

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

katana, *mumei*: Taima Tomokiyo (当麻友清)

Measurements

nagasa 69.9 cm, *sori* 2.0 cm, *motohaba* 2.8 cm, *sakihaba* 2.2 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 4.5 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 19.3 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, relatively wide *mihaba*, normal *kasane*, deep *sori*, elongated *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: dense *ko-itame* that is mixed with a little bit of *nagare-hada* and that features plenty of *ji-nie*

Hamon: *ko-nie*-laden *suguha* with a wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with a few *ko-ashi* and with *hotsure*, *kuichigai-ba*, *nijūba*, *uchinoke*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *sugu* with a brief *ko-maru-kaeri* on the *omote* side and a very brief *kaeri* on the *ura* making the *bōshi* almost round out as *yakitsume* on this side

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* that runs with *kaki-nagashi* into the tang

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

Explanation

This is an *ō-suriage mumei katana* that can be attributed to the Yamato Taima School smith Tomokiyo. The Taima School was founded by Kuniyuki (国行) and flourished from the late Kamakura to the Nanbokuchō period. The *meikan* list relatively many Taima smiths but only very few signed works are extant today, i.e. the majority of the Taima blades that are going round are unsigned and attributed to this school.

This blade shows a dense *ko-itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie*. The *hamon* is a *suguha*- with a wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *hotsure*, *kuichigai-ba*, *nijūba*, *uchinoke*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi* and therefore we clearly recognize in the *jiba* the characteristics of the Yamato tradition, in particular that of the Taima School. The blade has a relatively wide *kihaba* and an elongated *kissaki* what speaks for it dated to the Nanbokuchō period and it is very close in terms of *sugata* and interpretation of the *jiba* with a *tachi* that is signed “Yamato no Kuni Taima Tomo...” (大和国当麻友...) (rest cut off) which was handed down as a work of Tomokiyo (*jūyō* at the 13th *jūyō shinsa*). Due to this close resemblance, we attribute this blade to Taima Tomokiyo. Its *jiba* does not show any “loose” and ununiform areas and is extraordinarily well preserved and is with the abundance of *hira-niku* a masterwork among all blades attributed to this smith.