

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

katana, mumei: Hoshō (保昌)

Measurements

nagasa 68.0 cm, *sori* 1.7 cm, *motohaba* 2.7 cm, *sakihaba* 1.7 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 16.5 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune*, rather slender *mihaba*, wide *shinogi-ji*, relatively high *shinogi*, despite the *ō-suriage* a deep *koshizori, chū-kissaki*

Kitae: excellently forged *masame* that features plenty of *ji-nie*, much *chikei, jifu*, and a faint *nie-utsuri*, the steel is clear

Hamon: *ko-nie-laden hoso-suguha-chō* with a relatively wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with connected *ko-gunome*, some *ko-midare, ko-ashi, hotsure, uchinoke* in places, and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *sugu* with a very brief *kaeri* and tending to *yakitsume*, in addition, there are *hakikake*
Nakago: *ō-suriage, kirijiri, sujikai-yasurime*, four *mekugi-ana, mumei*

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 is *ō-suriage* but maintains a deep *koshizori*. It shows a pure *masame* that features plenty of *ji-nie*, much *chikei*, and a faint *nie-utsuri* and the *hamon* is a *ko-nie-laden hoso-suguha* that is mixed with *ko-gunome, hotsure, uchinoke*, and *sumagashi*, and with the *bōshi* tending to *yakitsume* and displaying *hakikake*, we clearly recognize the workmanship of the Hoshō School. The blade is overall of a classical elegance, both its *ji* and *ha* are very clear, and thus we have here a work that is outstanding among all blades attributed to this school.