

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

katana, *mumei*: Shigezane (重真)

Measurements

nagasa 69.85 cm, *sori* 1.5 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 1.85 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.9 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 21.35 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, wide *mihaba*, noticeable taper, relatively thick *kasane*, shallow *sori*, somewhat elongated *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: dense *ko-itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, some *jifu*, and a faint *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: *suguha-chō* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that tends to a gently undulating *notare* and that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, angular *gunome*, *togariba*, some *ko-chōji*, many *ko-ashi*, *yō*, fine *sunagashi*, and some *yubashiri*-like *tobiyaki* in places, the elements of the *ha* are rather small dimensioned

Bōshi: gently undulating *notare-komi* with plenty of *hakikake* and a brief *kaeri*

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* that runs as *kaki-nagashi* into the tang

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, gently slanting *katte-sagari yasurime*, three *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

The Bizen Osafune School smith Shigezane (重真) was, according to a theory, the younger brother of Motoshige (元重). Extant dated works span the time from the end of the Kamakura period, i.e. Karyaku two (嘉暦, 1327), to the mid-Nanbokuchō period, i.e. Enbun four (延文, 1359), which tells us that he was active at around the same time as Motoshige, and there has been the approach that two generations Shigezane were working over this period of time. The workmanship of Shigezane shows a *kitae* in *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and *jifu*, a *hardening* in *suguha-chō* mixed with prominent angular *gunome* elements, and a *bōshi* with a pointed *kaeri*. This, his style is overall very similar to that of Motoshige and bases on the Bizen tradition being mixed with Aoe elements.

This blade shows a dense *ko-itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, some *jifu*, and a faint *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *suguha-chō* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that tends to a gently undulating *notare* and that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, angular *gunome*, *togariba*, some *ko-chōji*, many *ko-ashi*, *yō*, fine *sunagashi*, and some *yubashiri*-like *tobiyaki* in places. The elements of the *ha* are rather small dimensioned and with the *nagare* along the *kitae*, the *jifu*, and the angular *gunome*, the attribution can be narrowed down to Shigezane from within the Motoshige group whereupon we are in agreement with the period attribution to this smith. The *ha* is rich in variety and both *ji* and *ha* are in perfect condition (*kenzen*).