

JAPANESE
SWORD
CATALOGUE 18.5

FIRST RELEASED:
DECEMBER 8/2014

(COVER PHOTO)

ITEM# UJKA121 & UJWA150

A YOSHIMICH AND YOSHIKAZU DAISHO
DATED AUGUST 1829 & SPRING 1832

NTHK-NPO YUSHUTO CERTIFICATION

SOLD TO A PRIVATE COLLECTOR

ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS FOR SALE (VOLUME 18.5)

FIRST RELEASED ON DECEMBER 8, 2015
UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 8, 2015

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS AND IMAGES
OF GENUINE ANTIQUE JAPANESE SWORDS THAT WERE SOLD IN
CATALOGUE 18.

THIS IS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT.

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM TO
BECOME INFORMED ON OUR LATEST ACQUISITIONS AND YOUR
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WE HAVE SERVICE OFFICES IN TOKYO, JAPAN AND NEAR
LONDON, ENGLAND.



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Happy New Year!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015 and beyond. Let's promise ourselves, and to the ones we love, that we'll **make the MOST of EVERY DAY we are ALIVE!**

Since the NHK documentary on Japanese sword polishing aired last year which I was proud to be a part of entitled, *"In Love with the Samurai Sword"*, the number of positive emails and well wishes overwhelmed me.

Thank you for all your incredible enthusiasm and for watching (and discovering!)

If you have missed the documentary, please search for the title on YouTube, a copy was placed online (but not by Unique Japan).

Given the very personal nature of collecting Japanese swords, many swords that we acquire are sold to our long-term clients and to those who proactively contact us with specific requests as to what type of sword they wish to acquire.

Please contact me at service@uniquejapan.com to become informed on our latest acquisitions and your name will be added to our VIP emailing list. *Thank you to all who have joined our list.*

This front section of this catalogue contains information on three superb daisho sets and the Yasusada wakizashi that I took to Sasaki-sensei to have polished within the NHK documentary.

Since we uploaded 18.0 catalogue on December 8th, long-term and new clients alike have claimed essentially all the swords listed. Congratulations!!

Swords are continuously being sourced, photographed and will be introduced on a regular basis. Please keep in contact with, stand by for acquisition alerts!

I look forward to keeping in close touch in 2015.

Warm regards,

Pablo Kuntz
January 2015



Donna, Lennon (5yr), Pablo, Hannah (7yr)

INDEX OF JAPANESE SWORDS

ITEM#	SWORDSMITH & TYPE	CM	CERTIFICATE	ERA / PERIOD	PRICE
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ujwa154	A KANEKUNI WAKIZASHI	46.7	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho	Enpo era (1673-1681)	SOLD
ujar007	A KASUGA DAIMYOJIN KABUTO		Samurai Helmet	Mid-Edo Period	SOLD
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ujwa157	A MOTOHIRA O-WAKIZASHI	57.9	NBTHK Hozon	Dated: February 1790	SOLD
ujgu019	SUKETADA NAVY KATANA	64.5	Shibata Mitsuo	Hoei era (1704-1711)	SOLD
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ujka131	A BIZEN KOZORI KATANA	62.2	NBTHK Hozon	Nambokucho (~1368)	SOLD
ujka132	A KO-NAMINOHIRA TACHI	73.0	NBTHK Hozon	Kamakura (1150-1250)	SOLD
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ADDITIONAL SWORDS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY 2015

TO ONLINE VISITORS AROUND THE WORLD...

WELCOME! WE COMPLETELY RESPECT THE FACT IT TAKES A HUGE LEAP OF PERSONAL FAITH IN US TO COMMIT TO A PARTICULAR SWORD(S) GIVEN THE RELIANCE ON PHOTOS AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR SUCH A HIGHLY VALUED ITEM.

IT IS OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS ALL YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY. IT'S IMPORTANT TO US THAT YOU FEEL COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THAT THE SWORD YOU CHOOSE (AND CHOOSES YOU) IS DESTINED FOR YOUR FAMILY TO CHERISH AND PRESERVE.

PLEASE TAKE REASSURANCE THAT ALL SWORDS FROM UNIQUE JAPAN ARE GUARANTEED AUTHENTIC AND COME WITH A **3-DAY WORRY FREE INSPECTION PERIOD** UPON ARRIVAL TO YOUR HOME.

WE ACQUIRE SWORDS ON A REGULAR BASIS AND CAN SOURCE SWORDS FOR COLLECTORS SEEKING A SPECIFIC SMITH AND/OR SCHOOL.

PLEASE INQUIRE ABOUT OUR LATEST ARRIVALS THAT MAY NOT BE LISTED IN THE CATALOGUE.

DOMO ARIGATO!
PABLO

RECENTLY SOLD DAISHO KOSHIRAE PLUS A NOTABLE YASUSADA...

A PARTICULARLY SPECIAL PROJECT THAT WE RECOMMEND IS TO BUILD YOUR OWN CUSTOM *DAISHO* (MATCHING KATANA AND WAKIZASHI).

THE DAISHO WAS THE OFFICIAL DRESS CODE OF THE SAMURAI DURING THE EDO PERIOD. IT WAS RIGIDLY ENFORCED FROM 1626 TO 1868.



THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE INTRODUCTORY DESCRIPTIONS OF SWORDS THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY BUILT A CUSTOM DAISHO KOSHIRAE FOR.

ONE OF THE DAISHOS WAS ALREADY CREATED IN THE SHOWA PERIOD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING PROCESS OF BUILDING A CUSTOM KOSHIRAE (FITTINGS) FOR JAPANESE SWORDS, PLEASE VISIT:

[HTTP://NEW.UNIQUEJAPAN.COM/AN-EXAMPLE-OF-A-CUSTOM-KOSHIRAE-WITH-EDO-PERIOD-PIECE-MOUNTINGS/](http://new.uniquejapan.com/an-example-of-a-custom-koshirae-with-edo-period-piece-mountings/)



ITEM NO. UJKA100 & UJWA112

A KOYAMA MUNETSUGU DAISHO

SIGNED & DATED, LATE EDO SHINSHINTO PERIOD
1ST YEAR OF BUNKYU (1861), AUGUST (WAKIZASHI)
3RD YEAR OF BUNKYU (1863), MAY (KATANA)

Swordsmith:	Bizen no Suke MUNETSUGU
Location:	Musashi province (modern-day Tokyo)
Measurements:	Length of wakizashi: 44.8cm Length of katana: 79.6cm (!)
Nakago:	<i>Ubu nakago both swords</i>
Certificates:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon, Tokubetsu Kicho, NTHK-NPO Yushuto
Fujishiro:	Jojo-saku (<i>ranked as a highly superior swordsmith</i>)

SOLD (*a custom daisho koshirae has been created for these swords*)

Behold a grand daisho that has been a project in the making for much of 2014. Koyama Munetsugu is a maestro from the Shinshinto period and the two swords that comprise this daisho are absolute gems.

The wakizashi is made in the structure of a Nagamaki naoshi with a large kissaki featuring a jizo-boshi. The katana has an incredible 80cm cutting edge. The daisho koshirae features dragons and phoenix with blue hilt and sageo as the client has lived and worked near the ocean all his life. See details: <http://new.uniquejapan.com/a-koyama-munetsugu-daisho/>



Cutting Edge: 79.6cm

Curvature: 1.5cm

Bizen no Suke Munetsugu Katana
Late Edo Period
Dated: 3rd year of Bunkyu (1863)
NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon



ITEM NO. UJKA083 & UJWA134

A KAWAI HISAYUKI DAISHO

SIGNED & DATED, LATE EDO SHINSHINTO PERIOD
2ND YEAR OF KEIO (1866), NOVEMBER (WAKIZASHI)
1ST YEAR OF MANEN (1860), DECEMBER (KATANA)

Swordsmith:	Bakufushi Kawai HISAYUKI
Location:	Musashi province (modern-day Tokyo)
Measurements:	Length of wakizashi: 54.8cm Length of tachi: 76.0cm
Nakago:	<i>Ubu nakago both swords</i>
Certificates:	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon and NTHK-NPO Yushuto
Fujishiro:	Jo-saku (<i>ranked as a superior swordsmith</i>)

SOLD (*a custom daisho koshirae has been created for these swords*)

Hisayuki was a retained swordsmith (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 as *Jo-Saku* (a superior swordsmith), Hisayuki crafted the tachi when he was 75 years old and the wakizashi at the **tender age of 81!** Tachi is listed in the prestigious Shinshinto Taikan Book of premier Japanese swords. The daisho features elegant dark scabbards in an *ishime* (stone) lacquered finish. A spotlight is planned on uniquejapan.com in the near future.



Bakufushi

Kawai

Hisayuki
(crafted this sword)

at the age of
81 years old



ITEM# UJWA150 & UJKA 121

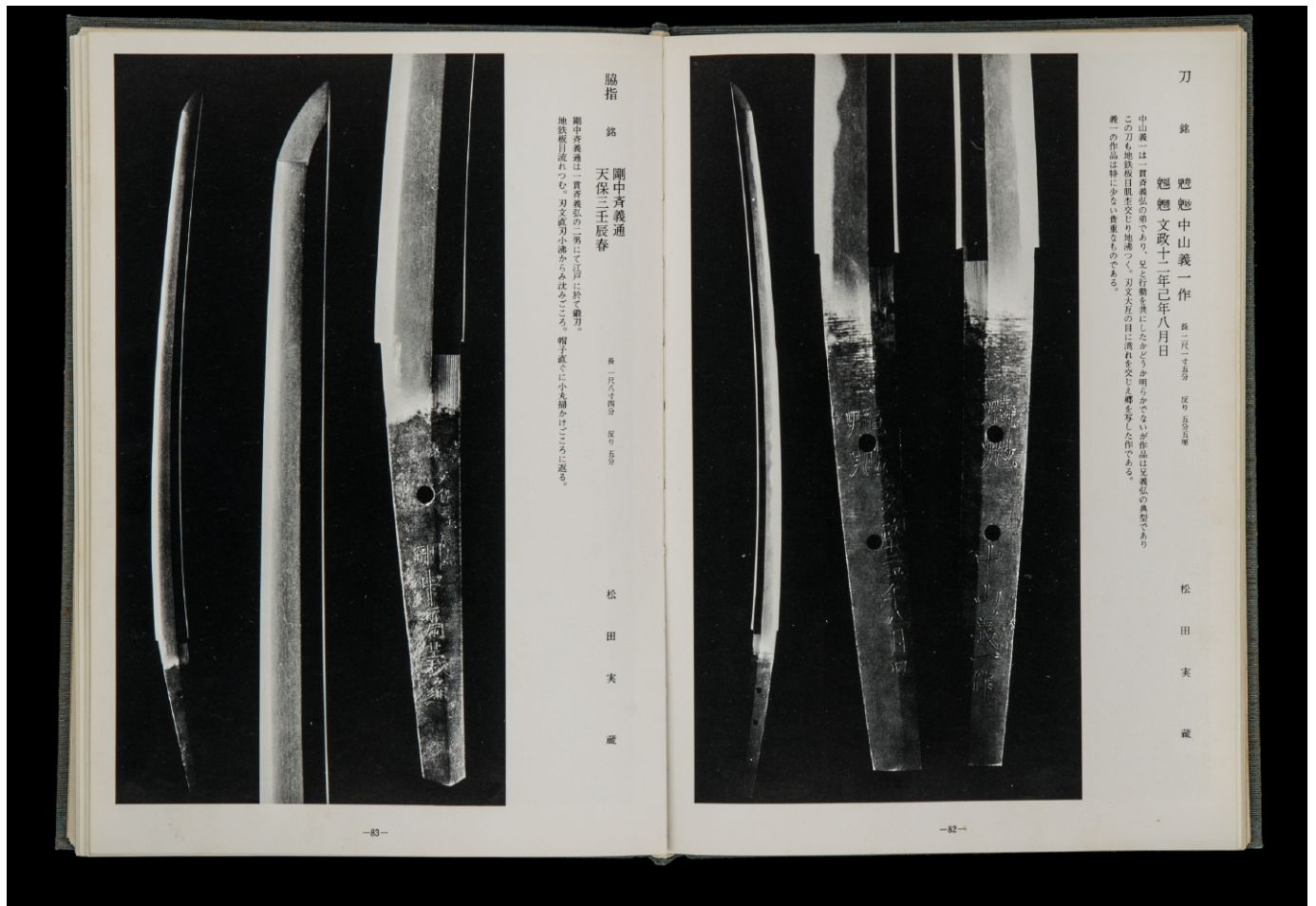
A YOSHIMICHI & YOSHIKAZU DAISHO

SIGNED & DATED, LATE EDO PERIOD

BOTH SWORDS ARE LISTED IN THE BOOK “*JYOSHU TOKO SORAN*”

Wakizashi fundamentals:

Swordsmith: Gochusai YOSHIMICHI
Dated: 3rd year of Tenpo (1832), spring time
Location: Kozuke no kuni (Gunma prefecture)
Length: 56.0cm
Curvature: 1.5cm
Motohaba: 3.2cm
Jihada: *Itame, chikei, matsukawa-hada*
Hamon: *Gunome-Midare, Kinsen with significant sunagashi (streaks of sand)*
Nakago: *Ubu-nakago, kengata, kiri yasuri*
Certificate: **NBTHK Hozon** (a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2: **NTHK-NPO Yushuto** (a sword designated Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)



Katana fundamentals:

Swordsmith: Nakayama YOSHIKAZU
Dated: 12th year of Bunsei (1829), August
Location: Kozuke no kuni (Gunma prefecture)
Length: 65.4cm
Curvature: 1.6cm
Motohaba: 3.0cm
Jihada: *Itame, chikei, matsukawa-hada*
Hamon: *Gunome Midare, Kinsen, loads of beautiful sunagashi (streaks of sand)*
Nakago: *Suriage-nakago with signature in tact, kiriyasuri*
Certificate: NBTHK Tokubetsu Kicho (a sword designated as Especially Precious by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Certificate #2: NTHK-NPO Yushuto (a sword designated Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)

SOLD

These rare swords have been featured in a book called *Jyoshu Toko Soran*. "Jyoshu Toko" means 'Swordsmiths of Gunma', Soran is 'list or collection'.

It is a book that holds a collection of the most notable swordsmiths of the region. The nickname for Kozuke (Gunma) is *Jyoshu*.

Not only are swordsmiths Yoshimichi and Yoshikazu featured in the book side by side, these exact swords are in the book. The book is included with the swords.

Yoshikazu is Nakayama Ikkansai Yoshihiro's brother, making him the uncle of Yoshimichi. Both the wakizashi and katana swords have a beautiful swirling *jihada* (body) and brilliant hamon patterns with a terrific amount of *hataraki* (activity).

One has to look at this set of swords in the context that they were discovered. They are from Kozuke no Kami in present day Gunma prefecture and have been in a private collection for many years adored as local treasures.

The owner produced a daisho in the Showa era so that the swords would never be split apart. Note that the swords have matching hilts and scabbards, and menuki. The menuki are from the Edo period as are the tsubas and fuchi-kashira.

Each sword has a *kogai* (hair pick) with the wakizashi having a *kozuka* as well.

One can see visual commonality in the *jihada* (body) of swords produced by one of the greatest swordsmiths of Japan Go Yoshihiro.

In fact, the prefix “Yoshi” of both smiths pays homage to this maestro swordsmith.

Both swords have been awarded NTHK-NPO Yushuto certificates, this being the top certification of the NTHK-NPO due to their skill and rarity.

The NTHK-NPO plans to publish a book of their Yushuto swords, of which these swords will be included.

Of note is the fact the swords have a *maru mune*, or rounded spine. This is very rare indeed, found on such a small number of swords.

It's just one of many little wonders that makes these two swords highly collectible.





ITEM NO. UJWA140

A YASUSADA WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (KEIAN-KANBUN ERA: 1648~1672)

Swordsmith: Yamato no Kami YASUSADA (first generation)
Location: Musashi province (modern-day Tokyo)
Measurements: **Length:** 52.2cm **Curvature:** 0.8cm **Moto-haba:** 3.0cm
Jihada: Ko-itame (wood grain pattern)
Hamon: Gunome midare (random semi-circular wavy hamon), and ashi
Nakago: Ubu nakago, o-sujikai yasuri
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)

SOLD

In 2014, NHK Enterprises in Japan approached Unique Japan to be part of a documentary on Japanese sword polishing called *"In Love with the Samurai Sword"*. As part of the documentary, this brilliant Yasusada wakizashi was taken to Sasaki-sensei for polishing services in which his apprentice, Yuiichi, took the lead. The results were simply spectacular.

Please visit: <http://new.uniquejapan.com/a-yamato-no-kami-yasusada-wakizashi/> for full background information on the sword and the project.

CURRENTLY LISTED JAPANESE SWORDS

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS OF AUTHENTIC AND CERTIFIED JAPANESE SWORDS AND ONE KABUTO (SWORD HELMET).

MOST OF THE SWORDS HAVE JUST BEEN OFFICIALLY ACQUIRED WITH HIGHER-QUALITY PHOTOS IN THE WORKS.

PLEASE CONTACT US AT SERVICE@UNIQUEJAPAN.COM TO FOR FURTHER IMAGES AND INFORMATION INTO SWORDS OF INTEREST.

EVEN IF A SWORD IS LISTED AS BEING “ON HOLD”, BE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AS IT MAY COME AVAILABLE. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO DISCOVER THE HISTORY AND QUALITIES OF EACH OF THE SWORDS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ON BECOMING A PROUD ANTIQUE JAPANESE OWNER ONE DAY, FEEL FREE TO SEND AN EMAIL OR CALL MY MOBILE (I’M NORMALLY ON BRITISH TIME).

ADDITIONAL JAPANESE SWORDS ARE CONTINUOUSLY BEING SOURCED AND WILL BE INTRODUCED ON A REGULAR BASIS.

PLEASE KEEP IN CONTACT WITH ME, JOIN OUR VIP EMAIL LIST (SEND ME AN EMAIL REQUESTING SO) AND STAND BY FOR ACQUISITION ALERTS!

ARIGATO!



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ITEM# UJWA131

A TSUNANOBU WAKIZASHI

SIGNED & DATED 13TH YEAR OF BUNSEI (AUGUST, 1830)

Swordsmith: Yonezawa ju TSUNANOBU
Location: Owari province (Aichi prefecture)
Length: 33.1cm
Curvature: 0.7cm
Jihada: Tight ko-itame and mokume majiri
Hamon: Sugu yakidashi, kiku-choji midare (chrysanthemum clove blossoms)
Nakago: Ubu-nakago, kesho, sujikai yasuri
Certificates (x 2): NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword AND fittings designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

This is a magnificent *hirazukuri wakizashi* (flat-style blade construction first crafted in the Heian era about 1,000 years ago) made by the finest swordsmith of the Yonezawa domain, *Tsunanobu*.

Yonezawa was a feudal domain of Tokugawa Japan, controlled by the Uesugi clan. In just a few decades became a very prosperous domain and a shining star of the Tokugawa regime. In fact, Yonezawa was declared in 1830 by the Shogunate to be the model of a well-managed domain.

Interestingly, this wakizashi is dated to exactly this year, 1830. This was an important year for Yonezawa, as this sword encapsulates this spirit of success.

The sword can be best described as a blade in full bloom. The exquisite *kiku-choji midare hamon* (clove blossoms in the shape of chrysanthemums) is such a joy for the eyes. This is the art of sword making at it's finest.

The elegant matching *tsuba* and *fuchi-kashira* depict *Omi Hakkei* - the eight most scenic views of Omi, a neighboring province. Hiroshige as well as other ukiyo-e artists first depicted the sights. Both fittings are signed by the *Jakushi School* in *nunome-zogan* gold inlay on iron.

This was a cherished wakizashi surely held by an elite Samurai in Yonezawa. It is a loyal sword that would have never left his side. Fittings have also recently attained NTHK-NPO Kanteisho origami giving the sword two certificates of authenticity in total.





ITEM NO. UJGU011

AN UJIFUSA ARMY OFFICER KATANA SIGNED, SHOWA PERIOD (CIRCA 1930)

Swordsmith: Shinoda UJIFUSA
Location: Gifu province
Length: 66.7cm **Curvature:** 1.0cm
Jihada: Ko-itame (tight wood grain)
Hamon: Gunome with ko-choji (waves with tiny clove blossoms)
Certificates (x 2): NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword AND fittings designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Koshirae, shirasaya, silk carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, printed care guide, DVD, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

Take hold of a premier WWII Army Officer Katana held by a *Company or Warrant Officer* as signified by the brown-blue tassel suspended at the hilt. 氏房 (Ujifusa) is a name synonymous with quality sword making dating back to 1356 to the Kyushu area of Japan.

The blade in pristine condition as it was polished in 2014 to a very high standard thus placing. The *gunome choiji midare hamon* is absolutely stunning - formed of tiny clove blossoms that dance along the blade in a rhythmic fashion.



Highly symbolic with this sword is the *Igeta kamon* (Igeta family crest) that was fixed to the hilt that only certain officer swords would have.

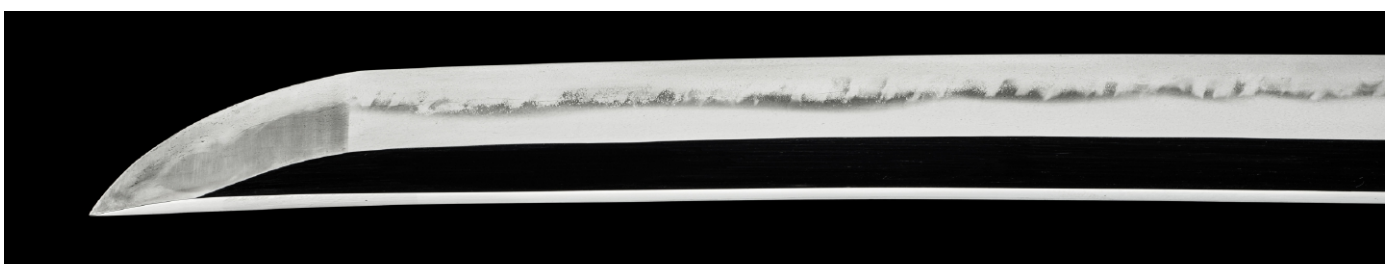
Mon are hereditary, being handed down the male line of the family (often of Samurai heritage) for several generations.

Different families often shared the same *mon* – those that share the *Igeta kamon* were the *Hanai*, *Orii*, *Fujii*, *Nagai*, *Ida*, *Sakai*, *Asai*, *Hashimoto*, and *Handa*.

These names tend to have the kanji "井(i)". *Igeta* is a wooden frame on the surface of a well. The kanji "井(i)" comes from the shape of the frame.

Also of notable interest is the scabbard is made of steel, thus making the piece one of the early originals. Later made scabbards were made of lighter weight aluminum due to iron conservation measures during the war.

All *seppa* (washers) and *tsuba* (guard) match with the **Number '4'**, indicating that the sword fittings are original to the blade. This katana is now in England, thus all import duties and taxes have been paid within the European Union. Sword can be shipped most anywhere in the world.





ITEM# UJWA152

A KANEWAKA MATASUKE WAKIZASHI SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (MEIREKI ERA: 1655-1658)

Swordsmith:	Kashu ju KANEWAKA (2nd generation, Matasuke)		
Location:	Kaga no Kuni (Ishikawa prefecture)		
Length:	41.8cm		
Curvature:	1.4cm	Motohaba:	2.9cm
Jihada:	<i>Ko-itame</i>		
Hamon:	<i>Gunome-midare and hako shape hamon with tobiyaki</i>		
Nakago:	<i>Ubu-nakago, shiri (slightly trimmed), katte sagari yasuri</i>		
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)		
Fujishiro:	Jo-Saku (a superior swordsmith)		
Included:	Koshirae, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country		

SOLD

The Kanewaka name from Kaga province is held in the highest regard as they produced top-quality swords for notable Daimyo (great families). It is said that any Samurai (even a poor Samurai) that carried a Kanewaka sword would be make a suitable partner!

This sword has recently been polished and can now be further appreciated as the steel displays all the hallmarks of a wonderful Kanewaka School sword. Note the beautiful temper spots known as *tobiyaki* on the blade that now jump off the sword.

Sword has full *koshirae* mounts that feature a *tsuba* (guard) with gold accents of that is emblematic of the artwork from the Kaga region. *Fuchi-kashira* depicts the much-loved *ume* (plum blossom) - the flower of peace and good fortune. **Note! We just acquired a katana made by the son of this smith (making this a potential father/son daisho!).** Be sure to scroll further down the catalogue to Item# UJKA130 for details on the katana by *Shirouemon*.



ITEM# UJWA154

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A KANEKUNI WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD (ENPO ERA: 1673-1681)

Swordsmith:	Settsu ju KANEKUNI
Location:	Settsu province (Osaka prefecture)
Length:	46.7cm
Curvature:	1.1cm Motohaba: 3.2cm
Jihada:	<i>Tight ko-itame</i>
Hamon:	<i>Sugu, yakidashi, sudare-ba (bamboo blinds of the Mishina School)</i>
Nakago:	<i>Ubu-nakago, yamagatashiri, katte sagari yasuri, kakumune</i>
Certificate:	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included:	Shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

Kanekuni was an excellent swordsmith who was born in Japan's ancient capital of Yamato (Nara). He moved to Settsu (Osaka) to study under the great Tanba no Kami Yoshimichi. He mastered the Mishina School's iconic *sudare-ba hamon* that this blade beautifully represents – a temper line with surging waves resembling the sweeping lines of a bamboo curtain.

Note how the swordsmith's name is artistically chiseled on the *nakago* (tang) as if it were written with calligraphy brush. This takes great skill and patience. All told this is a superbly crafted wakizashi that would shine even brighter from having a custom koshirae made for her. Sword was registered in Showa 26 (1951), *Daimyo-toroku*, one of the first swords registered in Japan.



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, a helmet stand, DVD, printed care guide

SOLD

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. This is a lovely display piece that includes a helmet stand.



ITEM# UJWA155

A MASAKUNI WAKIZASHI

UNSIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (BUNKA ERA: 1804-1818)

Swordsmith: Higo no Kuni MASAKUNI
Location: Satsuma no Kuni (Kagoshima prefecture)
Measurements: Length: 49.1cm Curvature: 1.1cm Motohaba: 3.1cm
Jihada: Tight ko-itame
Hamon: Gunome choji midare, ashi in hachu
Nakago: Ubu-nakago, yamagata, kiri yasuri
Certificates (x 2): NTHK-NPO Kanteisho (a sword AND fittings designated as Important by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Included: Koshirae, sword carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, registration and all exportation paperwork to home country

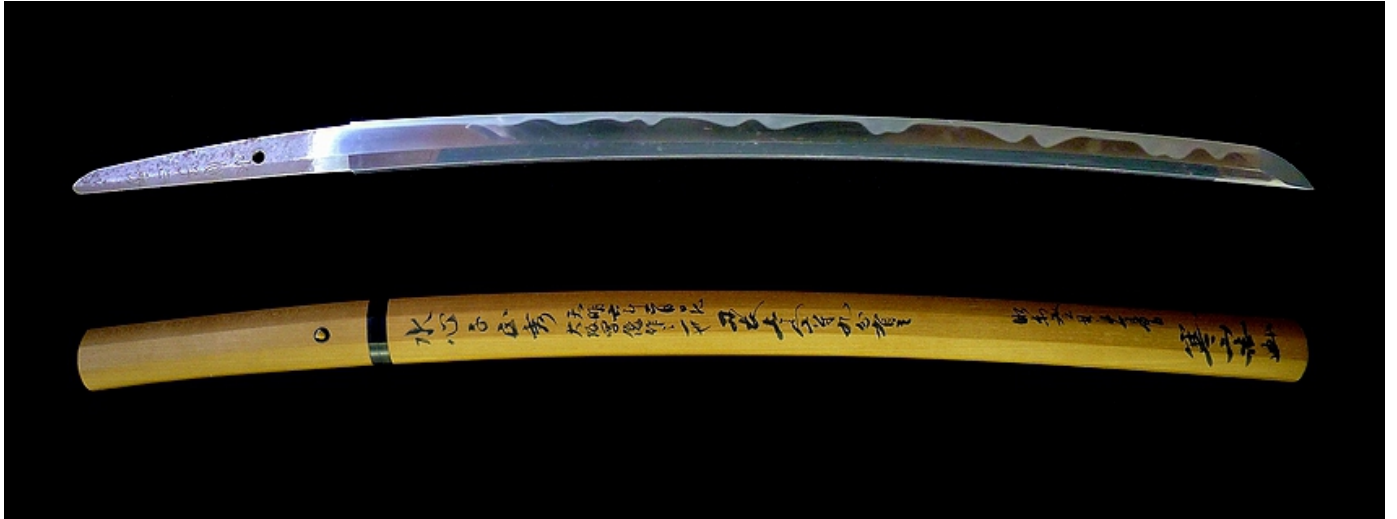
SOLD

This distinctive wakizashi is attributed to Masakuni, a rarely seen swordsmith who is the 4th generation descendant of Masayoshi in the Satsuma region. He was known as *Taira no Masayoshi*.

It is a highly creative work of art that displays the qualities of the Dotanuki School - a leading group that produced swords in the Bizen tradition during the Edo period in Higo province.

The Dotanuki School earned great admiration amongst the Samurai class from the mid-1500s due to their superior cutting ability. They were renowned for producing blades that would endure the harshest conditions; grueling battlefield encounters year in and year out.

Beautifully finished in a traditional *sashikomi* polish, the *hamon* displays wonderful accents of clove blossoms in direct respect of the Bizen tradition. The blade is extremely healthy and protected by a gorgeous *saya* (scabbard) decorated in lacquered mother-of-pearl. Further fittings are in a dragon theme with a fabulously unique gold *habaki* in the form of a *sensu* (Japanese fan).



ITEM# UJWA156

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

A SUISHINSHI MASAhide WAKIZASHI

SIGNED, LATE EDO PERIOD (SHINSHINTO)

DATED: THE 6TH YEAR OF TENMEI (1786), FEBRUARY

Swordsmith: Suishinshi MASAhide (Shodai, first generation)
Location: Musashi no Kuni (Tokyo, Saitama and Kanagawa prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 53.0cm **Curvature:** 1.2cm **Motohaba:** 2.8cm
Jihada: Tight Ko-itame, Mujifu
Hamon: Magnificent toranba (rolling ocean waves) in tribute to swordsmith Sukehiro
Nakago: Ubu-nakago, sujikai yasuri with kesho
Certificate: NTHK-NPO Yushuto (a sword designated as Highly Excellent by the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Sword)
Fujishiro: Sai-Josaku (grandmaster swordsmith)
Included: Shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

This long wakizashi is a masterclass of Suishinshi Masahide, the founding genius behind the *fukko-to* (restoration sword) movement that heralded the era of the *Shinshinto*.

Dated February 1786, very early in a brilliant career that spanned more than 50 years, the blade proudly displays a glorious *toranba hamon* pioneered by legendary swordsmith Echizen no Kami Sukehiro in the 17th century. The temper line is said to appear as rolling waves crashing in the ocean - a much-loved type of hamon of Suishinshi Masahide.

Dr. Sato Kanzan, the former director of the NBTHK, has signed the *shirasaya* - a certification practice known *sayagaki*. He certifies on the shirasaya that the sword represents an excellent example of the famous Settsu *toranba*. **Sword has a cut in the middle of the blade** - a war wound that is greatly prized. This is a visually striking and highly collectible sword from a true grandmaster smith of the late Edo period. Sword has *Daimyo toroku* (Showa 26, March 28, 1951).



ITEM# UJKA128

A YASUTOSHI KATANA (WITH CUTTING TEST)

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

(GOLD INLAY) DECEMBER 2ND, 2ND YEAR OF KANBUN (1662)

SEVERED TWO HUMAN BODIES [IN ONE STROKE]

YAMANO KAUEMON NAGAHISA (KAOU, TESTER)

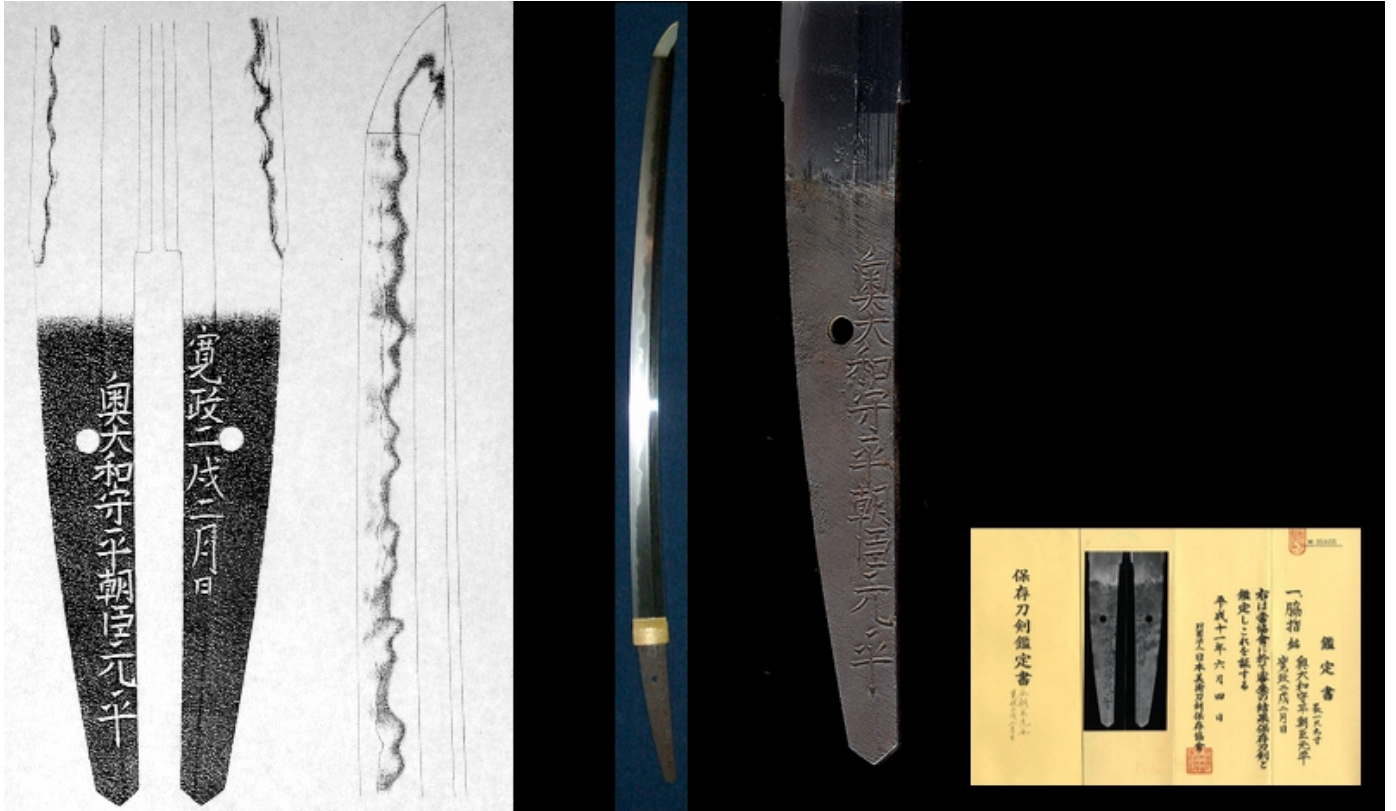
Swordsmith: Bushu Ju YASUTOSHI (*elegant two-character signature*)
Location: Musashi province (Tokyo prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 71.6cm **Curvature:** 1.1cm **Motohaba:** 3.2cm
Jihada: Itame and mokume majiri
Hamon: Gunome-midare
Nakago: Suriage-chushin (*signature completely in tact*)
Certificate: NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon (*a sword designated as Especially Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword*)
Included: Shirsaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD



352 years ago on December 2, 1662, this formidable katana by Yasutoshi underwent a cutting test known as *tameshigiri*. It successfully severed the corpses of two convicted criminals layed on top of one another in a single stroke. The tester was *Yamano Kauemon Nagahisa*, the founder of the Yamano School. As standard practice, he recorded the test result in gold inlay on the *nakago* (tang) of the sword.

Nagahisa and his descendant, Yamano Kanjuro Hisahide, were Shogun appointed sword testers and favoured swords by Yasusada. Yasutoshi studied under sensei Yasusada and his swords carry similar qualities such as a marvelous *gunome midare hamon*. Sword comes with NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification. This is a bigtime Samurai sword.



ITEM# UJWA157

A MOTOHIRA O-WAKIZASHI

SIGNED & DATED: THE 2ND YEAR OF KANSEI (1790), FEBRUARY

Swordsmith: Oku Yamato no Kami Taira no Ason MOTOHIRA
Location: Satsuma no Kuni (Kagoshima prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 57.9cm **Curvature:** 1.1cm **Motohaba:** 3.1cm
Jihada: Tight ko-itame and jinie
Hamon: Gunome-midare with konie, togariba, deep nioi, ashi, bright kinsen, sunagashi
Nakago: Ubu-nakago, sujikai yasuri
Certificate: **NBTHK Hozon** (a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword) & just awarded **NTHK-NPO Yushuto!**
Fujishiro: **Jojo-saku** (highly superior swordsmith)
Included: Shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

This powerful **o-wakizashi** by **Jojo-saku** smith Motohira is nearly the length of a katana, custom built as such. It has so much *hataraki* (activity) within the gorgeous wavy *gunome-midare* hamon that something new will strike the owner's eye each and every time it's picked up and admired.

Motohira is broadly recognized as one of the finest smiths of the late Edo period who worked under the patronage of the Satsuma Shimazu family. Sword was registered in Showa 26 (1951), *Daimyo-toroku*, one of the first swords registered in Japan, as the serial number is just 801(!).



ITEM# UJGU019

A SUKETADA WWII NAVY OFFICER KATANA SIGNED, EDO PERIOD (HOEI ERA: 1704-1711)

Swordsmith: Bizen no Kuni Osafune Ju SUKETADA
Location: Bizen no Kuni (Okayama prefecture)
Measurements: Length: 64.5cm Curvature: 2.0cm Motohaba: 3.0cm
Jihada: Ko-itame
Hamon: Gunome choji-midare
Nakago: Ubu-nakago, ha-agari kurishiri, kiriyasuri
Certificate: Shibata Mitsuo Kanteisho (a sword designated as authentic by the Japanese sword dealer Mitsuo Shibata in May 1999)
Included: WWII Japanese Navy Officer fittings, shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

This graceful katana made over 300 years ago by swordsmith Suketata is shaped as a *ko-tachi*, or small tachi, that has its origins from horseback 1000 years ago. It features a beautiful *ko-itame hada* with *gunome choji-midare* (a classic Bizen School temperline that resembles clove blossoms).

It is housed in excellent condition WWII Japanese Navy Officer Kai-Gunto pattern fittings. This is highly significant as the vast majority of Navy officer swords were either mass-produced or made near or during WWII time frame. Note how the scabbard is greatly curved, this is rare.

Being a katana from the Edo period, it strongly suggests that the sword was held within the family's Samurai lineage for generations, passed down to the officer when duty to country called. 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# UJKA130

A KANEWAKA SHIROUEMON KATANA

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

Swordsmith: Kashu Ju Kanewaka (Shirouemon, 3rd generation)
Location: Kaga no Kuni (Ishikawa prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 66.8cm
Curvature: 1.3cm
Motohaba: 3.1cm
Jihada: Tight ko-itame, jinie and chikei
Hamon: Nie-deki gunome midare with hako midare (classic Kanewaka)
Nakago: Ubu-nakago
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** (superior swordsmith)
Included: Vintage koshirae, shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

Behold a classic Edo-period Samurai katana of grand proportions. The Kanewaka family very close ties to the Maeda Daimyo family in Kaga province as the castle town grew to immense prominence and wealth during the Edo period. Traditional Japanese gold leaf production was made famous in Kaga among numerous high-quality crafts.

Top Samurai have always and will forever admire swords from the Kanewaka family. First generation Kanewaka was so highly skilled that he is referred to as *Kaga Masamune* - a massive honour bestowed to arguably Japan's most celebrated swordsmith from the Kamakura period.

This exceptional katana was crafted by third generation *Jo-saku* smith Kanewaka who was known as *Shirouemon*. From top to bottom there is so much to love about this sword; her strong weight and exceptional balance, the stunning hamon that carries the family's hallmark *hako midare* (square shaped), tightly forged *jihada*, and **fully matching koshirae** (sword fittings) that are from the Edo period. Sword has been granted prestigious NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon certification. Consider coupling this katana with the wakizashi *his father made* (ujwa152) for a family daisho.



ITEM# UJKA131

A BIZEN KOZORI SCHOOL KATANA

UNSIGNED, NAMBOKUCHO – EARLY MUROMACHI (~1368AD)

Swordsmith:	Bizen Kozori School		
Location:	Bizen no Kuni (Okayama prefecture)		
Measurements:	Length: 62.2cm	Curvature: 1.8cm	Motohaba: 2.6cm
Jihada:	<i>Tight ko-itame and jinie</i>		
Hamon:	<i>Ko-gunome midare</i>	Nakago: <i>O-suriage</i>	
Certificate:	NBTHK Hozon (<i>a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword</i>)		
Included:	Vintage koshirae, carry bag, sword stand, kit, DVD, printed care guide		

SOLD

The Kozori group were a fine collection of swordsmiths whose closest ties were with the Kanemitsu School that worked in the late 1300s to early 1400s when this sword was forged.

This katana is filled with history. When first created, it was a longer tachi proudly carried on horseback by a Samurai and surely used during the Nambokucho war. It was then shortened during the late Muromachi period to become a dependable classic one-handed fighting katana. A *bo-hi* (groove) runs down the length of the blade to make it light and highly effective.

The *ko-gunome hamon* tightly vibrates along the blade in an eye-catching fashion and one can admire *utsuri*, a unique shadow hamon that older Bizen blades possess. The Edo-period *saya* (scabbard) is a fine *shu* (reddish) lacquered colour with evenly presented vertical lines. The *sukashi tsuba* (open work design) is a real treat along with a vintage leather hilt that contains finely crafted menuki in floral design and a *fuchi-kashira* depicting waves crashing in the ocean.



ITEM# UJKA132

A KO-NAMINOHIRA TACHI

UNSIGNED, HEIAN - KAMAKURA PERIOD (1150~1250)

Swordsmith: Ko-Naminohira School (attribution)
Location: Satsuma no Kuni (Kagoshima prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 73.0cm **Curvature:** 2.7cm **Motohaba:** 2.83cm
Jihada: Masame and Ayasugi-hada
Hamon: Chu suguha
Nakago: O-suriage (close to original length)
Certificate: **NBTHK Hozon** (a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

The Naminohira School has its roots from the Late Heian period (~794-1184). They worked exclusively for the Satsuma clan and adhered to a rule known as *Isshi-soden*, which meant that the secrets of their trade could only be passed down to one's son or a single student.

What we have here is an incredible sword that is 800 years old. This is a classic curved tachi that would have been proudly carried by horse-mounted Samurai. The deeply curved blade, with a unique groove and its distinctive *ayasugi-hada* (waves of straight grain hada) is pure eye candy.

Nami is "wave" and, *Hira* means "flat". Together this translates to be "**Calm Seas**". Naminohira swords were, in fact, popular with the Japanese Navy given the positive omen and superb quality of workmanship. A touch-up polish is soon to be completed to lift her to greater heights.

Sword was registered in Showa 26 (1951), *Daimyo-toroku*, one of the first swords registered in Japan when they started the process. What amazing stories this sword can share...



ITEM# UJKA133

A KANEMOTO TASHIRO KATANA

UNSIGNED, EARLY EDO PERIOD, KAN'EI ERA (1624~1644)

Swordsmith: Noshu Ju Fujiwara Tashiro KANEMOTO (attribution)
Location: Mino no Kuni (Gifu prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 69.3cm **Curvature:** 1.4cm **Motohaba:** 3.04cm
Jihada: Ko-itame
Hamon: Sambonsugi with kinsuji and sunagashi
Nakago: Ubu-nakago with hagaki yasurime
Certificate: NBTHK Hozon (a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Included: Shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

This potent full-length katana has been attributed to the *Tashiro Kanemoto*, a quality smith who worked in the very early Edo period. He is said to be the last son of the great master Magoroku Kanemoto, known as the 2nd generation Kanemoto from the 16th century.

In keeping with what is father pioneered, the blade carries a splendid *hamon* (temper line) referred to as *sanbonsugi*. The temperline resembles a row of cypress treetops, whereby the pattern jumps every third "tree". The hamon flows like a heartbeat along the surface of the blade and intertwines itself with *hataraki* elements of *kinsuji* and *sunagashi* (streaks of sand).

The sword is the classic length of a Samurai katana from its time in history at 69.3cm, fine balance, healthy width, original length, *ubu nakago*. It will make for a dynamite koshirae project, possibly for someone who studies Iaido – all in all it has grand potential. Sword has just been acquired and photos are in the process.

ITEM# UIWA159

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE



A SADATSUNA WAKIZASHI (WITH GOLD INLAY) UNSIGNED BY SMITH, NAMBOKUCHO PERIOD (1346~1390)

Swordsmith: Sekishu SADATSUNA (attribution)
Location: Iwami (Shimane prefecture)
Measurements: **Length:** 50.0cm **Curvature:** 1.2cm **Motohaba:** 3.1cm
Jihada: *Itame with ji-nie and wonderful waves of chikei*
Hamon: *Gunome midare with sunagashi, kinsuji* **Nakago:** *O-suriage*
Certificate: **NBTHK Hozon** (a sword designated as Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)
Fujishiro: **Jo-saku** (superior swordsmith)
Included: Shirasaya, carry bag, sword stand, maintenance kit, DVD, printed care guide, exportation paperwork to home country

SOLD

Hailing from the province of Iwami, Juyo-level Sekishu Sadatsuna swordsmith worked during the mid to late Nambokucho period 1346 to 1394, over 600 years ago. A time when Japan was gripped in an intense war and demand for the finest swords was very high.

The polish of the blade is finished to an extraordinary standard. Marvellous *chikei*, black lines of *nie* (higher level of carbon) weave their way through the rich *jihada* (body) like rhythmic sound waves – a dream sight for any Japanese sword connoisseur wishing to further their study of Japanese swords. The *hamon* is packed in *nie crystals* in *gunome midare*...simply mesmerizing.

There is a definite magical quality to this sword. The *nakago* holds a beautiful gold inlay signature of an Edo-period appraiser (thought to be Tadaoki) that lights up against the chocolate patina. An attractive *bo-hi* (groove) runs along the sides of the sword. This will be an absolutely splendid custom koshirae project. Pro-level photos are in the works.

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A Shodai Tadakuni o-Wakizashi with recently completed custom koshirae in dragonfly theme

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