

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

*katana, mumei: Ichimonji* (一文字)

## Measurements

*nagasa* 67.35 cm, *sori* 2.2 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.1 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 16.9 cm, no *nakago-sori*

## Description

*Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, wide mihaba, no noticeable taper, despite the ō-suriage a deep koshizori which increases again towards the tip, rather compact ikubi-style chū-kissaki*

*Kitae: rather standing-out itame that is mixed with mokume and that features ji-nie, chikei, and a faint midare-utsuri, the steel is clear*

*Hamon: flamboyant chōji-midare in nioi-deki with ko-nie with a bright and clear nioiguchi and many ups and downs that is mixed with gunome, togariba, ashi, yō, and fine kinsuji and sunagashi*

*Bōshi: midare-komi with a ko-maru-kaeri with a few hakikake at the tip*

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

*Nakago: ō-suriage, kirijiri, sujikai-yasurime, two mekugi-ana, mumei*

## Explanation

The Ichimonji School flourished from the early Kamakura to the Nanbokuchō period in Bizen province. The name of this school goes back to some of its smith signing with the character for "One" (*ichi*), or with the character for "One" followed by an individual name below or just an individual name. The Ichimonji workmanship started in the early Kamakura period with more *ko-midare* than *chōji* along the *ha* and an overall resemblance to the Ko-Bizen style. By the mid-Kamakura period, the *deki* had changed to a flamboyant *chōji-midare hamon* combined with a prominent *midare-utsuri*.

This blade had a wide *mihaba*, maintains despite the ō-suriage a deep *koshizori*, and ends in an *ikubi-style chū-kissaki*, i.e. is overall of a powerful *sugata*. The *kitae* is a rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a flamboyant *chōji-midare* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* and many ups and downs that is mixed with *gunome*, *togariba*, *ashi*, and *yō*. Thus, we recognize the characteristic features of the mid-Kamakura period Ichimonji School and we are in agreement with the period attribution. With the flamboyant *hamon*, the finely forged *kitae*, and the bright and clear *jiba* in perfect condition (*kenzen*), the blade is of an excellent *deki*.