

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

katana, mumei: Kinjū (金重)

Measurements

nagasa 70.1 cm, *sori* 1.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.4 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, wide mihaba, relatively deep sori, somewhat elongated chū-kissaki
Kitae: itame that is mixed with nagare and that features plenty of ji-nie, jifu, and a nie-utsuri, the steel is clear

Hamon: nie-laden ha with a wide, bright, and clear nioiguchi that starts as suguga-chō and that turns into a connected gunome with roundish yakigashira that is mixed with ko-notare

Bōshi: gently undulating notare with a brief maru-kaeri and hakikake at the tip

Horimono: on both sides a bōhi which runs on the omote as kaki-nagashi into, and on the ura as kaki-tōshi through the tang

Nakago: ō-suriage, shallow ha-agari kurijiri, katte-sagari yasurime, four mekugi-ana, mumei

Explanation

Kinjū was traditionally regarded as being one of the Ten Students of Masamune. It is said that he came originally from Tsuruga (敦賀) in Echizen province and moved then to Mino where he founded together with Kaneiji (兼氏) the Mino tradition of sword making. There are only very few signed works of Kinjū extant. Compared to the workmanship of the Shizu School, his blades very often show a more standing-out *hada* and a *hamon* that rather features a connected *gunome* with roundish *yakigashira* than a *gunome* that tends to pointed *togari*. His *ha* is hardened in *ko-nie-deki* and in general it can be said that his works are overall a hint more calm as works of the Shizu School.

This blade shows a *kitae* in *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie*, *chikei*, *jifu*, and a *nie-utsuri*. The *hamon* is also *nie-laden* and appears as a connected *ko-gunome* with roundish *yakigashira* that is mixed with *ko-notare*. On top of that, the *midare* elements of the *ha* are of a rather uniform nature and thus we can attribute this blade to Kinjū. So we have here a work of a smith whose blades are known for their superior cutting ability and which displays a bright and clear *jiba* as well as an excellent *deki*.