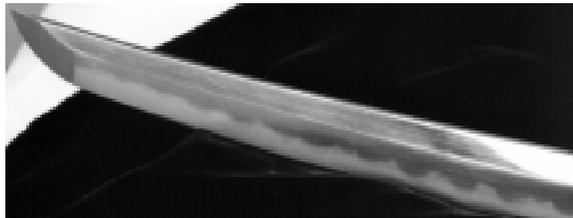


A Nice MU-MEI WAKIZASHI in Nice Mounts - very colorful!

The exuberance of the swirling gold lacquer SAYA is held in check by the coordinated browns and gold of its SHAKUDO TSUBA and SHAKUDO and gold fittings, and usual purple ITO wrap. The blade is a most impressive and well-done, CHU and HIRO width, evenly grouped GUNOME-MIDARE BA which has much MURA-NIE piled through its dark valleys. A dynamic splay to the diffusion of light gives the high quality steel a wet, liquid sheen. The HAMON figures and JI have conjoining elements that seem to exchange position and switch between dark and light. Profuse NIE crowds the full HAKIKAKE BOSHI. The turn-a-round is low and dives for the back straight across the KO-SHINOGI. The excellence in the well balanced, OEI-like HAMON and well-knit ITAME HADA make this an unusually attractive sword.



KOSHIRAE: Large nodule SAME is covered with a quiet purple ITO over SHAKUDO and gold, "Imperial Carriage" MENUKI, having silver faced aristocrat bearers toiling at task. The reverse, a man pushing a large-wheeled cart, is in dark SHAKUDO with gold wheels. The complimenting MENUKI give two views of the same motif. SHAKUDO FUCHI-GASHIRA has six-sided gold over-lay of a weave fencing against a "waves" ground with water-chestnuts and blossoms in gold overlay. Horn TSUNO MEKUGI pin.

TSUBA: Very nice, HARUKUNI and Cao, signed SHAKUDO, slightly oval TSUBA has a well done, brushed "rain" gold MIMI rim. This is a dark, almost blue cast SHAKUDO with a large, playful, gold water buffalo with gold harness-rope laying freely to the ground. URA shows an easy current drawn in flowing silver. A gold flute and gold KAMA sickle with silver blade lay in the leaves and gold reeds at water's edge. There are a few, simple chisel stokes to place a flight of gulls on URA with a few, other subtle trees and blossoms that are just a whisper. SEPPA are gold covered.

A MENUKI like MON of water-chestnuts continues the theme in the lower SAYA, against the very attractive color mix of swirling gold with rust-red highlight. Black contrasts with TSUNO horn KURIKATA and KOIGUCHI.

There is an indiscernible signature on an unpolished KOGATANA that has a fair quality SHAKUDO KODZUKA of SHI-SHI in blossoms and foliage.

This is a very nice and continually interesting blade in SHIRA-SAYA, and very attractive SHAKUDO and gold mounts with gold swirl SAYA, gold SEPPA and horn MEKUGIs, with TSUNAGI. With two SAYAs and two sword bags:

\$5500