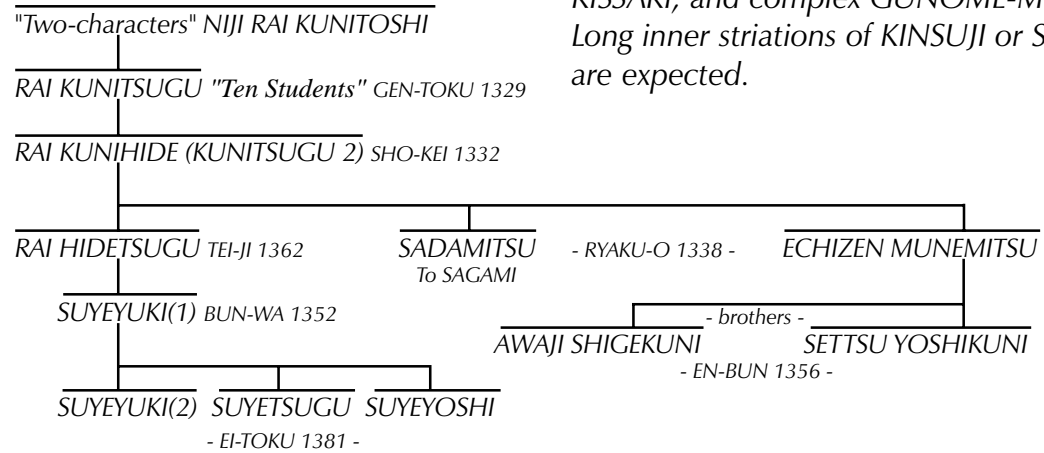


RAI KUNIHIDE is the 2nd RAI KUNITSUGU

HIKOTARO KUNIHIDE was the second master of the RAI KUNITSUGU School and is the same as RAI HIKOTARO KUNITSUGU(2). His influences are the first KUNITSUGU's blend of stately RAI and exuberant SOSHU. His sons moved through the RAI expansions in SETTSU, ECHIZEN and SAGAMI. RAI HIDEITSUGU is thought possibly a later signature.

The KUNITSUGU School seems to follow NIJI KUNITOSHI's style with strong SUGATA and KISSAKI, and complex GUNOME-MIDARE HA. Long inner striations of KINSUJI or SUNAGASHI are expected.



NAGASA: 69.2cm
 SORI: 2.1cm
 NAKAGO: 16.6cm

Dr KUNZAN HOMMA devotes a full page in his book, KANTO HIBISHO 鑑刀日々抄 praising this sword for its superior workmanship and "phenomenal" JI-NIE and MUNEYAKI. Excellent JI-NIE dresses pronounced and moving MOKUME HADA in which CHIKEI is found. Long running KINSUJI and SUNAGASHI gently interlace within a moving KO-MIDARE where KO-ASHI defined GUNOME mixes in the CHU-SUGU line. UCHI-NOKE and strung HOTSURE form a JIBA that skirts along the HABUCHI. MUNE-YAKI frosts the back. UCHI-NOKE and NIE collide and sweep through a YAKI-KUZURE BOSHI to KO-MARU and medium turnback. At 69.2cm, a well formed O-SURIAGE NAKAGO has two MEKUGI-ANA.

Dr HOMMA's accompanying SAYA-GAKI states that this RAI KUNIHIDE is a particularly splendid long sword.

In high JO polish with newly awarded TOKUBETSU HOZON, this flawless piece is a ready and fine candidate for JUYO SHINSA \$30000