

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

tachi, mei: Bishū Osafune Tomosada (備州長船友貞)

Measurements

nagasa 66.5 cm, *sori* 2.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 1.8 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 17.8 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, noticeable taper, thick *kasane*, despite the *suriage* a deep *koshizori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: overall rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and *nagare* and that features *ji-nie*, dark *chikei*-like elements, and a faint *utsuri*

Hamon: *ko-notare* in *ko-nie-deki* that is mixed with various different elements like *gunome*, angular sections, and some *togariba*, the elements of the *ha* are overall rather small dimensioned and there in addition *ko-ashi*, *yō*, and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *sugu-chō* with a somewhat pointed *ko-maru-kaeri*

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* that ends in *kakudome*

Nakago: *suriage*, *ha-agari kurijiri*, *katte-sagari yasurime*, four *mekugi-ana*, the *haki-omote* side bears below of the fourth, the *ubu-mekugi-ana*, and towards the *nakago-mune* a small and finely chiseled six character signature

Explanation

The *Kokon Kaji Bikō* (古今鍛冶備考) lists Osafune Tomosada as “signed ‘Bishū Osafune Tomosada’, around Ōei (応永, 1394-1428),” and also the *meikan* introduce him as being active around Ōei. The workmanship and signature style of this blade suggests that Tomosada was a Kozori smith from the late Nanbokuchō period, but this does not necessarily contradict the *meikan* entries dating him around Ōei as he was probasbly still active at the end Nanbokuchō and in the early Muromachi period.

This *tachi* shows an overall rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and *nagare* and that features *ji-nie* and dark *chikei*-like elements. The *hamon* is a *ko-notare* in *ko-nie-deki* that is mixed with various different elements like *gunome*, angular sections, and some *togariba*, with the elements of the *ha* being overall rather small dimensioned. In addition, *ko-ashi* and *yō* appear and with the small signature, we clearly recognize the characteristic features of the Kozori School. No other work is known by this smith which makes this blade an important reference for understanding the workmanship of Osafune Tomosada.