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

kodachi, *mumei*: Ichimonji (一文字)

Measurements

nagasa 58.0 cm, *sori* 1.3 cm, *motohaba* 2.55 cm, *sakihaba* 1.6 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.9 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 14.3 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

Description

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

Kitae: dense *itame* that is partially mixed with *ō-hada* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: chōji-midare in *ko-nie-deki* with a bright and clesr *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *gunome*, *ashi*, *yō*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi* and that tends to *sugu-chō* along the *monouchi*

Bōshi: sugu with a *ko-maru-kaeri* and *hakikake*

Nakago: ubu, *kurijiri*, *yasurime* indiscernible, three *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

The two major currents of Kamakura period sword making in Bizen province were Ichimonji and Osafune. The Ichimonji School flourished subsequently and in the Nanbokuchō period in locations like Fukuoka, Yoshioka, and Iwato and gave rise to many great master smiths. The name of this school goes back to some of its smith signing with the character for "One" (*ichi*), or with the character for "One" followed by an individual name below or just an individual name. The Ichimonji workmanship focuses on a characteristic *chōji-midare* and particularly unique is the flamboyant *ō-chōji* and *jūka-chōji* of the mid-Kamakura period Fukuoka-Ichimonji School.

This blade is *mumei* but has an *ubu-nakago*. It is a *kodachi* with a rather slender *mihaba*, a *chū-kissaki*, and *koshizori*. The *kitae* is a dense *itame* that features a *midare-utsuri* and the *hamon* is a *chōji-midare* that is mixed with *gunome*, *ashi*, and *yō* whereupon we clearly recognize the characteristic features of the mid-Kamakura period Ichimonji School. The *nioiguchi* of this blade is bright and clear and in addition to the excellent *deki*, it is very delightful that it is of an *ubu kodachi-sugata*.