

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

*katana, mumei*: Nagamitsu (長光)

## Measurements

*nagasa* 68.3 cm, *sori* 1.7 cm, *motohaba* 2.7 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.4 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 16.9 cm, only very little *nakago-sori*

## Description

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

*Kitae*: dense *ko-itame* that features *ji-nie*, fine *chikei*, and a prominent *midare-utsuri*, the steel is clear

*Hamon*: *chōji* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* and a bright and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *gunome*, angular elements, *togariba*, many *ashi* and *yō*, and a few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*

*Bōshi*: on the *omote* side *midare-komi*, on the *ura* side gently undulating, both sides featuring a brief *ko-maru-kaeri*

*Horimono*: on both sides a *bōhi* that ends in *kakudome* in the middle of the tang

*Nakago*: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, *sujikai-yasurime*, one *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

## 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 blade shows a dense *ko-itame* that features *ji-nie* and a prominent *midare-utsuri*, a *chōji hamon* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *gunome*, angular elements, and many *ashi* and *yō*, and (on the *ura* side) a gently undulating *bōshi* with a *ko-maru-kaeri*. Thus, we recognize the characteristical workmanship of Nagamitsu. Particularly praiseworthy is the finely forged and gorgeous *kitae* and the bright and clear *midareba*. Both *ji* and *ha* are in perfect condition and so we have here a masterwork among all blades attributed to this smith.