JAPANESE SWORD CATALOGUE 34 "PREVIEW"

UPDATED: SEPT 3/2020

(COVER PHOTO)

ITEM# UJKA379

A KAGEHIDE TACHI (SIGNED)
MID-KAMAKURA PERIOD (1259~1261)
WITH MATCHING UCHIGATANA KOSHIRAE
46TH NBTHK JÜYÔ TÔKEN
Hello everyone,

Needless to say, I hope this message finds you and your family well. The covid-19 pandemic is challenging our mental and physical well-being. Keeping our families and those around us healthy and in a positive routine is the new paradigm. Our family is well, Hannah, Lennon and (Lord) Nelson, who is all of 3-years-old, exerts his will power on all of us! Donna and I continue to be in good spirits. We are all in this together, let’s stay strong!

Thankfully, I managed to get to Japan in early January shortly before the coronavirus took hold globally. I secured many exceptional swords that I am proud to release in this Catalogue 34 Preview Edition.

We start the catalogue off with a signed Kamakura period tachi by Osafune Kagehide, the younger brother to grandmaster Mitsutada. Only eleven known signed works of Kagehide are in existence making this sword highly prized. This graceful sword comes with a glorious set of Edo period uchigatana koshirae with tachi fittings crafted by the Umetada school. Only a samurai with significant wealth could have commissioned such a custom koshirae. The sword passed the 46th NBTHK Jûyô Token in the year 2000.

Next up is a katana by talented swordsmith Chojûsai Tsunatoshî. This lovely Shinshinto period dated to 1861 is one of his final creations as he died in 1863. It has a handsome set of original Edo period koshirae and Tansan sayagaki. Rolling back 600 years, the following katana is by Chiyozuru Morihiro that is nearly 80cm in cutting length and ubu nakago – super rare for koto-period sword with such age. This is an exceptional sword that has a custom koshirae in a thoughtful matsu (pine) theme that symbolizes long life.

For those seeking a cutting test sword, be sure to check out the ujka396 Nagamichi katana that was tested by Aizu retainer Makita Shigezane in 1742 and severed two bodies (in one stroke). This super sharp katana has an outstanding set of Edo period koshirae with a lacquered mother-of-pearl saya resembling the night sky. A brilliant daisho follows by 3rd generation Yasutsugu from both Echizen and Edo province. The quality of this matching pair of katana and wakizashi will light up any room or office. Both swords are signed with aoi-mon, the family crest of the ruling Tokugawa family of the Edo period. What a statement these swords carry.

It has been a while since I have included a tanto in a catalogue. The 1863 dated Teruyoshi tanto exudes class and immediately caught my eye in January. Teruyoshi was a respected samurai with immense perseverance who cared deeply for his community. This is a tanto that inspires one to lead a life with honor and character.

For those looking for a fighting katana from the late Muromachi period, I strongly recommend the powerhouse katana by Kiyomitsu. It is signed with his personal name Mago’emon, making it extra collectible. A Jumyo school katana follows Kiyomitsu. There is always good energy that comes with a Jumyo sword that symbolizes long life and good fortune. A unique set of Edo period koshirae comes with this katana.

The final page carries three available swords that would make for magnificent custom koshirae projects if so desired. The first piece is an elegant tachi by the brilliant former living national treasure swordsmith Masamine, inspired by the Fukuoka Ichimonji smith Sukezane. Next is a highly collectible katana by grand master Shodai Hizen Tadayoshi that is signed Tadahiro and dated to August 1624 - one the of his first swords signed Tadahiro. And the final katana is a wickedly sharp sword by Tegai Kanekiyo from the late Nambokucho period, circa 1370. It has a big kirikomi (battle scar) on the spine. This sword has warrior written all over it...

Here is a timely quote to contemplate:
“By protecting others, you save yourself. If you only think of yourself, you’ll only destroy yourself.”
– Kambei Shimada from the film ‘Seven Samurai’.

Now, more than ever, let’s be respectful and kind to others. Stay healthy. We look forward to serving you.

Warm regards,

Pablo Kuntz
April 2020

Please watch my video introduction to the swords on YouTube.
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**ALL PRICES ARE IN US DOLLARS**

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**TO ONLINE VISITORS AROUND THE WORLD...**

Welcome! We completely respect the fact it takes a huge leap of personal faith in us to commit to a particular sword(s) given the reliance on photos and descriptions for such a highly valued item.

It is our promise to address all your questions to the best of our ability. It’s important to us that you feel completely confident that the sword you choose (and chooses you) is destined for your family to cherish and preserve.

Please take reassurance that all swords from Unique Japan are guaranteed authentic and come with a **3-DAY WORRY FREE INSPECTION PERIOD** upon arrival to your home.

We acquire swords on a regular basis and can source swords for collectors seeking a specific smith and/or school. Please inquire about our latest arrivals that may not be listed in the catalogue.

Also, be sure let us know if you are travelling to Tokyo as we can book a private meeting together at our studio in Ebisu.

Domo arigato,
Pablo
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE JAPANESE SWORDS

RELEASED: APRIL 17, 2020 TO VIP CLIENTS ONLY
UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

The following pages contain brief descriptions of authentic and certified Japanese swords that are currently available for ownership in catalogue 34.

Please contact me at service@uniquejapan.com for further images and information into items of interest.

All swords are offered on a first come, first served basis.

Even if an item is listed as being “on hold”, be sure to register your interest as it may come available.

Descriptions and availability are subject to change without notice.

Thank you,

Pablo Kuntz
Founder, Unique Japan

service@uniquejapan.com
+44 7954 102 277 (MOBILE & WHATSAPP ON BRITISH TIME)

Photos taken by Eric Bossick for Unique Japan. All rights reserved.
A Yosōzaemon Sukesada Katana
28th NBTHK Jūyō Token
signed and dated to the sixth year of the Daiei era (February 1525)

Length: 63.9cm (ubu)
Sori: 2.0cm

A truly remarkable katana by the finest swordsman of the Muromachi period. This sword was custom made for samurai Minamoto Sadatoshi.

The blade features a double gunome-midare hamon connected by a hiro-suguha and hitatsura in the top portion of the blade.

A custom-koshirae is in process.
ITEM# UJKA379
A KAGEHIDE TACHI

Swordsmith: Osaşune Kagehide (signed, suriage)
Kamakura Period (circa Shōgen era: 1259–1261)
Nagasa: 69.4cm (suriage) sori: 2.7cm omasa: 605g
46th NBTHK Jōyō Tōken (a profound and important sword)
3 x NTHK-NPO Kanteishō (authentic koshiraie, tsuba and fūk)
Fujishiro: Jōjō-saku (a highly superior swordsmith)
Shirasaya with Tanzan-sensei sayagaki and Edo-period koshiraie
A rare and precious signed tachi by Kagehide - the younger brother of Mitsutada. Co-founder of the Bizen-Osaşune school. With glorious matching tachi fittings from the Umetada school.

HOLD (CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS)

ITEM# UJKA338
A TSUNATOSHI KATANA

Swordsmith: Tōtō ni oite Chōjusai Tsunatoshi
Late Edo Period (dated in Marien era, February 1861)
Nagasa: 69.2cm (ubu) sori: 1.7cm omasa: 950g (!)
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
3 x NTHK-NPO Kanteishō plus NBTHK Hozon (koshiraie)
Fujishiro: Jō-saku (a superior swordsmith)
Shirasaya with Tanzan-sensei sayagaki and Edo-period koshiraie
Tsunatoshi was a student of the great Suishinshī Masahide. This gentle suguhā masterwork is one of Tsunatoshi’s final swords as he died in 1863. Features a lovely matching set of original koshiraie.

$18,000 (CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS)

ITEM# UJKA116
A MORIHIRO KATANA

Swordsmith: Morihiko (Chiyozuru school, signed first generation)
Early Muromachi Period (Ōei era, 1394–1427)
Nagasa: 78.7cm (ubul) sori: 2.4cm omasa: 775g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
NTHK-NPO Yushusaku (rated as a genuine masterwork)
NTHK-NPO Kanteishō (authentic koshiraie)
Shirasaya with Kanzan-sensei sayagaki and custom koshiraie
A spectacular 600-year-old katana by first generation Morihiko of the Chiyozuru school from Echizen province. Impressively long at nearly 80cm and ubu-nakago. Rare! Beautiful custom koshiraie.

SOLD

ITEM# UJKA369
A NAGAMICHI KATANA

Swordsmith: Miyōshi Nagamichi (unsigned, first generation)
Early Edo period (circa Kanbun era: 1661–1673)
Nagasa: 71.0cm (ubu) sori: 0.9cm omasa: 795g
NBTHK Hozon (worthy of conservation)
3 x NTHK-NPO Kanteishō (Edo-period koshiraie, tsuba and fūk)
The Aizu retainer Makita Gorōzaemon Shigezane tested this katana in 1742 by severing through two bodies in one stroke. Miyōshi Nagamichi is rated jō-saku and saijo-owazamono. This sword comes with a gorgeous set of Edo period koshiraie.

SOLD
ITEM# UJD1009
A SANDAI YASUTSUGU DAISHO

Swordsmiths: Echizen Yasutsugu & Edo Yasutsugu (3rd generation)
Early Edo Period (Kanbun era: 1661-1673)
Katana: naga: 75.9 cm (ubu) sori: 1.5 cm omasa: 820 g
Wakizashi: naga: 54.0 cm (ubu) sori: 0.6 cm omasa: 540 g
2 x NTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
3 x NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae, tsuba and fukagawa)
Shirasaya with Kanzan-sensei sayagaki and custom daisho koshirae
Fujishiro: Jō-saku & Chūjō-saku (superior & above average smiths)
A splendid daisho signed with the Tokugawa aoi-mon (family crest) by the two 3rd gen. swordsmiths from the famed Yasutsugu school.

SOLD

ITEM# UJTA049
A TERUYOSHI TANTO

Swordsmith: Tōbu ni oite Teruyoshi kore o tsukuru (signed)
Late Edo Period (dated 3rd year of Bunkyū era: August 1863)
Nagasa: 29.4 cm (ubu) sori: 0 cm omasa: 445 g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic Edo period koshirae)
Shirasaya with Kanzan-sensei sayagaki and matching koshirae
Fujishiro: Chūjō-saku (an above average swordsmith)
Swordsman Teruyoshi was a respected samurai with a valiant spirit who cared deeply about his community. This tanto personifies the qualities of a true leader. Signed with cherry blossoms on nakago.

SOLD

ITEM# UJKA371
A MAGO’EMON KIYOMITSU KATANA

Swordsmith: Bizen Osafune Mago’emon no jō Kiyomitsu
Late Muromachi Period (Eiroku era, dated August 1570)
Nagasa: 70.4 cm (ubu) sori: 1.7 cm omasa: 900 g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
3 x NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic koshirae, tsuba and fukagawa)
Shirasaya with Kanzan-sensei sayagaki and custom koshirae
Ranking: Jō-saku (a superior swordsmith) and Wazamono
A powerful katana from the late Muromachi period by talented swordsmith Bizen Kiyomitsu. This collectible sword features a rare zokumeyi - signed with Mago’emon, his personal name.

SOLD (CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS)

ITEM# UJKA344
A JUMYO KATANA

Swordsmith: The Jumyo School (attribution)
Late Muromachi Period (circa 1500s)
Nagasa: 62.9 cm (ubu) sori: 1.9 cm omasa: 590 g
NBTHK Hozon (sword worthy of conservation)
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic koshirae)
In shirasaya and Edo period koshirae
Jumyo (happy, long life) crafted blades were thought to bring good fortune and longevity - celebrated gifts to daimyo families. A fantastic set of Edo period koshirae accompanies the sword.

SOLD
ITEM# UJKA374
A MUNETSU GU KATANA

Swordsmith: Bizen no Suke Munetsugu (first generation)
Late Edo period (Bunkyō era: dated February 1864)
Nagasa: 72.7cm (ubu) sori: 136cm osoma: 1030g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
Fujishiro: Jōjō-saku (a highly superior swordsmith)
Shirasaya with Tanzan-sensei sayagaki

Munetsugu is rated by jo-jo sak (highly superior smith) making
him one of the top smiths of the Shinshinto period. This blade has
a wide mihaba, a thick kasane and feels massive and substantial in
hand. It is signed with Tenka-muteki, meaning no enemy.

SOLD, CUSTOM KOSHIRAE IN PROCESS

ITEM# UJKA348
A MASAMINE TACHI

Swordsmith: Ryōzaneshi Masamine (former living national treasure)
Nikkō Suzezane Utsushi (a replica of a Kamakura Suzezane tachi)
Showa Period (August 1974)
Nagasa: 729cm (ubu) sori: 29cm osoma: 805g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
NTHK-NPO Yushusaku (rated as a genuine masterwork)
In shirasaya (custom koshirae potential)

A glorious tachi crafted by former living national treasure Ryōzaneshi
Masamine. This tachi is a recreation of the famous national treasure
known as Nikkō Suzezane, last carried by shōgun Tokugawa Ieyasu.

SOLD (CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS)

ITEM# UJKA370
A SHODAI TADAHIRO KATANA

Swordsmith: Hizen no Kuni Musashi Daijō Tadahiro (first generation)
Early Edo Period (Kanei era, dated August 1624)
Nagasa: 73.0cm (ubu) sori: 14cm osoma: 865g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
Ranking: Sajjō-saku (grandmaster smith) and Sajjō-owazamono
Shirasaya with Tanzan-sensei sayagaki

A rare katana by shodai (first generation) Hizen Tadayoshi dated
August 1624. This katana is one of the first that is signed Tadahiro,
which he started in 1624. Exquisitely forged, the steel looks wet - a
sign of a seriously sharp sword. With sayagaki by Tanobe-sensei.

CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE

ITEM# UJKA376
A TEGAI KANEKИYO KATANA

Swordsmith: Tegai Kanekiyo (attribution)
Late Nambokuchō to Ōuei era (circa 1368–1394)
Nagasa: 70.6cm (o-surige) sori: 11cm osoma: 630g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
Ranking: Wazamono
In shirasaya with signed seal of the polisher

Another wickedly sharp sword, this time from the warring late
Nambokuchō period. Kanekiyo belonged to the highly respected
Tegai school from Nara. Blade has a big kirikomi (battle scar).

SOLD
**ITEM# UJKA328**

**A YOSHITSUGU KATANA**

Swordsmith: *Bitchū no Kuni Yoshitsugu* (unsigned with gold inlay)
Late Kamakura Period (Karyaku era, 1326-1329)
Nagasa: 70.3cm (o-suriage) sori: 1.6cm omoya: 710g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (especially worthy of conservation)
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (authentic koshirae, tsuka and fuchi-kashira)
Shirasaya with *Tanobe-sensei sayagaki* and Edo period koshirae
Ranking: *Jōjō-saku* (a highly superior swordsmith)

A beautiful 700-year-old katana by *Yoshitsugu* of the prestigious *Aoe school*. Sword features gold inlay, *origami* and *hakogaki* by *Hon'ami Tenrai*. Comes with a handsome set of Edo period koshirae.

**SOLD (CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS)**

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**ITEM# UJKA363**

**A SADAKATSU KATANA**

Swordsmith: Gassan Sadakatsu, resident of Osaka
Early Showa Period (dated on a lucky day in December 1933)
Nagasa: 68.7cm (ubu) sori: 19cm omoya: 670g
Shirasaya with *Gassan Sadatoshi sayagaki*

Gassan Sadakatsu was the first son of the Meiji era’s master swordsmith Gassan Sadakazu. This rare and elegant katana was crafted in commemoration of the birth of his Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince Akihito. The Gassan school’s iconic *ayasugi-hada* has been captured with pure crafting brilliance. Sadakatsu’s grandson, Sadatoshi, head of the Gassan family, authenticated this katana in *sayagaki* as being an authentic and masterful work of art.

**¥3,000,000 (CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS)**

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**ITEM# UJKA362**

**A TERUSHIGE KATANA**

Swordsmith: Shitahara Terushige (unsigned, o-suriage)
Muromachi Period (circa Eiroku era: 1558-1570)
Nagasa: 71.2cm (o-suriage) sori: 2.0cm omoya: 661g
NBTHK Tokubetsu Kichō (an especially precious sword)
NBTHK Kichō (a precious koshirae)
NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (an authentic katana)
Shirasaya and Edo-period koshirae

In 1660, at the age of 62, renowned sword tester *Yamano Nagahisa* severed through *three bodies* in one stroke with this katana. Comes with a splendid set of certified Edo period koshirae.

**SOLD (CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO)**

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**ITEM# UJKA372**

**A NAOTANE KATANA**

Swordsmith: Taikei Naotane (unsigned, attributed)
Late Edo period (circa Bunsei era: 1818-1830)
Nagasa: 69.7cm (ubu) sori: 1.5cm omoya: 627g
NBTHK Hozon × 2 (sword and tsuka worthy of conservation)
NTHK Kanteisho × 2 (kogai/kozuka/menuki + fuchi-kashira)
Ranking: *Saigō-saku* (a grandmaster swordsmith)

Taikei Naotane was one of the finest smiths working in the late Edo period. This elegant katana features a lovely *gumome-choji-midare hamon* and an attractive koshirae with an ocean theme.

**$10,500 (CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO)**
A recently completed custom koshirae
ujka291 - A Norikatsu Katana

This katana is crafted with *masame-hada* (straight grain). Taking this as inspiration, we built a *saya* (scabbard) with long straight grooves that paid tribute to this unique grain pattern. All fittings carry a gold dragon theme.

Congratulations Mark!
This custom koshirae was built for ujka322 - A Nio katana with Juyo Token certification. As the Nio school derives their name from the benevolent guardian kings of Buddhism, we built a koshirae with Nio guardians and Shoki (the demon slayer) protecting the owner from such evil spirits. The saya is lacquered in a unique zen whirlpool design. Congratulations Elliot!
ARIGATO!! Thank you for downloading our preview catalogue. Please join our VIP mailing list to be informed of recently acquired swords. Email: SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM

Recently sold

uiwa246 - A Gassan Sadakazu Wakizashi (August 1908)
A Nanki Shigekuni utsushi masterpiece, commissioned by Col. Takagi Renkichi

Be safe and stay strong!!

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