard for their *horimono* (engravings).

The koshirae is pure masterclass. *Fuchigashira* is signed by *Toshishige* from the Nara school made out of *shakudo-nanakow* with gold *yo-bori* in the design of *shisa lions* spiritually guarding the sword as they do at the entrance of Shinto shrines.

The *menuki* is made out of *shakudo* and *yo-bori* depicting the jolly *Hotei* (one of the Seven Gods of Fortune). A big round iron *tsuba* with gold inlay in the design of *Karashishi* (lion) and *botan* (peonies, the king of Japanese flowers) along with a *kozuka* (paper knife) and *kogai* (ear pick) representing dragons and folding fans and waves. A Daimyo family surely owned this sword.



**19** (ITEM NO. UJKA037)

## A MITO SUKEMITSU KATANA

UNSIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD  
(CIRCA 1864)

**Swordsmith:** MITO SUKEMITSU  
**Location:** Mito domain (present day Ibaraki prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 70.8cm  
**Curvature:** 0.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare* (random waves)  
**Certificate:** **NBTHK Hozon** (A sword designated worthy of conserving by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** *Shirasaya*, 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.



**20** (ITEM NO. UJKA051)

## A FUYUHIRO KATANA

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

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

**¥595,000 (~\$7,727)**

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 very reputable state.

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



**21** (ITEM NO. UJKA033)

## A KATSUKUNI KATANA

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

- Inscription:** 加州住勝国 (omote) 元治元年八月日 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** KASHU JU KATSUKUNI  
**Location:** Kashu province (Kanazawa, northern Japan)  
**Length (ubu):** 66.5cm (ubu)  
**Curvature:** 1.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Sanbonsugi* (three cedar zigzag temperline)  
**Certificate:** *NBTHK Hozon* (A sword worthy of preserving issued by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** *Koshirae* (sword mounts), *shirasaya* (magnolia scabbard), brocade carry bag, maintenance kit, DVD, illustrated maintenance guide, sword stand

**£4,000 (~\$6,500)**



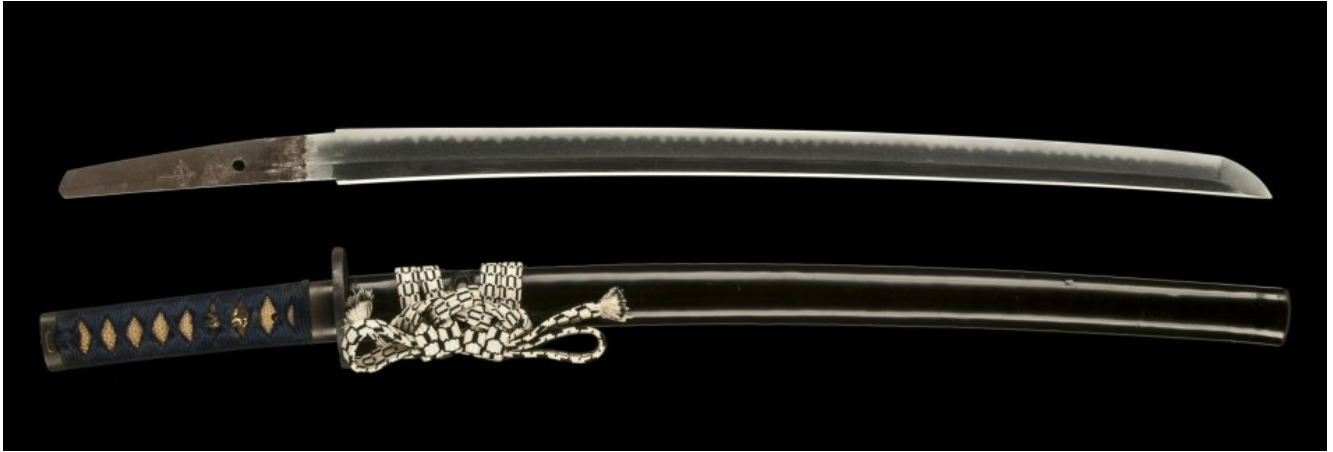
Pablo Kuntz, the founder of Unique Japan had the privilege of appearing on a TV series called *Dealers* on Discovery Channel where he showcased two brilliant Samurai swords.

[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.



**22** (ITEM NO. UJWA041)

## A JUMYO WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MID-EDO PERIOD  
(CIRCA 1780)

**Swordsmith:** JUMYO SCHOOL SMITH  
**Length (ubu):** 51.7cm  
**Curvature:** 0.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome* (wavy temper line)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥450,000 (~\$5,844)**

Their unique name, *Jumyo*, means “long life”. As it’s meaning is so hopeful, that their swords were prized as celebrated gifts to *Daimyo* (great) families amongst the Samurai class.

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

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

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

A precise symmetric wavy *gunome hamon* (temper line) is most certainly the focal point of this little gem.



**23** (ITEM NO. UJWA061)

## A SUKEHIRO WAKIZASHI

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

- Inscription:** 相州住助広 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** SOSHU JU SUKEHIRO  
**Location:** Soshu province (Kamakura area)  
**Length (ubu):** 46.4cm  
**Curvature:** 1.3cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome and togari with some nijuba*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (sword designated as important 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 (~\$7,792)**

The Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword (NTHK) judged this sword as fifth generation Soshu Ju Sukehiro of the Eisho Era (1504~1520), 500 years ago.

Signed Soshu tradition swords are a rare treat and Sukehiro is a highly ranked swordsmith. Soshu traditions can be traced back to the great *Masamune*.

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

Referees in Sumo tournaments carry a similar *gunbai*, and use it to point to the winner of each match.

A *shakudo* polished *tsuba* (guard) finishes off this unique piece of history.



**24** (ITEM NO. UJWA062)

## AN IESUKE WAKIZASHI SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD TENBUN ERA (1532~1555)

- Inscription:** 家助 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** KAGA NO KUNI IESUKE  
**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:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, exportation paperwork to home country

**¥600,000 (~\$7,792)**

This is a brilliant wakizashi that has recently been given a full polish and it simply looks amazing.

The *hamon* is chock full of activity including 'bari bari' *utsuri*, for sword aficionados, this is steel craftsmanship to truly appreciate.

It was awarded NTHK Kanteisho as KAGA NO KUNI IESUKE who was a swordsmith that lived in the Tenbun Era (1532-1555) in Kanazawa.

The classy koshirae is dominated by an arabesque motif for the *fuchigashira* (collar and pommel).

*Menuki* (ornamental grips in the hilt) is of a Japanese fan and *sakura* (cherry blossom), the national tree of Japan.



**25** (ITEM NO. UJWA057)

## A MASAIE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
15-16TH CENTURY

- Inscription:** 三原住正家 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** MIHARA JU MASAIE  
**Location:** Mihara (Bingo province, Hiroshima area)  
**Length (ubu):** 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:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥580,000 (~\$7,532)**

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 splendid Masaie wakizashi was made by a succeeding generation of Masaie during the Muromachi period, approximately 500 years ago.

The sword makes for a marvelous display piece, blessed with a beautiful set of *koshirae* fittings inspired by the spiritual and revered three-clawed Japanese dragon.

The very decorative *tsuba* (guard) is in a *four-lobed mokko* shape. Its unique name is derived from the cross section of a tree melon. The powerful and highly influential *Oda Daimyo Family Clan* proudly carried the *Mokka kamon* (crest).



**26** (ITEM NO. UJWA063)

## A SHIGEKUNI NANKI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD

GENNA ERA (1615~1624)

- Swordsmith:** MONJU NO SHIGEKUNI NANKI (attribution)  
**Length (ubu):** 40.8cm  
**Curvature:** 0.9cm  
**Hamon:** *Naka-Suguha, kuichigaiba, koashi in hachu*  
**Jihada:** *Itame nagare* (rolling grain) and *masame* (straight grain)  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Sai-josaku* (ranked as a *grandmaster swordsmith*)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, exportation paperwork to home country

**¥750,000 (~\$9,740)**

Shigekuni was grandmaster (*Sai-josaku*) swordsmith, one of the finest smiths of Shinto period (1596~1751). His skill was regularly compared with the likes of Horikawa Kunihiro among all the Keicho Shinto smiths. His strength lay in his production of clear and bright *jihada*(body) and a *ha* (cutting edge) that was second to none among his contemporaries.

Shigekuni belonged to the *Monju-ha* of the Yamato Tegai School and served Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu as one of his personal sword makers. After Ieyasu passed away in 1616, Shigekuni followed Ieyasu's tenth son, Yorinobu to Wakayama in Kishu where Yorinobu founded the Kishu Tokugawa family that became one of the three main Tokugawa families.

This formidable wakizashi holds all the hallmarks of Shigekuni, including a clean *masame* (straight grain) steel structure and extended *kissaki* (tip). The *koshirae* (fittings) consist of a *koi* (golden carp) cascading up a waterfall, reaching enlightenment upon the successful climb.

*Menuki* is made out of *shakudo* designed as an extended pine tree. The *tsukamaki* (hilt wrap) is a very rare type called *Jyabara-maki* (string wrap) with sharkskin and an *o-tsubu* (a large node). The *maru-tsuba* (round guard) is made from *shakudo* and encompasses a **Christian cross**, which is also remarkably rare. This is a highly collectible piece of Japanese history.



**27** (ITEM NO. UJWA064)

## A HARUMITSU WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD

TENSHO ERA (1573~1592)

- Swordsmith:** BISHU OSAFUNE HARUMITSU (attribution)  
**Location:** Bizen province (Okayama prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 54.2cm  
**Curvature:** 2.0cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome choji with tobiyaki*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥650,000 (~\$8,441)**

Harumitsu was a swordsmith that was working a little more than 400 years ago in the Bizen province, better known as the Sword Kingdom in Japan.

In classic Bizen form, the blade has a wavy *gunome hamon* based on a pattern of cloves or *choji*. A scattering of *tobi-yaki* fills parts of the sword, an influence from the Soshu traditional techniques from Kamakura it would appear.

The *koshirae* (fittings) consist of a matching set that feature depictions of the powerful Japanese dragon in *shakudo* (a gold and copper bullion)

A remarkably rare *shin-chu tsuba* (guard) is signed *Setsuzan*, which was the former name of *Nagatsune*. Its design is one of the pictures of sixteen *Rakan* (Arhat) in Buddhism. *Rakan* is said to have vowed to stay in this world to protect the Law of the Buddha.

On the right hand side of the *tsuba*, there is an old priest, whereas on the left, one can see a little red demon. The red demon is timidly giving a pearl of fire to him. This indicates that the old priest (*Rakan*) has great power to lead, *even a demon* to the teachings of the Buddha! *Seppa* is shaved in order not to interfere with the design of the edge circle of *Rakan* and the hand of the red demon.



**28** (ITEM NO. UJWA065)

## A KANEMUNE WAKIZASHI SIGNED, END OF MUROMACHI TENBUN ERA (1532-1555)

<b>Inscription:</b>	大和国包宗 (omote)
<b>Swordsmith:</b>	YAMATO NO KUNI KANEMUNE
<b>Length:</b>	48.9cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	0.8cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome midare (circular waves) with sunagashi (sand streaks), 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 (~\$8,116)**

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 technically reserved for swords made after 1594. However, the Tenbun Era is around the end of Muromachi period and when examining the antique state of the *nakago* (tang), this is clearly a sword closer to 500 years old from the Koto period.

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 is referred to as *suguha yakidashi*.

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



**29** (ITEM NO. UJWA066)

## A MASANOBU WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD  
ENPO ERA (1673~1681)

**Inscription:** 土佐守正信 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** TOSA NO KAMI MASANOBU  
**Length (ubu):** 49.5cm  
**Curvature:** 1.0cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome midare (wavy temper line with sunagashi)*  
**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

**¥600,000 (~\$7,792)**

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

This is a splendid wakizashi with an outstanding wavy *hamon* beautifully complimented with a matching set of fittings of Japan's imperial flower, the *kiku* (chrysanthemum).

The *fuchigashira* (collar/pommel) is made from *shakudo* in Mino tradition and the artwork features a butterfly nestled within the flowers. A most unique iron *tsuba* depicts Japan's most celebrated of symbols, Mt. Fuji. It is a fitting tribute to Masanobu's home province.

There is also a charming *kozuka* (paper knife) nestled in the *saya* made out of *shakudo* in the form of a *koto* (Japanese stringed musical instrument) with a bouquet of flowers with inscription "Inoue Shinkai". Inoue-san worked in *Settsu* (Osaka) during the early Edo period.

Inoue-san was also called "大坂正宗" (Osaka's Masamune). Many katana and tachi made by this smith are treated as *Important Cultural Properties of Japan*.



**30** (ITEM NO. UJWA067)

## A KOREKAZU WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD  
SHOHO ERA (1645~1648)

**Swordsmith:** MUSASHI DAIJO KOREKAZU (attribution)  
**Location:** Edo province (modern-day Tokyo)  
**Length:** 50.7cm  
**Curvature:** 1.0cm  
**Hamon:** *Gyaku-choji (reverse clove pattern temper line)*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥555,000 (~\$7,207)**

Korekazu was one of the most celebrated swordsmiths during the Shinto era (1596-1751). Korekazu was a member of the *Ishido School* and he eventually became the finest swordsmith of the Edo *Ishido School* about 350 years ago.

The *Ishido school* smiths were best known for their ability to make swords in the *Bizen* tradition of the *Ichimonji School*. They strived to reproduce the masterful swords made during the *Heian* and *Kamakura* eras during the 12th-13th centuries.

This excellent wakizashi holds a very distinctive *hamon* that was Korekazu's signature. It is called *gyaku-choji* (reverse choji) where clove blossoms are flipped to form a beautifully artistic pattern along the length of the blade.

The magnificent *koshirae* (fittings) are a set of matching mounts that celebrate the iconic dragonfly. The Samurai revered the dragonfly as when it flew, it flew forward in formation, never retreating. It is a testament to the person who decides on a certain course of conduct, and lives true to such purpose without wavering.



**31** (ITEM NO. UJWA068)

## AN IEMASA WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
MEIO ERA (1492~1501)

- Swordsmith:** IEMASA (2nd generation attribution)  
**Length:** 53.8cm  
**Curvature:** 1.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome Midare (wild wavy temper line)*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (sword designated as Important 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)**

At the time when Christopher Columbus was sailing the ocean blue, swordsmith Iemasa from Echizen (modern-day Fukui, Japan) was crafting another one of his fine swords.

Iemasa belonged to the Chiyozuru school, which first began with Kuniyasu who apprenticed under Rai Kuniyasu. Chiyozuru Kuniyasu left Kyoto in 1337 looking for water suitable to forge his swords. Chiyozuru was actually Kuniyasu's nickname.

The most renowned smiths of the Chiyozuru School were the two generations of Kuniyasu, Morihiro, Morishige, Ieyasu, Iemasa and Ieyoshi. The number of works this school of smiths left behind is small, so any find is a little piece of Japanese treasure.

This particular sword is an attractive *o-wakizashi* (long wakizashi) that is distinctively regal in appearance. The *hamon* (temper line) is waves beautifully along the course of the blade and the *jihada* (body) is well-forged *itame* (plank grain).

The *koshirae* (fittings) pay tribute to the *tombo* (dragonfly), with a skillfully designed *fuchigashira* (collar/pommel) that is signed 山本□光花押 (*Yamamoto kou Kaou, Authentic*). The dragonfly theme continues onto the *tsuba* (guard) and *menuki* (ornamental grips) entwined within the uniquely mauve colored *tsuka* (hilt).



**32** (ITEM NO. UJWA069)

## A MORIMITSU WAKIZASHI

SIGNED + DATED, MUROMACHI PERIOD, OEI ERA (1394~1427)

<b>Inscription:</b>	○州長船盛光 (omote)	○年十月 (ura)
<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>BISHU OSAFUNE MORIMITSU</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	Bishu province (Okayama prefecture)	
<b>Length (ubu):</b>	37.7cm	
<b>Curvature:</b>	0.5 cm	
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Choji-midare, wild cloves that resemble Mt. Fuji, a trait of Morimitsu</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>Fujishiro:</b>	<i>Jo-saku</i> (ranked as a superior swordsmith of his generation)	
<b>Included:</b>	Vintage koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.	

**¥ 1,450,000 (~\$18,831)**

Bizen Osafune *Shuri no Suke Morimitsu* is one of the *Oei no San Mitsu* (three "Mitsu" smiths of the Oei era 1394~1427) during the early Muromachi period. The other two of the three are his father *Moromitsu* and his younger brother *Yasumitsu*. The three smiths together are considered to be the finest swordsmiths active during this period.

Kokan Nagayama author of *The Connoisseurs Book of Japanese Swords* writes that these three smiths are "very famous and excellent (p 184)." Today many highly rated swords exist from these three masters at the most prestigious levels, including *Kokuho* (National Treasures).

A most splendid and unique *koshirae* embraces this wakizashi. The *kokutan* (ebony) handle is accented with *konjiki* gold deities *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi* (represented by the stars Vega and Altair respectively). According to legend, the Milky Way separates these lovers, allowed to meet *only once a year* on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month of the luni-solar calendar.

The *kawari-saya* (scabbard) is *uguisu* lacquered (olive-green) with gold and black in the likeness of falling rain. *Han-tachi* (half tachi) elements made of *shibuichi* alloy contain the fearless *tombo* (dragonfly), butterfly and ladybird. Sword has Daimyo registration no. 443 in 1951.



**33** (ITEM NO. UJWA070)

## A TADAKUNI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED WITH MARK OF THE CHRYSANTHEMUM  
EDO PERIOD, JYOKYO ERA (1684-1688)

- Inscription:** 播磨守藤原忠国 (omote) [菊紋] 以南蛮鉄作 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** HARIMA NO KAMI FUJIWARA NO TADAKUNI  
**Location:** Hizen province (Hyogo prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 54.9cm  
**Curvature:** 1.3 cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha*  
**Jihada:** *Komokume-hada* (tight burl grains) and *nagareru* (running grains)  
**Certificate:** **NBTHK Hozon** (asword designated as worthy of conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Jo-saku* (ranked as a superior swordsmith of his generation)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services to home country

**¥900,000 (~\$11,688)**

This is an exceptional *o-wakizashi* (long wakizashi) by one of the finest swordsmiths in Hizen province during the early Edo period, second generation Tadakuni.

The *nakago* proudly stamped with the *kikumon* (a chrysanthemum) the emblem of the imperial family - a testament to the quality of work Tadakuni produced. On the opposite side, it reads that the sword was made in part with *namban-tetsu*, imported steel from Europe, which is rare.

The blade is blessed with a perfectly straight *suguha* temper line in a tight burl grain pattern (*ko-mokume*) that is characteristic of swords made in the Hizen province. Many scholars suggest the reason for this distinctively clean body was for the fact the steel was a mixture of this imported steel. To this day, Hizen swords are much prized by collectors worldwide.

*Fuchigashira* is made out of *shakudo* in the form of a wild goose. Gold *menuki* work features an unusual collection of horse equipment; a whip and a *kutsuwa* (a bit) and an *abumi* (a stirrup). *Tsuba* is a mixture of *shinchu*, gold, *shakudo* and *copper* from Nara-school featuring artwork of flying plover birds soaring over large waves and traditional Japanese pine trees. An antique *saya* (scabbard) is protected in black lacquer and polished.



**34** (ITEM NO. UJWA071)

## A MASAHIRO WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD  
HOEI ERA (1704-1710)

**Inscription:** 肥州河内大掾藤原正広 (omote)  
**Location:** Hizen province (Saga prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 53.8cm  
**Curvature:** 1.6 cm  
**Hamon:** *O-midare and gunome-midare and notare*  
**Certificate:** **NBTHK Hozon** (sword designated as worthy of conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥760,000 (~\$9,870)**

Fourth generation Masahiro comes from a highly respected family of swordsmiths from Hizen province beginning with Masahiro Shodai in the Kanei era (~1624).

This delightful *o-wakizashi* (long wakizashi) is signed and carries a more artistic wavy flavor in its *hamon* (temper line). This is in contrast to the majority of Hizen province swords that are characterized by straighter temper lines known as *suguha*.

The *koshirae* (fittings) have a rich earthy tone, which gives this sword a feeling of pure sophistication. The *fuchi-gashira* (collar and pommel) is made from *shakudo-nanako* with *yobori* gold carvings depicting bamboo, symbolizing strength and vitality.

The *menuki* (ornamental grips) are made from *shakudo* gold with *yo-bori* gold carvings of a tortoise – the iconic tribute to one's hope for health and longevity.

A fabulous iron *tsuba* in the shape of an *ume* (plum blossom) is accented with a *five-mokko* pattern with inlays of gold designs of seaweed. *Saya* (scabbard) is lacquered in a chocolate brown color decorated with a sprinkled surfaced known as *ishime-hada*.



**35** (ITEM NO. UJWA072)

## A HIRAKUNI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
BUNKI ERA (1501~1503)

**Swordsmith:** UDA HIRAKUNI (attribution)  
**Location:** Ecchu province (Toyama prefecture)  
**Length:** 32.4cm  
**Curvature:** 0.1 cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha and notare, togari-shin and gunome*  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Hozon (sword designated as worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥580,000 (~\$7,532)**

The antique *shirasaya* that holds this interesting wakizashi reads (*sayagaki*) that it was made by Hokke Ichijo, which a very prestigious smith from Bingo province in the early 15th century. A respected polisher within our circles believes the sword could be made by Naoe-Shizu from the Nambokucho era (14th century).

As the piece is unsigned, it's up for interpretation. The experts at the NBTHK have given the nod to Uda Hirakuni, which is a relatively conservative assessment. This sword feels older and more valuable that its certification leads it to be.

The very pleasing antique *koshirae* (fittings) is one based on a nautical theme of a plover birds flying free above the waves below. The *kawari-saya* is made with crushed mother-of-pearl sprinkled delicately with depictions of white plover birds within.

The *saya'skoikuchi* (mouth) and *kurigata* (thread hole) are beautifully wrapped by *samegawa* (ray skin) that has been dyed green.



**36** (ITEM NO. UJWA073)

## A YUKIMITSU WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD

GENROKU ERA (1688~1704)

- Inscription:** 豊後住行光 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** BUNGO JU YUKIMITSU  
**Location:** Bungoprovince (Oita prefecture)  
**Length:** 52.5cm  
**Curvature:** 1cm  
**Hamon:** Gunome and choji-midare  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services to home country

**¥590,000 (~\$7,662)**

Swordsmith Yukimitsu of Bungo province is a famous name in the Takada School, to which he belonged to. According to Kokan Nagayama, author of the *The Connoisseurs Book of Japanese Swords*, Bungo province produced "excellent swordsmiths from as Yukihiro during Koto times", and that members of the Takada School appear to "satisfy more practical than artistic needs."

This signed wakizashi is one such sword that is not only rather artistic in his flowing *hamon* (temper line), but it's also muscular and robust, meant for battle if so needed.

*Fuchigashira* (collar and pommel fittings) are made from *shibuichi* (a kind of Japanese alloy) with depictions of *Ebisu* (the lucky god of fishers or merchants) and *Daikoku* (the lucky god of wealth, commerce and trade). *Ebisu* is shown with his trusted fishing rod and familiar sea bream.

The gold *shakudoyobori*-carved *menuki* is of a rat. This is symbolic as the clever rat is often seen as the symbol of *Daikoku*. A rat is revered in Japan and has the natural ability to be successful.

*Tsuba* is made from *kashi-tetsu* (a type of iron) smartly inscribed by the maker, 長州住 友之 (*Choshu ju Tomoyuki*). Its unique design is of vines. The *saya* is black-lacquered and polished.



**37** (ITEM NO. UJWA074)

## AN UJIFUSA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD

KANBUN ERA (1661~1672)

<b>Inscription:</b>	飛騨守氏房 (omote)
<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<b>HIDA NO KAMI UJIFUSA</b>
<b>Location:</b>	Suruga province (Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefecture)
<b>Length (ubu):</b>	53.6cm
<b>Curvature:</b>	1.2cm
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Naka-suguha and koashi</i>
<b>Included:</b>	Vintage koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥560,000 (~\$)**

The Ujifusa family name has its origins in Mino province (Gifu prefecture). According to *Nihon Shinto Jiten* by Fujishiro, there are three generations of Ujifusa smiths and this fineo-wakizashi (extended wakizashi) is of the third.

The shape of the sword is in classic Kanbun Shinto form, which has a slightly wide base and gradually tapers to the *kissaki* (tip). The body of the blade is in fact quite wide, a characteristic accounted for in Ujifusa family blades.

*Fuchigashira* is *shakudo nanako* and its gold *yo-bori* engraving is in the splendid form of rabbits and waves. The Japanese represent the white disk of the moon with a rabbit or a hare pounding rice in a mortar. This symbol is based on a pun. In Japanese, *mochi-zuki* means to pound rice for cakes, and *mochi-zuki* also means the full moon.

The powerful rolling waves depicted on the *tsuba* (guard) are reminiscent of Hokusai's "Great Wave off Kanagawa", clawing its way to envelop the sword.

The extremely unique *kawamaki-saya* (leather scabbard) is designed in the shape of an *inro* (a collectible pillbox carried by Samurai in feudal Japan).



**38** (ITEM NO. UJWA075)

## A MASAKUNI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD  
3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR OF KAEI (AUGUST 1850)

- Inscription:** 駿州住三郎正國 (omote) 嘉永三年八月日 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** SUNSHU JU SABURO MASAKUNI  
**Location:** Sunshu (Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefecture)  
**Length:** 38.2cm  
**Curvature:** 0.6cm  
**Hamon:** *Hitatsura* (a temper line with *tobiyaki* spots that fills the entire blade)  
**Certificate:** NTHK *Kanteisho* (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage *koshirae*, *shirasaya*, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥595,000 (~\$7,727)**

This is a brilliantly unique Japanese sword, artistic in its every single detail.

Masakuni belonged to the Shimada School that forged swords in the *Soshu-den* tradition made famous by the great Masamune of the Kamakura and early Nambokucho periods. They tempered blades at high temperatures resulting in marvelous detail in the steel.

This particular wakizashi is blessed with a *hamon* called *hitatsura*, which fills the blade with formations that resemble swirls of wood grain. It is a sharp sword indeed.

The owner of the sword clearly had a fondness for dogs as both the *fuchi* (collar) and *menuki* (ornamental grips) both feature dogs playing together. This is very rare to see.

The iron *kaku-tsuba* (guard) contains *higo-zogan*, a refined gold inlay technique perfected in the Kanazawa region of Japan (old Kaga province). The antique *kawari-saya* (scabbard) is lacquered in brown and contains pieces of shellfish artistically arranged.



**39** (ITEM NO. UJWA036)

## A SUKEHIRO WAKIZASHI\*

SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD

8TH MONTH OF THE 4TH YEAR ENPO (AUGUST, 1676)

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

**¥300,000 (~\$3,900)**

This splendid wakizashi is signed 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 sword has a false signature, which is why it is offered at a very reasonable price for the fine quality of the blade itself. It could very well have been made by Sukehiro...

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* (fittings) are all from mid-Edo period (~18-19th 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.



**40** (ITEM NO. UJWA055)

## A YOSHIIE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD

“A BEAUTIFUL DAY ON THE 8TH MONTH, 3RD YEAR ENPO” (AUGUST 1675)

- Inscription:** 陀羅尼吉右衛門尉作之 (omote) 延寶三年八月吉日 (ura)  
加陽金府住藤原□吉家 (omote)
- Swordsmith:** KAYOU KANAFU NO JU FUJIWARA NO YOSHIIE
- Location:** Kaga province (present day Kanazawa prefecture)
- Length (ubu):** 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)
- Fujishiro:** *Jo-saku* (ranked as a superior swordsmith of his generation)
- Included:** Vintage koshirae, signed shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥495,000 (~\$6,428)**

Yoshiie from Kaga province was ranked a superior swordsmith (*Jo-saku*) in the early Edo period. The *sunagashi* (waves of sand) in the *hamon* demonstrate to the quality of this sword.

Born "*Darani Kichiemon*", Yoshiie engraved on the *nakago* (tang) both his smith and birth name, making this wakizashi particularly rare. Kaga province (modern-day Kanazawa prefecture) has had a significant influence on the finer aspects of Japanese culture for several centuries.

Kaga is known for *Noh-gaku* (Noh musical drama) that prospered under the powerful Maeda Daimyo family that ruled from 1583 to 1868. In 1675 (the year this sword was made), *Tsunanori Maeda*, Lord of Kaga clan made a sustained effort that encouraged the province's cultural arts.

This wakizashi's *tsuba* (guard) carries gold inlay depictions of musical instruments that pay tribute to Kaga's cultural status in dramatic arts. Sword was registered in 1951, a Daimyo year.



**41** (ITEM NO. UJWA053)

## A KANEFUSA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MID-EDO PERIOD  
EARLY 1700'S

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

**¥395,000 (~\$5,129)**

This handsome two-kanji (*ni-ji*) signed Kanefusa wakizashi who belonged to one of the seven biggest sword schools, the *Zenjo* School in mino province. 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) and tell a grand story of the greatest Samurai battle.

The *fuchi-gashira* (collar and pommel) is made from *shakudo nanako* (a tiny fish-eggs) with the *kashira* representing the "Battle of Sumaura" - a clash between Taira and Minamoto families in 1184 culminating with the Kamakura period after the Minamoto took victory.

The unique iron *tsuba* (guard) depicts the outline of a goose. This is symbolic, as a goose is known for their honorable commitment to family - never, ever leaving a family member behind. This is a most noble Samurai virtue.



**42** (ITEM NO. UJWA059)

## A SUKEMITSU WAKIZASHI SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD EIROKU ERA (1558~1570)

- Inscription:** 助光 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** BIZEN OSAFUNE SUKEMITSU  
**Location:** Bizen province (present-day Okayama prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 54.4cm  
**Curvature:** 1.3cm  
**Hamon:** *Utsuri and gunome choji (cloves) temper line*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (sword designated as genuine by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Jo-saku* (ranked as a superior swordsmith of his generation)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥545,000 (~\$7,077)**

This is a beautiful 500-year old wakizashi that was crafted by Sukemitsu in Bizen province, the Kingdom of Japanese swords, present-day Okayama prefecture. The swordsmith's full name is Sukemitsu Yosazaemon and is the son of Gorozaemonnojo.

Fujishiro ranked Sukemitsu as *Jo-Saku* (a superior swordsmith of his generation). The sword has been shortened slightly (*suriage*) from its original length of about 60cm, with its 2-character Sukemitsu signature still in tact on the *nakago* (tang). The gorgeous Edo-period *koshirae* (fittings) symbolize the beauty and power of nature and match the sword brilliantly well.

The sword's *jihada* (steel body) is blessed with what is called "*Botan Utsuri*", a unique second shadow temper line that resembles the peony flower (*botan* is the Japanese word for peony). And to compliment such a beautiful *hamon* all the fittings of the sword feature peonies too.

The Japanese peony, is considered the "King of Flowers", symbolizing wealth, good fortune, honor, and bravery. An intricately designed *kozuka* (Samurai paper knife) is nestled in the *saya*.



**43** (ITEM NO. UJTA013)

## A KUNIYASU TANTO

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD

ENPO ERA: (1673~1681)

- Inscription:** 武江城下国保作之 (omote) 平安城住 (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** BUKO JOUKA KUNIYASU, HEIANJO JU  
**Location:** Edo province (Tokyo)  
**Length (ubu):** 27.6cm  
**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 (~\$6,753)**

Crafted in the classic Yamato tradition, this is a special Samurai family 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. A highly prized giant ray fish node is on the hilt.



**44** (ITEM NO. UJTA014)

## A NOBUTAKA TANTO

SIGNED, MOMOYAMA PERIOD  
KEICHO SHINTO (1596~1615)

**Inscription:** 伯耆守信高 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** HOUKI NO KAMI NOBUTAKA  
**Location:** Owari province (present day Aichi prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 20.0cm  
**Hamon:** *Suguha with Ko-Ashi (straight with tiny legs)*  
**Fujishiro:** *Jo-saku* (ranked as a superior swordsmith of his generation)  
**Included:** Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥530,000 (~\$6,883)**

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, especially crafted to penetrate armor. These robust tantos were highly prized by the Samurai class.

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 and secured 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.



**45** (ITEM NO. UJTA015)

## A TSUNAHIRO TANTO

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD  
MANJI ERA (1658~1660)

- Inscription:** もみじがり (omote)    まさむね (ura)  
**Swordsmith:** ISE DAIJO TSUNAHIRO  
**Length (ubu):** 17.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Notare* (long waves), *Sunagashi* (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 Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Jo-saku* (ranked as a superior swordsmith of his generation)  
**Included:** Signed shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

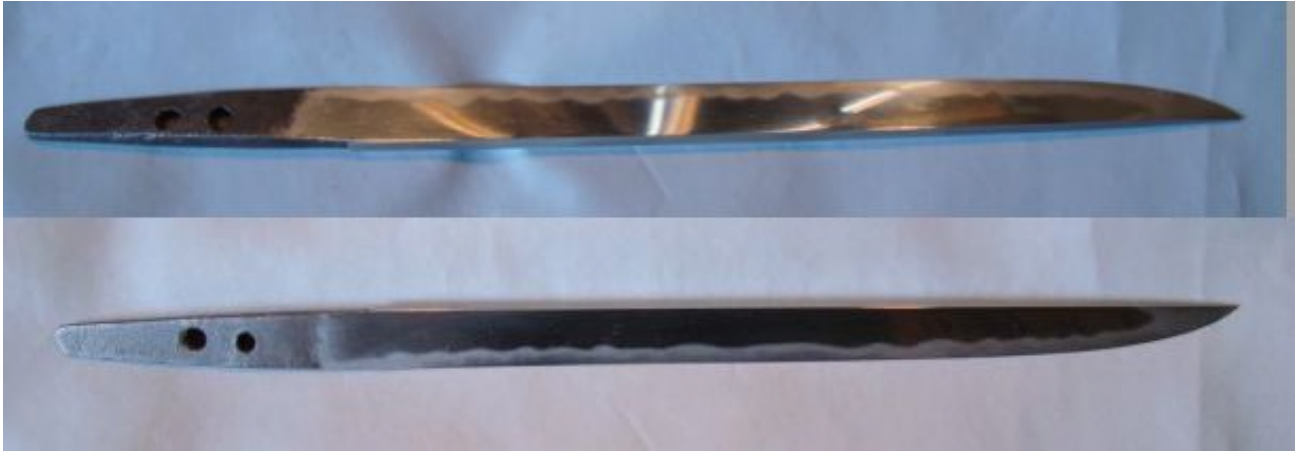
**¥545,000 (~\$7,077)**

Regarded as a superior swordsmith, fifth generation Tsunahiro pays tribute to the greatest of all sword makers (Masamune), with this signed Samurai family tanto 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 in spring), 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 rich, vibrant colors.

This tanto has a famous “*funa-gata nakago*” (a tang with a wide bulge that is said to resemble a boat). It reads もみじがり (*Momijigari*) on the front and まさむね (*Masamune*) on the back.

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). An elegant set of Edo-period *koshirae* (fittings) further compliments this little Japanese treasure piece.



**46** (ITEM NO. UJTA016)

## A YOSHIMITSU TANTO

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
DAIEI ERA (1521~1527)

- Inscription:** 吉光 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** TOSA NO KUNI YOSHIMITSU  
**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 recently awarded NTHK Kanteisho as *Tosa no Kuni Yoshimitsu* who was a 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.



**47** (ITEM NO. UJTA017)

## A NOBUKUNI TANTO

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
EIKYO ERA (1429~1441)

- Swordsmith:** NOBUKUNI (attribution)  
**Length:** 21.3cm  
**Curvature:** *Uchizori* (inward curving)  
**Hamon:** *Gunome midare* (irregular waves), *yahazu*  
**Certificate:** *NTHK Kanteisho* (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Fujishiro:** *Jo-saku* (ranked as a superior swordsmith of his generation)  
**Included:** *Shirasaya*, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services

**¥600,000 (~\$7,792)**

Son of Saemonnojo Nobukuni, Shikibunojo Nobukuni is a prestigious swordsmith ranked with the likes of Bizen's Morimitsu and Yoshimitsu. Early on his was known as Nobusada.

Works span from the Oei to Eikyo (1394~1429). The *hamon* (temper line) is very distinctive, in some places two continuous *gunome* are fused together, becoming *yahazu* (fish-tail shaped). The Nobukuni School is highly stared for their *horimono* (engravings).

The vintage *issaku koshirae* (matching fittings) are absolutely stunning. *Fuchigashira* and *menuki* (collar & pommel & ornamental grips) are made out of *shakudo-nanako* with gold *yo-bori* carvings that feature blossoming peonies, the king of Japanese flowers symbolizing wealth, good fortune, honor, and bravery. The gold threading on the *tsuka* (hilt) shows Samurai status.

*Saya* is lacquered in black and polished with a Samurai *Kaeshi-zuno* (a hook-shaped fitting).



**48** (ITEM NO. UJTA018)

## A HOKKE TANTO

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD  
TENSHO ERA (1573~1592)

- Inscription:** 法華作  
**Swordsmith:** HOKKE  
**Location:** Mino (Gifu prefecture)  
**Length:** 29.8cm  
**Hamon:** *Koshibiraki-gunome-midare*  
**Certificate:** NTHK *Kanteisho* (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services to home country

**¥585,000 (~\$7,597)**

The Hokke name originates from Bingo province in Hiroshima, so it is likely that the Hokke smith who made this tanto travelled to Mino from Bingo province as swordsmiths often did.

The *hamon* (temper line) is a well-crafted *koshibiraki gunome midare* (which are clove blossoms following a wavy pattern). It is a distinctive *hamon* found on swords crafted in the *Bizen* tradition in modern-day Okayama.

A most splendid set of *koshirae* fittings known as *Denchu-Sashi-Koshirae* meant for wear in the Imperial palace grace this tanto. *Fuchi* (collar) circa late 1700s is made from *shakudo* with gold *taka-yo-bori* carvings of *Hakime* (sand) and plants. Signed: *Kitosai Omori Terumitsu Kao*.

*Shakudo menuki* (ornamental grip) feature a most rare depiction of *horin* (Dharmachakra, a symbol of the Buddhist 'wheel of life' that leads to enlightenment). A *Ko-kinko-tsuba* (antique guard) from the Muromachi period also features *horin* with *kiku* (chrysanthemum flowers of the Imperial family). This *tanto* was surely owned by a Samurai with highly respected status.



**49** (ITEM NO. UJTA019)

## A KUNIKANE TANTO

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD

KANEI ERA (1624~1645)

**Inscription:** 山城大掾藤原国包 (false signature)  
**Swordsmith:** YAMASHIRO DAIJO FUJIWARA NO KUNIKANE  
**Location:** Ichinoseki, Rikuchu (Iwate prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 21.2cm  
**Curvature:** 0.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Naka-suguha and ashi*  
**Included:** Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services to home country

**¥200,000 (~\$2,597)**

*Shodai Kunikane* was a grandmaster swordsmith from the early Edo period who started a long line of smiths that survived and were supported by the *Date Daimyo* family.

There were 14 generations in the main line. They practiced the style of the founder and enjoyed official support. The middle generations produced *mumei* (unsigned) swords that went right into the armory of the Date family.

(*Sendai meikan* lists no legitimate signatures from the 4th to 10th generations.)

Although this sword is such a very well crafted tanto in *masame hada* (straight grain body), its signature of the grandmaster was not validated. Offered a reasonable price in consideration on this point.

In *shirasaya* (magnolia wood scabbard).



**50** (ITEM NO. UJTA020)

## A MUNEAKI TANTO

UNSIGNED, LATE EDO; SHINSHINTO PERIOD  
BUNKYU ERA (1861~1863)

**Swordsmith:** ICHINOSEKI MUNEAKI (attribution)  
**Location:** Ichinoseki, Rikuchu (Iwate prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 18.2cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome-midare and yubashiri*  
**Certificate:** NBTHK Kicho (A sword designated Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥425,000 (~\$5,519)**

According to Fujishiro in *Nihon Shinto Jiten*, of swordsmith Muneaki “both his style and mei (inscription) have the flavor of Katayama Munetsugu, and he is said to have especially given attention to sharpness.”

Upper-class swordsmith Muneaki was indeed a pupil of the most famous smiths in the late Edo period, *Koyama Munetsugu*. They lived in *Rikuchu Ichinoseki* (Iwate Prefecture).

The *aikuchi-koshirae* (fittings) is made from iron and splashes of silver pay tribute to the milky way galaxy. The rather intriguing *menuki* has *yo-bori* engraving made in the form of a spool.

A beautiful *Kawari-saya* is lined with scatterings of mother-of-pearl secures the tanto.



**51** (ITEM NO. UJTA021)

## A TOKUMASA TANTO

UNSIGNED, LATE EDO; SHINSHINTO PERIOD  
KEIO ERA (1865~1868)

**Swordsmith:** DEN TOKUMASA (attribution)  
**Location:** Mito, Hitachi no Kuni (Ibaraki prefecture)  
**Length (ubu):** 20.5cm  
**Curvature:** 0.1cm  
**Hamon:** *Gunome and notare with kinsen*  
**Certificate:** NTHK *Kanteisho* (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage *koshirae*, *shirasaya* (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥350,000 (~\$4,545)**

Tokumasa was swordsmith from Mito in *Hitachi no Kuni* (Ibaraki prefecture) and a pupil of prominent swordsmiths *Katsumura Norikatsu* and *Ichige Tokurin*.

Beautifully crafted with gentle *gunome hamon* (wavy temper line), the tanto is secured in a black-lacquered *kizamisaya* in *aikuchi koshirae*.

The *menuki*(ornamental grips)made from *shakudo-nanako* are in the form of *kiku* (chrysanthemum, the floral emblem of the Imperial family) encircled by *gosan no kiri* (which was the imperial crest or *kamon* given by the Emperor to the Ashikaga.)

In 1568, Ashikaga Yoshiaki gave Nobunaga permission to use the "Go-San-no-Kiri" imperial *kamon*, as well as the Ashikaga family emblem, the "Futa-Hiki-Ryou".

This very prestigious gift of two family emblems was given to Nobunaga in thanks for his effectively having Yoshiaki installed as Shogun.



**52** (ITEM NO. UJTA022)

## AN UJISHIGE TANTO

UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD  
MEIWA ERA (1764~1771)

**Swordsmith:** DEN HARIMA NO KUNI UJISHIGE (attribution)  
**Location:** Tegarayama, Harima no Kuni (Hyogo prefecture)  
**Length:** 20.4cm  
**Hamon:** *Doranba and uchinoke and yo*  
**Certificate:** NTHK Kanteisho (A sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)  
**Included:** Vintage koshirae, shirasaya (magnolia scabbard), silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD and exportation services.

**¥400,000 (~\$5,194)**

This very attractive tanto by swordsmith Ujishige belonged to the Tegarayama School in Hyogo, nestled between Bizen and Kyoto provinces.

There were many generations of Tegarayama Ujishige, the fourth generation of which this sword was made moved to *Shirakawa* in *Oshu* (Iwate prefecture) and changed his name to *Masashige*. Tegarayama Masashige then became a prominent swordsmith during Shinshinto (late Edo) period.

A matching set of fittings (*issaku koshirae*) made from *shinchu* is referred to a *sogaki-koshirae* beautifully compliments the blade. It consists of *kizami-saya* and *kizami-tsuka* (a rounded-texture) made from leather *kawa-maki*. The design depicts *tanabata* - a wood considered by the Japanese to originate from the heavens symbolizing luck and long life.

There is a famous *Tanabata* star festival in Japan that celebrates the meeting of the deities *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi* (represented by the stars Vega and Altair respectively). According to legend, the Milky Way separates these lovers, allowed to meet *only once a year* on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month of the luni-solar calendar.



**53** (ITEM NO. UJNG001)

## A KANESHIGE NAGINATA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD

KANBUN ERA (1661~1672)

**Inscription:** 上総介藤原兼重 (omote)  
**Swordsmith:** KOUZUKE NO SUKE KANESHIGE  
**Location:** Kozuke (present day Kanto area)

**Overall length with mount:** 2m 36cm (wow)  
**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:** Vintage Edo-period mounted koshirae, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, registration and all exportation paperwork

**¥545,000 (~\$7,000)**

A *naginata* is a pole-arm(halberd) with a curved blade.

*Benkei*, the legendary huge and loyal *Sōhei*(warrior monk) from the 12th century carried a *naginata*. He is most famous for posting himself at a bridge in Kyoto and defeating 999 Samurai and collecting their swords. The 1000th warrior he faced was *Minamoto Yoshitsune* who defeated him. *Benkei* then became one of *Minamoto's* most trusted warriors and eventually died in battle under his service.

This *naginata* is extremely long and impressive. Technically speaking, this piece was meant for the wives of Samurai in defense of her castle. What's very special is that the sword and mounting are both original to the 17th century - even the sleeve to cover the tip. The signature has also been authenticated by Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword.

This is a very rare Samurai antique that will surely generate plenty of conversations.

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