



ITEM# UJDI014

SOLD

## A SUKESADA / YASUNAGA DAISHÔ

SIGNED, KOTÔ MUROMACHI PERIOD (1394~1428 & 1500~1550)

- Swordsmiths:** Osafune Sukesada (祐定, *katana*) & Osafune Yasunaga (康永, *wakizashi*)
- Measurements (k):** Length: 64.5cm (*suriage*) Sori: 2.73cm Moto-haba: 2.78cm Weight: 595g
- Measurements (w):** Length: 41.8cm (*suriage*) Sori: 0.3cm Moto-haba: 2.51cm Weight: 255g
- Jihada:** Well-forged itame and nagare-hada with chikei and utsuri especially on wakizashi
- Hamon:** Ko-midare based on suguha, bright nioguchi, kinsuji, yo, hakikake bôshi
- Certificate #1:** NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (*wakizashi is Especially Worthy of Preservation*)
- Certificate #2:** NBTHK Hozon (*katana is Worthy of Preservation*)
- Certificates #3-6:** NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (*tsuba, fk, kogai/kozuka, koshirae designated Authentic*)
- Rankings:** Chûjô-saku & Wazamono (*Yasunaga ranked above average, made sharp swords*)
- Authentication:** Sayagaki by Nozomi-san (*shodô artist*)
- Included:** Shirasaya x 2, daishô koshirae, fabric bags, kit, printed description

Here is a brilliant *daishô* formed of *Muromachi* period *Bizen Osafune* school swords by *Sukesada* and *Yasunaga*. The *Sukesada* *katana* is gloriously curved, with a *jihada* of *itame* mixed with *mokume* that stands out prominently. The *wakizashi* by *Yasunaga*, son of Ôei era master *Yasumitsu*, features abundant activity with a particularly bright *nioguchi*. The *daishô* *koshirae* follows formal samurai *daishô* attire with *shakudô* fittings that display a powerful theme of dragons resulting in immense spiritual protection to the swords. There is fine energy channelled into this *daishô*, two war veterans from the *Muromachi* period now firmly in retirement, but always on the ready if ever called upon.



Saki-kasane: 4.6mm

Moto-kasane: 6.4mm

Omosa: 595g

Kissaki: 2.98cm

Saki-haba: 1.98cm

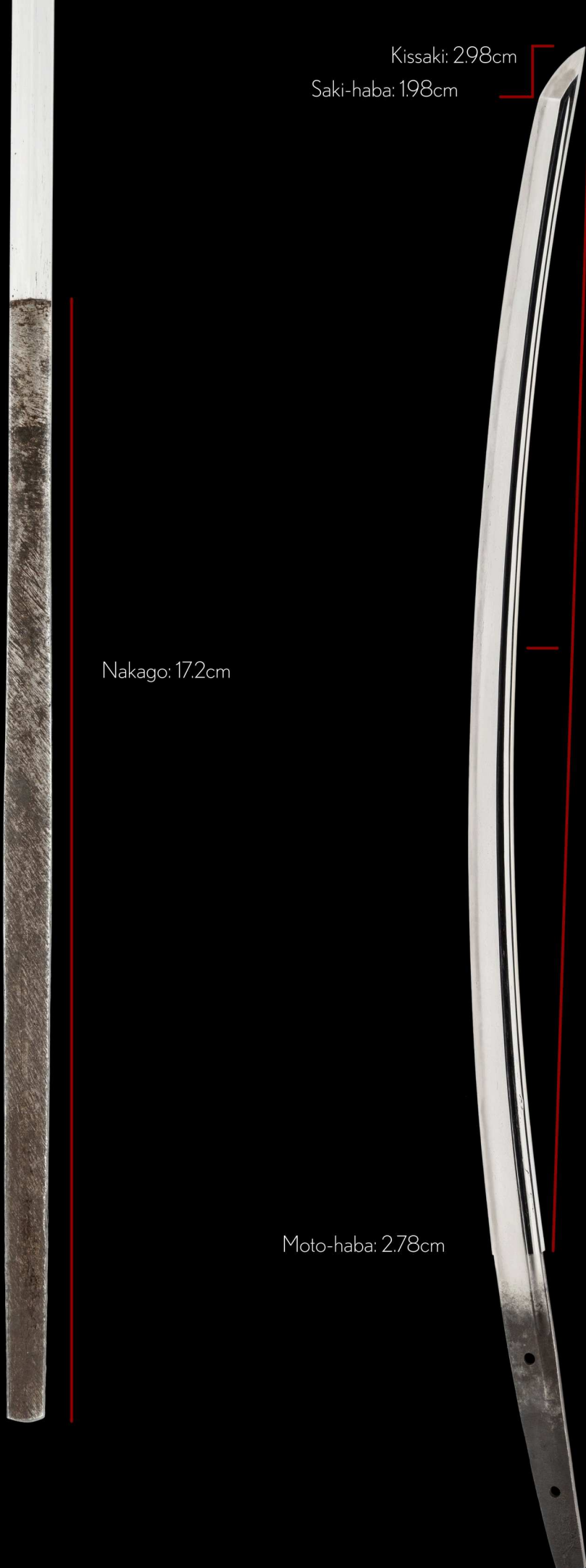
Nakago: 17.2cm

Moto-haba: 2.78cm

Nagasa: 64.5cm

Sori: 2.73cm (wow)

Mekugi-ana: 2



Moto-kasane: 5.1mm

Omosa: 255g

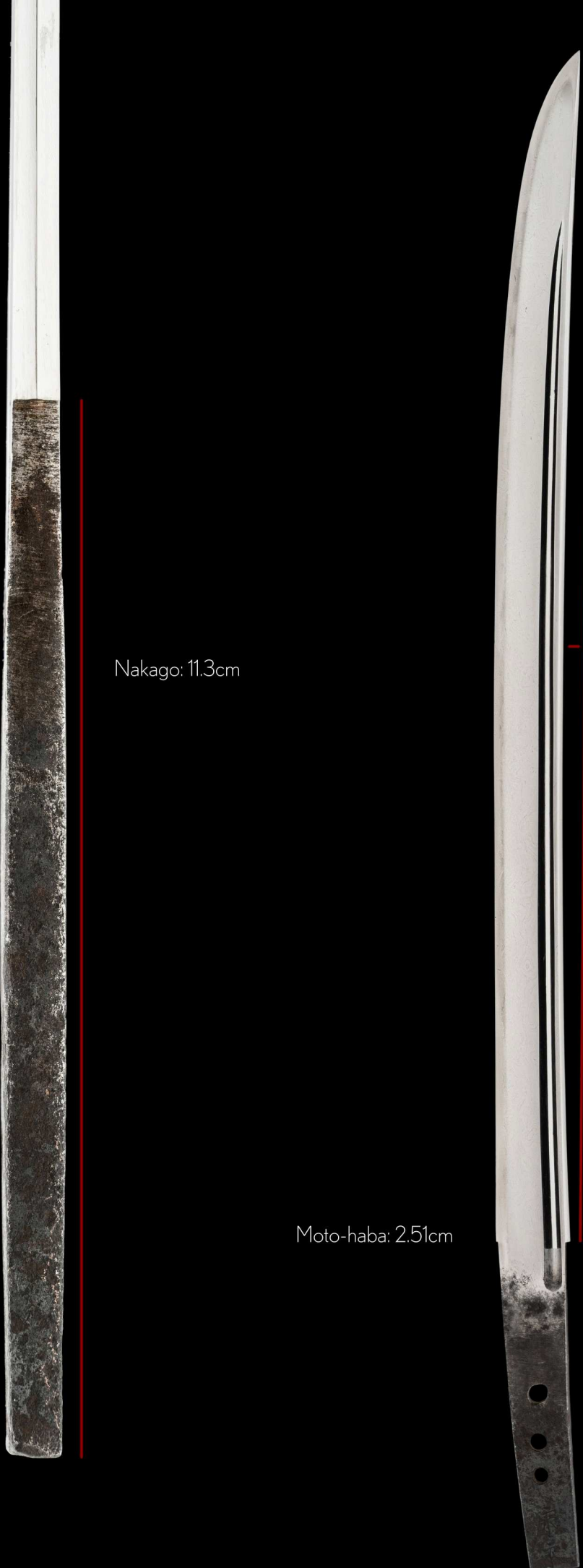
Nakago: 11.3cm

Moto-haba: 2.51cm

Nagasa: 41.8cm

Sori: 0.3cm

Mekugi-ana: 3



This brilliant *daishô*, consists of works by two swordsmiths from the *Bizen Osafune* lineage. The *katana* is a *niji-me* (two-character signature) *Sukesada* (祐定), and the *wakizashi* is also a *niji-me* by *Yasunaga* (康永).

The *katana* was crafted at a time to meet the high demand of the turbulent *Muromachi* period. The blade features a very deep and most impressive curvature so it could be wielded with one hand (*katate-uchi*), with a *jihada* of *itame* mixed with *mokume* that stands out prominently. The *hamon* is a calm (yet deadly) *suguha* with *ko-midare* and *sunagashi*. The presence of a *bô-hi* groove to reduce weight reflects the practical reality required for combat situations.

The *wakizashi* by *Yasunaga*, is traditionally regarded to be the son of *Yasumitsu* (康光) and one of the representative masters of the *Ôei-Bizen* period. He thus learned from the most accomplished of that generation. The *jigane* shows a flowing *itame* grain that occasionally resembles the *ayasugi* pattern, accompanied by light *utsuri*, showcasing a level of skill inherited from his father. The *hamon* is *suguha* mixed with *ko-midare*, featuring abundant activity within the edge than the *katana* with a bright *nioiguchi*. A bright *nioguchi* (crystals that form the hamon) is always a sign of a well-made, healthy, vibrant sword.

*Yasunaga* is ranked *chûjô-saku* (an above average smith) and also *wazamono* for his sharp sword-making abilities. It's always a pleasure to see a *katana* period smith with *wazamono* ranking - a six-hundred-year-old sword that can still bite.

The *daishô koshirae* houses these two blades in a unified colour scheme appropriate for formal *samurai daishô* attire. White *samekawa* with black silk hilts and a beaming glossy black scabbards. The *shakudô* fittings embody a powerful theme of dragons that offer immense spiritual protection to the swords.

It's a *daishô* of veteran swords that deserve to be treated well. Great samurai energy that will look fabulous on display in any home or office.







WATCH PABLO'S YOUTUBE PRESENTATION OF  
UJDI014 - A SUKESADA / YASUNAGA DAISHÔ

[UNIQUEJAPAN.COM/UJDI014-VIDEO](https://uniquejapan.com/ujdi014-video)



Location: *Bizen province*  
School name: *Ôsafune school*  
Swordsmith: *Sukesada*

*suriage-nakago* (shortened tang)  
*katte-sagari-yasurime* (slanting file marks)

← transition to original file marks

← original *mekugi-ana*

祐 (Suke)

定 (sada)

The technique of finishing the end of a groove in a rounded shape is known as *maru-dome*. Typically, the end of the groove is positioned just above the *habaki*, but now extends into the *nakago* due to the blade being shortened for use on the battlefield as an awesome, deeply curved one-handed *katate-uchi* katana.

*maru-dome*



An example of *maru-dome* on an *ubu-nakago* (unshortened) blade.

(*ura*, reverse)





03202112



No 3027734

鑑定書

一刀銘祐定

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と  
鑑定しこれを証する

長二尺一寸二分半

令和四年三月二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



北海道 教育委員会  
第 7564 号  
昭和29年6月18日

NBTHK Hozon  
Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 4th year of Reiwa (2022), March 2nd

One, Katana

*Mei* (signature)  
*Sukesada*

*Nagasa* (length)  
2-shaku 1-sun 2-bu han (64.5cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)





備州長船祐定

*Bishû Osafune Sukesada*

Osafune Sukesada from Bishû province

時代室町時代後期康永ト大小ヲ成ス

*Jidai Muromachi jidai kôki, Yasunaga to daishô o nasu*

Late Muromachi period, constituting a daishô with Yasunaga

長貳尺一寸二分半有之

長貳尺一寸二分半有之

*Nagasa 2-shaku 1-sun 2-bu han kore ari*

Blade length 64.5 cm

令和八丙午年如月吉日誌之

*Reiwa hachi hinoe-umadoshi Kisaragi kichijitsu kore o shirusu*

Written on a lucky day in the second month in the eighth year of Reiwa era during the Year of the Horse (February 2026)







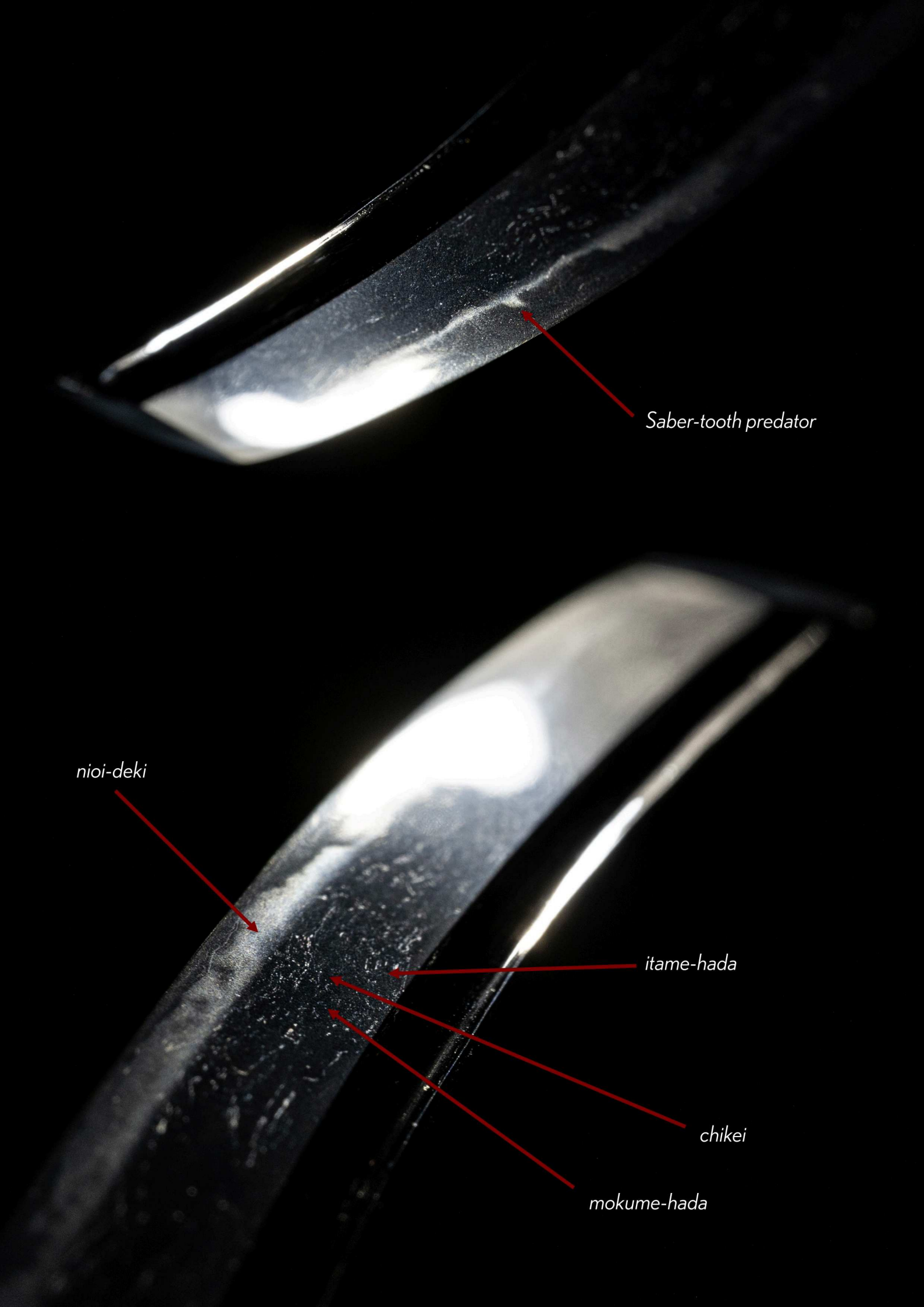


Forty Seven Ronin  
Gekko Ogata (born 1859)

The katana's dramatic curvature is reminiscent of samurai archer. Its *suguha hamon* runs with quiet discipline like a loyal soldier.

*Hakikake* (beautiful brushed boshi)





*Saber-tooth predator*

*nioi-deki*

*itame-hada*

*chikei*

*mokume-hada*



The *suguha hamon* has a thicker *nioiguchi* on the *omote* (front) side of the blade. The hamon makes a cheeky right turn at the base of the blade.



The upper portion of the blade  
transitions into *ko-midare hamon*  
adding further personality to the katana.



Location: *Bizen province*

School name: *Osafune school*

Swordsmith: *Yasunaga* (first generation)

*suriage-nakago* (shortened tang)

*katte-sagari-yasurime* (slanting file marks)

Similar to the *katana*, the boundary of the original file marks can also be identified on the *wakizashi*.

original *mekugi-ana*

康 (Yasu)

永 (naga)





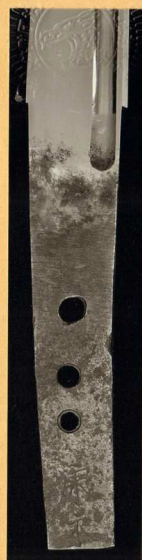
The *bô-hi*, which would have originally ended above the *habaki*, also extends into the *nakago* matching the katana..

wonderful aged patina on the nakago,

The horizontally cut *nakago-jiri* is referred to as *Keichô-suriage*, suggesting that the blade was shortened around the *Keichô* era (1596-1615).

(*ura*, reverse)

03202112



No 1017112

鑑定書

一脇指 銘 康永(長船)

長一尺三寸七分半

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀剣と  
鑑定しこれを証する

令和四年三月二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



北海道 教育委員会  
第 4698 号  
昭和26年12月7日  
(再)令和3年9月24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 4th year of Reiwa (2022), March 2nd

One, Wakizashi

*Mei* (signature)  
*Yasunaga* (*Osafune* school)

*Nagasa* (length)  
1shaku 3-sun 7-bu han (41.8cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)

備州長船康永

備州長船康永  
*Bishû Osafune Yasunaga*  
Osafune Yasunaga from Bishû province

時代應永頃  
祐定ト大小ヲ成ス

時代應永頃祐定ト大小ヲ成ス  
*Jidai Ôei goro, Sukesada to daishô o nasu*  
Around Ôei period (1394~1428)  
Constituting a daishô with Sukesada

長壹尺参寸七分半有之

長壹尺参寸七分半有之  
*Nagasa 1-shaku 3-sun 7-bu han kore ari*  
Blade length 41.8 cm

令和八丙午年  
如月吉日誌之

令和八丙午年如月吉日誌之  
*Reiwa hachi hinoe-umadoshi Kisaragi kichijitsu kore o shirusu*  
Written on a lucky day in the second month in the eighth year  
of Reiwa era during the Year of the Horse (February 2026)









600 years of proud heritage





yô

A bright, consistent and well-executed *suguha hamon* with lovely details such as *yô* (leaves) that 'fall' from the *hamon*. Yasunaga may be ranked as *chûjô-saku* (an above average swordsmith) by *Fujishiro*, but this sword is clearly the work of a superior-ranked smith.



*Midare utsuri* - a wavy shadow  
*hamon* - appears hugging the  
*shinogi* line in classic *Bizen* tradition.

Large pools of *ô-mokume*

*midare-utsuri*





*sunagashi*

*chikei*

A river of *nagara-hada*.

*mokume-hada*

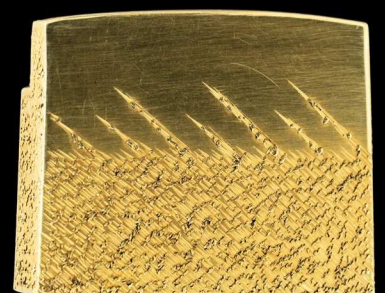
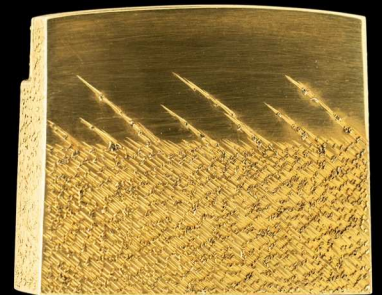


Expertly forged steel that catches the light just right - note the swirling *nagare* and *itame-hada* - there is an aliveness to this wakizashi.



A gorgeous *bo-hi* (groove) that enhances the elegant line of the sword.

*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbards with *Nozomi-san sayagaki*)



matching gold *habaki* with  
rainfl design file marks



*Kuro-roiro-nuri saya*  
*daishô-uchigatana-koshirae*  
(黒呂塗鞘打刀大小拵)

*Uchigatana-daishô-koshirae*  
lacquered in glossy black

*Crafted during the modern-era*

The *daishô*, restricted to *samurai* class wear, emerged as a defining symbol of their status. This paired-sword tradition gained prominence near the close of the *Muromachi* period (1336-1573), with surviving examples dating to the late sixteenth century. A 1629 edict formalized the *daishô* requirement for *samurai* on official duties.

This tradition ended during the *Meiji* period when an 1871 edict removed the *samurai*'s obligation to wear *daishô*, followed by an 1876 public sword ban.

These reforms effectively ended both the *daishô* tradition and the *samurai* class itself.



*NTHK-NPO Kanteisho*  
*Certificate of Authenticity*





dai

This dynamic pair of glorious *daishô tsubas* were crafted by the *Nomura* school during the late *Edo* period. The lineage began with the first generation, *Masatoki*, who studied under *Gotô Kenjô* before establishing his own school. As a result, many artists of the *Nomura* school traditionally underwent training with the *Gotô* family.

Made of *shakudô* with gold accents, the artwork features impressive three-dimensional carvings of cloud dragons guarding the swords with a powerful and spiritual presence.



shô



NTHK-NPO Kanteishô Certificate



*Guard the jewel..*





(reverse)



dai



shô





The *fuchi-kashira* was signed and crafted by *Kurokawa Shigehisa* (黒川茂久), the twelfth head of the prestigious *Kurokawa* family, who served as the *Onkoshimono-kata* (sword administrators) for the *Fukui* Clan for generations. *Shigehisa* was a master of extraordinary talent; not only did he serve as the official craftsman for the domain lord, but his original *tsuba* designs also earned the supreme honor of being selected for the *Shogun's* personal swords. In these pieces, the surging waves are expressed with dynamic, three-dimensional carving. As a matching set for a *daishô*, the craftsmanship clearly reflects an intent for the most formal of attire.





(Kuro) 黒

(kawa) 川

(Shige) 茂

(hisa) 久

monogram







The *daishô tsuka* (hilts) are covered with antique white samekawa (ray skin) and wrapped in *hishimaki* style with black *ito*, complemented by *shakudô fuchi* with gold accents and *shakudô menuki*.

Every element follows the traditional formal dress code for attending castle ceremonies - a cohesive, tidy and dignified *daishô koshirae*.



← *fuchi* with gold accents

← *shakudô menuki*

← white *samekawa*

← black *ito*



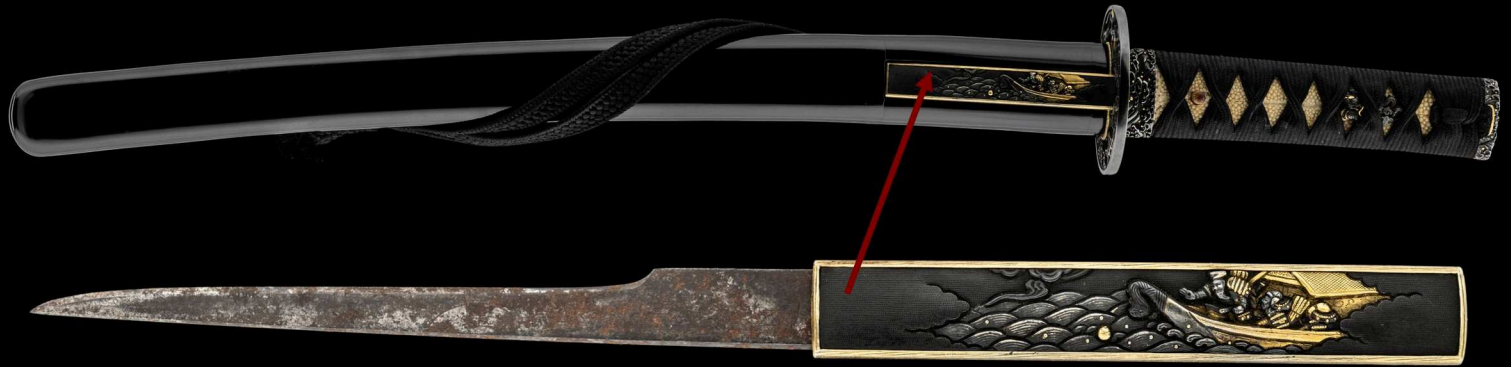


The *menuki* continue the dragon theme with terrific depictions of crawling dragons. The dragon was the most formal motif of the *Edo* period and was highly regarded by samurai as a symbol of power, martial fortune, and success.





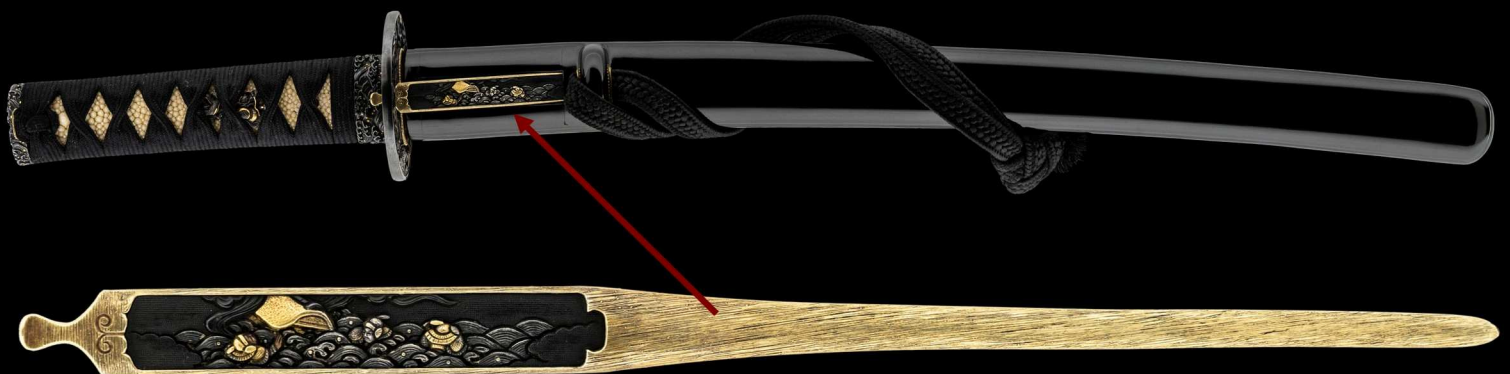
*kozuka* (utility knife)



The set of *kozuka* and *kogai*, together as *futatokoro*, were practical accessories for the Edo-period *samurai*, housed in dedicated slots on the wakizashi *saya* (scabbard).

The pieces are crafted by *Gotô Ryûjô*, a master from a branch of the prestigious *Gotô* family. Expertly carved into the *shakudô nanako* base is the *Battle of Dan-no-ura*, the final decisive conflict of the *Genpei War*.

For generations of *samurai*, this battle was a fitting motif – a reminder of where they came from and what they stood for.



*kogai* (hair pick)



祐 (Suke)

定 (sada)



### *Tsunagi*

A handcrafted duplicate wooden sword blade that holds together the *koshirae* when the blade is resting in *shirasaya*.

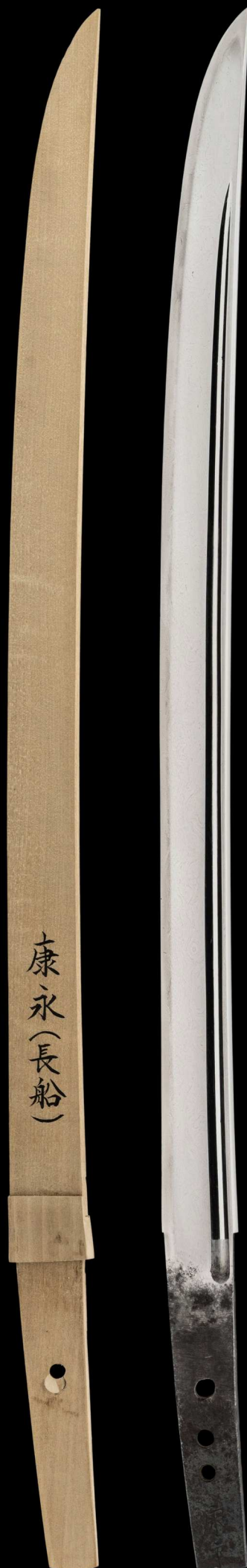




康 (Yasu)  
永 (naga)  
長 (Osa)  
船 (fune)

### *Tsunagi*

A handcrafted duplicate wooden sword blade that holds together the *koshirae* when the blade is resting in *shirasaya*.







*Daishô koshirae* bags with  
pattern of flowers and clouds.



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