

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*.