

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

katana, mumei: Nagamitsu (長光)

Measurements

nagasa 69.3 cm, *sori* 1.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.8 cm, *sakihaba* 1.75 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.4 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, normal mihaba, noticeable taper, despite the ō-suriage a deep koshizori, chū-kissaki

Kitae: dense ko-itame that is partially mixed with ō-hada and that features ji-nie, fine chikei, and a prominent midare-utsuri

Hamon: chōji with roundish yakigashira in ko-nie-deki and with a bright and clear nioiguchi that is mixed with gunome, togariba, ashi, yō, kinsuji, and sunagashi

Bōshi: on the omote side notare-komi with a brief and rather pointed kaeri, on the ura side almost sugu with a ko-maru-kaeri, both sides featuring hakikake

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

Nakago: ō-suriage, kirijiri, kiri-yasurime, two mekugi-anan, mumei

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 blade shows a dense *ko-itame* that features *ji-nie* and a prominent *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *chōji* with roundish, densely arranged *yakigashira* that shows *ko-nie* and that is mixed with *gunome*, *togariba*, *ashi*, and *yō*. Thus, although the blade is *ō-suriage*, we clearly recognize the characteristic features of Nagamitsu, and we have here a masterwork that displays all of the smith's qualities. Apart from that, its *jiba* is in a very good condition.