

JAPANESE
SWORD
CATALOGUE 26.5

FIRST RELEASED:
OCT. 20/2016



(COVER PHOTO)

ITEM# UJKA218

A TSUNASHIGE KATANA
WITH TWO-BODY CUTTING TEST
PERFORMED IN FEBRUARY 1670

NBTHK TOKUBETSU HOZON
FEATURED IN NBTHK MONTHLY MAGAZINE

ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS (VOLUME 26.5)

RELEASED: OCTOBER 20, 2016 TO VIP CLIENTS ONLY
UPDATED: JANUARY 3, 2017

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Hello everyone,

First of all, I would like to extend a most heartfelt thank you for your warm wishes on the birth of our second son, and third child, Nelson. Nelson was born on September 5th, and the little one is already a big boy weighing 15 pounds. A true testament to his mother's love and devotion.

I must admit, these past few weeks have been a challenge time wise as any parent will tell you. Some seriously late nights have gone into the making of this catalogue, catching every spare moment of peace. I hope that a sword within these pages finds your caring hands.

We start the catalogue with a very old piece of history. It is a *kodachi*, a small and light tachi that the NTHK-NPO dates back to 1283 by the *Yamato Senjuin School*. What I love about this sword is that it is *ubu-nakago*. Very few swords from this era exist in their original shape, as these long tachi were eventually shortened during the late Muromachi or early Edo periods. The kodachi comes with a lovely set of fittings and has recently attained *Tokubetsu Hozon* to *Uda Kunimune*.

The next piece is the youngest sword in the catalogue made in 1972 - a brilliant katana by *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa*. This katana is unique in that the iron that was used to create the sword is from the centuries-old *Myogi shrine* in Gunma prefecture. Shigemasa was a master engraver, evident in this fine work that contains carvings dedicated to *Amaterasu Omikami* and *Aizen Myoo*.

The third sword is a powerhouse katana by swordsmith *Tsunashige* with a 2-body cutting test performed by *Shibasaki Masatsugu* at the end of February 1670. Everything about this sword is remarkable. The quality of the steel is reminiscent of the work of *Kotetsu* as they likely share the same sensei *Tsunahiro*. This sword was featured in the *NBTHK Token Bijitsu* monthly magazine.

A delightful wakizashi attributed to *Nobutaka* from the Enpo era takes the next spot. This sword is on consignment with me here in the UK. I took a video of the sword introducing the blade and koshirae. I can ship this sword tax free in Europe, and elsewhere in the world.

Wazamono smith *Tango no Kami Shigetsune* from Echizen province is the fifth sword in the catalogue. It is a sharp katana with a mature spirit. The superb grain of the steel has the texture of Koto period (pre 1600) swords. A rare late Edo period cloud dragon themed *handachi koshirae* with a sparkling *aoigai* (mother-of-pearl) scabbard carries the sword with style and elegance.

Our final sword in the catalogue is a muscular katana by *Kiyosuke* from the *Shinto Naminohira school*. This sword is ideal for a thoughtful *custom koshirae project*. Our first son, Lennon, is going to receive a special Naminohira katana from my collection one day. He doesn't know it yet. ;)

Thank you to all who have joined our VIP email list and to the many who claimed swords in Tokyo via a private meeting. As always, we look forward to serving you.

Warm regards,



Pablo Kuntz
October 2016





*Daisho fuchi-kashira
by Ishiguro Koreyoshi*

A Brothers in Arms Daisho
Custom Daisho Koshirae project

Katana and wakizashi by brothers
Kobayashi Kuniteru & Naka Kunisuke
circa mid-1600s.

All fittings from the Edo period
Fitted by modern master craftsmen

Congratulations Steve.



ITEM# UJKA215

AN UDA KUNIMUNE / YAMATO SENJUIN KODACHI UNSIGNED, LATE KAMAKURA PERIOD (SHOU ERA: 1288~1293)

- Swordsmith:** *Uda Kunimune (NBTHK), Yamato Senjuin School (NTHK-NPO)*
- Measurements:** **Length:** 69.4cm (ubu) **Curvature:** 2.3cm **Moto-Haba:** 2.8cm
- Jihada:** *Itame and mokume (burl grain pattern)*
- Hamon:** *Chu-suguha and ko-midare (straight and tight wavy temper line pattern)*
- Certificate #1:** **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
- Certificate #2-3:** **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
- Included:** Shirasaya, koshirae, carry bags, sword stand, kit, DVD, export services

SOLD

When handling a Japanese sword, paying close attention to the *shape of the blade* is the first step to appreciate as the length, weight, width and curvature speak volumes to dating a piece. What we have here is a rare *kodachi* (short tachi) that remains in her original graceful shape (*ubu nakago*).

The NTHK-NPO sword society certified the sword as being by *Yamato Senjuin School*, dating it back over 700 years to the late Kamakura period's Shou era, circa 1288~1293. The NBTHK sword museum attributes the blade to *Uda Kunimune*. Historically these schools are connected.

This sword is light, curvy with a woody textured *jihada* and nie-based *hamon*. It's enjoyable imagining a Samurai carrying this kodachi on horseback several centuries ago. An attractive koshire certified to the 1700s with tachi fittings balances out the sword in a respectful fashion.

Saki-kasane: 3.4mm [^]

Saki-haba: 1.6cm

Moto-kasane: 6.3mm

Nagasa: 69.4cm

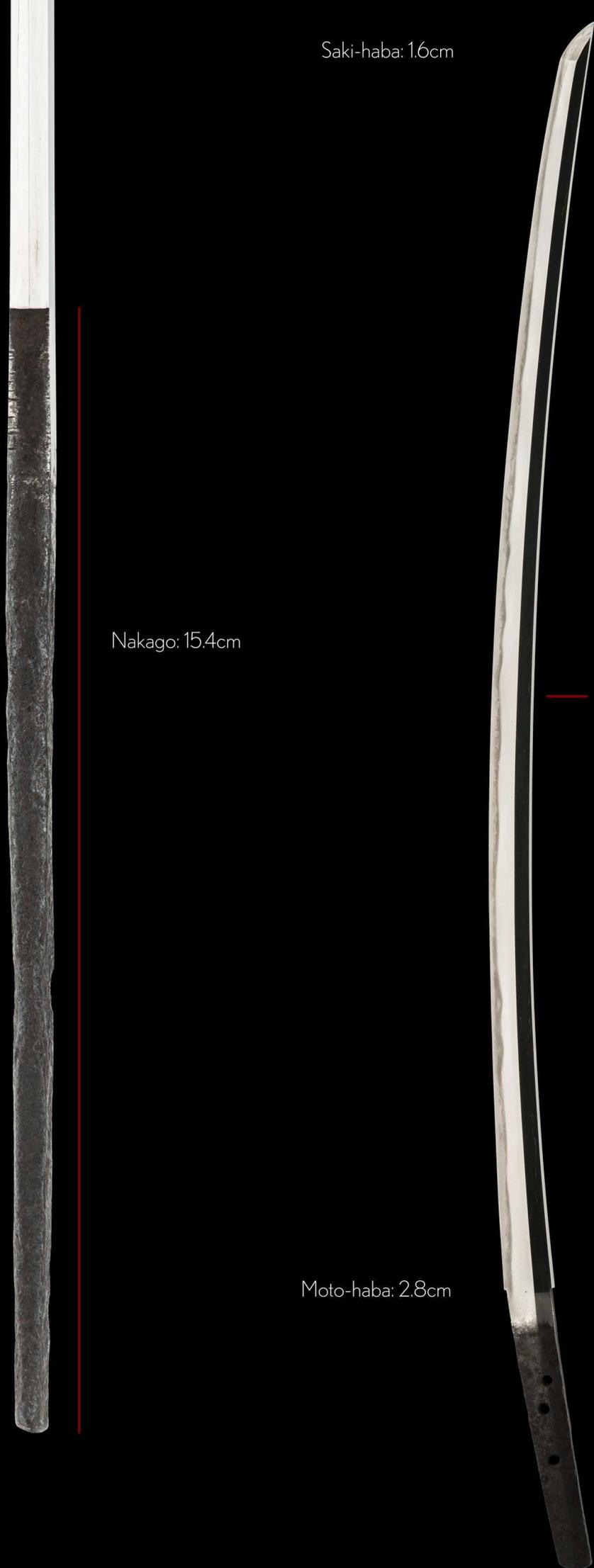
Nakago: 15.4cm

Sori: 2.3cm

Omosa: 520g

Moto-haba: 2.8cm

Mekugi-ana: 3



a light and graceful *ko-dachi*





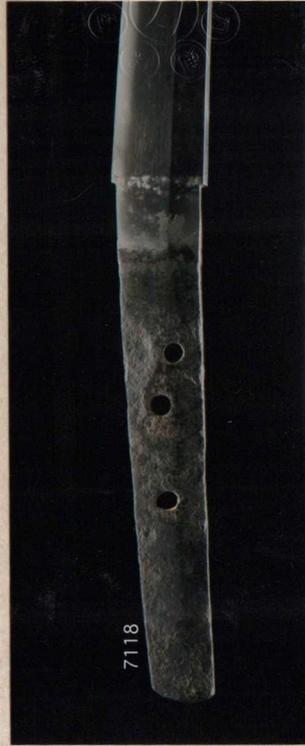
The age of the sword is clearly evident by examining the the large amount of oxidization on the nakago that has formed naturally over its 700-year lifespan.

Although unsigned, it's likely this sword has (or once had) a signature under the rust as the blade has not been shortened (*ubu nakago*).

The gentle curve of the nakago is a beautiful thing...



life experience.



捺 審 査 印 員	備 考	中 心	彫 刻	銘 子	刃 紋	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 七 一 一 八 号
	正 志 貞	目釘穴 三個 鍔 拵 下 加 り		直ぐ調へ掃け返る	中直ぐ刃調へ入れ喰違へ交じり	板目	銘造り、 庵棟	不明	

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This wakizashi was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Mumei (Den Yamato, Senjuin)

Shou era: 1288-1293

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 2-sun 9-bu (69.4cm)

Issued in 28th year of Heisei (2016), January 17th

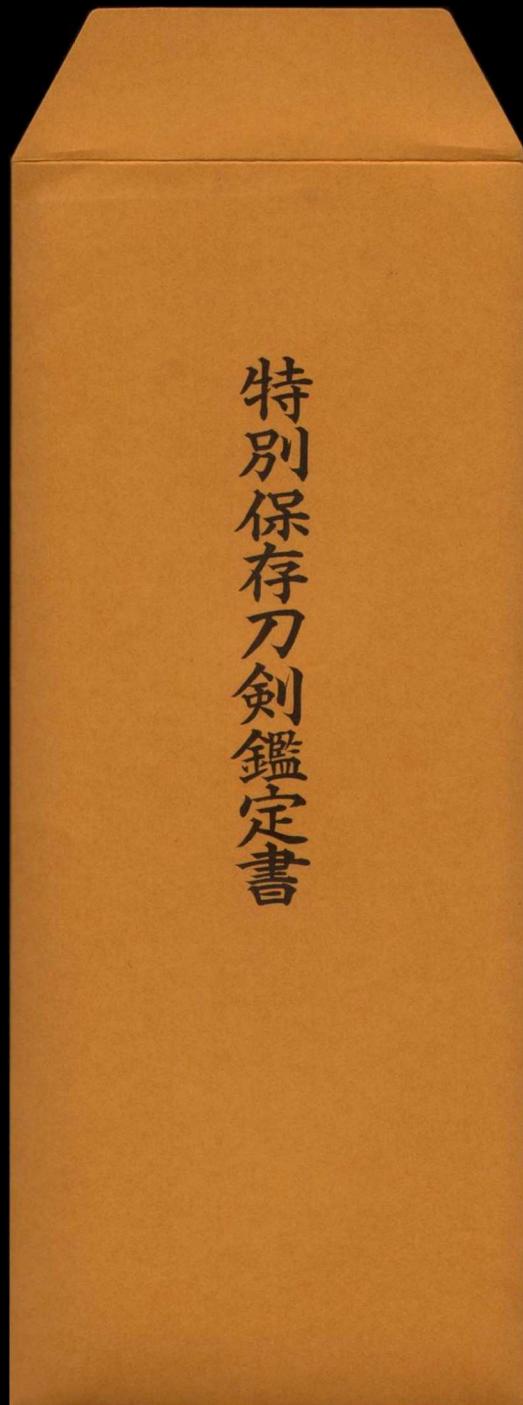
Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Attribution to Uda Kunimune

Official certificate is arriving in November 2016





Boshi

The hamon in the tip of the sword is called the *boshi*. It takes great skill by the swordsmith. The boshi on this sword is *hakikake*, literally 'sweeping'.

Note the beautiful workmanship in the *hada* (steel skin) where *itame* and *mokume* (burl grain) patterns surface.

A close-up, low-angle photograph of a sword blade, likely a katana, showing the hamon (temper line) pattern. The blade is dark and textured, with a bright, circular highlight reflecting light from the edge. The background is dark and out of focus.

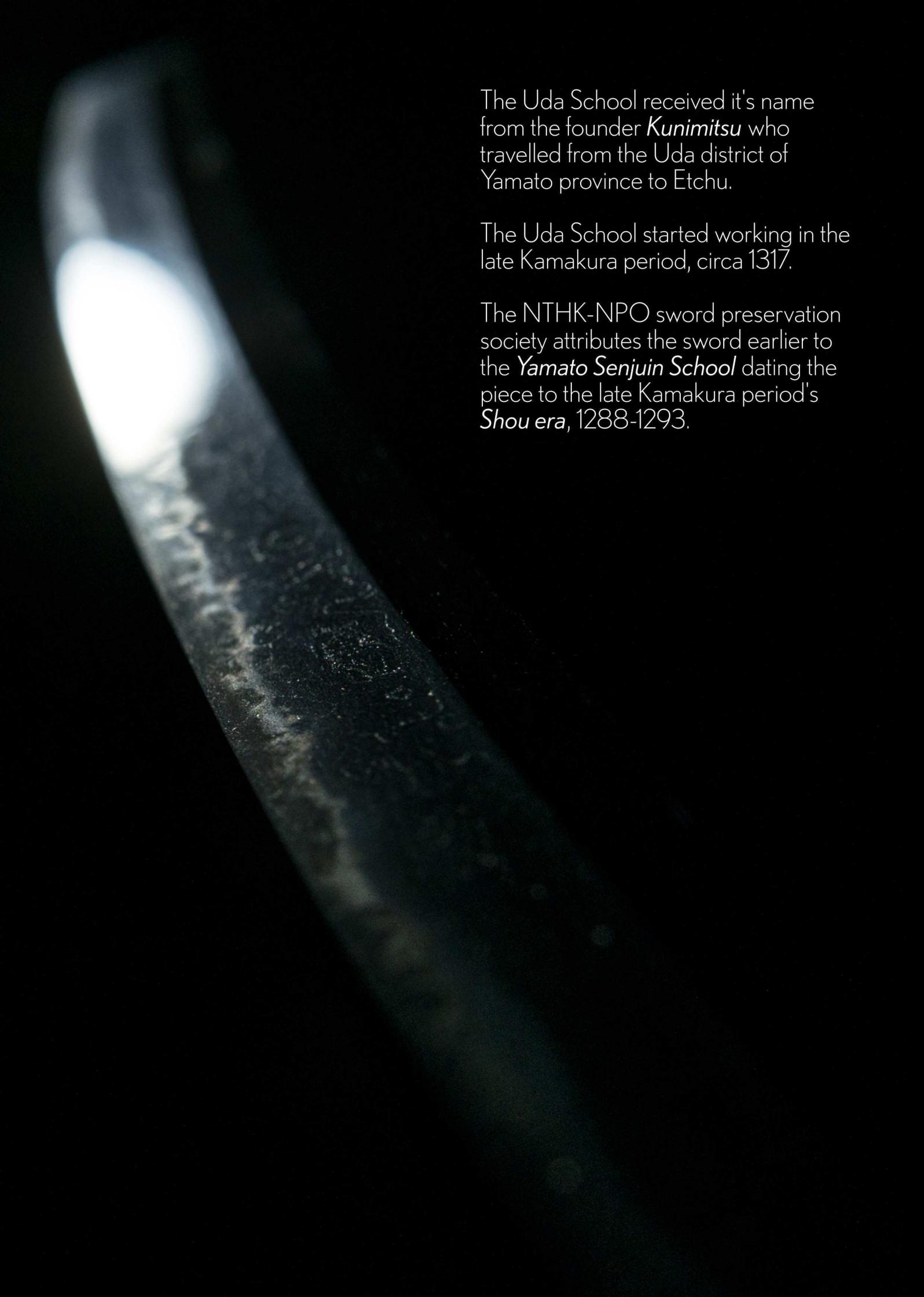
Hamon

Uda Kunimune is of the *Ko-Uda School* of Etchu province which is known for a *hamon* that fuses both the *Soshu* and *Bizen* traditions.

This sword primarily consists of a *nie* structure whereby the crystals are visible and shine brightly.

The *hamon* itself is a *chu-suguha* (middle straight) with *ko-midare* (short wavy pattern)

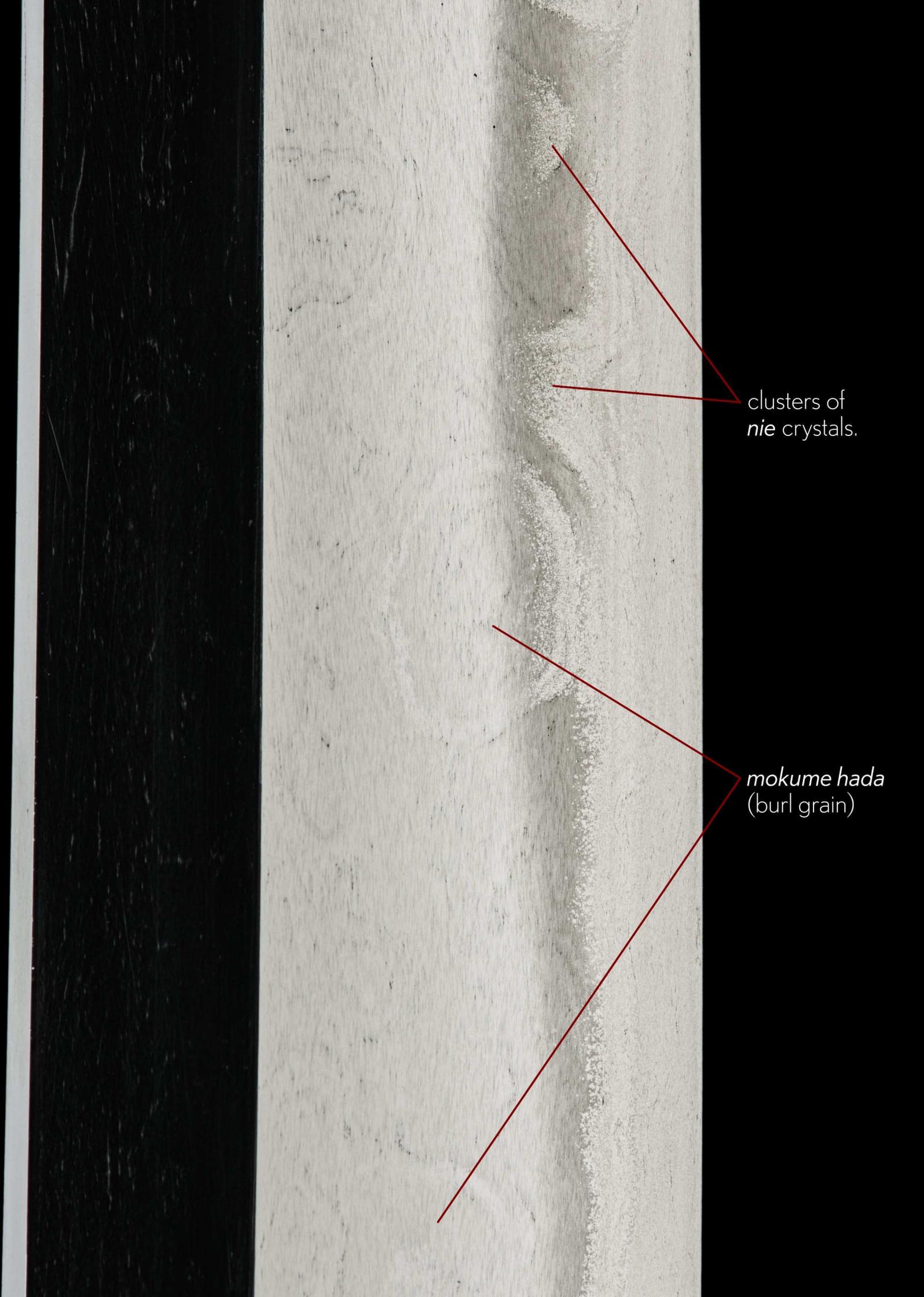
Kinsuji (black lines within the hamon), *sunagashi* (brushed sand), and *chikei* (dark lines in the jihada) are plentiful.



The Uda School received its name from the founder *Kunimitsu* who travelled from the Uda district of Yamato province to Etchu.

The Uda School started working in the late Kamakura period, circa 1317.

The NTHK-NPO sword preservation society attributes the sword earlier to the *Yamato Senjuin School* dating the piece to the late Kamakura period's *Shou era*, 1288-1293.



clusters of
nie crystals.

mokume hada
(burl grain)



Shirasaya



Tate Yasuri-habaki
(brass)





Elegant tachi fittings. The koshirae has an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity dating it to the 1700s, middle Edo period.



The Hikiryō kamon (family crest)

Kamon that were a fusion of a circle and horizontal lines were adopted by notable daimyo families such as the *Ashikaga* and *Nitta* clans.

The lines are meant to express a dragon.



Tsuba

Chrysanthemum petals decorate either side of the *nakago-ana* (centre hole for nakago to pass through) while cleverly forming the holes for the *kozuka* and *kogai*.

Splashes of gold leaves gives the polished iron colour and vibrancy. The rectangular openings (one filled with *shakudo*) at the top and bottom symbolize strips of paper known as *tanzaku*.

Writing down wishes and hung on bamboo to form a wishing tree is done as part of *Tanabata* festivities in summertime Japan starting July 7th.



reverse





Nature, celebrated.



Hawks represent bravery, modesty and nobility.

There is an old proverb that says: "*nou aru taka wa tsume o kasuku*" (the talented hawk hides its claws).

One should conceal his or her own best abilities until time comes to show them.



ITEM# UJKA223

A SAKAI IKKANSAI SHIGEMASA KATANA SIGNED, 47TH YEAR OF SHOWA ERA (FEBRUARY 1972)

Swordsmith: *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa Motte Myogi Jinja Furutetsu Saku Kore*
Measurements: Length: 72.5cm Curvature: 1.7cm Moto-Haba: 3.2cm
Jihada: *Itame hada*
Hamon: *Gunome Midare (wavy temper line) with nijuba, kinsuji and sunagashi*
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, sword bag, stand, kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation

SOLD

Celebrated swordsmith *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa* was born in 37th year of Meiji (1904) and became a student of the great *Shigetsugu Kasama* in the 15th of Taisho (1926) and the heir to the *Kasama Shigetsugu no Mon* school. The *Kasama Shigetsugu School* was active in pre-war and wartime Japan, and considered by contemporaries to exhibit the highest level of craftsmanship.



This beautiful katana holds an interesting story. *It was crafted from centuries-old iron from Myogi Shrine in 1972.* This information is chiseled on the sword's *nakago* (tang). Shigemasa was an expert engraver and this sword has the characters *Amaterasu Omikami* (a Shinto deity) with groove and a *ken* (a double-edged sword).

According to legend, Myogi Shrine was established in 537 A.D., the second year of the reign of Emperor Senka. It took until the Edo Period (1603-1868) for the shrine to gain national significance and wide-reaching power.

As the sword is in shirasaya, the opportunity to build an inspiring *custom koshirae* exists with this sword. The new caretaker of the sword should consider visiting Myogi shrine one day to pay tribute to its remarkable history.

Saki-kasane: 4.6mm



Moto-kasane: 6.3mm

Saki-haba: 2.3cm

Nagasa: 72.5cm

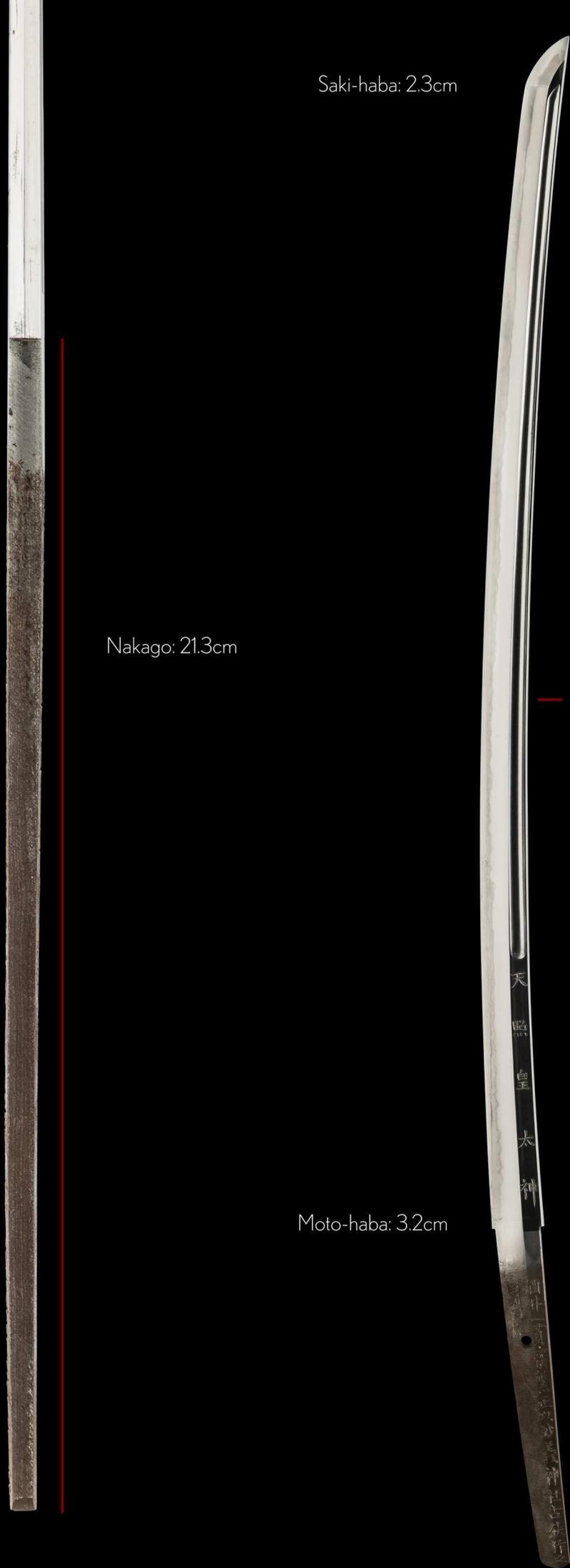
Nakago: 21.3cm

Sori: 1.7cm

Omosa: 675g

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Mekugi-ana: 1







Cho
koku
Dou
saku

Material: *Myogi Jinjya Furutetsu* (old iron from Myogi shrine)
Swordsmith: *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa*
Engraving: *Chokoku Dousaku* (Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa)

Saka
i
I
kkan
sai
Shige
masa
motte
Myou
gi
Jin
Jya
Furu
tesu
saku
kore



This katana was crafted from old iron obtained from the great *Myogi shrine* in Gunma prefecture. The swordsmith is *Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa* who also did the engraving work on the sword.



Myogi Shrine

Myogi Shrine is located on the hilltop of Hakuun Mountain, the highest peak of Myogi Mountain. Behind the bright red Main Gate and beautifully decorated *Karamon* (main gate), you'll be able to find a gorgeous main hall painted using black lacquer, sharing a roof with the worship hall connected with a passageway..

According to legend, Myogi Shrine was established in 537 A.D., the second year of the reign of *Emperor Senka*. The shrine worships famous spirits including *Prince Yamato Takeru*. Weeping *sakura* (cherry trees) that are over 200 years old adorn the entrance path and perimeters bring peace and tranquility to the location.

It took until the Edo Period for the shrine to gain national recognition. It has since been recognized as a Prefectural Important Cultural Property.

At the back of the main shrine, there is a small, special sub-shrine dedicated to the *tengu* - legendary mountain demons with big noses and wings on their back, always carrying a fan. They are known for being mischievous.



The sword is dated:

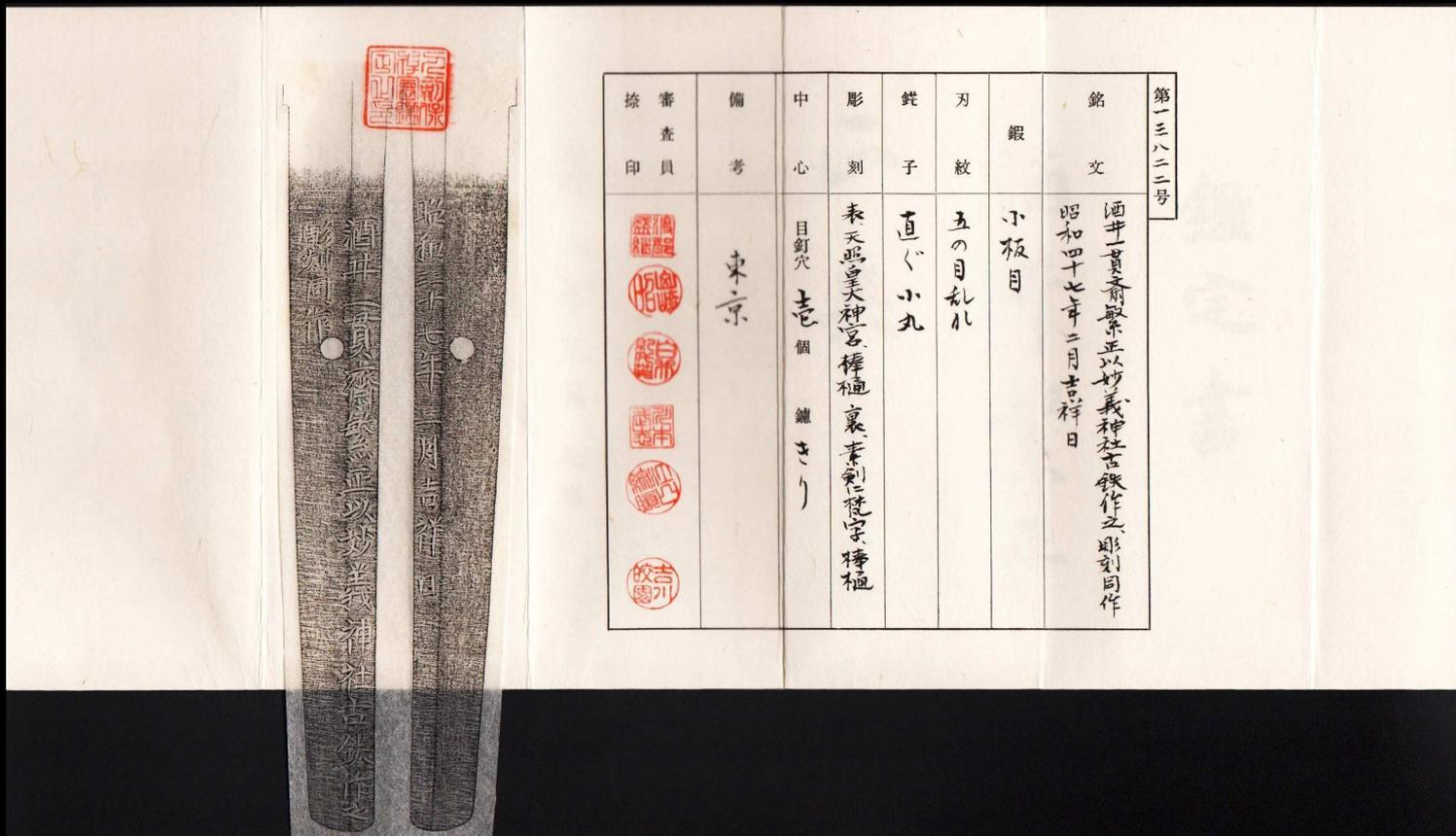
Showa 47 nen 2 gatsu Kichijou nichi
(a good day in February 1972)

Sho
wa
yon (4)
jyu (10)
nana (7)
nen
ni (2)
gatsu
kichi
jou
nichi





Shigemasa was a master engraver. Note the vast number of chisel strokes performed on each character.



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

*Omote: Sakai Ikkansai Shigemasa Motte Myougi Jinjya Furutetsu Saku Kore,
Chokoku Dousaku*

Ura: Showa 47 nen 2 gatsu Kichijou nichu (a good day in February 1972)

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 9-bu (72.5cm)

Issued in 9th year of Heisei (1997), September 7th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)



Hamon

At the *yakidashi* (beginning point at the bottom of the blade), the temper line splits considerably in two.

This can be best described as *nijuba* - double lines of *nioguchi* (crystals that make up the hamon). Traditionally *nijuba* is much more parallel in formation making this pattern most unique and eye-catching.

The hamon continues upward into a bright and consistent *gunome midare* (small undulating waves).



Kinsuji - black gleaming lines
of nie crystals cut through the
merging hamon.

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a sword blade. The blade is dark, almost black, with a bright, reflective edge. The surface of the blade is covered in intricate, raised markings, which are the kinsuji. A red line points from the text on the left to these markings on the blade. The background is dark, making the blade stand out.

kinsuji can be seen on
both sides of the blade.

We can assist the new
caretaker of the sword to
build a beautiful custom
koshirae if desired.

天

Ama

照

terasu

白
皇

o

太

mi

神

kami



Amaterasu is the goddess of the sun and the universe - a deity of the Shinto religion.

The name *Amaterasu* derived from *Amateru* meaning "shining in heaven."

The meaning of her whole name, *Amaterasu-omikami*, is "the great August *kami* (god) who shines in the heaven."

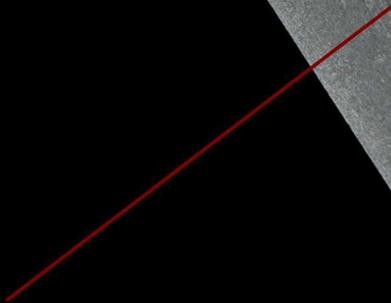
The emperors of Japan are considered to be direct descendants of *Amaterasu*.

This engraved katana pays respect to *Amaterasu* and asks for her spiritual blessing.

maru-dome
(a groove with a rounded end)



Sunagashi
brushed strokes
in the hamon





Shirasaya



Koshi Sukenori Yasuri-habaki
(silver)

This *bonji* character is *Aizen Myoo*, one of the five wisdom kings. He is a fearsome power, able to transform worldly lust into spiritual awakening.



Aizen Myoo
(Tokyo National Museum)

suken
(a straight old-style sword)

之
氣



In 1942, *Admiral Yamamoto* commissioned Shigemasa to craft ten highly prestigious presentation tantos .

Shigemasa was one of the most important swordsmiths working in 20th century Japan.

He reached *mukansa* status, a top-ranking swordsmith, in 1981.



The fabric of history.





ITEM# UJKA218

A TSUNASHIGE TAMESHIGIRI KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, EDO PERIOD (END OF FEBRUARY 1670)
FUTATSU-DO SETSUTAN UE-SURITSUKE SHITA-KURUMASAKI

- Swordsmith:** *Mutsu no Kami Tsunashige (1st generation)*
Measurements: **Length:** 70cm (ubu) **Curvature:** 1.4cm **Moto-Haba:** 3.2cm
Jihada: *Itame (wood grain pattern)*
Hamon: *Gunome midare (random wavy temper line pattern)*
Certificate #1-2: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon & Kicho** (a sword designated as Especially Precious and Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #3-5: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a tsuba, fuchi-kashira and koshirae all designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, koshirae, carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, booklet, printed description, *featured in the NBTHK Monthly Journal in October 2014.*

SOLD



This powerful katana was crafted by swordsmith *Mutsu no Kami Tsunashige*. A cutting test was performed with this sword by *Shibasaki Masatsugu* in February 1670 severing two human bodies in one stroke. Sword is reminiscent of the works of master swordsmith Kotetsu.

The blade has deservedly attained **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification**. It is housed in a handsome *koshirae* with a *Jingo School tsuba* from the mid-Edo period. This is a very special Samurai sword.

Saki-kasane: 4.4mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 6.8mm

Omosa: 700g

Saki-haba: 2.1cm

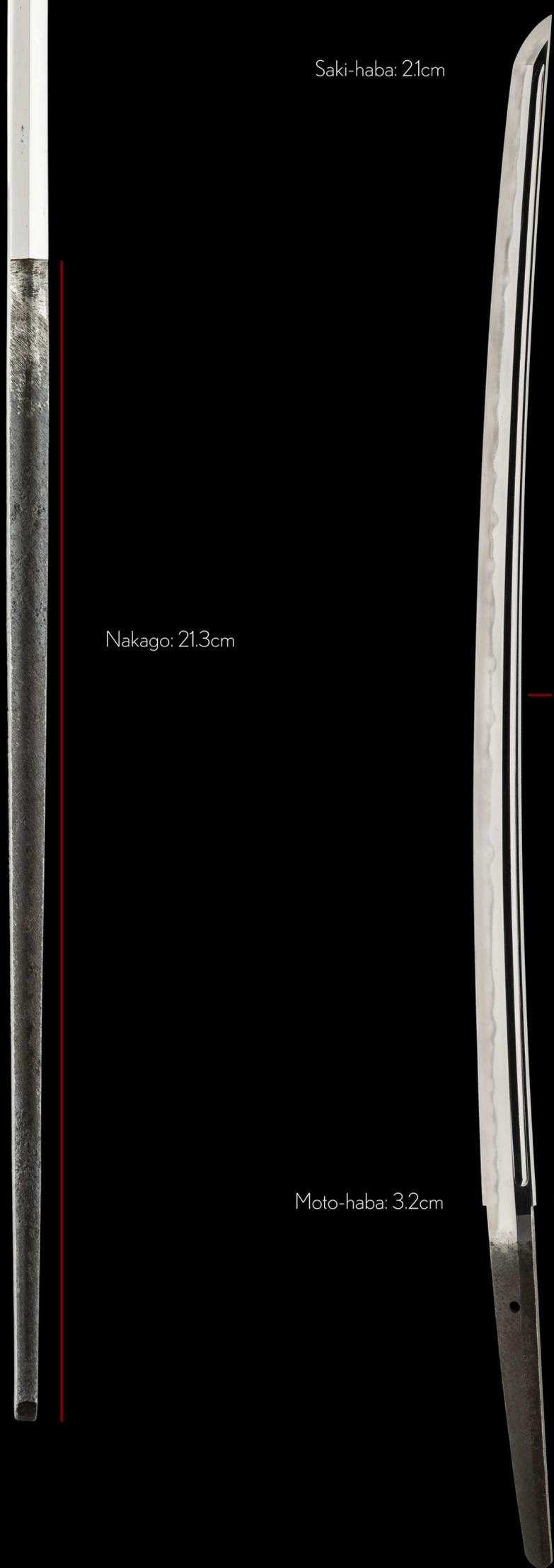
Nakago: 21.3cm

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Nagasa: 70.0cm

Sori: 1.4cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





Title: *Mutsu no Kami* (Lord of Mutsu province)

Clan: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Tsunashige*



Mu

tsu

(no) kami

Fuji

wara

Tsuna

shige

Date: *End of February, 1670*
 Tester: *Shibasaki Den Saemon Masatsugu*
 Cutting test: *Futatsu Dou Setsutan*
Ue-suritsuke Shita-kurumasaki

At the end of February 1670, this sword was used in a cutting test by which it severed through two stacked human bodies in one stroke. The upper body was cut below the rib cage, the lower body above the hipbone. Results of the test are chiseled onto the nakago as illustrated below.

Futa
 tsu
 do
 Setsu
 tan
 Ue
 suri
 tsuke
 Shita
 kuruma
 saki

Shiba
 saki
 den
 Sa
 e
 mon
 Masa
 tsugu
 (Kaou)

寛文十年二月晦日
 柴崎傳左衛門正次
 臈切上摺付下車先

Kan
 bun
 ju (10)
 nen
 ni (2)
 gatsu
 Miso
 ka

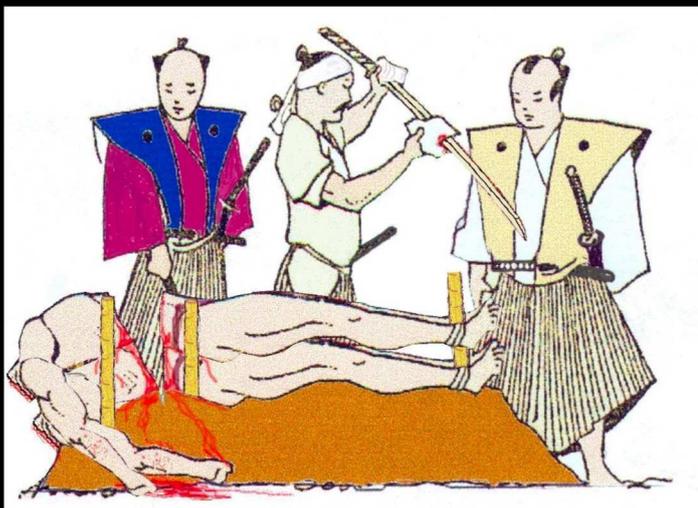


Image of a successful two-body cutting test

保 留
28201601



No 1005146



鑑定書

一万 銘

陸奥守藤原綱重(陸奥・寛文頃)
(截断切付銘) 寛文十年二月晦日
赤崎伝左衛門正次(花押)
貳寸朋截断上摺付下車先
長二尺三寸

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十八年三月二十三日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



兵 庫 教育委員会
第 47887号
昭和41年5月17日

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 28th year of Heisei (2016), March 23rd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Omote: Mutsu no Kami Fujiwara Tsunashige

Ura: Kanbun 10 nen 2 gatsu Misoka Shibasaki Den Saemon Masatsugu
Futatsudou Saidan Uwasuritsuke Shimokuruma-saki (end of February 1670)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun (70.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 42nd year of Showa (1967), April 9th

One, Katana

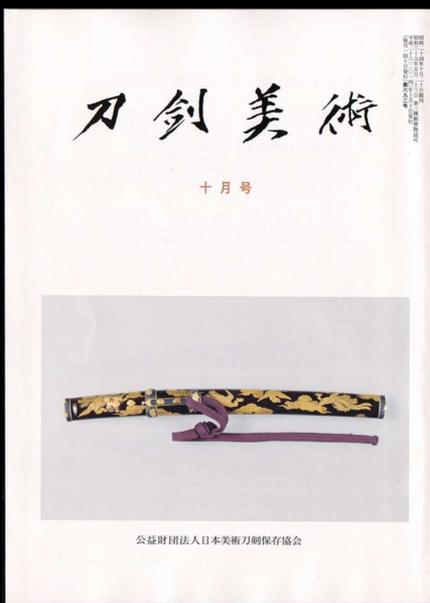
Mei (signature)

Omote: Mutsu no Kami Fujiwara Tsunashige

Ura: Kanbun 10 nen 2 gatsu Misoka Shibasaki Den Saemon Masatsugu
Futatsudou Saidan Uwasuritsuke Shimokuruma-saki (End of February 1670)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 3-sun (70.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



Copy of magazine and translation will be included with the sword.

NBTHK Token Bijitsu Monthly Magazine

In October 2014, this katana by swordsmith Tsunashige was spotlighted as a study piece by the NBTHK sword museum in their monthly magazine. The article discusses whether Tsunashige was trained by Tsunahiro [thus implying close ties to Kotetsu] and if there were more than one generation with the name Tsunashige.

"Nihonto Meikan book states that there are two generations of swordsmiths with the name Tsunashige. However, there are scholars that challenge this theory.

It is believed that Tsunahiro was a sensei (teacher) of [grandmaster swordsmith] Kotetsu. If that is true, Tsunashige and Kotetsu are from the same school as Tsunashige was a student of Tsunahiro.

Kotetsu is also believed to be a student of Kaneshige. The work of the two generations of Tsunashige are so similar that Mr. Kawaguchi believes that they are the same person. Ishii san says that there were three generations.

Dr. Sato (Kanzan) and Ogasawara sensei also think that there were three generations.

Background information on the life of Tsunashige is not known in detail thus it is safe to assume that there are two generations for Tsunashige at the moment."

Reference 1 (regarding this sword)

This Tsunashige katana has features of notare, naka-suguha, gunome, small gunome, gunome with small notare, and nie.

Moreover, the nakago is saki-haagari kurijiri shape, sujikai file marks, kesho, and has a rounded mune (spine).

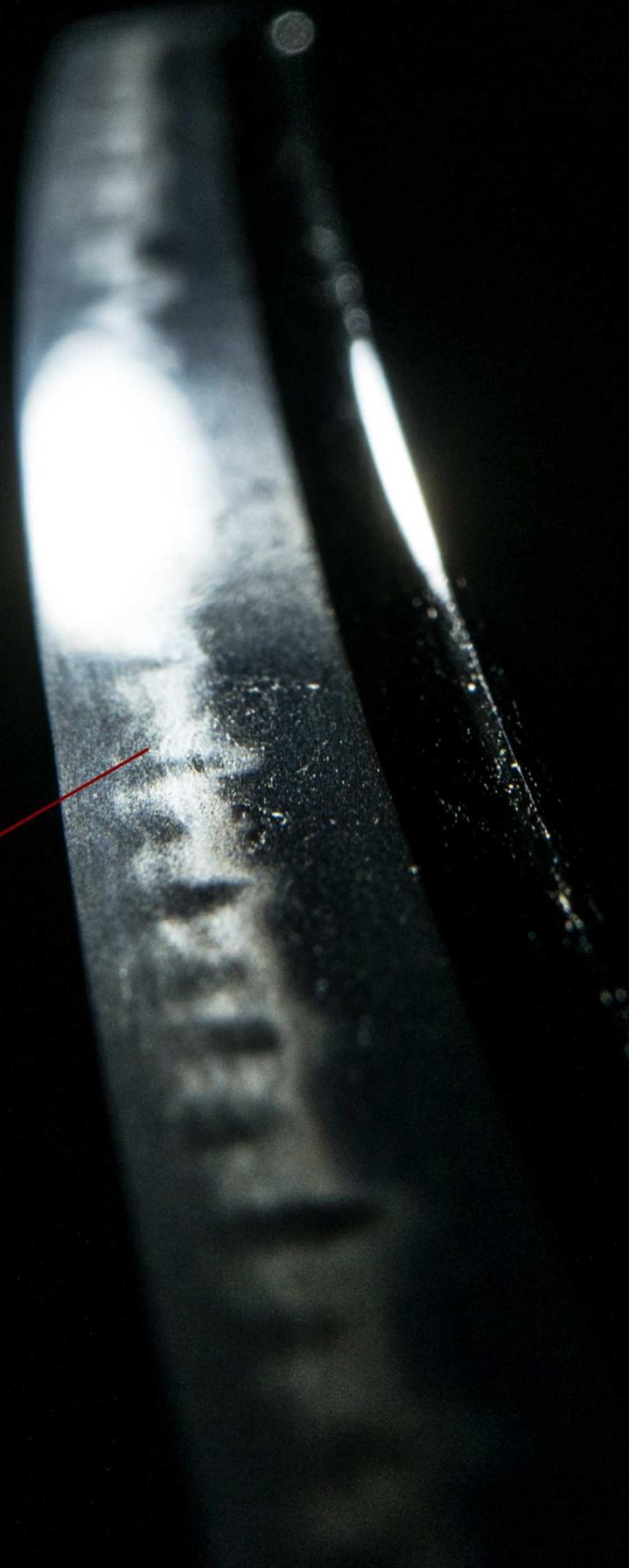
Hamon

A bright and distinctive *gunome midare hamon* (wavy semi-circular temper line) with clear separations between the waves.

Note the wonderful brushed strokes in the *hamon* known as *sunagashi*.

This is magnificent work.

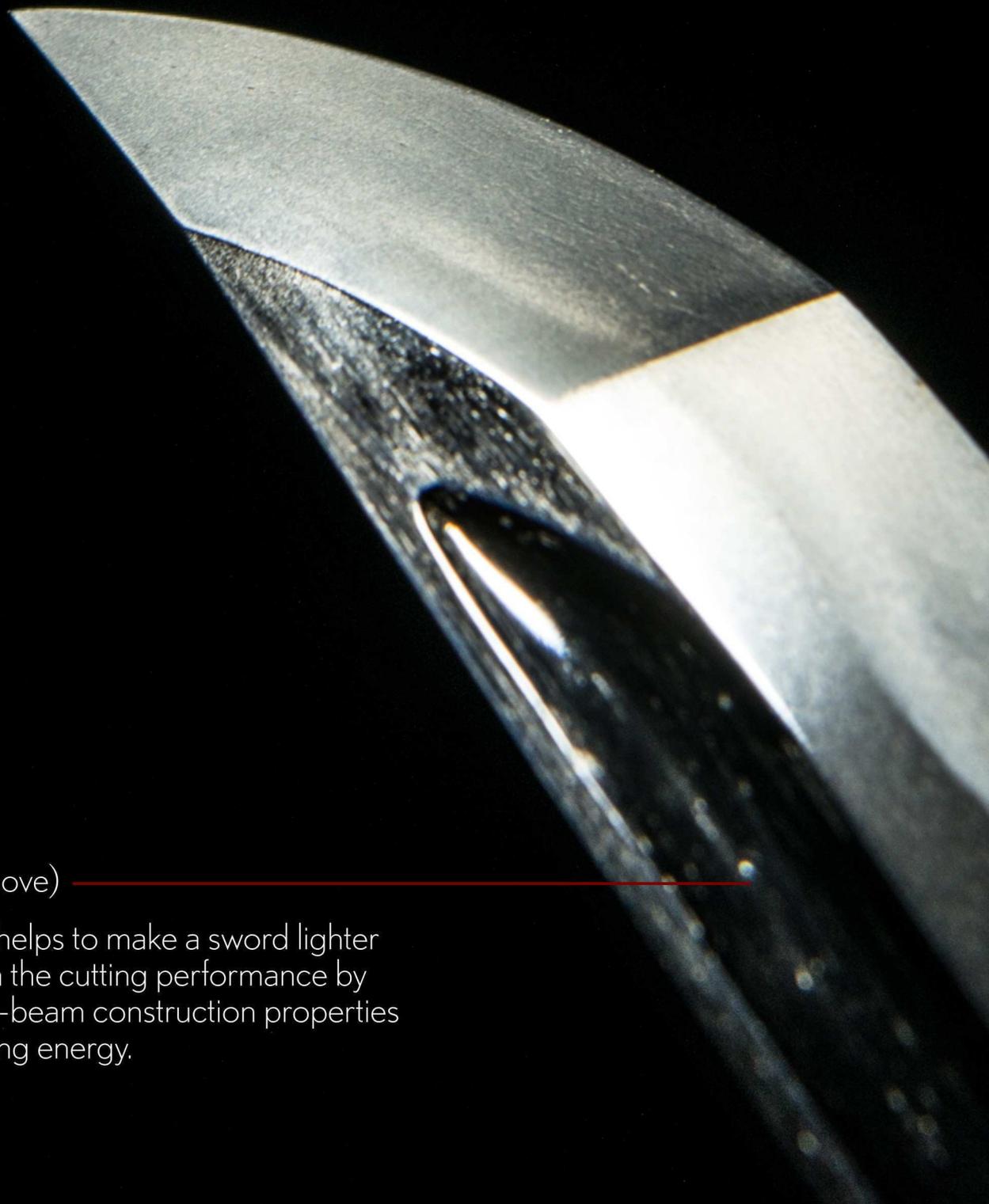
sunagashi

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, showing the hamon (temper line) with a wavy, semi-circular pattern. The blade is dark, and the hamon is a lighter, wavy line. A red line points from the text 'sunagashi' to a specific area of the hamon, which is characterized by brushed strokes.



Ko-gunome (small waves)

chikei (dark lines in the jihada)



bo-hi (groove)

A groove helps to make a sword lighter and aids in the cutting performance by taking on i-beam construction properties of absorbing energy.

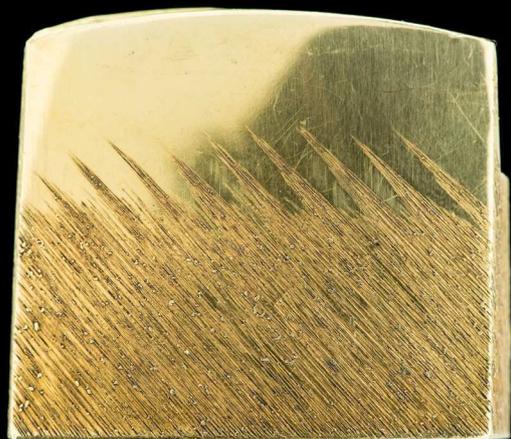
shirake utsuri

whitish reflective areas in the jihada





Shirasaya



Koshi Yujo Yasuri-habaki
(brass)





Tsuba

An inspiring depiction of a *kiku* (chrysanthemum) with her petals soaked in rays of sunshine.

This polished iron tsuba is attributed to the 3rd generation *Higo School* circa the mid-Edo period, 1700s. It comes with an NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certificate of authenticity.

A tsuba serves to balance the sword. It protects the hand of the swordsman from the blade of the enemy while preventing his hands from slipping forward onto his own blade.



reverse





Fuchi (collar), the battle.





fuchi, reverse.



The Genpei War (1180-1185)

The exquisite detail on the *kashira* (pommel) depicts Japan's great sea battle called *Dan-no-ura* on April 25, 1185 between the *Taira* and *Minamoto* clans during the Genpei war.

In the end the Taira clan fell, ending the Heian period and the establishment of the *Kamakura Shogunate* under *Minamoto Yoritomo* in 1192 in Kamakura.

This *kashira* is attributed to *Mitsunobu* of the *Mino School* from the late Edo period. It has received NTHK-NPO Kanteisho certification.



There's a fire in the kitchen,
and everyone's invited.

R2 Damascus Chef Knife 210mm (8.25")

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this exclusive holiday season offer.



ITEM# UJWA104

A NOBUTAKA WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD (ENPO ERA 1673~1681)

- Swordsmith:** *Den Bishu Nobutaka* (attribution, second generation)
Location: *Owari no Kuni* (Aichi prefecture), Owari Seki School
Length: 51.5cm (ubu nakago) **Curvature:** 1.4cm
Hamon: *Gunome midare with yahazu (arrow notch shaped) and togari*
Jihada: *Tight Itame (wood grain pattern)*
Certificates #1-2: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword and koshirae designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro rank: **Shinto Josaku** (a superior swordsmith in the Early Edo Period)
Included: Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD,

SOLD

The Nobutaka family were skilled swordsmiths who enjoyed the patronage of the Tokugawa clan of Owari province. This long wakizashi is attributed to the 2nd generation Nobutaka who was a *Jo-Saku* (superior smith) who lived to the tender age of 87.

An eye-catching *hamon* (temper line) featuring *yahazuba* (arrow notch pattern) blesses the sword. Well-carved rain dragons from late Edo envelope the *fuchi and kashira* (collar/pommel). There is also a lucky rabbit riding on top of a wavy *tsuba* (guard). This delightful wakizashi has *two certificates* of authenticity from NTHK-NPO for both the sword and Edo Period fittings.

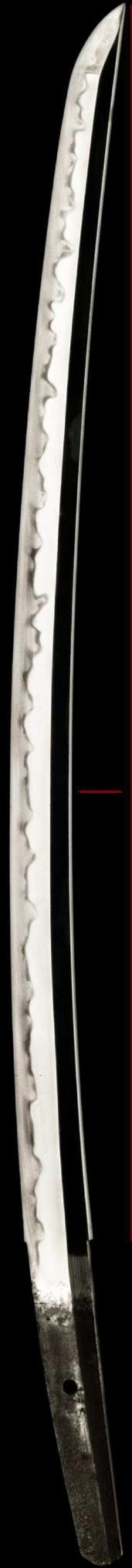
Please watch introductory video here (15 min): <https://youtu.be/iWJJe0v7ZyKM>

Saki-haba: 2.3cm

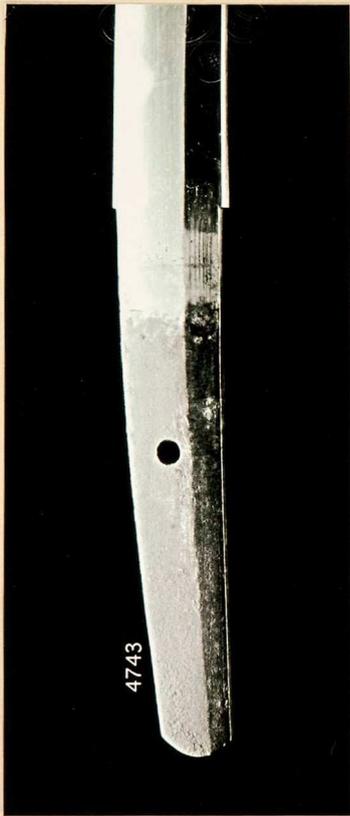
Nagasa: 51.5cm

Sori: 1.4cm

Moto-haba: 2.8cm







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NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This wakizashi was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Wakizashi

Mei (signature)

Mumei (Den Bishu, 2nd generation Nobutaka)
Enpo era (1673~1681)

Nagasa (length)
1-shaku 7-sun (51.1cm)

Issued in 25th year of Heisei (2013), January 20th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)



A rain dragon stares sky high.

Steps to Building Your Own Koshirae

*Many fine antique Samurai swords today come stored only in a shirasaya.
A shirasaya acts like a humididor, protecting the steel for the long term.
Just as the Samurai would have custom ordered during the Edo Period
we can build a traditional set of outdoor koshirae (sword mounts) for your sword.*

Step 1: Choose your sword (find the sword that chooses you)



Step 2: Select your antique fittings & colours (decide on a theme that speaks to you and your sword)



Step 3: Patience...

(it takes about 3-6 months to build as it is handmade by master craftsmen in Japan)

Total production cost ranges from \$2,500 ~ \$5,000

Please speak to a member of the Unique Japan team to get started!



ITEM# UJKA225

A NAMINOHIRA KIYOSUKE KATANA SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (TENNA ERA: 1681-1684)

- Swordsmith:** *Naminohira Kiyosuke*
Location: Satsuma province (Kagoshima prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 68.1cm (ubu) **Curvature:** 0.9cm **Moto-Haba:** 3.2cm
Jihada: *Itame hada*
Hamon: *Gunome choji midare (wavy temper line with clove blossom buds)*
Certificate: **NBTHK Kicho Token** (a sword designated as Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword designated as Authentic by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, bag, stand, kit, DVD, printed care guide, export service

SOLD

The *Naminohira School* is one of the oldest sword-making traditions having begun working in Satsuma province way back in 987AD. The first smiths arrived from Yamato, present day Nara. Quite impressively, future generations worked uninterrupted to the end of the Edo-period, 1868.

Satsuma province is located at the southern end of Japan's southernmost island Kyushu. The island is known for its vast quantities of sand iron to be found on in its rivers and beaches.

Nami 波 means 'wave' and *hira* 平 means 'flat', translating to *calm seas*. This healthy katana was crafted and signed in circa 1681 by Kiyosuke of the Shinto Naminohira School. It is a sword with a vibrant *gunome choji hamon* and strong, distinctive Satsuma steel-making qualities. This katana is poised for a *custom koshirae project* with a wave or water related theme. Two certificates of authenticity accompany the sword including vintage NBTHK Kicho Token from 1970.

Saki-kasane: 4.6mm [^]

Moto-kasane: 6.7mm

Saki-haba: 1.9cm

Nagasa: 68.1cm

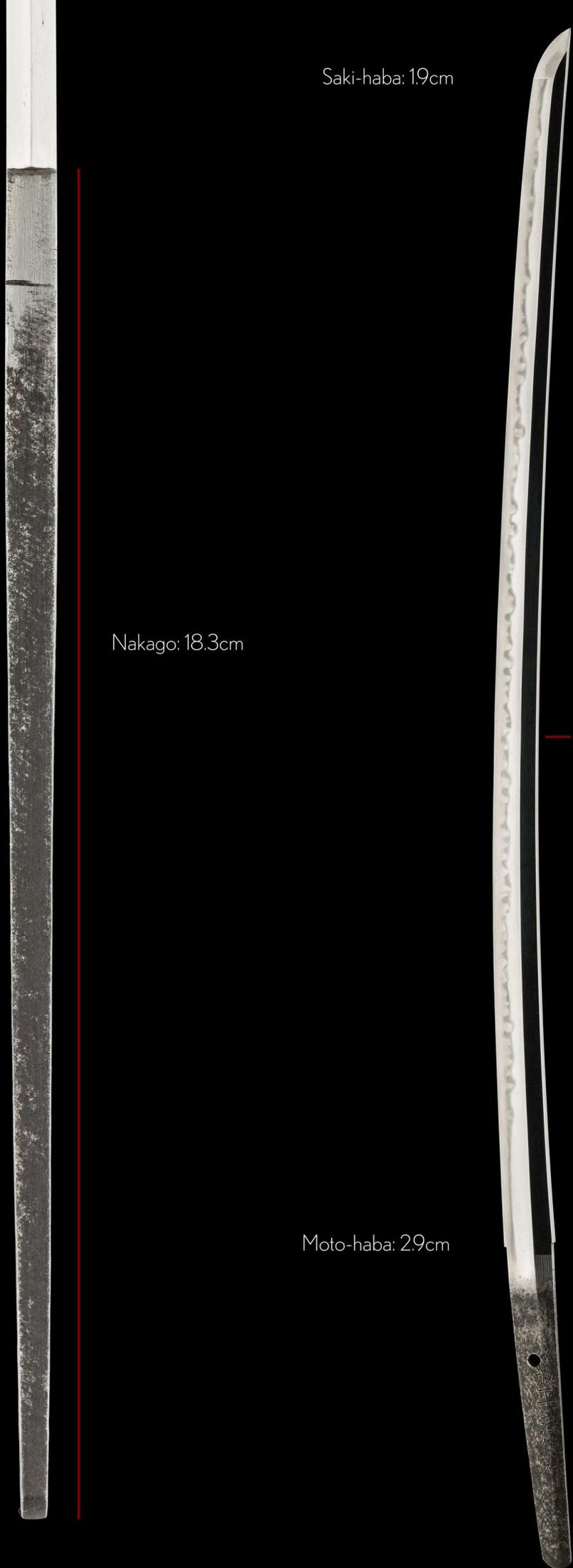
Nakago: 18.3cm

Sori: 0.9cm

Omosa: 665g

Moto-haba: 2.9cm

Mekugi-ana: 1





School: *Naminohira* (Kagoshima)

Swordsmith: *Kiyosuke*



Nami

(no)hira

Kiyo

suke

saku (made by)



The Naminohira school was known for finishing their *nakago* with *higaki* (criss-cross) file marks.

Filing is performed prior to the engraving of the smith's signature.

Higaki is also seen on swords from Yamato province and Mino province.

認定書

一、刀 波平清依作

長三尺三寸五分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果貴重刀劍
として認定す

昭和四十五年九月二十六日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會
會長 細川護立

原 弘 一 殿

NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho
Certificate of Designation

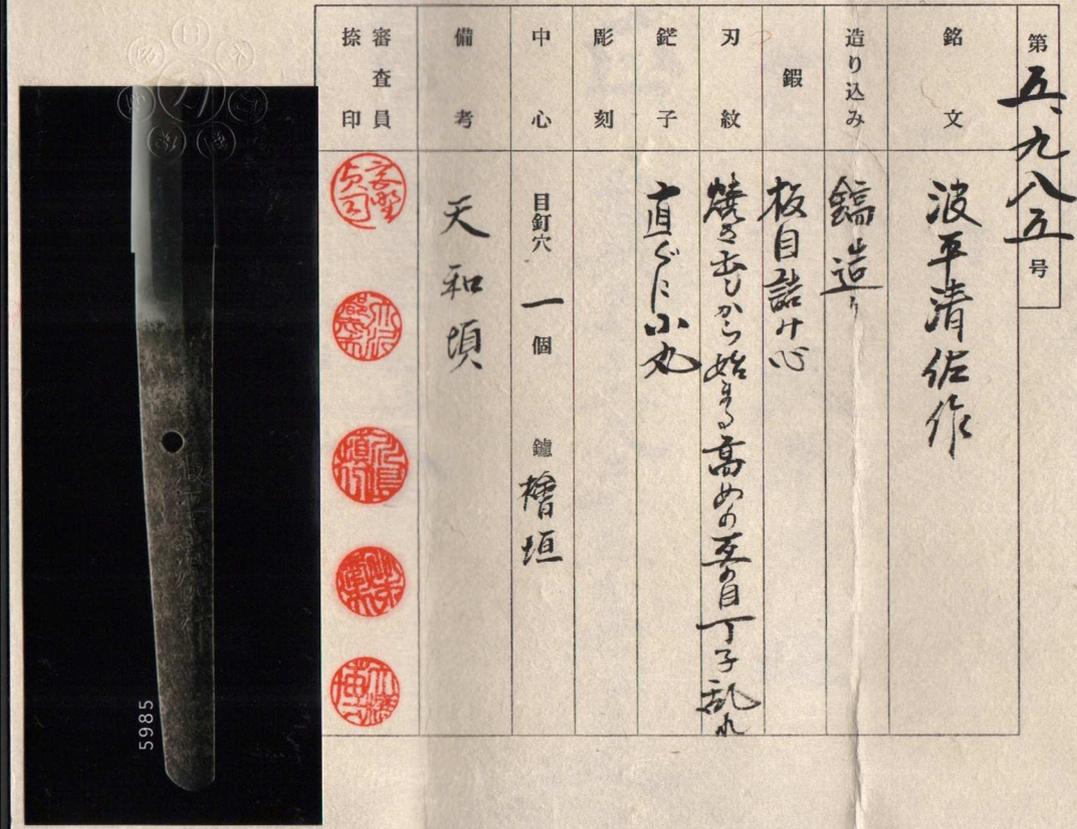
A sword designated as *Precious*
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword
Issued in the 45th year of Showa (1970), September 26th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Naminohira Kiyosuke Saku

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 2-sun 5-bu (68.1cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



捺 審 査 印 員	備 考	中 心	彫 刻	錠 子	刃 紋	鍛	造 り 込 み	銘 文	第 五 九 八 五 号
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		鑓 指 垣							

NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity

This katana was designated as *Authentic*
by the Non-Profit Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword

One, Katana

Mei (signature)
Naminohira Kiyosuke Saku
Tenna era: (1681~1684)

Nagasa (length)
2-shaku 2-sun 5-bu (68.1cm)

Issued in 26th year of Heisei (2014), November 16th

Nihon Token Hozon Kai
(NTHK-NPO)



Kaen-boshi (flame)

The boshi looks as if it is on fire due to the *hakikake* (sweeping) activity of nie crystals.

A close-up, diagonal view of a sword blade. The blade is dark and textured, with a prominent light-colored hamon (edge line) running along its length. Inside the hamon, there are thick, dark, wavy lines known as inazuma. The background is black, making the blade stand out.

Dark snaking lines in the *jigane* known as *Satsuma gane* - a unique trait of swords made in Satsuma province).

Thick *inazuma* (bolts of lightning) form inside the *hamon*, earning the curious name *imozuru* (potato runners).



Shirasaya



Muji-habaki
(copper)

A vibrant *gunome choji midare hamon*, a temper line resembling clove blossom buds cascades along the steel.





Nami means 'wave'
Hira means 'flat'

The name *Naminohira*
carries a sense of serenity.

This katana by
Naminohira Kiyosuke
reflects such qualities.

ARIGATO!

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