

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

*tachi, mei*: Kagen yonen gogatsu hi Nakahara Kunimune (嘉元二二年五月日 中原国宗) -  
“Nakahara Kunimune, on a day in the fifth month of Kagen four (1306)”

## Measurements

*nagasa* 70.3 cm, *sori* 2.1 cm, *motohaba* 2.6 cm, *sakihba* 1.65 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.7 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 22.8 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

## Description

*Keijō*: *hira-zukuri*, *ioiri-mune*, relatively slender *mihaba*, deep *sori*, *chū-kissaki*

*Kitae*: excellently forged *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a *dan-utsuri* that is composed of a linear *suji-utsuri* and a *midare-utsuri*

*Hamon*: *ko-nie*-laden *suguha* with a relatively wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed along the lower half with some *ko-gunome*, in addition, there are plenty of fine *ashi* and *yō*

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

*Nakago*: *suriage*, shallow *kurijiri*, the old *yasurime* are *katte-sagari*, the new *yasurime* are *kiri*, three *mekugi-ana*, the *haki-omote* side bears in the lower half of the tang and towards the *naakgo-mune* a date and the name of the maker signed in *kakikudashi* manner

## Explanation

According to tradition, Nakahara Kumimune was a student of either the first or the second generation Bizen Saburō Kunimune. It is said that Nakahara was the name of a place in Mikawa province and that Kunimune was used as a family name by the Kunimune group.

This blade shows an excellently forged *itame* that features a multi-layer *dan-utsuri* composed of a linear *suji-utsuri* and a *midare-utsuri* and the *hamon* is a *suguha* in *ko-nie-deki* that is mixed with plenty of fine *ashi* and *yō*. Thus, the blade displays some Aoe characteristics. The *jiba* of this blade is in an extraordinarily healthy condition (*kenzen*) and the fact that there are very few dated works of Nakahara Kunimune extant makes this blade a highly valuable reference for studies on this smith.