

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

wakizashi, gaku-me: Nagamitsu (長光)

(with an *origami* issued by Hon'ami Kōchū in Genroku eleven, 1698)

Measurements

nagasa 52.0 cm, *sori* 1.45 cm, *motohaba* 2.4 cm, *sakihaba* 1.8 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.1 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 14.3 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, normal mihaba, no noticeable taper, deep sori, chū-kissaki

Kitae: dense ko-itame that features fine ji-nie and a midare-utsuri

Hamon: chōji with roundish yakigashira in nioi-deki with ko-nie and a bright nioiguchi that is mixed with gunome, ashi, yō, and a few kinsuji and sunagashi

Bōshi: midare-komi with a brief ō-maru-style kaeri

Nakago: ō-suriage, kurijiri, sujikai-yasurime, two mekugi-ana, the sashi-omote side bears below of the second mekugi-ana and towards the nakago-mune a small and finely chiseled niji gaku-me

Explanation

Nagamitsu was the son of Mitsutada (光忠), the founder of the Osafune school, and succeeded as second generation Osafune. He is the Kamakura smith of whom most signed blades are extant. All of them are of a uniformly high quality which testifies to his great skill. His workmanship can be basically divided into grand shapes combined with flamboyant *chōji*-based *hamon* which continue the style of Mitsutada, and more calm interpretations with normal or slender shapes combined with a *suguha-chō* with *ashi*.

This *wakizashi* shows a dense *ko-itame* that features fine *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a unique *chōji* with roundish and densely arranged *yakigashira* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *gunome*, *ashi*, and *yō*. Thus, we recognize in *ji* and *ha* the characteristic features of Nagamitsu. The blade is in excellent condition and a masterwork despite having been shortened to *wakizashi* length. It comes with an *origami* issued by Hon'ami Kōchū (本阿弥光忠, ?-1725) in Genroku eleven (元禄, 1698) which evaluates the blade with 150 *kan*.