

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

katana, mumei: Awataguchi Kuniyasu (栗田口国安)

Measurements

nagasa 74.6 cm, *sori* 1.9 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 17.8 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, relatively slender *mihaba*, high *shinogi*, deep *koshizori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: beautiful and dense *ko-itame* with *ji-nie*

Hamon: *ko-nie*-laden *suguha-chō* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *ko-gunome*, *ko-midare*, *ko-ashi*, *yō*, fine *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*, and some small *yubashiri* along the *yakigashira* in places, the *midare* elements are overall relatively densely arranged

Bōshi: *sugu* with a brief *maru-kaeri* and with some *hakikake*

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

Explanation

The so-called "Six Awataguchi Brothers" from the early Kamakura period, with Kunitomo (国友) as the eldest, are very famous as all of the six brothers were highly skilled. Kuniyasu was the third son of father Kuniie (国家). His first name was Tōsaburō (藤三郎) and he and his two older brothers Kunitomo and Kunihiisa (国久) were on the list of ex-emperor Gotoba's (後鳥羽, 1180-1239) list of *goban-kaji*.

This blade is *ō-suriage* and *mumei*. It shows a dense and beautifully forged *hada* and a *suguha-chō* that is mixed with *ko-chōji*, *ko-gunome*, and *ko-midare* and whose *midare* elements are overall relatively densely arranged. The *ha* is full of sparkling *ha-nie* and there are small *yubashiri* along the *yakigashira* in places and therefore we clearly recognize the characteristic features of the Awataguchi School, in particular those of Kuniyasu.