

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

katana, *mumei*: Nariie (成家)

kiritsuke-mei: Kusarikatabira Nishimura Jizaemon (くさり帷西村次左衛門)

Measurements

nagasa 67.9 cm, *sori* 1.4 cm, *motohaba* 2.8 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 4.4 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 16.6 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, no noticeable taper, shallow *sori*, elongated *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: dense *ko-itame* that is partially mixed with *ō-hada* and *nagare* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: *ko-notare* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *togariba*, angular elements, *ko-ashi*, and some *tobiyaki*, the elements of the *ha* are overall rather small dimensioned

Bōshi: *midare-komi* with a somewhat pointed *ko-maru-kaeri* and *tobiyaki* on the *omote* and a pointed *kaeri* on the *ura* side

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* with *ryō-chiri* that runs as *kaki-nagashi* into the tang

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, very shallow *kurijiri*, on the *omote* side *sujikai-yasurime* on the *hira-ji* and *katte-sagari yasurime* on the *shinogi-ji*, and on the *ura* side *ō-sujikai yasurime* on the *hira-ji* and *katte-sagari yasurime* on the *shinogi-ji*, three *mekugi-ana*, *mumei* but the *sashi-omote* side bears below of the first *mekugi-ana* and towards the *nakago-mune* a *kiritsuke-mei*

Explanation

Nariie (成家) was a Bizen Osafune-based smith and according to a theory a descendant of Kagehide (景秀) (who was the younger brother of Mitsutada, 光忠). He was active in the late Nanbokuchō period and is associated with a group of smiths which is referred to as Kozori School. The *meikan* list relatively early dated works of Nariie that go back to the eras Bunna (文和, 1352-1356) and Kōan (康安, 1361-1362). In terms of workmanship and signature style, a connection to Kanemitsu (兼光) is conceivable and so his background needs further study, and in terms of quality, he ranks about equal to the contemporary Kanemitsu student Masamitsu (政光). Nariie mostly hardened a *midareba* that is mixed with *notare* and *gunome* and in direct comparison with Kanemitsu, his approach lacks some of the grandeur of that master.

This blade shows a *kitae* in a dense *ko-itame* that features *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *ko-notare* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *togariba*, angular elements, and *ko-ashi*, and the *bōshi* is *midare-komi* with a pointed *kaeri*. The *midareba* is composed of various different elements but which are all rather small dimensioned and thus we recognize the characteristic features of Kozori works, and with the *sugata* featuring an elongated *kissaki*, the blade can be attributed to Nariie. The blade is of a very good *deki* and has, compared to other Kozori works, a quite densely forged *kitae*.