

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

katana, mumei: Tegai (手搔)

Measurements

nagasa 70.1 cm, *sori* 1.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 2.1 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.7 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.2 cm, only very little *nakago-sori*

Description

Keijō: shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, normal mihaba and kasane, rather high shinogi, deep sori, elongated chū-kissaki

Kitae: itame that is mixed with nagare and that features plenty of ji-nie and much fine chikei

Hamon: nie-laden suguha with a relatively wide, bright, and clear nioiguchi that is mixed with some few ko-ashi, hotsure, uchinoke, sunagashi, and on both sides along the lower half of the blade with yubashiri-like nijūba

Bōshi: sugu with a very brief kaeri, almost running out as yakitsume

Nakago: ō-suriage, kirijiri, kiri-yasurime, two mekugi-ana, mumei

Explanation

This is an *ō-suriage katana* that can be attributed to the Tegai School. The Yamato smiths were closely linked to the local temples and shrines. It is said that the name of the Tegai School goes back to the fact that the school, whose name was also noted with the characters (輒害), was located on the outskirts of the western Tengai Gate (軒害門) of Yamato's Tōdaiji (東大寺). Its founder was Kanenaga (包永) who was active in the late Kamakura period, around Shōō (正応, 1288-1293), and the school prospered throughout the Nanbokuchō and until the Muromachi period.

This blade shows an *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much fine *chikei*. The *hamon* is a *nie-laden suguha* that is mixed with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, *yubashiri-like nijūba*, and *sunagashi* and the *bōshi* almost runs out in *yakitsume* wherepon we clearly recognize Yamato characteristics. The blade has a *nie-laden jiba* and a bright and clear *nioiguchi*, which then speaks within Yamato for the Tegai School. Both *ji* and *ha* are healthy, there is plenty of *hira-niku*, and therefore we have here a masterwork among all blades attributed to this school.