



ITEM# UJKA501

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A MASAYUKI KATANA

SIGNED & DATED, SHINSHINTÔ EDO PERIOD (KANSEI 11: FEBRUARY 1799)

Swordsmith:	<i>Hôki no Kami Taira Ason Masayuki</i> (伯耆守平朝臣正幸)
Measurements:	Length: 72.6cm (<i>ubu</i>) Sori: 1.9cm Moto-haba: 3.2cm Weight: 805g
Jihada:	Supremely forged <i>ayasugi</i> -like <i>hada</i> with <i>mokume-hada</i> , <i>ji-nie</i> and plenty of <i>chikei</i>
Hamon:	Bright <i>notare</i> & <i>togariba</i> , deep <i>nioiguchi</i> , <i>ara-nie</i> , <i>sunagashi</i> and <i>kinsuji</i>
Certificate #1:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (sword Especially Worthy of Preservation)
Certificate #2-3:	NBTHK Hozon (<i>tsuba</i> and <i>futatokoromono</i> Worthy of Preservation)
Certificate #4-5:	NTHK-NPO Kanteishô (<i>koshirae</i> and <i>fuchi-kashira</i> certified as Authentic)
Fujishiro rank:	Jôjô-saku (ranked as a highly superior swordsmith)
Authentication:	Sayagaki by Tanzan-sensei (Tanobe Michihiro)
Included:	Shirasaya, custom <i>koshirae</i> , fabric bags, kit, printed description

\$18,500

Masayuki succeeded as the third generation *Masayoshi*, received the honorary title *Hôki no Kami* in 1789 at which point he took the name *Masayuki*. He stands alongside *Motohira* as one of the two pillars of *Satsuma Shinshintô* smithing. This brilliant katana is dated to February 1799, bold and imposing with a wide *mihaba*, glorious curvature and a flowing *ayasugi* pattern with rich *nie* and *chikei*. The hamon is a wonderful mix of wavy *notare* and *togariba* with a bright, deep *nioiguchi* and thick ice-like *ara-nie*. The *koshirae* is lacquered in a dark navy blue with a wave pattern with a dragon *tsuba* radiating a martial ethos while the *futatokoromono* set and *fuchi-kashira* bring warmth and good fortune. This is an inspiring samurai collectible from a true great of the *Shinshintô* era.



Saki-kasane: 4.7mm

Moto-kasane: 6.2mm

Omosa: 805g

Kissaki: 4.72cm

Saki-haba: 2.2cm

Nakago: 19.2cm

Moto-haba: 3.2cm

Nagasa: 72.6cm

Sori: 1.9cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



Hôki no Kami Masayuki (伯耆守正幸) was born in *Kyôhô* 18 (1733) into a swordsmithing family of several generations, succeeding as the third generation *Masayoshi* (正良). He began forging in *An'ei* 1 (1772), and in *Kansei* 1 (1789) received the honorary title *Hôki no Kami* simultaneously with *Oku Motohira* (奥元平), at which point he took the name Masayuki. He served as an official smith of the *Satsuma* domain until his passing in *Bunsei* 1 (1818), at the ripe old age of 86.

Masayuki advanced the *Naminohira*-den forging traditions inherited from his grandfather by incorporating a quenching method that placed great emphasis on *nie*, and succeeded in recreating the *Sôshû Masamune* blades transmitted to the *Shimazu* clan, pieces that had long since been shortened and lost their signatures. The achievement earned him widespread acclaim. Surpassing his forebears in skill, he stands alongside *Oku Yamato no Kami Motohira* as one of the two pillars of *Satsuma Shinshintô* smithing. His blades carry an inspiring martial demeanour that mirrors the spirit of the Satsuma warrior. It was this vitality that stirred smiths from domains that had fallen into stagnation during the long peace, and secured his place as a pioneering figure in what would come to be known as the *Shinshintô* movement.

This brilliant katana is dated to February 1799, with *Masayuki* recording his age as sixty seven. *Tanobe-sensei* notes this as a rarity, for *Masayuki* was not in the habit of dating himself until he had passed his seventieth year! The overall shape is bold and imposing with a wide *mihaba*, glorious curvature and a well-balanced extended *chû-kissaki*. The *jigane* has a flowing *ayasugi*-like pattern with rich *nie*, *chikei*, and a standing *utsuri*. The *hamon* is an energetic mix of wavy *notare* and *togariba* with a bright, deep *nioiguchi*, thick *nie*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi*. Motoyuki is rated as a *jôjô-saku* smith (highly superior), and his skill is evidently clear in this blade.

The *koshirae* honours both the sword and the domain that produced it. The *saya*, lacquered in dark navy blue with a wave pattern, is an inspired choice for a Satsuma island smith. The awesome dragon *tsuba* radiates the austere martial ethos of *Jigen-ryû*, while the *futatokoro* set by *Gotô Denjô* and a most delightful *Shichifukujin fuchi-kashira* by *Yûrakusai Sekibun* brings warmth and good fortune to the ensemble, guaranteed to raise a smile. Every element in harmony. All told, this is an inspiring samurai collectible from a true great of the *Shinshintô* era.



Location: *Satsuma province*

Title name: *Hôki no Kami* (Lord of Hôki province)

Family name: *Taira Ason*

Swordsmith: *Masayuki*

ubu-nakago (original, unaltered tang)

katte-agari-yasurime (slanting file marks)

伯 (Hô)

耆 (ki, no)

守 (Kami)

平 (Taira)

朝 (A)

臣 (son)

正 (Masa)

幸 (yuki)

Notice how the nakago bulges - a hallmark of the *Sôshû* tradition, honouring *Masamune* and the great smiths of his lineage.



A confidently chiseled signature, the patina has aged brilliantly.

Kansei jûichinen hitsuji nigatsu
Gyônen rokujûnana sai tsukuru

Dated to the second month in the eleventh year of Kansei era (February 1799) during the Year of the Sheep

Crafted when Masayuki was sixty seven years old.

(Kan) 寛

(sei) 政

(jû) 十

(ichi) 一

(nen) 年

(hitsuji) 未

(ni) 二

(gatsu) 月

行 (Gyô)

年 (nen)

六 (roku)

十 (jû)

七 (nana)

歳 (sai)

造 (tsukuru)

The shape of the *nakago-jiri* (butt-end of the tang) is called *iriyama-gata*. *Iri* means 'enter' and *yama* 'mountain', suggesting at the '*base of a mountain*'.



21200911



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平成二十二年一月二十九日

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一刀 銘

伯耆守平朝臣正幸
寛政十一年未二月
行年六十七歳造

鑑定書

長二尺三寸九分半

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 22nd year of Heisei (2010), January 29th

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Hôki no Kami Taira Ason Masayuki

Kansei jûichinen hitsuji nigatsu

Gyônen rokujûnana sai tsukuru

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 3-sun 9-bu han (72.6cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)

薩摩國伯耆守平朝臣正幸

Satsuma no kuni Hôki no Kami Taira Ason Masayuki

Hôki no Kami Taira Ason Masayuki from Satsuma Province

八字銘及寛政十一年未二月紀並ニ行年六十七歳造
ヲ添フ通常同工ガ行年ヲ誌スハ古希以降而本刀ハ
珍敷キ例也剛健ナル姿態ニ荒沸主調デ勾深ノ尖刃
・湾ノ刃文ガ闊達自在ニ乱ルル刃文ヲ焼キ同工ノ
特色明ラカデ出来宜矣

*Hachiji-mei oyobi Kansei jûichi-nen hitsuji nigatsu-ki narabi ni
gyônen rokujûnana-sai tsukuru o sou. Tsûjô dôkô ga gyônen o
shirusu wa koki ikô nishite hontô wa mezurashiki rei nari.
Gôken naru shitai ni aranie shuchô de nioi-buka no togari-ba
notare no hamon ga kattatsu-jizai ni midaruru hamon o yaki
dôkô no tokushoku akiraka de deki yoroshi.*

The signature consists of eight characters, to which the date of the second month of *Kansei* 11 (1799), the Year of the Sheep, and the notation that the blade was forged at the age of 67 have been added. It is customary for this smith to record his age only from the age of 70 onwards, making this blade a rare example. The blade displays a robust and powerful *sugata*, with a hamon in which *togari-ba* and *notare* elements intermingle freely and dynamically, *ara-nie* serving as the primary feature and a deep *nioiguchi* throughout, clearly embodying the characteristic style of this smith and attesting to a work of fine quality.

刃長貳尺参寸九分半

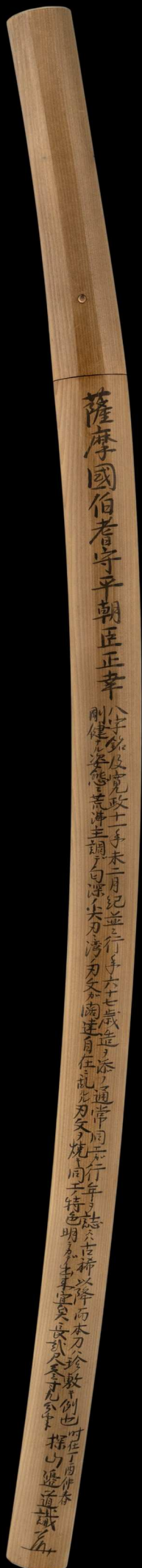
Nagasa 2-shaku 3-sun 9-bu han

Blade length ~ 72.6 cm

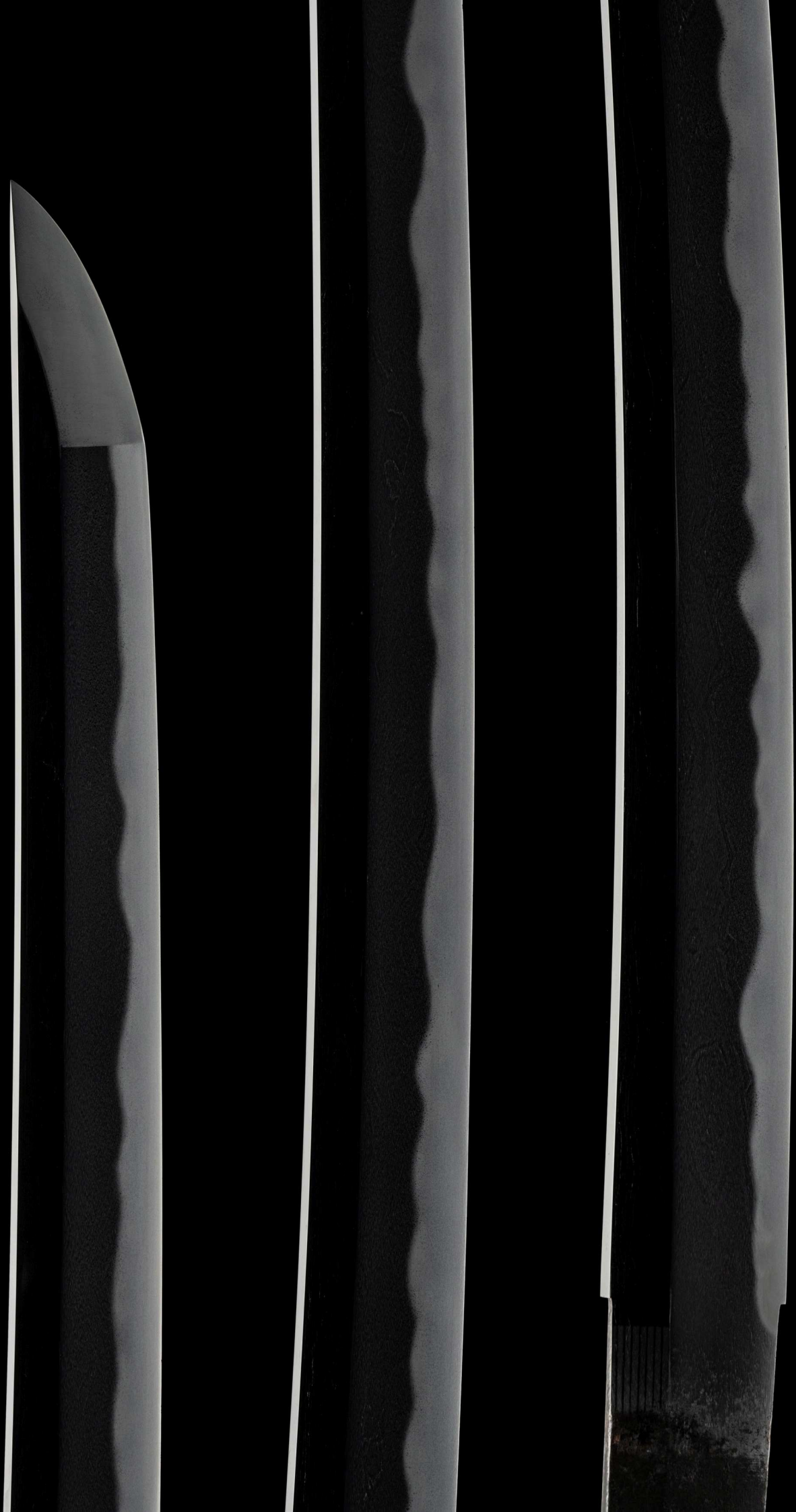
時在丁酉仲春探山邊道識「花押」

Toki ari hinoto-tori chûshun Tanzan Hendô shirusu + kaô

Written by Tanzan Hendô [Tanobe Michihiro] in the second month of spring of the Year of the Rooster of this era (February 2017) + monogram

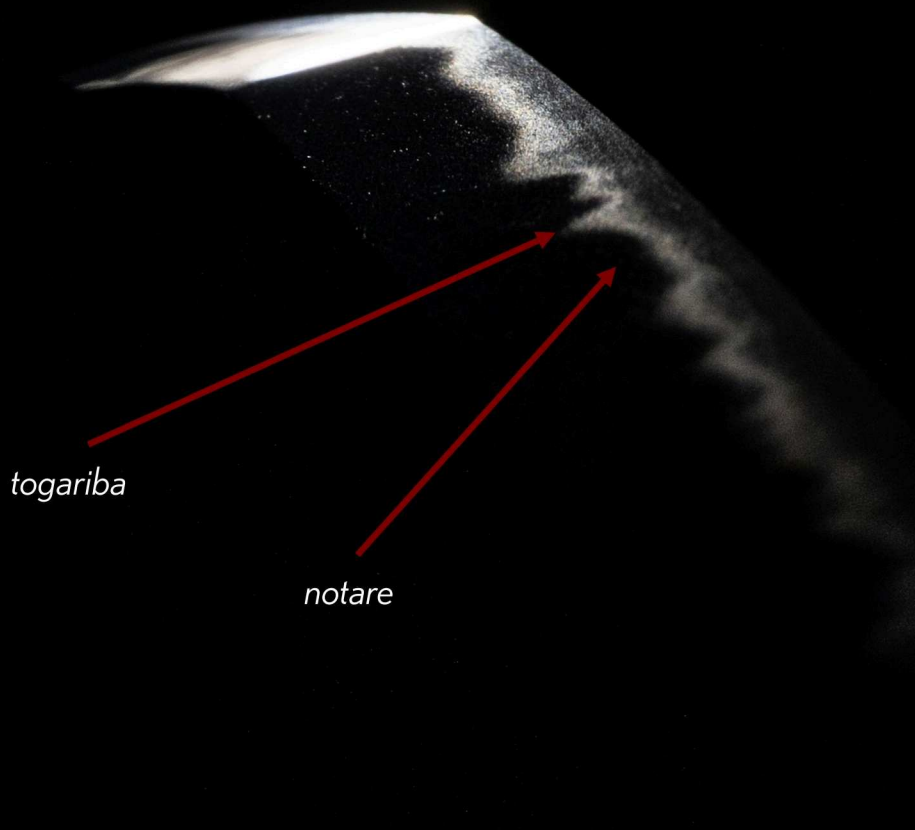




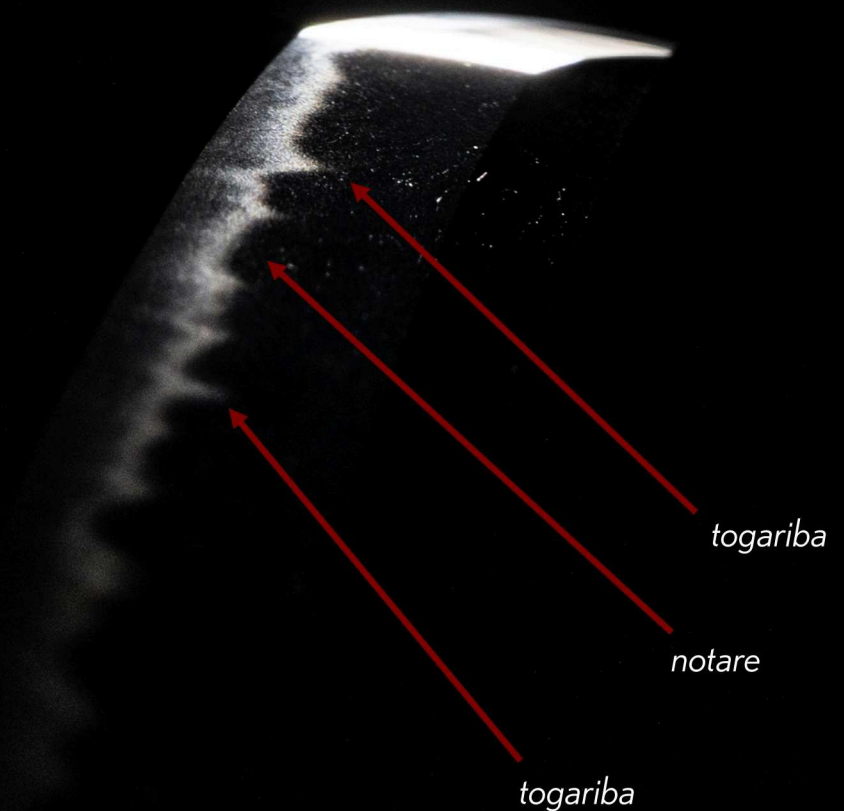




Masayuki favoured a wide *mihaba*, and the longer *kissaki* brings the whole katana into fine balance.

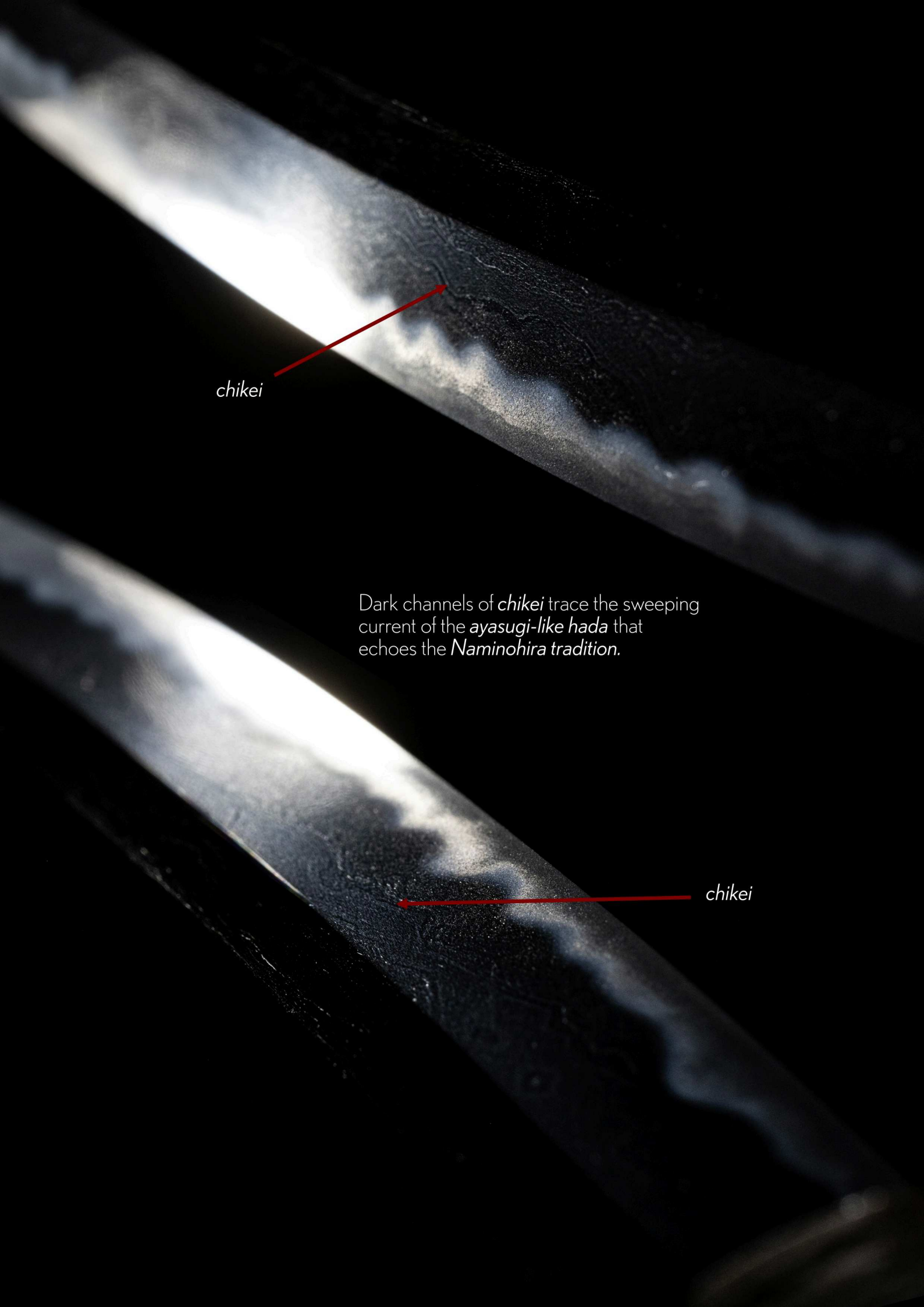


In his *sayagaki*, *Tanobe-sensei* describes a *hamon* where *togari-ba* (pointed) and *notare* (waves) intermingle freely and dynamically. These images help bring his words to life.



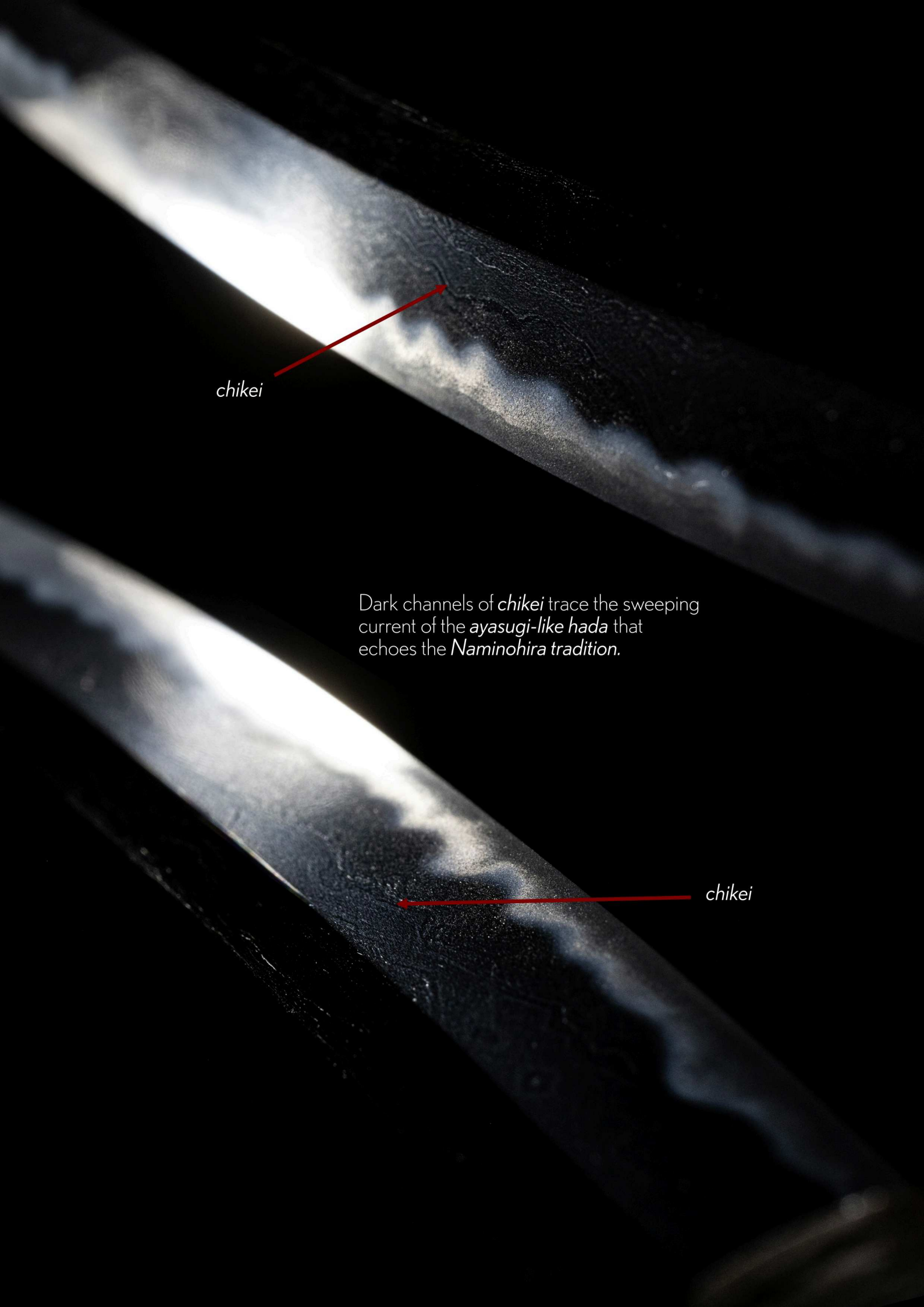
The bright, deep *nioiguchi* with sparkling *nie* is very impressive on this blade. The steel also has a distinctively 'wet appearance', a characteristic found on healthy, top-tier swords.



A close-up photograph of a Japanese sword blade, showing the intricate patterns of the metal. The blade is dark and polished, with a prominent light-colored, wavy line running diagonally across it. A red arrow points from the word "chikei" to a dark channel in the metal.

chikei

Dark channels of *chikei* trace the sweeping current of the *ayasugi-like hada* that echoes the *Naminohira tradition*.

A close-up photograph of a Japanese sword blade, showing the intricate patterns of the metal. The blade is dark and polished, with a prominent light-colored, wavy line running diagonally across it. A red arrow points from the word "chikei" to a dark channel in the metal.

chikei



Spot the difference:

Burl-grain *mokume-hada* can also be seen on various parts of the sword.

Here the *mokume-hada* is more subtle,
a gift to savour under the light.



mokume-hada



This is *ara-nie* - large coarse crystals.

A katana cooked to high temperatures,
Sôshû-style.



Shirasaya
(protective scabbard)

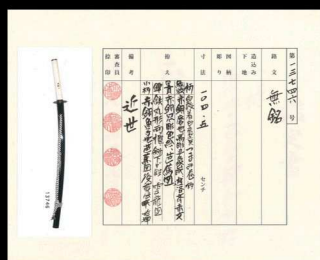


silver *habaki* with
a unique cluster design

*Nôsei-ronuri saya
uchigatana-koshirae*
(濃青呂塗鞘打刀拵)

*Uchigatana-koshirae
lacquered in glossy dark blue*

Crafted during the
Modern period



*NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity*

The *saya*, lacquered in deep navy blue with a wave pattern, is an inspired choice for a *Satsuma* island smith.

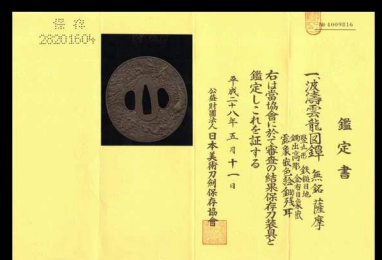
Satsuma peninsula





Feel the power! This impressive *Satsuma-tsuba* is a distinctive style of *tsuba* that originated in the *Satsuma* domain. It reflects the philosophy of *Jigen-ryû*, the school of swordsmanship officially adopted by the domain, characterized by an austere and martial spirit that rejects any ornamental fluff. The majority of works in iron with restrained carving, embodying an aesthetic that prizes strength and functional beauty over the more elaborate metalwork seen in other regions.

This *tsuba* is comparatively large for a *Satsuma-tsuba*, measuring 8.6 cm, and commands attention. The design depicts a dragon among clouds, its eyes inlaid with dew-drop *tsuyu-zôgan*, lending them a piercing intensity. The piece radiates the ethos of *Jigen-ryû*'s principle of decisive first-strike victory.

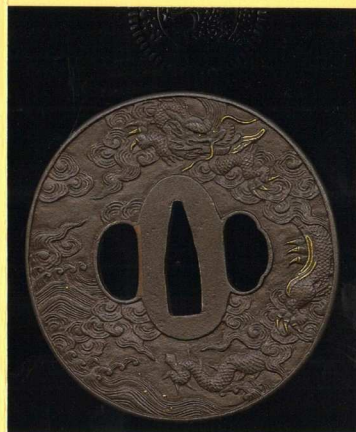


NBTHK Hozon
Certification



(reverse)

28201604



鑑 定 書

一、波濤雲龍図鐔 無銘 薩摩
堅丸形 鉄槌目地
鋤出高彫 金布目象嵌
露象嵌色絵 鋤残耳

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平成二十八年五月十一日

公益財団法人 日本美術刀剣保存協會

NBTHK Hozon
Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 28th year of Heisei (2016), May 11th

One, Tsuba

Depicting cloud dragon and raging waves

Mumei (unsigned)
Satsuma school

*Elongated round shape, iron with hammered texture,
relief carved from ground plate, crosshatched gold accents,
inlaid decorative dots of colored metals, raised rim left by chiseling*

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



Ebisu

Fukurokuju

Daikokuten

Fuchi-kashira
depicting gods of fortune

This wonderful *fuchi-kashira* is the work of *Yûrakusai Sekibun*, a *kinkô* artist of genuine distinction. Born in the first year of *Kansei* era (1789) in *Murakami*, *Echigo* province, as the third son of the *Murakami Katsura* family and first generation *Unken*, *Sekibun* served as official metalworker to the *Sakai* clan of *Shônai* in *Dewa* province. He is quietly cherished with a monograph dedicated solely to his work: a title inscription by *Kunzan sensei*, a preface by *Kanzan sensei*.

The subject here is three of the *Shichifukujin*, the *Seven Gods of Good Fortune*. *Fukurokuju* deity of happiness, wealth and longevity, is featured on the *kashira* with his beaming smile. *Ebisu*, patron of commerce and good business stands alongside *Daikokuten*, god of food and fortune on the *fuchi*. As a trio they form one of the most deeply auspicious groupings in the Japanese tradition, and *Sekibun* has rendered them in vivid three-dimensional relief on a *shakudô nanako* ground, each figure full of life and barely contained vitality. There is a joyfulness to this piece that is immediate and entirely intentional to bring good fortune to their owner. And with that infectious smile, how can we doubt that?

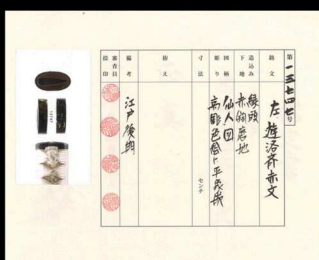
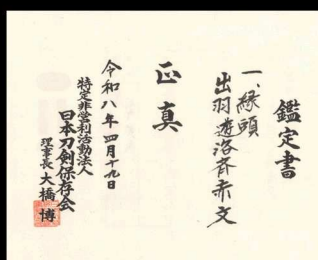
(Yû) 遊

(raku) 洛

(sai) 斎

(Seki) 赤

(bun) 文



NTHK-NPO Kanteisho
Certificate of Authenticity

Artist: Yûrakusai Sekibun



The *tsuka* is wrapped in pure white silk over white *samekawa*, in a *hishi-maki* pattern. In the Edo period, white *tsuka-ito* was the mark of the *date-otoko* - a man of striking appearance and effortless charm, who carried himself with style and quiet confidence.

James Bond, the samurai.





All elements of the custom koshirae were carefully considered, taking inspiration from ukiyo-e works of art.

The foliage here provide artistic inspiration for the *futakoromono kozuka* and *menuki* set.

The design of *koshirae* bag features Japanese fans.

kinmedai (golden eye snapper, yum!)



Fukurokuju



The *menuki* and *kôgai* form a *futatokoro* set, both of which are the work of *Gotô Denjô*. The *Gotô* family served the most powerful figures of their age across seventeen generations from the *Muromachi* period through to the end of the *Edo* period and into the *Meiji* era. Their service began with the *Ashikaga* shogunate and continued on with *Oda Nobunaga*, *Toyotomi Hideyoshi*, and the ruling *Tokugawa* family of the Edo period.

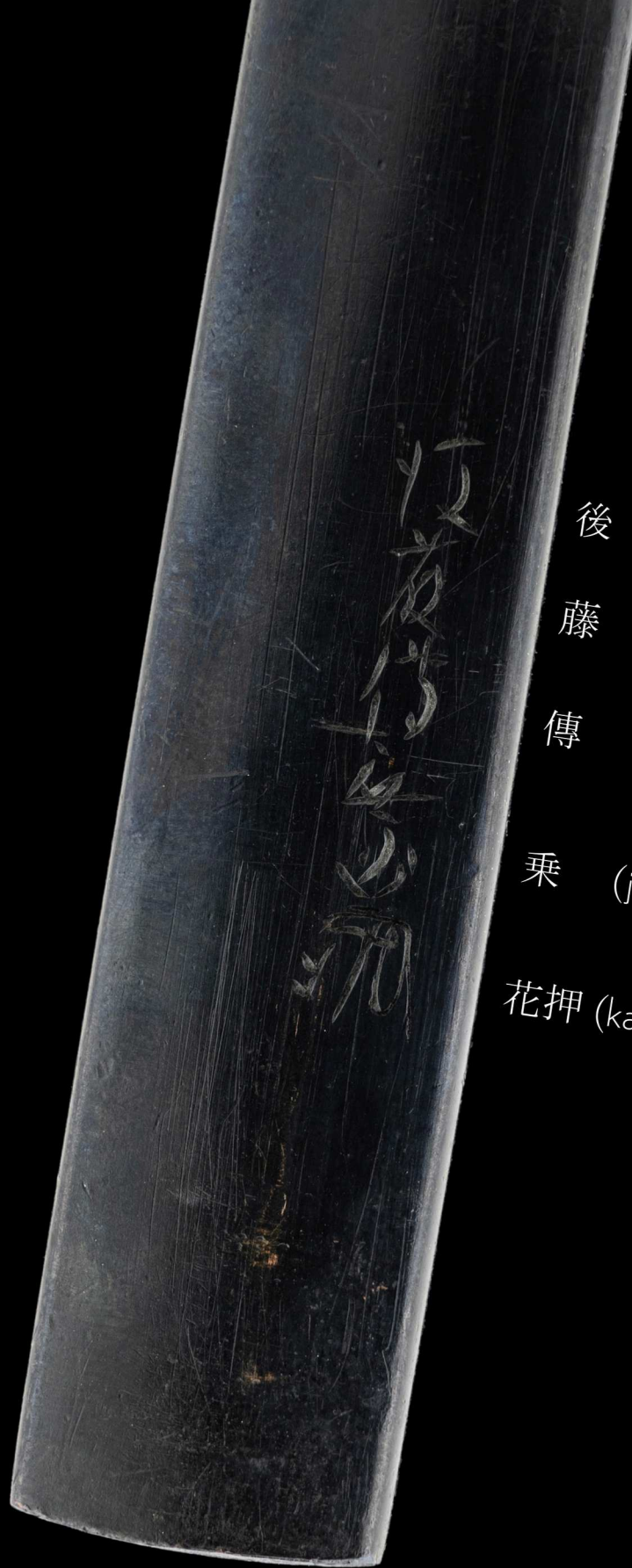
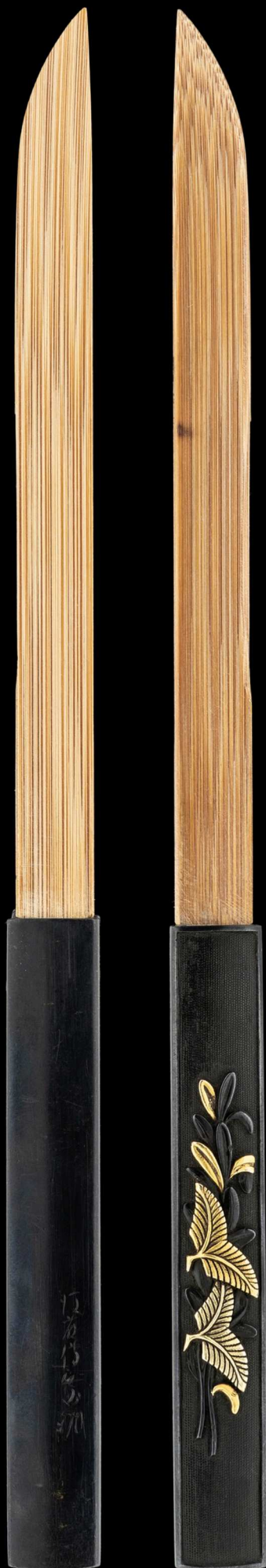


yuzuriha

Gotô Denjô was the fourth generation of the *Gotô Kihei* line. This set is themed after traditional Japanese New Year decorations. The foliage depicted in the design carries its own symbolism: *urajiro*, whose leaves spread symmetrically to left and right, represents marital harmony. While its white undersides express purity of heart; *yuzuriha* embodies the prayer for the passing of one generation to the next, from parent to child.



urajiro



後 (Go)
藤 (tô)
傳 (Den)
乗 (jô)
花押 (kaô)

Kozuka (utility knife)

Fastened into a special notch built inside the *saya* (scabbard) and drawn through the hole of the *tsuba*.

保 存
21200906



財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協会



平成二十一年六月二十六日

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鑑定しこれを証する

一、正月飾り図二所物

小柄銘 後藤傳乘 (花押)
目貫 無銘 傳乘
小柄 赤銅魚子地 高彫 金色 絵
目貫 赤銅地 容彫 金色 絵

鑑定書

No. 458448

NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Designation

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

Issued in the 21st year of Heisei (2009), June 26th

One, Futatokoro

Depicting traditional Japanese New Year's ornaments

Kozuka signed: Gotô Denjô + monogram
Menuki unsigned: Denjô

Kozuka of shakudô with nanako ground, relief with color accents;
menuki of shakudô, three dimensional motif forming the outline, gold accents

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai
(NBTHK)



*Koshirae bag decorated with
a pattern of Japanese fans.*

The warrior's edge.



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