

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

wakizashi, *gaku-mei*: Nagamitsu (長光)

(with an *origami* issued by Hon'ami Kōchū in Genroku eleven, 1698)

Measurements

nagasa 52.0 cm, *sori* 1.45 cm, *motohaba* 2.4 cm, *sakihaba* 1.8 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.1 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 14.3 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

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

Kitae: dense *ko-itame* that features fine *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*

Hamon: *chōji* with roundish *yakigashira* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* and a bright *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *gunome*, *ashi*, *yō*, and a few *kinsuji* and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *midare-komi* with a brief *ō-maru*-style *kaeri*

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kurijiri*, *sujikai-yasurime*, two *mekugi-ana*, the *sashi-omote* side bears below of the second *mekugi-ana* and towards the *nakago-mune* a small and finely chiseled *niji gaku-mei*

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 *wakizashi* shows a dense *ko-itame* that features fine *ji-nie* and a *midare-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a unique *chōji* with roundish and densely arranged *yakigashira* in *nioi-deki* with *ko-nie* that is mixed with *gunome*, *ashi*, and *yō*. Thus, we recognize in *ji* and *ha* the characteristic features of Nagamitsu. The blade is in excellent condition and a masterwork despite having been shortened to *wakizashi* length. It comes with an *origami* issued by Hon'ami Kōchū (本阿弥光忠, ?-1725) in Genroku eleven (元禄, 1698) which evaluates the blade with 150 *kan*.