

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

tantō, mumei: Yamato no Kuni Yoshimitsu (大和国吉光)

Measurements

nagasa 23.3 cm, *uchizori, motohaba* 2.05 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 8.7 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.4 cm

Description

Keijō: *kanmuri-otoshi zukuri, mitsu-mune*, small dimensioned blade, thick *kasane*, *uchizori*

Kitae: dense *ko-itame* that is mixed with a little bit of *nagare-masame* at the base and that features plenty of fine *ji-nie*, the steel is clear

Hamon: *ko-nie*-laden *hiro-suguha-chō* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is miced with *gunome*, many *ashi*, some prominent *sunagashi*, and *yubashiri* which tend to *yubashiri* in places

Bōshi: *maru-kaeri* with *hakikake* at the tip and running back in a long fashion

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

Explanation

It is said that the Yamato smith Yoshimitsu belonged to the Senju'in School. The *meikan* list several Yamato Yoshimitsu, with the earliest one being active in the early Kamakura period, i.e. around Kenryaku (建暦, 1211-1213), followed by a Yoshimitsu from the end of the Kamakura period, around Tokuji (徳治, 1306-1308), one from the Nanbokuchō era, around Ryakuō (暦応, 1338-1342), one from the early Muromachi period, around Ōei (応永, 1394-1428), and one from the late Muromachi period, i.e. around Bunmei (文明, 1469-1487). However, it has to be mentioned that the *meikan* list quite many Senju'in smiths but only very few extant signed works of them exist today.

This *tantō* is *ubu, mumei*, and in *kanmuri-otoshi zukuri*. Its *jiba* is *nie*-laden and the *kitae* is a fine end excellently forged *ko-itame*. The *hamon* is a *hiro-suguha-chō* that is mixed with connected *gunome* and many gorgeous *nie-ashi* and the *yubashiri* that accompany the *habuchi* tends towards *nijūba* and *shimaba* in places. Thus, the *ha* of this blade is rich in *hataraki* and is very similar to a signed blade by this smith that is dated with the second year of Shōchū (正中, 1325) whereupon we attribute this work, which is of an excellent *deki*, to Yamato Yoshimitsu.