

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

tantō, mumei: Akihiro (秋広)

Measurements

nagasa 29.95 cm, *sori* 0.3 cm, *motohaba* 2.4 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 9.3 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: *hira-zukuri, mitsu-mune*, relatively wide *mihaba, sunnobi*, thin *kasane*, some *sori*

Kitae: *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features plenty of *ji-nie*, much *chikei, jifu*, and a *nie-utsuri*

Hamon: *nie-laden gunome* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *chōji, ko-notare* plenty of *ashi* and *yō*, some *nie-kuzure, kinsuji, sunagashi, tobiyaki*, and *yubashiri*, the *ha* widens along the upper half of the blade and the *kaeri* of the *bōshi* connects with the *muneyaki* and so that the *ha* tends overall to *hitatsura*

Bōshi: *midare-komi* with a constricted *ko-maru-kaeri* that runs back in a long fashion, connecting with the *muneyaki* as mentioned

Nakago: *ubu, kurijiri, sujikai-yasurime*, two *mekugi-ana, mumei*

Explanation

Akihiro (秋広) was with Hiromitsu (広光) the most representative Sōshū smith of the Nanbokuchō period. Their wide and elongated *hira-zukuri tantō* and *ko-wakizashi* reflect the then typical blade shapes and both smiths focused on a hardening in *hitatsura* which was very much in fashion at that time.

This *tantō* shows an *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features plenty of *ji-nie*, much *chikei*, and a *nie-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *nie-laden gunome* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *chōji, ko-notare*, many *ashi* and *yō*, *tobiyaki*, and *yubashiri*. The *ha* widens along the upper half and appears there as a flamboyant *midareba*. The *kaeri* of the *bōshi* connects with the *muneyaki* and the *ha* tends thus to *hitatsura*. The *tobiyaki* and *yubashiri* are of a rather gentle nature, what is typical for Akihiro, as he also hardened a *notare* for example that is mixed with *gunome* and that hardly features any *tobiyaki* and *yubashiri*. Thus, we agree with the period attribution to this smith. The *jiba* is in perfect condition and we have here a masterwork among all blades attributed to Akihiro.