

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

katana, *mumei*: Kinjū (金重)

Measurements

nagasa 70.1 cm, *sori* 1.8 cm, *motohaba* 2.9 cm, *sakihaba* 2.0 cm, *kissaki-nagasa* 3.8 cm, *nakago-nagasa* 18.4 cm, *nakago-sori* 0.1 cm

Description

Keijō: *shinogi-zukuri*, *iori-mune*, wide *mihaba*, relatively deep *sori*, somewhat elongated *chū-kissaki*
Kitae: *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie*, *jifu*, and a *nie-utsuri*, the steel is clear

Hamon: *nie*-laden *ha* with a wide, bright, and clear *nioiguchi* that starts as *suguga-chō* and that turns into a connected *gunome* with roundish *yakigashira* that is mixed with *ko-notare*

Bōshi: gently undulating *notare* with a brief *maru-kaeri* and *hakikake* at the tip

Horimono: on both sides a *bōhi* which runs on the *omote* as *kaki-nagashi* into, and on the *ura* as *kaki-tōshi* through the tang

Nakago: *ō-suriage*, shallow *ha-agari* *kurijiri*, *katte-sagari* *yasurime*, four *mekugi-ana*, *mumei*

Explanation

Kinjū was traditionally regarded as being one of the Ten Students of Masamune. It is said that he came originally from Tsuruga (敦賀) in Echizen province and moved then to Mino where he founded together with Kaneuji (兼氏) the Mino tradition of sword making. There are only very few signed works of Kinjū extant. Compared to the workmanship of the Shizu School, his blades very often show a more standing-out *hada* and a *hamon* that rather features a connected *gunome* with roundish *yakigashira* than a *gunome* that tends to pointed *togari*. His *ha* is hardened in *ko-nie-deki* and in general it can be said that his works are overall a hint more calm as works of the Shizu School.

This blade shows a *kitae* in *itame* that is mixed with *nagare* and that features plenty of *ji-nie*, *chikei*, *jifu*, and a *nie-utsuri*. The *hamon* is also *nie*-laden and appears as a connected *ko-gunome* with roundish *yakigashira* that is mixed with *ko-notare*. On top of that, the *midare* elements of the *ha* are of a rather uniform nature and thus we can attribute this blade to Kinjū. So we have here a work of a smith whose blades are known for their superior cutting ability and which displays a bright and clear *jiba* as well as an excellent *deki*.