



JAPANESE
SWORD
CATALOGUE 16

UPDATED:
APRIL 22/2014

(COVER PHOTO)

A TAIMA SCHOOL KATANA
ITEM# UJKA105

NBTHK KOSHU TOKUBETSU KICHO
CERTIFICATION

NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (1334-1392)

SOLD TO A PRIVATE COLLECTOR

ANTIQUÉ JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE

AS OF APRIL 22, 2014
TOKYO, JAPAN

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS OF GENUINE ANTIQUÉ 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.

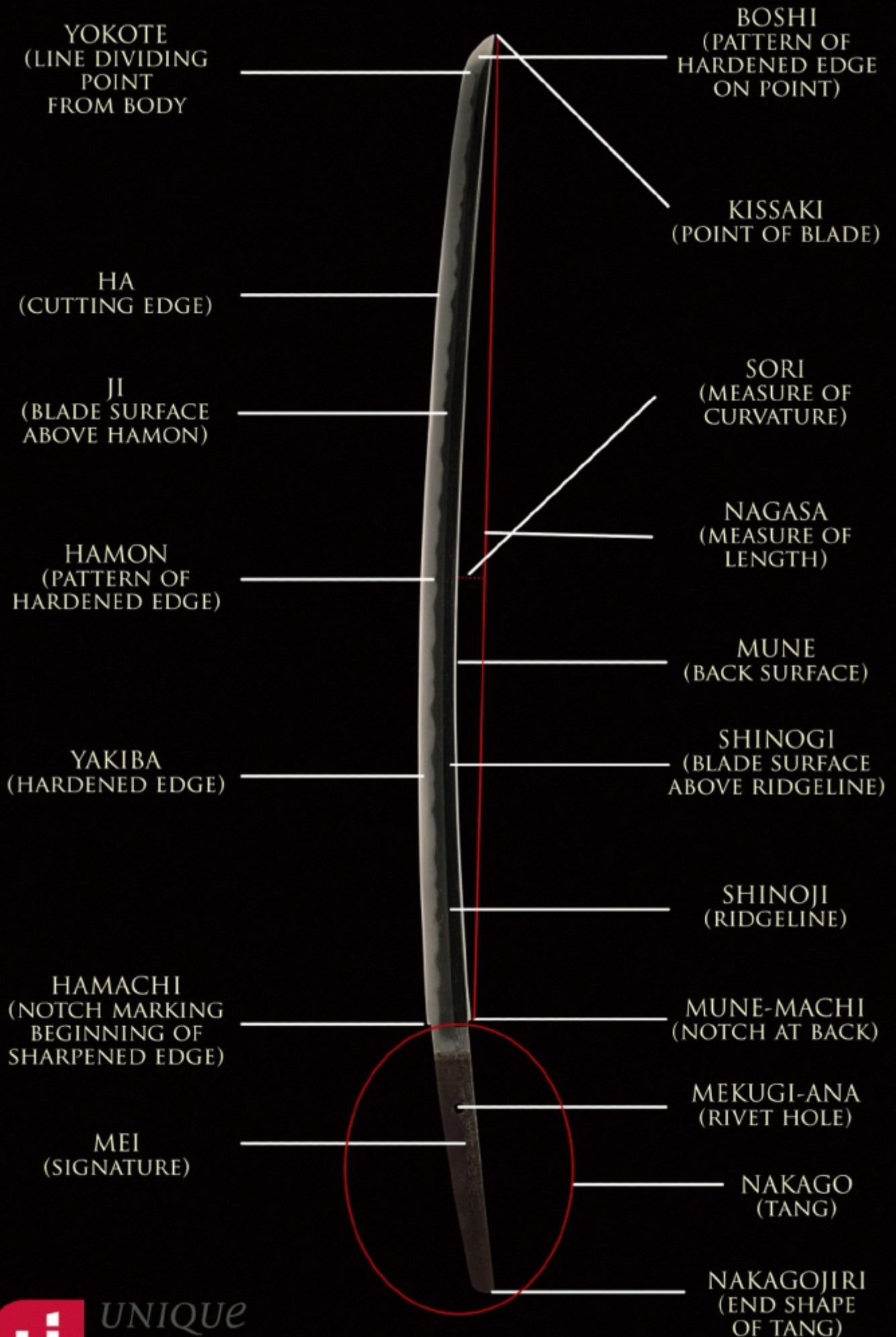
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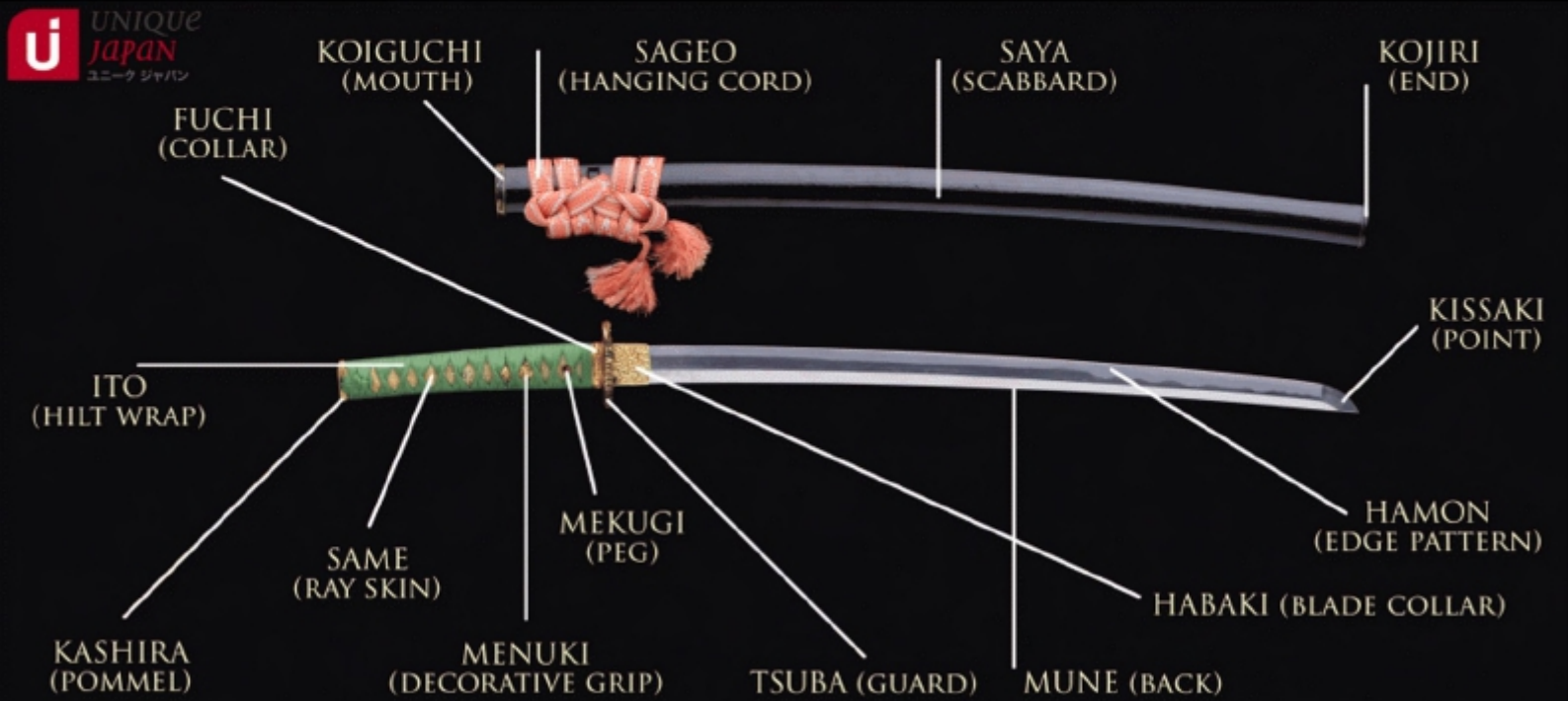
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Koshirae

(Japanese Sword Fittings)



Steps to Building Your Own Koshirae

Many fine antique Samurai swords today come stored only in a shirasaya.

A shirasaya acts like a humidior, 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!

INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORDS

ITEM#	SWORDSMITH & TYPE	CM	CERTIFICATE	ERA / PERIOD	PRICE
ujta021	A TOKUMASA TANTO	20.5	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Keio era (1865~1868)	SOLD
ujwa088	A MUNETSUGU WAKIZASHI	58.9	NTHK Kanteisho x 2	Kanei era (1624~1645)	SOLD
ujwa091	A NOBUKUNI WAKIZASHI	51.3	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Oei era (1394~1427)	HOLD
ujng003	A JUMYO NAGINATA	45.7	NBTHK + NTHK	Enpo era (1673-1681)	SOLD
ujka096	A SHIGEHIDE KATANA	72.1	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	58 Showa (May 1983)	SOLD
ujwa120	A KUNISUKE O-WAKIZASHI	55.1	NBTHK Tokubtsu Hzn	Manji era (1658-1661)	¥1,100,000
ujka097	A NAOMICHI KATANA	69.0	M. Fujishiro Kanteisho	Kanbun (1661-1673)	Daisho (k)
ujwa052	A KANEMICHI WAKIZASHI	54.4	NBTHK Tokubtsu Hzn	Kanbun (1661-1673)	Daisho (w)
ujwa122	AN IPPO II WAKIZASHI	50.6	NBTHK Tokubtsu Hzn	Genroku (1688-1704)	SOLD
ujka098	A KANESADA KATANA	70.9	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Koji era (1555-1557)	HOLD
ujwa124	A DAIMINKIN WAKIZASHI	32.3	NTHK Kanteisho x 2	Kanbun (1661-1673)	¥550,000
ujka101	A SHIGETAKA KATANA	70.1	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Tenna era (1681-1683)	SOLD
ujar007	A KASUGA DAIMYOJIN KABUTO		SAMURAI HELMET	Mid-Edo Period	¥650,000
ujka102	A TERUSHIGE KATANA	63.4	NBTHK Tokubtsu Hzn	Kanbun (1661-1673)	HOLD
ujwa125	A GISUKE WAKIZASHI	37.9	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Tensho era (1573-1593)	¥755,000
ujka103	A HOUJU TACHI	72.4	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Meitoku (1390-1393)	SOLD
ujka104	AN OSAMORI KATANA	63.0	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Shohei era (1346-1369)	¥740,000
ujwa126	A SUKESADA WAKIZASHI	51.0	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Eisho 11 (August 1514)	HOLD
ujka105	A TAIMA KATANA	68.5	NBTHK Koshu Tku Kic	Nambokucho (~1350)	SOLD
ujka106	A SHIGEHIDE KATANA	67.1	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	December 8, 1941	SOLD
ujgu106	A KANENORI ARMY GUNTO	67.4	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Enpo 8 (1680)	¥795,000
ujwa127	A KIYOSHIGE WAKIZASHI	46.2	NTHK Kanteisho x 2	Genroku (1688-1704)	¥545,000
ujka109	A NOBUSADA KATANA	69.8	NTHK Hozon	Kan'ei era (1624-1644)	¥700,000
ujka110	A MASATADA KATANA	67.8	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Early Showa (~1940)	¥600,000
ujwa128	A SUKESADA WAKIZASHI	45.5	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Tensho era (1573-1593)	¥360,000
ujka111	A KANENAGA KATANA	62.2	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Eisho era (1504-1521)	¥630,000

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SWORDS ARE BEING HELD FOR THE UPCOMING SWORD SHOW ON OKINAWA, APRIL 26-27TH, 2014.

IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE SWORD SHOW, WE ARE TAKING ADVANCED 'HOLD REQUESTS' ON SWORDS OF INTEREST.

PLEASE INQUIRE TO SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM.

MANY SWORDS LISTED IN THE CATALOGUE WERE SOLD 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 SALES EVENTS

THE OKINAWA SWORD SHOW VI

APRIL 26-27, 2014

GENUINE ANTIQUE SAMURAI SWORDS FOR SALE

KAMAKURA TO EDO PERIODS
SPANNING 800 YEARS OF HISTORY

SHOW HOURS (FREE ENTRY)

APRIL 26-27, 2014
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
10AM - 7PM



FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

[HTTP://NEW.UNIQUEJAPAN.COM/OKINAWA-SWORD-SHOW](http://new.uniquejapan.com/okinawa-sword-show)

YOKOTA AIR BASE YOSC BAZAAR

MAY 3RD & 4TH, 2014

JAPANESE SWORDS & KITCHEN KNIVES FOR SALE

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.



ITEM# UJTA021

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

SOLD

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.



ITEM# UJWA088

A MUNETSUGU WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANEI ERA: 1624-1645)

Swordsmith: **Hizen Iyo no Jyo MUNETSUGU (attribution)**
Location: Hizen province (present-day Saga prefecture)
Length: 58.9cm **Curvature:** 1.2cm
Jihada: *Tight itame* **Hamon:** *Naka-suguha and gunome-Midare*
Nakago: *Ubu* (original condition tang)
Certificates x 2: **NTHK-NPO Kanteisho** (a sword AND fitting 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

SOLD

Shodai Munetsugu (first generation) was born in *Nagase-mura* circa (1542~1568) and is considered to be the founder of Shinto Hizen. 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.



ITEM# UJWA091

A NOBUKUNI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, EARLY MUROMACHI PERIOD (OEI ERA: 1394~1427)

Swordsmith: Yamashiro Shikibunojyo 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

\$7,950 (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.



ITEM# UJNG003

A JUMYO NAGINATA

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

Swordsmith:	Jumyo School (attribution)
Location:	Mino province (Gifu pefcture)
Length:	45.7cm **Length with koshirae: 240.5cm (!)
Curvature:	0.6cm
Jihada:	<i>Itame and mokume majiri hada</i>
Hamon:	<i>Gunome midare</i> (wavy)
Nakago:	<i>ubu</i> (uncut)
Certificate #1:	Vintage NBTHK Kicho (for sword)
Certificate #2:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (for koshirae)

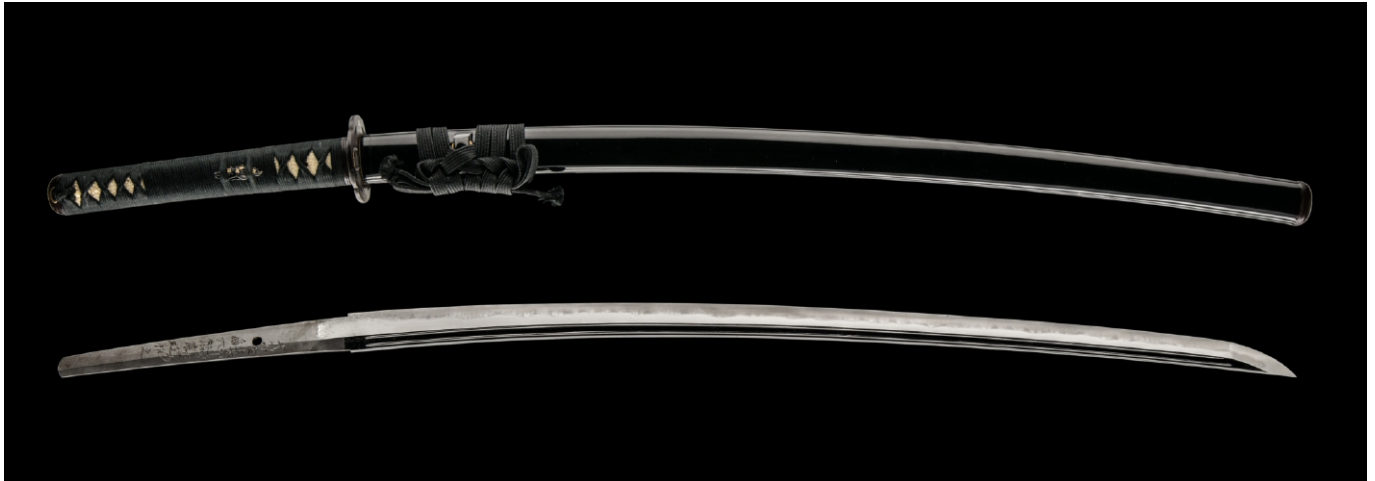
SOLD

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

This beautiful male-sized naginata is in excellent condition with an eye-catching and healthy *gunome-midare hamon* (wavy temperline).

Complimenting the piece are authentic (and certified) naginata mounts from the Mid-Edo Period (1700s). The total length is 2.4 meters (~8 feet)!

This is a sword to mount and display proudly.
What a statement piece.



ITEM# UJKA096

A SHIGEHIDE KATANA

SIGNED & DATED: 58TH YEAR OF SHOWA (1983) MAY 5TH
SPECIALLY 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, shirasaya, silk carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

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.



ITEM# 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:	<i>Clear and beautiful ko-itame and mokume majiri and jinie</i>
Hamon:	<i>Sugu yakidashi, kobushigata choji, bright ashi in hachu</i>
Engraving:	<i>Marudome bohi (front and back rounded groove)</i>
Nakago:	<i>Ubu (uncut)</i>
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)

¥1,100,000 (~\$11,000)

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.





ITEM# UJKA097 & UJWA052

A NAOMICHI KATANA (KANEMICHI)

SIGNED WITH 'ICHI' & MARK OF 16-PETAL CHRYSANTHEMUM
EDO PERIOD (CIRCA 1625-1661)

A KANEMICHI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED WITH 'ICHI' & MARK OF 16-PETAL CHRYSANTHEMUM
EDO PERIOD (CIRCA 1661-1672)

THIS IS A CUSTOM DAISHO PROJECT. SWORD DETAILS NEXT PAGE →

KATANA

Swordsmith:	Tango no Kami NAOMICHI
Location:	Settsu no Kuni (Osaka)
Length:	69cm
Curvature:	1cm
Jihada:	<i>Ko-Itame and mokume majiri, jinie</i>
Hamon:	<i>Konie-deki, notare, ashi in hachu</i>
Nakago:	<i>Ubu (uncut)</i>
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)

WAKIZASHI

Swordsmith:	Tango no Kami Fujiwara KANEMICHI
Location:	Settsu province (Osaka)
Length:	54.4cm
Curvature:	1.0cm
Hamon:	<i>Sudare-ba with Toran</i> (bamboo curtain with great waves)
Certificate:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (sword designated especially worthy of conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Included:	Certificate, Edo-period koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, all exportation paperwork

Summary:

Kanemichi is the second son of the first generation **Kyo-Tanba** (Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi). He was born in 1602 and died in 1672 at the age of 70.

His early name was **Naomichi** and signed swords with this name. He received his title in 1625 and moved to Osaka to start the Osaka branch of the family known as **Osaka Tanba**.

Kanemichi was one of the very best Mishina smiths in Osaka and was granted the right to sign swords with the Chrysanthemum symbol of the Imperial court. They were infamous for the sudare-ba hamon (a temper line that resembles a bamboo curtain) - the wakizashi incorporates such a hamon with 'toran' - rolling waves along the sword's length.

As a bonus, the wakizashi comes with fabulous *koshirae* (mounts) are of the finest quality made by the *Goto family* in the early and mid Edo period.

The katana was forged when Kanemichi was known as Naomichi. It is an extraordinary piece that features a notable *notare* hamon with long *ashi* (legs).

This is an opportunity to build the ultimate custom daisho koshirae as both swords are by the same highly respected smith.

Please enquire for photos, pricing and additional queries.



ITEM NO. UJWA122

AN IPPO WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (GENROKU ERA: 1688-1704)

- Swordsmith:** Goshu jyunin Sasaki Nyudo Minamoto IPPO (2nd generation)
Location: Omi no Kuni (Shiga prefecture)
Length: 50.6cm **Curvature:** 1.2cm
Jihada: Ko-Itame and Mokume majiri and Jinie
Hamon: Gunome midare and koniedeki and long, bright ashi, kinsen, sunagashi
Nakago: Ubu (uncut, original length)
Certificate: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Fujishiro: **Jo-saku** (ranked as a superior swordsmith)
Included: Shirasaya with sayagaki, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

Known also as Sasaki Zenshiro, son of the first generation Ippo, Ippo II lived in Edo Akasaka in his later years. He was ranked as *Wazamono* (maker of sharp swords) and from the Ishido School.

Disecting the signature, we read that Ippo is originally from **Goushu-ju-nin** 江州住人, family name **Sasaki** 佐々木, his Monk name **Nyudo** 入道, clan **Minamoto** 源 and smith name **IPPO** 一峯.

Fujishiro ranks IPPO II a *Jo-saku* (superior smith), and he was regarded as a top smith in the early Edo period, and the finest of Omi province. Hawley ranks Ippo at 40 points.

This is a beautiful sword with a fabulous amount of activity in the hamon. The skill level is evident. This wakizashi would have been crafted after IPPO became a monk.



ITEM# UJKA098

A KANESADA KATANA

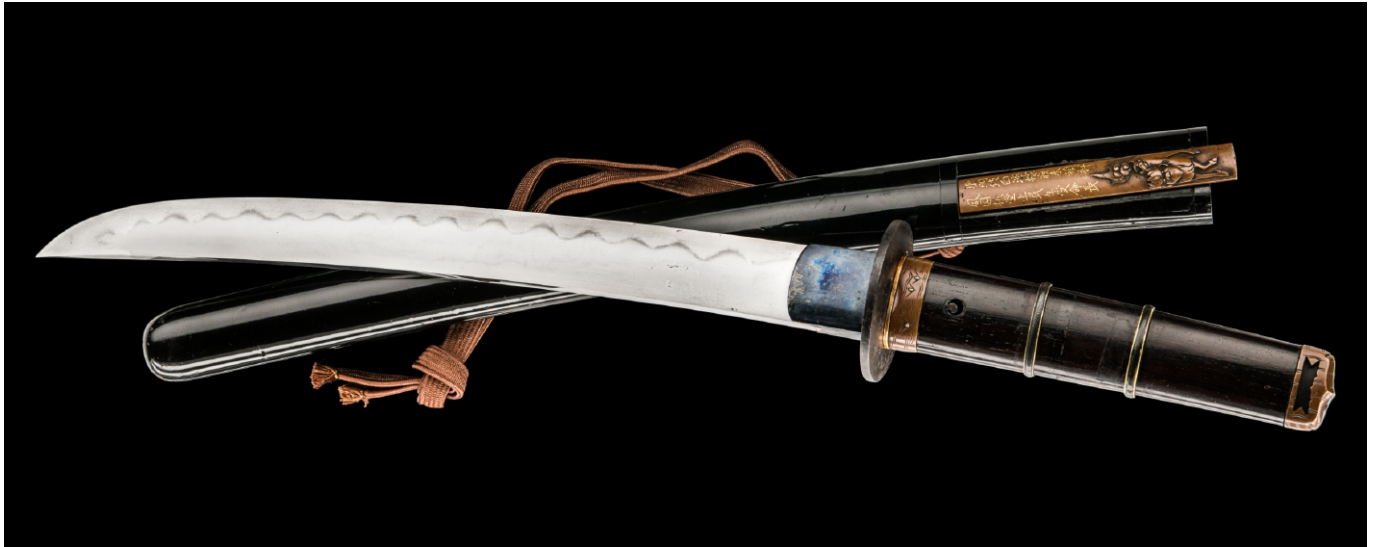
UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (KOJI ERA: 1555-1557)

Swordsmith: KANESADA (4th generation, attribution)
Location: Mino no kuni (Gifu prefecture)
Length: 70.9cm **Curvature:** 1.0cm
Jihada: *Itame, mokume majiri*
Hamon: *Gunome midare, nioikuchi shizumikokoro, ashi in hachu*
Nakago: *O-suriage* (shortened)
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (*a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)
Included: Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

\$7,700 (ON HOLD)

Behold a powerful katana that is attributed to the son of the 3rd generation Kanesada who flourished during the Koji era (1555-1557). It is a classic Kanesada sword with its shallow curvature and great cutting ability.

A striking set of Edo-period koshirae carries the sword just as its Samurai owner once did.



ITEM# UJWA124

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A DAIMINKIN WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1672)

- Swordsmith:** DAIMINKIN (also read DAIMINKYO)
Location: Izumo no Kuni (Shimane prefecture)
Length: 32.3cm
Curvature: 0.7cm
Jihada: Tight ko-itame
Hamon: Gunome midare with "Jizo boshi"
Nakago: Ubu (uncut, original length)
Certificate #1: NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword certified as being Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (koshirae sword fittings designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro: Chujo-saku (ranked as an above average swordsmith)

¥550,000 (~\$5,500)

Born Kunishige and also called Korei Yakuro, swordsmith Daiminkin lived in the Samurai city of Matsue known as the "City of Water".

It is said that Daiminkin can trace its roots to the Korean peninsula. There are three generations of Daiminkin; this is considered the work of the first.

A rare wooden hilt (possibly original to the sword) with tiny rowboats on the fuchi-kashira pays tribute to the canal rich area of Matsue. The wavy gunome hamon compliments the water scene.

From blade to fittings, this is a uniquely collectible sword with vintage NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho certificate of authenticity for the sword and NTHK-NPO certification for the koshirae.



ITEM# UJKA101

A SHIGETAKA KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (TENNA ERA: 1681-1683)

Swordsmith:	Den Echizen SHIGETAKA (3rd generation attribution)
Location:	Echizen province (Fukui prefecture)
Length:	70.1cm
Curvature:	1.5cm
Jihada:	<i>Ko-itame</i>
Hamon:	<i>Ko-gunome, togariba majiri (pointed, like mountaintops)</i>
Nakago:	<i>Ubu (uncut, original length)</i>
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included:	Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

Shigetaka is from Iida city, Shinshu (Nagano prefecture) and was a pupil of Seki Kanenori. This lengthy katana is in its original healthy condition with a pointed *hamon* that one can see on swords of the Mino tradition. It's reminiscent of mountaintops of the Japanese Alps.



ITEM# UJAR007

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A KASUGA DAIMYOJIN KABUTO (SAMURAI HELMET) SIGNED, MID-EDO PERIOD (~1700S)

Armor Maker: Fujiwara MASAMICHI

Location: Kept at Kasuga Daimyoin (Kasuga Grand Shrine 春日大明神) in Nara

Hachi (bowl): Shaped similarly to Zenshozan

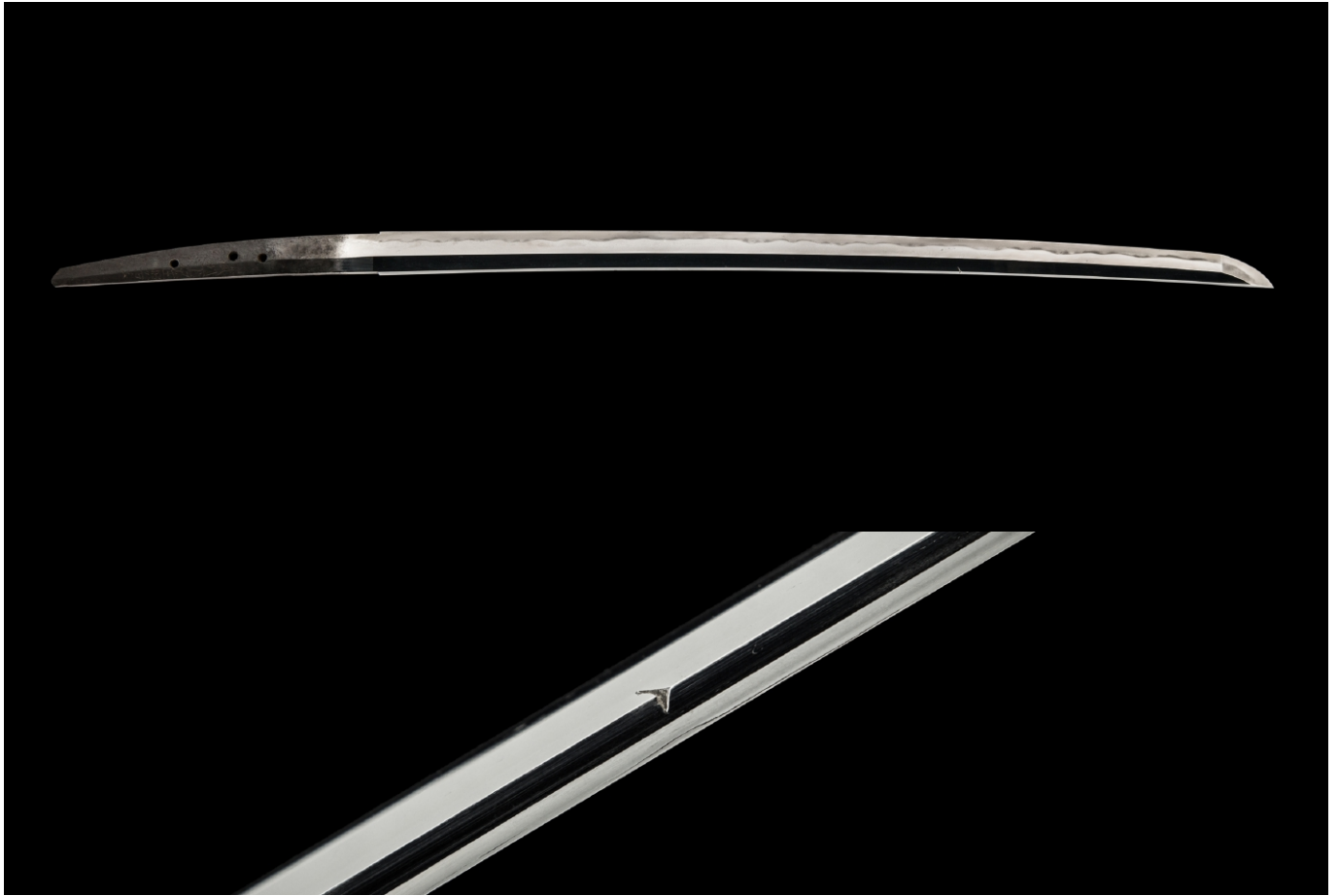
Included: Vintage kabuto, box, helmet stand, DVD, printed care guide

¥650,000 (~\$6,500)

The marvelous 40-plate kabuto is in the form of helmets that were seen in the Nambokucho Period (1333-1392) with leather-covered *Fukigaeshi* that curl elegantly to the side.

The kabuto is signed by engraving with the characters 春日大明神 as it was kept at one of the most famous and prestigious shrines in Japan called **Kasuga Daimyoin** (Kasuga Grand Shrine, first established in 768AD). It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Nara, Japan.

Fujiwara Masamichi, the kabuto maker, has signed his name in a black circular formation (*Maruta Magozaemon*), on the red coloured interior intended to bring good fortune.



ITEM# UJKA102

A TERUSHIGE KATANA

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KANBUN ERA: 1661-1673)

Swordsmith: Bushu ju Shitahara TERUSHIGE (5th generation)
Location: Musashi no Kuni (Tokyo) Shitahara school
Length: 63.4cm
Curvature: 1.0cm
Jihada: *Itame, mokume majiri, masame*
Hamon: *Gunome midare, ashi in hachu*
Nakago: *Slight ha-machiokuri (shortened with signature), kakumune, iriyamagata*
Certificate: **NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon** (a sword Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

Some katanas just ooze invincibility. This is one of them. Containing two significant *kiri-komi* (cuts in the spine of the blade from another sword in battle), this rare Terushige katana is a force to be reckoned with. Sold to a private collector in the United States.



ITEM# UJWA125

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A SHIMADA GISUKE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENSHO ERA: 1573-1593)

Swordsmith:	GISUKE	(3rd generation)
Location:	Suruga province	(Shizuoka prefecture)
Length:	37.9cm	
Curvature:	1.0cm	
Jihada:	<i>Itame, nagare and masame</i>	
Hamon:	<i>Gunome, tobiyaki, hitatsura</i>	
Nakago:	<i>Ubu (uncut, original length)</i>	
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)	
Included:	Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork	

¥755,000 (~\$7,550)

Swordsmith Gisuke was one of the key smiths of Suruga province along with Sukemune, Hirosuke, and Yoshitsuna during the mid to late Muromchi Period. He is of the Shimada School that formed a close alliance with the Soshu tradition of sword making.

This commanding wakizashi carries all the hallmarks you'd expect in a Soshu-driven blade. The blade was 'cooked to perfection' exhibiting a vast mélange of wavy *gunome hamon* with brilliant spots of *tobiyaki* and full-temper *hitatsura*. It's a rare sight plus the sword is signed and certified.

Equally as rare are the koshirae mounts known as *Toppei Koshirae*. Western sabres featuring a long *jiri* (part that fastens over the tip of the scabbard) helped to influence such a unique design.

Depictions on the hilt are called *Dharmacakra*, Buddhist "Wheels of Life" that symbolize the cycle of human rebirth and our ability to cut through all obstacles and illusions.



ITEM NO. UJKA103

A HOUJU TACHI

SIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (MEITOKU ERA: 1390~1393)

Swordsmith:	HOUJU (tachi signature)
Location:	Rikuchu province
Length:	72.4 cm
Curvature:	1.5cm
Jihada:	<i>Itame and nagare masame majiri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Suguha, hotsure on habuchi</i>
Nakago:	<i>Ubu-nakagojiri, ha-machiokuri, sujikai yasuri</i>
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included:	Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

The Houju tradition of the Mogusa School started in the mid Kamakura period (1200s) to the mid Muromachi period (late 1400s).

The name *Houju* is a combination of two Japanese kanji, "Ho" meaning treasure and "Ju" which is celebration or kotobuki. Houju swords were considered lucky swords - given as respectful gifts at special occasions such a marriage ceremony, coming of age, birthdays, etc.

This sword was judged to be that of Houju circa 1390 during the very turbulent Nambokucho era. It was signed on the tachi side of the nakago, an important point that distinguishes this piece from a katana. The sword has been shortened in a respectful manner of *ha-machiokuri*.

There were many generations of Houju close to each other therefore it is difficult to pinpoint which one it was exactly. This is a graceful piece from a fascinating time in Japan's history.



ITEM# UJKA104

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

AN OSAMORI KATANA

UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (SHOHEI ERA: 1346-1369)

Swordsmith:	Osafune OSAMORI (attribution)
Location:	Osafune province (Okayama prefecture)
Length:	63.0cm
Curvature:	1.8cm
Jihada:	<i>Ko-Itame with utsuri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Gunome choji midare, konie, sunagashi in hachu</i>
Nakago:	<i>O-suriage</i> (shortened)
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included:	Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

¥740,000 (~\$7,400)

The Soshu tradition of sword making became popular during the period 1334 to 1369 and swordsmith Nagayoshi of *The Choji (Nagayoshi) School* stands out as one of the finest smiths in Bizen that could emulate Soshuden works.

Osamori, who is tipped to have created this splendid katana, is believed to be an older brother of Nagayoshi. Ranked as *Ryowazamono* (very sharp swords), the blade pulls no punches.

This sword has seen a lot in her time. Initially this would have been a tachi carried proudly on horseback. Over the years with fighting styles changing, so did her shape. It now rests as a one-handed *katate-uchi* shaped katana from the Muromachi period. This sword has stories to tell.

Beautiful *gunome choji midare* mixed with tiny *nie* and distinctive *sunagashi* packs this blade with plenty of *hataraki*. And what gorgeous *utsuri*...

This sword is suited for a custom koshirae project.

Steps to Building Your Own Koshirae

Many fine antique Samurai swords today come stored only in a shirasaya.

A shirasaya acts like a humidior, 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# UJWA126

A SUKESADA '1514' WAKIZASHI SIGNED, LATE MUROMACHI PERIOD DATED EISHO 11, AUGUST 1514

Swordsmith:	Bishu Osafune SUKESADA
Location:	Bizen province (Okayama prefecture)
Length:	51.0cm
Curvature:	1.7cm
Jihada:	<i>Tight itame, mokume majiri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Koshi hiraki gunome midare</i>
Horimono:	<i>Bohi (groove) on front and back</i>
Nakago:	<i>Slight suriage (signature intact)</i>
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (<i>a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword</i>)
Included:	Traditional Japanese Army Field Officer, shirasaya, silk carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide and exportation paperwork

ON HOLD

Signed and dated to 1514, this fine wakizashi by swordsmith Sukesada is celebrating its 500th birthday in August 2014. Now that's a lot of candles...

Sukesada is a name forever synonymous with the Bizen region and tradition with over 60 generations sharing the name. Given the time period and analysis of the signature, it is likely that the great *Yosozaemon-no-Jo Sukesada* forged the wakizashi.

Fujishiro ranks *Yosozaemon-no-jo* as *Saijo-saku* (grandmaster swordsmith) in their famous *Nihon Koto Jiten*. Sword is housed in an Edo-period set of *koshirae* that has both a *kozuka* and *kogai*. A truly special collectible sword that comes certified by the NTHK-NPO.



ITEM# UJKA105

A TAIMA SCHOOL KATANA

UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (1333-1392)

Swordsmith:	Taima School (attribution)
Location:	Yamato province (Nara prefecture)
Length:	68.5cm
Curvature:	2.5cm
Jihada:	<i>Itame, masame majiri</i>
Hamon:	<i>Suguha, ko-gunome majiri</i>
Nakago:	<i>O-suriage</i> (shortened)
Certificate:	NBTHK Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho (<i>a sword certified as being Extraordinarily Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword</i>)
Included:	Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

The Taima (pronounced TIE-MA) School is one of the five main branches of the Yamato tradition. Their work is very rare and highly celebrated with a great number of their blades reaching coveted NBTHK Juyo status.

Their name derives from the fact the school was retained by the Taimadera (of the Taimaji temple). Swordsmith Kuniyuki (not of the Rai fame) founded the school in about 1288-1293 during the Kamakura Shou era. Other smiths include Toshiyuki, Kunikiyo, Tomotsuna, Tomonaga, Tomoyuki. Almost all Taima swords were unsigned.

This 650-year old katana is an opportunity to own a valuable piece of Japanese sword making tradition at a fraction of the cost of what a NBTHK Juyo-level Taima piece would command.

Its distinctive *masame hada* and *suguha hamon* on an elegantly curved blade begs for a custom koshirae to be made for it. This is a sword to cherish.



ITEM# UJKA106

A SHIGEHIDE KATANA

SIGNED, DECEMBER 8, 1941 (16TH YEAR OF SHOWA PERIOD)
ON THIS DAY THE UNITED STATES DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN

Swordsmith: Minamoto SHIGEHIDE
Location: Saitama prefecture
Length: 67.0cm
Curvature: 1.4cm
Jihada: *Ko-itame*
Hamon: *Gunome midare, ashi*
Nakago: *Ubu* (uncut, original length)
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork

SOLD

The Infamy Speech was delivered by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt to a Joint Session of Congress on 8 December 1941, one day after the Empire of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Hawaii.

This katana was signed and dated on this very day in Tokyo, Japan.

A pupil of Sato Akinori, Shigehide was born in 1912 making this katana one that he crafted early in his career. A member of *Zen Nihon Toshokai* (All Japan Swordsmiths Association), Shigehide's swords have achieved winning accolades 15 times in competitions.

The katana is an excellent example of work that was created during WWII to a high degree of skill using traditional folding methods. The koshirae consists of Edo-period fittings that feature a 20-petal chrysanthemum and a modern-made black lacquered *saya* (scabbard).



ITEM# UJGU016

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A KANENORI SHIN-GUNTO ARMY KATANA SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (DATED 8TH YEAR OF ENPO, 1680) “NANBANTETSU SAKU KORE WO MOTTE” (MADE WITH FOREIGN STEEL)

Swordsmith: Kashu Kanazawa ju Suminomiya Fujiwara Sakunojo KANENORI
Location: Kaga no Kuni (Ishikawa prefecture)
Length: 67.4cm **Curvature:** 0.6cm
Jihada: *Tight itame*
Hamon: *Yakidaka and hako-midare*
Nakago: *Ubu (uncut, original length), two holes in nakago*
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (*a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword*)
Included: Traditional Japanese Army Field Officer, shirasaya, silk carry bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide and exportation paperwork

¥795,000 (~\$7,950)

This potent katana dated to 1680 was made by 2nd generation *O-wazamono* swordsmith Kanenori, who had a reputation for making fabulously sharp swords.

It was made using *Namban tetsu* or ‘foreign-made steel’ and this fact was signed accordingly on the nakago. Swords with shallow curvature are often known for their cutting ability.

Housed in pristine WWII Japanese Army Officer Shin-Gunto pattern fittings, this sword was held by high-ranking Company Officer as determined by the brown and blue tassel.

Traditional depictions of *sakura* (cherry blossom) adorn the sword, the national flower of Japan. Below is a poem on a military sword blade that pays homage to the sakura.

*“Just as the cherry blossom fades and falls to the ground, so it is with my useful life.
Should it prove to be of use to my Emperor, I would not fail to fall.”*



ITEM# UJWA127

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A KIYOSHIGE WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (GENROKU ERA: 1688-1704)

- Swordsmith:** Choshu ju KIYOSHIGE
Location: Nagato no Kuni (Yamaguchi prefecture)
Length: 46.2cm **Curvature:** 1.3cm
Jihada: Itame
Hamon: Gunome midare, kinsen and sunagashi in Hachu
Nakago: Ubu (uncut, original length), two holes in nakago
Certificates x 2: NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword AND fitting designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Edo-period koshirae fittings, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

¥5,450 (~\$5,450)

Signed by Kiyoshige of the Nio School, this charming wakizashi features a *hamon* brimming with activity. The Nio School traces its roots to the Kamakura period with a strong Yamato tradition influence. Most of the Nio smiths begin their name with the character "Kiyo".

Sword carries high-quality Edo-period fittings with a striking Echizen School dragon tsuba, *kozuka* (utility knife) and *kogai* (ear pick) and a unique *saya*. The hilt is beautifully wrapped in *kumiage tsuka-maki*. Two NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificates of Authenticity have been awarded for both the sword and her fittings.



ITEM# UJKA109

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A NOBUSADA KATANA

SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (KAN'EI ERA: 1624-1644)

- Swordsmith:** Ise no Kami NOBUSADA
Location: Mino no Kuni (Gifu prefecture)
Length: 69.8cm
Curvature: 1.2cm
Jihada: *Kasudachi-like itame*
Hamon: *Tight nioikuchi, kokoro, togari gunome, sanbonsugi, ashi in hachu*
Nakago: *Ubu (original length), iriyamagata, ko-marumune, kesho sujikai yasuri*
Certificate: **NBTHK Hozon** (*a sword Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)
Included: Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

¥700,000 (~\$7,000)

Swordsmith NOBUSADA, born *Ganmaku Ichirōsaemon*, was a talented smith who flourished during the early 17th century in Mino province, presently Gifu prefecture. He was granted his title of *Ise no Kami* by the Imperial court of Japan.

This classic Samurai length katana at 2-*shaku 3-sun* (69.8cm) is a fine representation of Mino School talents. The *hamon* is a superbly crafted *sanbonsugi* – a temper line that jumps at every third ‘cypress tree’ pioneered by Magoroku Kanemoto in the mid-Muromachi Period.

An NBTHK Hozon Certificate of Authenticity of the signature also accompanies the sword.

This katana is currently in a shirasaya and is an ideal candidate for a custom koshirae project. Please inquire for further details.



ITEM# UJKA110

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A MASATADA KATANA

SIGNED (TWO CHARACTER), EARLY SHOWA PERIOD (CIRCA 1940)

- Swordsmith:** MASATADA (2nd generation)
Location: Ibaraki prefecture (outskirts of Tokyo)
Length: 67.8cm
Curvature: 1.2cm
Jihada: *Nashi-ji*
Hamon: *Gunome midare*
Nakago: *Ubu* (original length), *Kurishiri*, *Kiriyasuri* and *Kakumune*
Certificate: NTHK-NPO **Kanteisho** (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Vintage koshirae, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

¥600,000 (~\$6,000)

This quality gendaito katana was crafted by the son of 1st generation Masatada. Also known as Shigeru Okajima, Masatada II lived in Nishi Ibaraki Iwamamachi in outskirts of Tokyo.

Sword is blessed with a beautiful *nashiji hada* (steel that resembles the skin of a pear) and an elegant *gunome-midare hamon*. A fine 19th-century *handachi koshirae* accompanies the sword blending the past with present.

Kurihara Saburo ranks Okajima Masatada as *Chuge Saku* (mid-level) from a pool of 400 top wartime swordsmiths. Sword is fully NTHK-NPO certified which reaffirms that the sword was made using traditional folding techniques.



ITEM# UJWA128

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A SUKESADA WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (TENSHO ERA: 1573-1593)

Swordsmith:	Bizen Osafune SUKESADA (attribution)
Location:	Bizen no Kuni (Okayama prefecture)
Length:	45.5cm
Curvature:	0.8cm
Jihada:	<i>Itame</i>
Hamon:	<i>Koshibiraki gunome choji midare</i>
Nakago:	<i>O-suriage</i> (shortened)
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 bags, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

¥360,000 (~\$3,600)

Attributed to Bizen Sukesada at the end of the Muromachi Period, this 400-year old battle experienced wakizashi is a wonderful collectible offered at a very reasonable price.

The blade has been given a traditional *sashikomi* polish. This is a classic polishing technique that allows the steel to display a more natural appearance.

A reinforced Edo-period *saya* along with matching fittings and a custom shirasaya finishes off the piece. An NTHK-NPO Kanteisho Certificate of Authenticity accompanies the sword.



ITEM# UJKA111

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A KANENAGA KATANA

SIGNED, MUROMACHI PERIOD (EISHO ERA: 1504-1521)

Swordsmith:	Fujiwara no KANENAGA
Location:	Mino no kuni (Gifu prefecture)
Length:	62.2cm Curvature: 1.3cm
Jihada:	<i>Ko-itame</i>
Hamon:	<i>Gunome midare, ashi in hachu, sunagashi</i>
Horimono:	<i>Narrow bohi (groove) on front and back</i>
Nakago:	<i>Slight suriage, sujikai yasuri</i>
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included:	Shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

¥630,000 (~\$6,300)

Tomoyuki Yamashita was a general of the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. He became known during the war after conquering the British colonies of Malaya and Singapore, ultimately earning the nickname "The Tiger of Malaya."

Tomoyuki Yamashita carried a now famous Samurai katana in WWII mounts by *Fujiwara Kanenaga* circa 1661. General Yamashita surrendered the sword along with his army on September 2, 1945. The sword was taken by General MacArthur and presented to the West Point Military Museum where it remains today.

This impressive katana also signed *Fujiwara Kanenaga* hails from a previous generation of the Kanenaga name from Mino province. This sword is so robust and so full of character. The large kissaki and two thin grooves cut along the shinogi edge give it a commanding presence.

A fresh polish and custom koshirae will lift this Samurai sword to even greater heights.

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APRIL 26-27, 2014

SHOW HOURS (FREE ENTRY)

APRIL 26-27, 2014
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
10AM - 7PM

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