

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

katana, *mumei*: Senju'in (千手院)

kinzōgan-mei: Hachiman Daibosatsu (八幡大菩薩)

Measurements

nagasa 70.0 cm, *sori* 1.4 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.1 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.6 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, shallow *sori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: *itame* that tends to *masame* on the *ura* side and that features *chikei* and plenty of *ji-nie*

Hamon: *nie*-laden *suguha* with a bright and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-ashi*, many *hotsure*, *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and the upper half of the blade shows on both sides *nijūba* and *kuichigai-ba*

Bōshi: gently undulating *notare-komi* with *hakikake* at the tip and a long running-back *kaeri*

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, gently slanting *katte-sagari yasurime*, two *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*, the *sashi-ura* side bears centrally under the second *mekugi-ana* the *kinzōgan-mei* "Hachiman Daibosatsu"

Explanation

At the Western foot of Mt. Wakakusa (若草山) in Nara there is the Senjudō (千手堂) which enshrines the Thousand-Armed Avalokiteśvara (*Senju-Kannon* in Japanese), and the group of swordsmiths who worked in the vicinity of this temple is traditionally referred to as Senju'in School. The school is the oldest of all the five major Yamato schools and old documents state that the two Senju'in masters Yukinobu (行信) and Shigehiro (重弘) were active as early as in the late Heian period. However, no signed works are extant of these two smiths and for whatever reason, signed Senju'in works remain rare throughout all periods.

This blade is *ō-suriage* and *mumei*. It shows a *kitae* in *itame* with the *ura* side tending somewhat to *masame*. There is *chikei* and plenty of *ji-nie* and the *hamon* is a *suguha* that features much *ha-nie* and that is mixed with *ko-ashi*, many *hotsure*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi*. The upper part of the blade shows *nijūba* and *kuichigai-ba* and the *bōshi* features *hakikake* whereupon we have here a masterwork that shows among all five major Yamato lineages the characteristic features of the Senju'in School.