

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

katana, mumei: Kashū Sanekage (加州真景)

Measurements

nagasa 67.9 cm, *sori* 0.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.8 cm, *sakihaba* 1.95 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.5 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.4 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

Description

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

Kitae: *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *chikei* and plenty of *ji-nie*

Hamon: *nie*-laden *notare-chō* with a somewhat subdued *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *gunome*, many long *sunagashi*, *kinsuji*, and along the upper half with much *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, and *yubashiri*

Bōshi: gently undulating *notare-komi* with a *ko-maru-kaeri* and many *hakikake* at the tip

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, shallow *kurijiri*, *katte-sagari yasurime* on the *omote* and *kiri-yasurime* on the *ura* side, three *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

It is said that Kashū Sanekage was a student of Etchū Norishige (則重) but when we take into consideration extant dated works of Norishige from the eras Shōwa (正和, 1312-1317) and Gen'ō (元応, 1319-1321) and such of Sanekage from Jōji (貞治, 1362-1368), these dates appear too far apart to suggest a direct relationship. Thus, it is more likely that Sanekage was indirectly influenced by Norishige or rather his way of making swords.

This blade shows an *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *chikei* and plenty of *ji-nie*. The *hamon* is a *nie*-laden *notare-chō* with a somewhat subdued *nioiguchi* that displays prominent *hataraki* and that features many *hotsure*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi*. Particularly noteworthy are the long and multi-layer *sunagashi* and therefore we recognize overall the characteristic features of Kashū Sanekage. The blade is of a rustic character and of a highly ambitious interpretation.