

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

*katana, mumei: Ko-Ichimonji (古一文字)*

## Measurements

*nagasa* 73.7 cm, *sori* 2.1 cm, *motohaba* 2.6 cm, *sakihaba* 1.6 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.2 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 21.7 cm, only very little *nakago-sori*

## Description

*Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune*, rather slender *mihaba*, noticeable taper, deep *koshizori*, *ko-kissaki*

*Kitae: rather standing-out itame* that features *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*

*Hamon: ko-nie-laden chōji* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *ko-midare*, *ko-ashi*, *yō*, *hotsure*, *sunagashi*, *kinsuji*, and small *tobiyaki*

*Bōshi: almost sugu* and running out in *yakitsume* manner, which only little hardening left

*Nakago: ō-suriage*, shallow *kurijiri*, *kiri-yasurime*, two *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

## Explanation

The Fukuoka-Ichimonji School was founded by Norimune (則宗) in the early Kamakura period and had its peak in the middle Kamakura period. Norimune and other smiths from the early Kamakura period, like for example Sukemune (助宗), Narimune (成宗), Naomune (尚宗), Muneyoshi (宗吉), Munetada (宗忠), Shigehisa (重久), or Sadazane (貞真) are referred to as Ko-Ichimonji, i.e. lit. “early Ichimonji.” Their workmanship differs from the flamboyant Ichimonji style of the mid-Kamakura period as their *jiba* as well as their *sugata* has still a strong resemblance of Ko-Bizen works.

This *blade* shows a rather standing-out *itame* that features *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *ko-nie-laden chōji* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *ko-midare*, *ko-ashi*, *yō*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi* and so the *deki* is of a classical elegance which reminds us of Ko-Bizen at first glance. However, there are prominent *ko-chōji* in places and the *yakiba* gives overall a more sophisticated impression and so the blade rather attributes to Ko-Ichimonji. A particularly elegant work among all blades attributed to this group.