

*Jūyō-tōken* at the 48th *jūyō shinsa* held on October 11, 2002

*tantō, mei:* Yamato no Kuni-jū Yoshimitsu (大和国住吉光)

## Measurements

*nagasa* 26.7 cm, a hint of *uchizori*, *motohaba* 2.4 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 9.8 cm, no *nakago-sori*

## Description

*Keijō: hira-zukuri, iori-mune*, normal *mihaba* and *nagasa*, very thick *kasane*, a hint of *uchizori*

*Kitae: ko-itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and *ō-hada* in places and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and a faint *nie-utsuri*

*Hamon: ko-nie-laden ko-notare-chō* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *ko-ashi*, fine *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and some isolated *yubashiri* along the *yakigashira* which appear in a particularly prominent manner on the *ura* side

*Bōshi: ko-maru-kaeri* with *hakikake* at the tip

*Horimono: on both sides a katana-hi* that ends in *marudome*

*Nakago: ubu*, shallow *kurijiri*, *katte-sagari yasurime*, one *mekugi-ana*, the *sashi-omote* side bears centrally under the *mekugi-ana* a large and thinly chiseled six character signature

## Explanation

It is said that the Yamato smith Yoshimitsu belonged to the Senju'in School. The *meikan* list several Yamato Yoshimitsu, with the earliest one being active in the early Kamakura period, i.e. around Kenryaku (建暦, 1211-1213), followed by a Yoshimitsu from the end of the Kamakura period, around Tokuji (徳治, 1306-1308), one from the Nanbokuchō era, around Ryakuō (暦応, 1338-1342), one from the early Muromachi period, around Ōei (応永, 1394-1428), and one from the late Muromachi period, i.e. around Bunmei (文明, 1469-1487). However, it has to be mentioned that the *meikan* list quite many Senju'in smiths but only very few extant signed works of them exist today.

This *tantō* can be dated to the end of the Kamakura period. It is of a normal *mihaba* and *nagasa* but has a very thick *kasane* what reflects the characteristics of Yamato blades from that time very well. The *kitae* is a *ko-itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and some *nie-utsuri* and the *hamon* is a *ko-notare-chō* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and that features plenty of *ha-nie* and isolated *yubashiri* along the *yakigashira*. The *bōshi* has a *ko-maru-kaeri* with *hakikake* at the tip. The *jiba* of the blade is in perfect condition and the signature is clearly legible and so we have here a very valuable reference as not many works of this smith are known. Incidentally, this blade is also featured in the *Kōzan Oshigata* (光山押形).