

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

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

Measurements

nagasa 71.9 cm, *sori* 1.4 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.85 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 21.4 cm, only very little *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, noticeable taper, shallow *koshizori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: *itame* that is mixed with *mokume*, *ō-hada*, and *nagare* and that features *chikei*, plenty of *ji-nie*, and a tendency towards *jifu*, the steel is overall blackish

Hamon: *nie-laden suguha* that widens from the mid-blade section onwards, that shows a wide *nioiguchi*, and that is mixed with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: many *hakikake* and appearing as *kaen*

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kengyō-jiri*, *kiri-yasurime*, two *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

This is an *ō-suriage mumei katana* that was handed down as work of 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 is hardened in a *nie-laden suguha* wide a wide *nioiguchi* and shows *chikei*, a tendency towards *jifu*, *kinsuji* and *sunagashi* within the *ha*, and a *kaen-bōshi* with plenty of *hakikake* whereupon we agree that this is a work by Senju'in Yoshihiro. The *deki* of this blade is excellent.