

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

katana, mumei: Shizu (志津)

Measurements

nagasa 69.2 cm, *sori* 1.05 cm, *motohaba* 3.25 cm, *sakihaba* 2.2 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 19.7 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.2 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune,* wide *mihaba*, shallow *sori*, somewhat elongated *chū-kissaki*

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

Hamon: *nie-laden* and rather narrow gently undulating *notare-chō* with a wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *gunome*, some larger *choji* elements from the middle of the blade downwards, some *ara-nie* in places, a few *yubashiri*, *sunagashi*, and *kinsuji*

Bōshi: *sugu* with a brief *ō-maru-kaeri* and *hakikake* at the tip

Nakago: *ō-suriage, kirijiri, katte-sagari yasurime*, three *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

Shizu was a place in Mino province and as the Masamune student Kaneiji (兼氏) settled there, he was referred to as Shizu Saburō Kaneiji since earliest times. That is, the term Shizu may be synonymous for Kaneiji. Since olden times it is said that Kaneiji displayed the workmanship most closest to that of Masamune amongst all the Ten Students.

This blade shows an *itame* that features *chikei* and plenty of *ji-nie* and a *nie-laden*, gently undulating *notare-chō* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *gunome*, some *ara-nie* in places, a few *yubashiri*, and *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*. Thus, the workmanship reminds us prima facie of first class early Sōshū works but the *nagare* along the *kitae*, the *gunome* elements appearing in a connected manner here and there, and the *bōshi* with its briefly running-back *ō-maru-kaeri* clearly speak for the characteristic features of Shizu (Kaneiji). The *hamon* is with its abundance of *nie* and its bright and clear *nioiguchi* gorgeous and also in terms of its richness of *hataraki* along the *jiba*, we have here a masterwork among all blades attributed to this smith. In addition, the blade is in a very good condition.