

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

katana, mumei: Rai Kunimitsu (来国光)

Measurements

nagasa 69.1 cm, *sori* 1.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.05 cm *nakago-nagasa* 18.5 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, rather slender *mihaba*, despite the *ō-suriage* a deep *toriizori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: dense and beautifully forged *ko-itame* with *ji-nie* and fine *chikei*, the steel is clear

Hamon: *ko-nie*-laden *suguha-chō* with a bright *nioiguchi* that is mixed with gently undulating *notare*, *ko-gunome*, *ko-chōji*, *ashi*, *yō*, *hotsure*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *midare-kom* with *hotsure* and a rather pointed *kaeri* that features *hakikake*

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* that runs with *kaki-tōshi* through the tang

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kurijiri*, *ō-sujikai yasurime*, one *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

According to tradition, Yamashiro Rai Kunimitsu was the son of Rai Kunitoshi (来国俊). Extant dated works range from Karyaku one (嘉暦, 1326) to Kan'ō two (観応, 1351), i.e. the smith was active from the end of the Kamakura to the early Nanbokuchō period.

This blade is *ō-suriage mumei* and the *sugata* still maintains its *toriizori*. The *kitae* is a dense and beautifully forged *ko-itame* and the *hamon* is a *suguha-chō* with a bright *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-gunome* and *ko-chōji* and that shows plenty of *ha-nie*. The *bōshi* has a rather pointed *kaeri* and therefore we recognize all the characteristic features of the Rai School, and with the *ha* showing a tendency towards *gunome* being combined with a *bōshi* with a rather pointed *kaeri*, the blade can be attributed to Rai Kunimitsu, A masterwork with a *jiba* in perfect condition (*kenzen*).