

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

katana, *kinzōgan-mei*: Sadayoshi - Hon'a + *kaō* (貞吉・本阿「花押」) (Kōitsu, 光一)

Measurements

nagasa 69.0 cm, *sori* 2.1 cm, *motohaba* 2.75 cm, *sakihaba* 1.9 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.2 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 20.65 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, normal *mihaba* and *kasane*, relatively high *shinogi*, deep *sori*, *chū-kissaki*

Kitae: excellently forged *masame* that features plenty of *ji-nie* and much *chikei*, a *nie-utsuri* appears on the *omote* side along the center of the blade and the steel is clear

Hamon: *nie*-laden *suguha* with a wide, *nright*, and clear *nioiguchi* that is mixed with a few *ko-ashi* and along the *habuchi* with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, *kuichigai-ba*, and fine *nijūba* and *sunagashi*

Bōshi: *sugu* with a very brief *kaeri* and tending to *yakitsume*, in addition, there are plenty of *hakikake*

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, *kirijiri*, *kiri-yasurime*, three *mekugi-ana*, the *sashi-omote* side bears below of the first *mekugi-ana* and in the *hira-ji* of the tang the *kinzōgan-mei* "Sadayoshi" and the *ura* side centrally under the first *mekugi-ana* the *kinzōgan-mei* "Hon'a + *kaō*"

Explanation

The Hoshō School was located in the Takaichi district (高市郡) of Yamato province and flourished from the end of the Kamakura throughout the subsequent Nanbokuchō period. Its representative masters were Sadamune (貞宗) and Sadayoshi (貞吉), both of whom being referred to as Hoshō Gorō (保昌五郎). Regarding Sadayoshi, we know dated works from the eras Bunpō (文保, 1317-1319), Genkō (元亨, 1321-1324), and Karyaku (嘉暦, 326-1329) and other skilled Hoshō smiths were for example Sadakiyo (貞清), Sadaoki (貞興), and Sadamitsu (貞光). The Hoshō School displayed the most characteristic style of all five major Yamato Schools as their blades are entirely forged in *masame* and as their *nakago* are finished with *higaki-yasurime*.

This blade shows a pure *masame-hada* that features plenty of *ji-nie*, much *chikei*, and a *nie-utsuri*. The *hamon* is a *nie*-laden *suguha* with a wide *nioiguchi* that is mixed with *hotsure*, *uchinoke*, *kuichigai-ba*, and fine *nijūba* and *sunagashi*, and the *bōshi* shows many *hakikake* whereas we recognize the characteristic workmanship of the Hoshō School. Thus, we are in agreement with the *kinzōgan* attribution to Sadayoshi.

The attribution and *kinzōgan-mei* goes back to Hon'ami Kōitsu (本阿弥光一, ?-1823) who was the 17th generation of the Hon'ami main line and active nine generations after Kōtoku (光徳, 1556-1619).