

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

katana, *mumei*: Tegai (手掻)

(with Satsuma *uchigatana-koshirae* featuring a glossy black-lacquer *saya* and silver fittings with cherry tree motif)

Measurements

nagasa 68.65 cm, *sori* 1.5 cm, *motohaba* 2.8 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.0 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.6 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

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

Kitae: *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much *chikei*

Hamon: *ko-nie*-laden *hoso-suguha* with a relatively wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with some connected *ko-gunome*, *ko-ashi*, *kinsuji*, and along the lower half also with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *sugu* with a brief *ko-maru-kaeri* and *hakikake* on the *omote* side

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, *kiri-yasurime*, three *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

This is an *ō-suriage katana* that can be attributed to the Tegai School. The Yamato smiths were closely linked to the local temples and shrines. It is said that the name of the Tegai School goes back to the fact that the school, whose name was also noted with the characters (轢害), was located on the outskirts of the western Tengai Gate (轢害門) of Yamato's Tōdaiji (東大寺). Its founder was Kanenaga (包永) who was active in the late Kamakura period, around Shōō (正応, 1288-1293), and the school prospered throughout the Nanbokuchō and until the Muromachi period

This blade has a high *shinogi* and a *kitae* in *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much *chikei*. The *hamon* is a *ko-nie*-laden *suguha* that is mixed with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, and *sunagashi* and therefore we recognize Yamato characteristics. The blade has a *nie*-laden *jiba* and a bright and clear *nioiguchi*, which then speaks within Yamato for the Tegai School. Very nice is the exquisitely forged *kitae* with its abundance of *chikei*.

It is said that Tōgō Heihachirō (東郷平八郎, 1848-1934) wore this blade during his first campaign, which was the Anglo-Satsuma War of 1863. It comes with a Satsuma *uchigatana-koshirae* featuring a glossy black-lacquer *saya* and silver fittings with cherry tree motif.