

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

katana, mumei: Rai Kunimitsu (来国光)

Measurements

nagasa 64.9 cm, *sori* 2.1 cm, *motohaba* 2.95 cm, *sakihaba* 2.25 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.85 cm *nakago-nagasa* 20.1 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, rather wide *mihaba*, no noticeable taper, despite the *ō-suriage* a deep *toriizori*, somewhat elongated *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: dense *ko-itame* that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a faint *nie-utsuri*

Hamon: *ko-nie*-laden *suguha-chō* with a bright and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, many *ashi* and *yō*, *hotsure*, and a few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *sugu* with a rather pointed but relatively wide and long running-back *ko-maru-kaeri* that features *hakikake*

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

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, very shallow *kurijiri*, *katte-sagari yasurime*, four *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

According to tradition, Yamashiro Rai Kunimitsu was the son of Rai Kunitoshi (来国俊) and he and his junior colleague Rai Kunitsugu (来国次) constituted the next generation of Rai smiths after Kunitoshi. Extant dated works range from Karyaku one (嘉暦, 1326) to Kan'ō two (観応, 1351), i.e. the smith was active from the end of the Kamakura to the early Nanbokuchō period.

This blade is *ō-suriage mumei*. It has a powerful *sugata* with a rather wide *mihaba*, a somewhat elongated *chū-kissaki*, and a *toriizori*. The *kitae* is a dense *ko-itame* with plenty of *ji-nie* and the *hamon* is a *ko-nie*-laden *suguha-chō* with a bright and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, and with the *bōshi* with its rather pointed *ko-maru-maeri*, we recognize the characteristic features of the Rai School, in particular those of Rai Kunimitsu. The blade is of an excellent *deki* and in perfect condition (*kenzen*).