

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

katana, *mumei*: Yamato-Shizu (大和志津)

Measurements

nagasa 66.3 cm, *sori* 1.4 cm, *motohaba* 2.6 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.3 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.3 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba* and *kasane*, shallow *sori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much *chikei*

Hamon: *nie*-laden *notare-chō* that is mixed with *gunome*, *ko-notare*, *ashi*, some *nie-kuzure*, many long *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, *yubashiri*, and that features prominent *ha-hada* in places

Bōshi: on the *omote* side a gently undulating *notare-komi*, on the *ura* side *sugu*, on both sides with a *maru-kaeri* and *hakikake*

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* which runs a *kaki-nagashi* into the tang

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, *katte-sagari yasurime*, three *mekugi-ana* (two plugged), *mumei*

Explanation

Initially, the term Yamato-Shizu referred to master Kaneuji's (兼氏) time in Yamato, i.e. before he moved to Shizu (志津) in the Taki district (多芸郡) of Mino province and when he still signed his name with the characters (包氏). However, there were some smiths remaining in Yamato who continued the Kaneuji (包氏) name so in the wider sense, the classification Yamato-Shizu can include these smiths too.

This blade shows an *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much *chikei*. The *hamon* is a *nie*-laden *notare-chō* that is mixed with *gunome*, *ko-notare*, some *nie-kuzure*, and many *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*. The *bōshi* features *hakikake* and therefore we recognize Yamato characteristics being mixed with Sōshū elements whereupon we arrive at a typical Yamato-Shizu interpretation. The blade is a masterwork that shows ambition and whose *jiba* is in perfect condition (*kenzen*) and it was once a heirloom of the Nakagawa (中川) family who were the *daimyō* of the Oka fief (岡藩) of Bungo province.