

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

katana, mumei: Ichimonji (一文字)

Measurements

nagasa 63.4 cm, *sori* 1.2 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 4.1 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 19.2 cm, only very little *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, about normal *mihaba*, no noticeable taper, shallow *sori*, rather elongated *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: rather standing-out itame that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: flamboyant ō-chōji in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* with a bright *nioiguchi* and many ups and downs that is mixed with *chōji*, *gunome*, many *ashi* and *yō*, fine *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and some *tobiyaki*

Bōshi: with a yakikomi over the yokote and then sugu with a brief and rather pointed kaeri

Horimono on both sides a futasuji-hi which runs as kaki-nagashi into the tang

Nakago: ō-suriage, kurijiri, katte-sagari yasurime, two mekugi-ana, mumei

Explanation

The Ichimonji School flourished from the early Kamakura to the Nanbokuchō period in Bizen province. 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 started in the early Kamakura period with more *ko-midare* than *chōji* along the *ha* and an overall resemblance to the Ko-Bizen style. By the mid-Kamakura period, the *deki* had changed to a flamboyant *chōji-midare hamon* combined with a prominent *midare-utsuri*.

This blade shows a rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a flamboyant *ō-chōji* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* with a bright *nioiguchi* and many ups and downs that is mixed *chōji*, *gunome*, and with many *ashi* and *yō*. Thus, we have here the typical workmanship of the mid-Kamakura period Ichimonji School. The *chōji* are magnificent and among all works attributed to this school particularly high and even reach the *shinogi* in places and the blade is of an excellent *deki*.