

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

tachi, mei: Nobuyoshi (延吉)

Measurements

nagasa 64.9 cm, *sori* 2.3 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 1.8 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 2.9 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.9 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.3 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, slender *mihaba*, relatively thick *kasane* in relation to the *mihaba*, deep *koshizori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: overall standing-out *itame* that is mixed with *mokume* and that features *ji-nie*, *chikei*, and some *jifu*

Hamon: *suguha* in *ko-nie-deki* with a tight *nioiguchi*

Bōshi: *ko-maru-kaeri*

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* that ends in *kakudome* and the *haki-omote* side shows remnants of a *suken* at the base

Nakago: *suriage*, *kirijiri*, *sujikai-yasurime*, three *mekugi-ana*, the *haki-omote* side bears above of the third, the *ubu-mekugi-ana*, and somewhat towards the *nakago-mune* a large dimensioned *niji-mei*

Explanation

It is said that Nobuyoshi was a smith of the Senju'in School and his name Ryūmon Nobuyoshi supposedly goes back to the fact that he lived in the Ryūmon manor of the same name which was located between the Yoshino (吉野) mountains and the village of Uda (宇陀), both located in the Yoshino district of Yamato province. Nobuyoshi worked basically in two styles: One is a lively *midareba* or a *suguha-chō* mixed with *chōji-ashi* that is combine with an *utsuri*, i.e. showing Bizen characteristics, and the other one is a more calm style in *suguha* without *utsuri* which reflects more Yamato characteristics. Apart from that, Nobuyoshi also signed in two different styles: At one, the right part of the character *Nobu* (延) is similar to the abbreviated writing of the character (正) and at the other, the right part is executed in cursive writing and reminds us more of the character (氏). The character for *Yoshi* however is about the same at both variants.

This *tachi* belongs to the latter category of the above mentioned styles of Nobuyoshi. It shows a *deki* in a calm *suguha* and although one of the *mekugi-ana* goes through the character for *Nobu*, we can confirm that the *mei* belongs to the category where the right part resembles the character (氏). The *jiba* is very healthy and we have here a highly tasteful blade.