

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

katana, *mumei*: Nagamitsu (長光)

Measurements

nagasa 68.5 cm, *sori* 1.5 cm, *motohaba* 2.6 cm, *sakihaba* 1.65 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.9 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 17.6 cm, only very little *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, no noticeable taper, shallow *sori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: dense *ko-itame* that features fine *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: *ko-chōji* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* and a bright and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *togariba*, many *ashi* and *yō*, and a few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, the elements of the *ha* are overall rather small dimensioned

Bōshi: very gently undulating *notare-komi* with a *ko-maru-kaeri*

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, *kiri-yasurime*, four *mekugi-ana* (two of which are plugged), *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 *itame* that features fine *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *ko-chōji* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *togariba*, and many *ashi* and *yō*. At first glance, the blade appears to belong to Nagamitsu's second major style described above, i.e. the calmer style, but although the elements of the *ha* are rather small dimensioned, the interpretation of the *chōji* actually does have more features in common with Nagamitsu's flamboyant *midareba* approach. Particularly praiseworthy are the *hamon* with its bright and clear *nioiguchi* and the excellence of the *kitae*.