

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

katana, mumei: Senju'in Yoshihiro (千手院義弘)

Measurements

nagasa 70.0 cm, *sori* 1.6 cm, *motohaba* 2.8 cm, *sakihaba* 1.85 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.9 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 21.8 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, rather slender *mihaba*, high *shinogi*, wide *shinogi-ji*, deep *sori*, somewhat elongated *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: itame that is mixed with *mokume*, with *nagare-masame* towards the *ha* in places, and that features plenty of *ji-nie*

Hamon: ko-nie-laden suguba-chō with a wide and bright *nioiguchi* that tends to a gently undulating *notare* in places and that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, many *ashi*, and with *sunagashi*

Bōshi: about sugu with a *ko-maru-kaeri* and some *hakikake*

Nakago: ō-suriage, kirijiri, kiri-yasurime, two mekugi-ana, mumei

Explanation

This is an *ō-suriage mumei katana* that can be attributed to the Yamato Senju'in smith Yoshihiro. Traditionally, Senju'in blades that are mixed with some Sōshū elements were attributed by trend to Yoshihiro. Extant signed works like the *tantō* with the *mei* "Washū Soekami-kun Senju'in Yoshihiro - Bunna ninen hachigatsu hi" (和州添上郡千手院義弘・文和二年八月日, "Senju'in Yoshihiro, from the Soekami district of Yamato province, on a day in the eighth month of Bunna four (1355)") are interpreted in a *nie-laden* and flamboyant *ō-midare* with *kinsuji* and feature a *midare-komi bōshi* with *hakikake* and do remind us of Sōshū works.

This blade has a gentle *ha* that features plenty of *nie-ashi*. Its *jiba* is *nie-laden* and the wide *nioiguchi* displays a fine interplay of *nie* and *nioi* whereupon we recognize one of the styles of this smith. The *deki* of this blade is excellent.