

*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-ana*, *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.