

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

*katana*, *mumei*: Chikakage (近景)

## Measurements

*nagasa* 72.0 cm, *sori* 2.3 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 1.8 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.1 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 15.9 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.15 cm

## Description

*Keijō*: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba*, noticeable taper, deep *sori*, *chū-kissaki*

*Kitae*: overall standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and *nagare* and that features *ji-nie* and fine *chikei*

*Hamon*: *suguha-chō* in *ko-nie-deki* with a bright *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *kio-gunome*, plenty of *ashi* and *yō*, and many *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and whose elements overall tend to slant

*Bōshi*: the *hamon* runs for a short distance unchangedly over the *yokote* and turns then into a gently undulating *notare* and runs back with a *ko-maru-kaeri*

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

## Explanation

The prevailing view is that Chikakage (近景) was a student of Nagamitsu (長光). Extant dated works range from the end of the Kamakura period, i.e. the Shōwa era (正和, 1312-1317), to the early Nanbokuchō period, i.e. the Jōwa era (貞和, 1345-1350), which shows us that he was active slightly later than Kagemitsu (景光). There are Kagemitsu works extant whose signature style is almost identical to that of Chikakage and this suggests that the two smiths had a very close relationship. As for Chikakage's workmanship, it is within the Nagamitsu School most similar to Kagemitsu but his *nie* are more emphasized as it is the case with Kagemitsu. Apart from that, and this can be regarded as a characteristic feature of Chikakage, his *bōshi* is a noticeably pronounced *sansaku-bōshi* with a relatively pointed *kaeri*.

This blade shows an overall standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and *ngare* and that features *ji-nie* and fine *chikei*. The *hamon* is a *suguha-chō* in *ko-nie-deki* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *ko-gunome*, plenty of *ashi* and *yō* and whose elements overall tend to slant. The *bōshi* is a *sansaku-bōshi* and so we clearly recognize the characteristic workmanship of Chikakage. The blade is of an excellent *deki* with a well done *ha* that features prominent *hataraki*.