Japanese Sword Catalogue 15

Updated: Feb 15/2014

(Cover Photo)

A Bitchu No Kami Yasuhiro O-Wakizashi Item No. UJWA111 (#105 in Catalogue)

NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certification Kanbun Era (1661-1673)

Sold to a private collector
ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE

AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2014
TOKYO, JAPAN

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

EACH SWORD CAN BE LEGALLY OWNED AND EXPORTED OUTSIDE OF JAPAN. ALL SWORDS HAVE CERTIFICATION PAPERS (ORIGAMI) SUCH AS FROM NBTHK & NTHK-NPO.

DESCRIPTIONS AND AVAILABILITY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

PLEASE ENQUIRE FOR ADDITIONAL IMAGES AND INFORMATION ON SWORDS OF INTEREST TO SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM.

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FEEL THE HISTORY.”
UNIQUEJAPAN.COM
YOKOTE (LINE DIVIDING POINT FROM BODY)

HA (CUTTING EDGE)

JI (BLADE SURFACE ABOVE HAMON)

HAMON (PATTERN OF HARDENED EDGE)

YAKIBA (HARDENED EDGE)

HAMACHI (NOTCH MARKING BEGINNING OF SHARPENED EDGE)

MEI (SIGNATURE)

BOSHI (PATTERN OF HARDENED EDGE ON POINT)

KISSAKI (POINT OF BLADE)

SORI (MEASURE OF CURVATURE)

NAGASA (MEASURE OF LENGTH)

MUNE (BACK SURFACE)

SHINOGI (BLADE SURFACE ABOVE RIDGELINE)

SHINOJII (RIDGELINE)

MUNE-MACHI (NOTCH AT BACK)

MEKUGI-ANA (RIVET HOLE)

NAKAGO (TANG)

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(Japanese Sword Fittings)
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**More swords are available upon request. Please enquire to service@uniquejapan.com.**

Many swords sold were to buyers contacting us directly. We acquire swords on a regular basis and can source swords for collectors seeking a specific smith and/or school.

Please scroll down to browse the catalogue, arigato!
Upcoming Sword Shows & Sales Events

Full details: http://new.uniquejapan.com/events/

CLSA JAPANESE SWORD SEMINAR (PRIVATE FUNCTION)
FEBRUARY 24TH, 2014

YOKOSUKA NEX BAZAAR
APRIL 12TH & 13TH, 2014
KITCHEN KNIVES FOR SALE

OKINAWA SWORD SHOW VI
APRIL 26TH & 27TH, 2014
http://new.uniquejapan.com/okinawa-sword-show

YOKOTA AIR BASE YOSC BAZAAR
MAY 3RD & 4TH, 2014
JAPANESE SWORDS & KITCHEN KNIVES FOR SALE

New events in 2014 will be added in future.

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.

Please can 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.
A TOKUMASA TANTO
UNSIGNED, LATE EDO 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-NPO 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 to home country

ON HOLD

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.
A MUNETSUGU WAKIZASHI (NEARLY KATANA LENGTH)
UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANEI ERA: 1624-1645)

Swordsmith: Hizen Iyo no Jyo Munetsugu (attribution)
Location: Hizen province (present-day Saga prefecture)
Length: 58.9 cm Curvature: 1.2 cm
Jihada: Tight itame Hamon: Naka-Suguha and Gunome-Midare
Nakago: Ubu (original condition tang)
Certificate: NTHK-NPO 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, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

ON HOLD

Shodai Munetsugu (first generation) was born in Nagase-mura circa (1542~1568) and is considered to be the founder of Shinto Hizento. In fact, the great Shodai Tadayoshi was his student from age 13 to 25. In 1606 he was appointed “Jo Tsukasa-no-Kashira” (person in charge of all Hizen smiths). He was also the local religious leader, and shrine leader of Tenman-gu.

First and second generations of smiths known as Munetsugu Iyo no Jyo were both highly skilled smiths. Either one can be credited (perhaps jointly) with this sword as there was an overlap in their respective careers. Shodai received the name of Muneyasu from Feudal lord, Nabeshima Katsushige. He then succeeded his name to Munetsugu in his later years.

This beautiful wakizashi is formed in Katakiriha-zukuri where one side is shinogi-zukuri and the other is kiriha-zukuri. This type originated at the end of the Kamakura period (1288-1334) and was fashionable during Japan’s cultural renaissance from 1596-1643.

The fuchigashira is made out of shakudo-nanako in the design of flying dragon and gold takabori. Menuki is made out of shakudo also in the design of dragon. The maru tsuba (round-shaped guard) is exquisitely pounded in shakudo-nanako-uchi. The saya is lacquered in black with spiraled shells sprinkled throughout. A gold dragon kozuka (paper knife) is signed, Houki no Kami Fujiwara no Nobutaka and Hosaki. The wari kogai (hair spike) is of yamagane (copper) expertly carved in a flying dragon.
59 (ITEM NO. UJWA091)  
A NOBUKUNI WAKIZASHI  
UNSIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI PERIOD (OEI ERA: 1394~1427)

Swordsmith: Yamashiro Shikibunojo Nobukuni (attribution)  
Location: Yamashiro province (present-day Kyoto)  
Length: 51.3cm  
Curvature: 1.5cm  
Jihada: Itame  
Hamon: Small Gunome-Midare and Naka-Yakihaba (Yahazu midare), a family trait  
Certificate: NTHK-NPO 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, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

ON HOLD

This wakizashi is registered in the 26th year of Showa (1951), where only Damiyo families (great feudal lords) were invited to submit their swords. It is a mark of great distinction.

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

Works span from 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) and this sword has a long bo-hi (groove) extending the length of the blade.

The fuchigashira is formed of shakudo and ishime-ji and gold inlay in the design of a pine needle and family crest. The menuki is formed of shakudo and gold with the design of traveler on a ship on the wave of the sea.

The mokko tsuba is of yamagane with sukashi openwork in the design of paulownia flowers. Hundreds of tiny black lines thread their way around the red saya to form a lucky silk spool.
**A YOSHIMITSU KATANA**
UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (KANSHO ERA: 1461~1466)

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**SOLD**

Yoshimitsu is a notable name of the Bizen tradition, particularly during the Muromachi period.

This katana delights in being of original (ubu) length with a classic wavy gunome choji hamon (clove blossoms).

Well-made engravings that bring good fortune on either side of the blade give the sword character and providence.

It is said that a sword fitted in a red saya (scabbard) is forever sharp and special.

**Koshirae (fitting) elements:**

- **Fuchi (collar):** Iron and Dragon Gold Takabori (high relief carving)
- **Kashira (pommel):** Crafted from buffalo horn
- **Menuki (eyelets):** In the design of Omodaka (plants growing in paddy fields)
- **Tsuba (guard):** Of iron with double Masu (square wooden box to measure rice), Sukashi open work
- **Saya (scabbard):** Shu (lacquered in red)
A MUNEMICHI WAKIZASHI
UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661~1673)

Swordsmith: Kazusa no Kami Munemichi (attribution)
Location: Echizen no Kuni (Fukui prefecture)
Length (ubu): 56.3cm Curvature: 1.1cm Jihada: Ko-Itame
Hamon: Togari Gunome and Sanbonsugi (three peak cedar)
Nakago: Ubu-nakago, Iriyamagata, Kakumune and Sujikai Yasuri
Certificate #1: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a koshirae (sword fittings) designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro rank: Shinto Chu-Josaku (above average swordsman in the Early Edo Period)

SOLD

Fujishiro describes swordsman Kazusa no Kami Munemichi works as being “exuberant”. This extra long ‘o-wakizashi’ happily displays such exuberance.

The hamon (temper line) is a creative mixture of a wavy gunome and sanbonsugi, which is a rhythmic pattern depicting three cedar trees. 16th century smith Kanemoto of the Mino tradition is attributed to having pioneered this iconic temper line.

The Edo-period koshirae is a pleasing collection of a 24-petal chrysanthemum iron tsuba with unique bow and arrows for menuki. Two NTHK-NPO certificates accompany the sword.
A FUJISHIMA TOMOSHIGE TANTO
SIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (GENJI ERA: 1864~1865)

Swordsmith: Fujishima Tomoshige (signed on front and back)
Location: Kaga province (Kanazawa prefecture)
Length: 27.4cm
Jihada: Tight and beautiful Ko-Itame
Hamon: Gunome Togariba Majiri
Nakago: Ubu (original condition tang)
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Yushuto (Sword designated as “Very Excellent” by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

A first-class tanto by the Fujishima Tomoshige line of smiths who had ten generations of the name during the Koto period and six generations up until the Shintoshinto period.

The koshirae comprises of a fuchi of shibuichi is of Daikoku-sama and sea bream with fishing rod. Menuki is Konjikie kamon (family crest).

An iron tsuba with silver and gold inlay carries the design of sakura (cherry blossoms). Saya is ishimeji and koitame. Kurigata is takabori with the design of an ume flower.

Kojiri is made out of shibuichi, gold, copper and shakudo with the takabori design of a dragonfly. Kozuka depicts Mt. Fuji with Miho in Matsubara. Hosaki is signed Yonezawa ju Tsunanobu. (Yonezawa is in present-day Fukushima)
102 (ITEM NO. UJKA083)

A KAWAI HISAYUKI TACHI
SIGNED & DATED 1ST YEAR OF MANEN (1860), DECEMBER

Swordsman: Bakufushi Kawai HISAYUKI 75 sai saku (omote, front)
1st year of Manen (1860), December (ura, back)
Location: Edo province (present-day Tokyo)
Length: 76.0cm
Curvature: 0.8cm
Jihada: Ko-Itame and Mokume Majiri
Hamon: Sugu-like and Ko-Gunome Midare and Ashi in Hachu
Nakago: Ubu-nakago (uncut), iriyamagata, komarumue and kesho sujikai yasuri
Certificate #1: NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho (extraordinarily precious sword)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Yushuto (Very excellent sword)

SOLD

Hisayuki was a retained swordsman (in fact he was a Samurai) for the Dai Tokugawa Family in Edo Bafuku (government). He worked exclusively for the Shogunate, the absolute leader of Japan. Hisayuki's sensei was Hosokawa Masayoshi.

Rated by Fujishiro as Jo-Saku (superior swordsman), this extraordinary tachi was made when Hisayuki was 75 years old. Sword is listed in the prestigious Shinshinto Taikan Book of premier Japanese swords. A custom koshirae is currently being built for a European collector.
A TADAKUNI O-WAKIZASHI
SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

Swordsmith: Harima no Kami Fujiwara no TADAKUNI
Location: Hizen province (present-day Saga and Nagasaki)
Length: 57.7cm
Curvature: 1.5cm
Jihada: Konuka hada (finest grain)
Hamon: Gunome Choji Midare Nakago: Ubu
Certificate #1: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Yushuto (Sword designated as “Very Excellent” by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro: Jo-Saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Asaemon: Wazamono (sharp swords)

SOLD

Tadakuni was born in Keicho 9 (1604) and studied under his master, father HIROSADA. He first took the name HIRONORI.

After receiving the title Harima no Daijo in 1634, he changed his name from HIRONORI to TADAKUNI. In 1661 he was awarded the title of Harima no Kami (Lord of Harima).

From 1673 he became a Buddhist priest, known as nyudo and adopted the name Kyutetsu. Died April 22, 1691 Genroku 4. He was 88 years old. This wakizashi is a masterpiece.
105 (ITEM NO. UJWA111)

A YASUHIRO O-WAKIZASHI
SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

Swordsman: Tomita Bitchu no Kami Tachibana YASUHIRO (with kikumon)
Location: Kii province (present-day Wakayama)
Length: 59.8cm Curvature: 1.2cm Jihada: Itame hada
Hamon: Gunome Choji Midare
Nakago: Ubu (uncut)
Certificate #1: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (sword)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae)
Asaemon: Ryo-Wazamono (highly sharp swords)

SOLD

Yasuhiro is one of the founders of the Kii Ishido School. The Ishido School traces its roots to swords of the Bizen Ichimonji School circa 13th century.

Nearly the length of a katana, the blade features a gorgeous gunome choji midare hamon with clear utsuri. It is housed in a spectacular Edo period koshirae that pays tribute to Mount Fuji and the Imperial Chrysanthemum. This sword was sold to an American collector.
107 (ITEM NO. UJNG003) CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A JUMYO NAGINATA
UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD (ENPO ERA: 1673-1681)

Swordsman: Jumyo School (attribution)
Location: Mino province (Gifu prefecture)
Length: 45.7cm **Length with pole: 240.5cm (!)
Curvature: 0.6cm
Jihada: Itame and Mokume Majiri hada
Hamon: Gunome Midare (wavy)
Nakago: ubu (uncut)
Certificate #1: Vintage NBTHK Kicho (for sword)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (for koshirae)

¥750,000 (~$7,500)

"Jumyo" is the Japanese word meaning "auspicious" and "long life". To bestow a Jumyo sword was a treasured gift amongst the Samurai ranks.

This 350-year old awe-inspiring naginata pole arm features a prominent gunome-midare hamon (wavy temperline) in classic naginata construction.

Rare (and certified authentic) naginata mounts from mid-Edo period (~1700s) are included. Total length is an impressive 2.4m (~8 feet).

This is a Samurai antique to display proudly.
Please inquire for further images and details.
AN UDA KUNIMUNE KATANA
UNSIGNED, MOMOYAMA PERIOD (TENSHO ERA: 1573-1592)

Swordsman: Den Etchu Uda KUNIMUNE (attribution)
Location: Ecchu province (present-day Toyama)
Length: 70.4cm
Curvature: 2.5cm
Jihada: Itame hada
Hamon: Middle Yakihaba and Ko-Gunome Midare
Nakago: Suriage (shortened)
Certificate #1: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (sword)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae)

SOLD

Behold a beautifully polished katana attributed to Uda School, Kunimune. It is made in the Tensho era, circa 1573-1592, a remarkable and turbulent time in Japan's history marking the transitional point towards the long and peaceful Edo Period.

The fittings feature a Kamakiri, a Praying Mantis. The Samurai revered the Kamakiri for their protective nature echoed the moral duty the Samurai carried for society.
A MIYOSHI NAGAMICHI O-WAKIZASHI
SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (ENPO ERA: 1673-1681)

Swordsman: Mutsu no Daijo Miyoshi NAGAMICHI (shodai, 1st generation)
Location: Aizu province (present-day Toyama)
Length: 56.9cm Curvature: 1.2cm
Jihada: Itame, Mokume Majiri, Jinie
Hamon: Konie-deki Gunome-Midare, Ashi in Hachu, detailed Sunagashi
Nakago: Ubu (uncut), Kiri-yasuri and Kurishiri
Certificate: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Koshirae: A custom koshirae is being created for this sword for the client

SOLD

Shodai Nagamichi was ranked Saijo-Owazamono (grandmaster of sharp sword making). This wakizashi carries a Kanbun Shinto-like sori and kissaki with a clear jihada and powerful. It is an atypical example of master smith Nagamichi.

The sword exudes a formidable atmosphere that, as sword, it can be depended upon. It’s no wonder Nagamichi was known as ‘Aizu Kotetsu.’
A SHIGEHIDE KATANA
SIGNED & DATED: 58TH YEAR OF SHOWA (1983) MAY 5TH
SPECIALY COMMISSIONED FOR MR. OKUMA YASUNOBU

Swordsmith: Bushu Kumataro Minamoto no SHIGEHIDE
Location: Saitama prefecture
Length: 72.1cm
Curvature: 2.1cm
Jihada: Ko-Itame and Chikei
Hamon: Choji-Midare, Kinsen near Habuchi, Sunagashi, Ashi in Hachu
Engraving: Futasuji hi (front and back groove)
Nakago: Ubu (uncut)
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)

Included: Modern koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥790,000 (~$7,900)

This inspiring katana by multi-award winning swordsmith Shigehide was especially commissioned for Mr. Okuma Yasunobu. His name is traditionally engraved on the nakago.

A pupil of Sato Akinori, Shigehide was born in the 1st year of Taisho, 1912. This makes him 71 when he made this sword! A member of Zen Nihon Toshokai (All Japan Swordsmiths Association), Shigehide’s swords have achieved winning accolades 15 times in competitions.

The katana is jam-packed with hataraki (activity). One of the big pluses of studying newly made swords is their remarkably healthy condition. This blade can be stared at for days on end...

Complimenting the sword is a stunning koshirae with a hilt called Katate Maki Tsuka (for one-handed use). This katana is one to cherish.
111 (ITEM NO. UJWA120)  CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A KUNISUKE II O-WAKIZASHI
SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (MEIREKI ERA: 1655-1658)

Swordsmith: Kawachi no Kami KUNISUKE (Nidai, 2nd generation)
Location: Settsu no Kuni (Osaka)
Length: 55.1cm  Curvature: 1cm
Jihada: Clear and beautiful ko-itame and mokume majiri and jinie
Hamon: Sugu yakidashi, kobushigata choji, bright ashi in hachu
Engraving: Marudome bohi (front and back rounded groove)
Nakago: Ubu (uncut)
Certificate: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (a sword Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Fujishiro: Jo-Saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Asaemon: Wazamono (sharp sword maker)

please enquire

Nestled between Shodai (1st generation) and Sandai (3rd generation), Nidai Kunisuke is known as “Naka Kawachi” (middle generation).

Kunisuke II created a particular choji midare known as kobushigata choji hamon (fist-shaped clove blossom). This long wakizashi is an outstanding example of such skill and creativity.

The jihada is bright with jin-ie (visible crystals in the body). Fujishiro writes: “because he is especially skilled at ko-nie shimari ashi iri choji ha, he is also called Shinto Ichimonji.”

Everything about this sword is first class. Note that it is rare for a Kunisuke sword to feature a full-length bo-hi (groove). This sword is an excellent candidate for a custom made koshirae.

See more images below. Please enquire for price and further details.
A NAOMICHI KATANA (AKA KANEMICHI)
SIGNED WITH ‘ICHI’ & MARK OF 16-PETAL CHRYSANTHEMUM
EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

Swordsmith: Tango no Kami NAOMICHI (1st generation)
Location: Settsu no Kuni (Osaka)
Length: 69cm Curvature: 1cm
Jihada: Ko-Itame and mokume majiri, jinie
Hamon: Konie-deki, notare, ashi in hachu
Nakago: Ubu (uncut)
Certificate: Fujishiro Kanteisho (a sword certified as Authentic by Former Living National Treasure Sword Polisher Mr. Matsuo Fujishiro)
Fujishiro: Jo-Saku (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Asaemon: Ryo-Wazamono (good sharp sword maker)

HOLD

Kanemichi is the third son of the first generation Kyo-Tanba. (Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi from Kyoto). His early name was Naomichi and this graceful katana is one such signed example.

Kanemichi received his title in 1625 and moved to Osaka to start the Osaka branch of the family known as Osaka Tanba. He was one of the finest Mishina smiths in Osaka.
More swords are available upon request. Please enquire to service@uniquejapan.com.

Many swords sold were to buyers contacting us directly. We acquire swords on a regular basis and can source swords for collectors seeking a specific smith and/or school.

Thank you!

Pablo Kuntz
Founder, Unique Japan

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