

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

katana, mumei: Masamitsu (政光)

Measurements

nagasa 75.5 cm, *sori* 1.6 cm, *motohaba* 2.8 cm, *sakihaba* 1.75 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.1 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.0 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, noticeable taper, relatively shallow *sori* with some *koshizori* left, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: dense *itame* that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a faint *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: *ko-notare* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* and a bright and relatively wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *gunome*, *togariba*, *koshi no hiraita-gunome*, *ashi*, *yō*, and a few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, the elements of the *ha* are overall rather small dimensioned

Bōshi: a little bit *midare-komi* with a pointed *kaeri* and plenty of *hakikake*, making the *bōshi* tend to *kaen*

Nakago: *suriage*, *kirijiri*, gently slanting *katte-sagari yasurime*, three *mekugi-ana* (of which two are plugged), *mumei*

Explanation

Masamitsu (政光) was a Bizen Osafune smith from the Nanbokuchō period and one of the students of Kanemitsu (兼光). The earliest extant dated blade is from the Enbun era (延文, 1356-1361), i.e. the Nanbokuchō period, and the latest one from the Ōei era (応永, 1394-1428), i.e. the early Muromachi period, and so we have a good grasp of his active period. Like Tomomitsu (倫光) and Motomitsu (基光), Masamitsu too followed the style of master Kanemitsu. He hardened in various ways, e.g. in *notare*, *gunome*, and *suguha*, and a characteristic feature of Masamitsu is that his elements of the *ha* are overall rather small dimensioned.

This blade shows a *kitae* in dense *itame* that features *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *ko-notare* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *gunome*, *togariba*, *koshi no hiraita-gunome*, *ashi*, and *yō*. The *ha* is quite varied but with all *midare* elements being rather small dimensioned and so we clearly recognize the characteristic features of Masamitsu. Noteworthy are the finely forged *itame* and in particular the bright and relatively wide *nioiguchi*. The *jiba* is in perfect condition (*kenzen*) and the blade is of an excellent *deki*.