

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

*katana*, *mumei*: Tegai (手掻)

## Measurements

*nagasa* 70.1 cm, *sori* 1.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 2.1 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.7 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.2 cm, only very little *nakago-sori*

## Description

*Keijō*: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba* and *kasane*, rather high *shinogi*, deep *sori*, elongated *chū-kissaki*

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

*Hamon*: *nie*-laden *suguha* with a relatively wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with some few *ko-ashi*, *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, *sunagashi*, and on both sides along the lower half of the blade with *yubashiri*-like *nijūba*

*Bōshi*: *sugu* with a very brief *kaeri*, almost running out as *yakitsume*

*Nakago*: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, *kiri-yasurime*, two *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

## Explanation

This is an *ō-suriage katana* that can be attributed to the Tegai School. The Yamato smiths were closely linked to the local temples and shrines. It is said that the name of the Tegai School goes back to the fact that the school, whose name was also noted with the characters (轢害), was located on the outskirts of the western Tengai Gate (轢害門) of Yamato's Tōdaiji (東大寺). Its founder was Kanenaga (包永) who was active in the late Kamakura period, around Shōō (正応, 1288-1293), and the school prospered throughout the Nanbokuchō and until the Muromachi period

This blade shows an *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much fine *chikei*. The *hamon* is a *nie*-laden *suguha* that is mixed with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, *yubashiri*-like *nijūba*, and *sunagashi* and the *bōshi* almost runs out in *yakitsume* whereupon we clearly recognize Yamato characteristics. The blade has a *nie*-laden *jiba* and a bright and clear *nioiguchi*, which then speaks within Yamato for the Tegai School. Both *ji* and *ha* are healthy, there is plenty of *hira-niku*, and therefore we have here a masterwork among all blades attributed to this school.