

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

tachi, mei: Nagamitsu (長光)

Measurements

nagasa 71.7 cm, *sori* 2.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 1.8 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 21.3 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.3 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, noticeable taper, *funbari*, deep *koshizori* which increases again towards the tip, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: overall rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a prominent *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: *chōji* with roundish *yakigashira* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *gunome*, *togariba*, *ashi*, *yō*, plenty of *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and some *tobiyaki* in places, the elements of the *ha* are rather small dimensioned

Bōshi: *sugu* with a *ko-maru-kaeri*

Nakago: almost *ubu*, *kurijiri*, *yasurime* indiscernible, two *mekugi-ana* (one of which is plugged), the *haki-omote* side bears above of the second, the *ubu-mekugi-ana*, and towards the *nakago-mune* a finely chiseled *niji-me*

Explanation

Nagamitsu was the son of Mitsutada (光忠), the founder of the Osafune school, and succeeded as second generation Osafune. He is the Kamakura smith of whom most signed blades are extant. All of them are of a uniformly high quality which testifies to his great skill. His workmanship can be basically divided into grand shapes combined with flamboyant *chōji*-based *hamon* which continue the style of Mitsutada, and more calm interpretations with normal or slender shapes combined with a *suguha-chō* with *ashi*.

This *tachi* shows an overall rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *ji-nie* and a prominent *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *chōji* with roundish *yakigashira* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *gunome*, *togariba*, *ashi*, and *yō*, and the elements of the *ha* are overall rather small dimensioned. Thus, we clearly recognize the characteristic features of Nagamitsu. Particularly praiseworthy is that this blade is of a graceful *tachi-sugata* with a deeply curved *koshizori*.