

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

tachi, *mumei*: Den Sahyōe no Jō Naganori (左兵衛尉長則)

(with *uchigatana-koshirae* featuring a black Isokusanuri-style lacquer *saya*)

Measurements

nagasa 82.2 cm, *sori* 2.6 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 1.75 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.9 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.1 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, rather slender *mihaba*, noticeable taper, *funbari*, deep *koshizori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: overall rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and partially with *nagare* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: narrow *suguha-chō* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *ko-gunome*, *ashi*, *yō*, some few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and smallish *tobiyaki* in places, the elements of the *ha* tend to slant across the entire blade

Bōshi: on the *omote* side *midare-komi*, on the *ura* side *sugu*, both sides featuring a rather pointed *kaeri*

Nakago: *ubu*, shallow *iriyamagata-jiri*, *katte-sagari yasurime*, two *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

The Fukuoka-Ichimonji School was founded by Norimune (則宗) and although it is mentioned in historic text that it flourished in Fukuoka in Bizen province, there are only few works extant that explicitly mention "Fukuoka-jū" (福岡住, i.e. "resident of Fukuoka") in the *mei*. Some of these rare works that mention Fukuoka date to the late Kamakura period and go back to the hand of Sahyōe no Jō Naganori. We know dated works by Naganori from the eras Einin (永仁, 1293-1299) and Kagen (嘉元, 1303-1306) but his workmanship differs somewhat from the flamboyant *hamon* that we see on Fukuoka-Ichimonji blades from that time. That is, Naganori usually hardened a calmer *hoso-suguha-chō* that is mixed with *chōji-ashi*.

This blade has a *tachi-sugata* with a long *nagasa*, a relatively slender *mihaba*, a *chū-kissaki*, and a deep *koshizori*. The *kitae* is a rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and *nagare* and that features a *midsre-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a narrow *suguha-chō* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *ko-gunome*, *ashi*, and *yō* and so we recognize the characteristic features of Sahyōe no Jō Naganori whereupon we are in agreement with the period attribution to this smith. The blade has an *ubu-nakago* and a magnificent *tachi-sugata* and also admirable is its highly tasteful *ha*. It was once a heirloom of the Innai Ōyama (院内大山) family who were retainers of the Satake (佐竹), the *daimyō* of the Akita fief (秋田藩). It comes with an excellent *uchigatana-koshirae* that features a black Isokusanuri-style lacquer *saya*.