

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

katana, mumei: Ichimonji (一文字)

Measurements

nagasa 67.8 cm, *sori* 1.9 cm, *motohaba* 2.7 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.0 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 16.4 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, normal mihaba, no noticeable taper, deep sori, rather compact chū-kissaki

Kitae: dense ko-itame that is mixed with nagare-masame and that features ji-nie, fine chikei, and a midare-utsuri, the steel is bright

Hamon: chōji-midare in nioi-deki with ko-nie that is mixed with ōbusa-chōji, gunome, togariba, many ashi and yō, and a few kinsuji and sunagashi

Bōshi: midare-komi with hakikake and a rather pointed kaeri that runs back with some midare

Nakago: ō-suriage, kurijiri, ō-sujikai yasurime, three mekugi-ana, mumei

Explanation

The two major currents of Kamakura period sword making in Bizen province were Ichimonji and Osafune. The Ichimonji School flourished subsequently and in the Nanbokuchō period in locations like Fukuoka, Yoshioka, and Iwato and gave rise to many great master smiths. 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 focuses on a characteristic *chōji-midare* and particularly unique is the flamboyant *ō-chōji* and *jūka-chōji* of the mid-Kamakura period Fukuoka-Ichimonji School.

This blade shows a dense *ko-itame* that features a *midare-utsuri* and a flamboyant *chōji-midare hamon* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ōbusa-chōji*, *gunome*, many *ashi* and *yō* whereupon we clearly recognize the characteristic features of the mid-Kamakura period Ichimonji School. The blade is in a very healthy condition with much *hira-niku* left and the bright *jigane* with its *ji-nie* deserves particular mention. A masterwork among all blades attributed to this school.