

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

katana, mumei: Den Tegai Kanekiyo (伝手搔包清)

Measurements

nagasa 72.6 cm, *sori* 1.6 cm, *motohaba* 2.7 cm, *sakihaba* 1.7 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.5 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.0 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, relatively slender *mihaba*, wide *shinogi-ji*, high *shinogi*, shallow *sori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: *ko-itame* with a prominent amount of *masame*, plenty of *ji-nie*, and much *chikei*

Hamon: *ko-nie-laden suguba* with a wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-ashi*, *kuichigai-ba*, *hotsure*, *sunagashi*, and fine *kinsuji*

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

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

Explanation

The Tegai School was located at the outskirts of the western Tengai Gate (転害門) of the Tōdaiji (東大寺) in Yamato province. It was founded by Kanenaga (包永) in the late Kamakura period and was the most prosperous of the Five Major Yamato Schools (*Yamato-goha*, 大和五派), and the only one that still existed in the Muromachi period, although it is assumed that it had assimilated some of the local smiths by then. A theory says that the first generation Kanekiyo was the son of the second generation Kanenaga whereas it is also said that he was his student. There exists a *tantō* which is dated with Karyaku four (嘉暦, 1329) and the Kanekiyo lineage continued to work under that very name until the Muromachi period.

This blade has a wide *mihaba* and a high *shinogi*. Its *kitae* is a *ko-itame* with a prominent amount of *masame*, plenty of *ji-nie*, and much *chikei*. The *hamon* is a *ko-nie-laden suguba* with a wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that features multifarious *hataraki* along its *habuchi*. Thus we have here a work from the Tegai School that does not date later than to the Nanbokuchō and that shows in particular the characteristic features of Kanekiyo whereupon we are in agreement with its period attribution to this smith. The *jiba* is healthy and the *deki* is excellent. A masterwork among all blades attributed to this smith.