

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

*katana, kinzōgan-mei: Sadayoshi - Hon'a + kaō (貞吉・本阿「花押」) (Kōitsu, 光一)*

## Measurements

*nagasa* 69.0 cm, *sori* 2.1 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.2 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.65 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

## Description

*Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, normal mihaba and kasane, relatively high shinogi, deep sori, chū-kissaki*

*Kitae: excellently forged masame that features plenty of ji-nie and much chikei, a nie-utsuri appears on the omote side along the center of the blade and the steel is clear*

*Hamon: nie-laden suguba with a wide, bright, and clear nioiguchi that is mixed with a few ko-ashi and along the habuchi with hotsure, uchinoke, kuichigai-ba, and fine nijuba and sunagashi*

*Bōshi: suga with a very brief kaeri and tending to yakitsume, in addition, there are plenty of hakikake*

*Nakago: ō-suriage, kirijiri, kiri-yasurime, three mekugi-ana, the sashi-omote side bears below of the first mekugi-ana and in the hira-ji of the tang the kinzōgan-mei "Sadayoshi" and the ura side centrally under the first mekugi-ana the kinzōgan-mei "Hon'a + kaō"*

## Explanation

The Hoshō School was located in the Takaichi district (高市郡) of Yamato province and flourished from the end of the Kamakura throughout the subsequent Nanbokuchō period. Its representative masters were Sadamune (貞宗) and Sadayoshi (貞吉), both of whom being referred to as Hoshō Gorō (保昌五郎). Regarding Sadayoshi, we know dated works from the eras Bunpō (文保, 1317-1319), Genkō (元亨, 1321-1324), and Karyaku (嘉暦, 1326-1329) and other skilled Hoshō smiths were for example Sadakiyo (貞清), Sadaoki (貞興), and Sadamitsu (貞光). The Hoshō School displayed the most characteristic style of all five major Yamato Schools as their blades are entirely forged in masame and as their nakago are finished with higaki-yasurime.

This blade shows a pure *masame-hada* that features plenty of *ji-nie*, much *chikei*, and a *nie-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *nie-laden suguha* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, *kuichigai-ba*, and fine *nijuba* and *sunagashi*, and the *bōshi* shows many *hakikake* whereas we recognize the characteristical workmanship of the Hoshō School. Thus, we are in agreement with the *kinzōgan* attribution to Sadayoshi.

The attribution and *kinzōgan-meい* goes back to Hon'ami Kōitsu (本阿弥光一, ?-1823) who was the 17<sup>th</sup> generation of the Hon'ami main line and active nine generations after Kōtoku (光徳, 1556-1619).