

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

*katana, mumei*: Kanemitsu (兼光)

## Measurements

*nagasa* 69.25 cm, *sori* 2.0 cm, *motohaba* 2.7 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.3 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.7 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

## Description

*Keijō*: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, no noticeable taper, thick *kasane*, deep *koshizori*, *chū-kissaki*

*Kitae*: dense *ko-itame* that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a prominent *midare-utsuri*

*Hamon*: *ko-gunome-chō* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* with a bright *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *kataochi-gunome*, *togariba*, many *ko-ashi*, and thin *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*

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

*Horimono*: on the *omote* side a *futasuji-hi* which ends in *marudome* at the center of the blade and with a *bonji* and a *koshi-bi* below which runs as *kaki-nagashi* into the tang, on the *ura* side a *bōhi* which also ends in *marudome* at the center of the blade and with *bonji* and a *sankozuka-ken* below, apart from that, traces of a *bonji* can be seen on this side's *nakago*

*Nakago*: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, on the *omote* side *katte-agari yasurime*, on the *ura* side *katte-sagari yasurime*, four *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

## Explanation

Kanemitsu (兼光) succeeded Kagemitsu (景光) as head of the Osafune main line. Extant dated works range from the end of the Kamakura period, i.e. the Genkō era (元亨, 1321-1324), to the Nanbokuchō period, i.e. the Jōji era (貞治, 1362-1368), and span so roughly 40 years. Up to around the early Nanbokuchō-period Kōei era (康永, 1342-1345), *tachi* and *tantō* by Kanemitsu have a *sugata* with normal dimensions and either show a *suguha-chō* that is mixed with *gunome* or a *kataochi-gunome*, thus a style that is very similar to that of his father Kagemitsu. Around Jōwa (貞和, 1345-1350) and Kan'ō (観応, 1350-1352), the blades become larger and show a *notare*-based *hamon* that we do not see on local works prior, with most of such works dating around Bunna (文和, 1356-1356) and Enbun (延文, 1356-1361).

This blade shows a dense *ko-itame* that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a prominent *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *ko-gunome-chō* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *kataochi-gunome*, *togariba*, and many *ko-ashi* and so we clearly recognize the characteristic features of Kanemitsu. The fine and beautifully forged *kitae* speaks for an Osafune main line work and the with the fine *hataraki* within the *ha* and the bright *nioiguchi*, this blade is of an excellent *deki*. The *horimono* seen on both sides are not original to the blade but are in perfect harmony with the blade itself and by no means detrimental to its aesthetics.