

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

katana, mumei: Kashū Sanekage (加州真景)

Measurements

nagasa 70.2 cm, *sori* 2.0 cm, *motohaba* 3.1 cm, *sakihaba* 2.1 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.3 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 22.0 cm, no *nakago-sori*

Description

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

Kitae: rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much *chikei*, the steel is blackish

Hamon: *nie*-laden *suguha-chō* with a wide *nioiguchi* and somewhat subdued that tends to a gently undulating *notare* and that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *ko-ashi*, some *hotsure*, *yubashiri*, many *sunagashi*, and *kinsuji*

Bōshi: a little bit *midare* with a brief *ko-maru-kaeri*

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

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *ha-agari kurijiri*, *sujikai-yasurime*, four *mekugi-ana* (two plugged), *mumei*

Explanation

It is said that Kashū Sanekage was a student of Etchū Norishige (則重) but when we take into consideration extant dated works of Norishige from the eras Shōwa (正和, 1312-1317) and Gen'ō (元応, 1319-1321) and such of Sanekage from Jōji (貞治, 1362-1368), these dates appear too far apart to suggest a direct relationship. Thus, it is more likely that Sanekage was indirectly influenced by Norishige or rather his way of making swords.

This blade shows a rather standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much *chikei*. The *hamon* is a *nie*-laden *suguha-chō* with a wide *nioiguchi* that tends to a gently undulating *notare* and that is mixed with *ko-gunome*, *ko-ashi*, *kinsuji*, and *sunagashi*. Both *ji* and *ha* are rich in *hataraki* and the blade reminds us of first class Sōshū works at first glance. The blackish steel however speaks for a northern background and the standing out *ha-hada* as well as the *hotsure*, the abundance of *sunagashi*, and the somewhat subdued *nioiguchi* rather attribute this blade to Kashū Sanekage. The *jiba* is in perfect condition (*kenzen*) and we have here an outstanding, very ambitious work among all blades attributed to this smith.