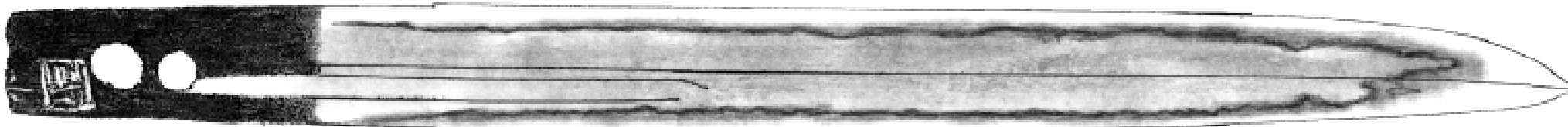


NAOE SHIZU  
KANENOBU TACHI



HIGO ENJU KUNIMITSU MOROHA TANTO

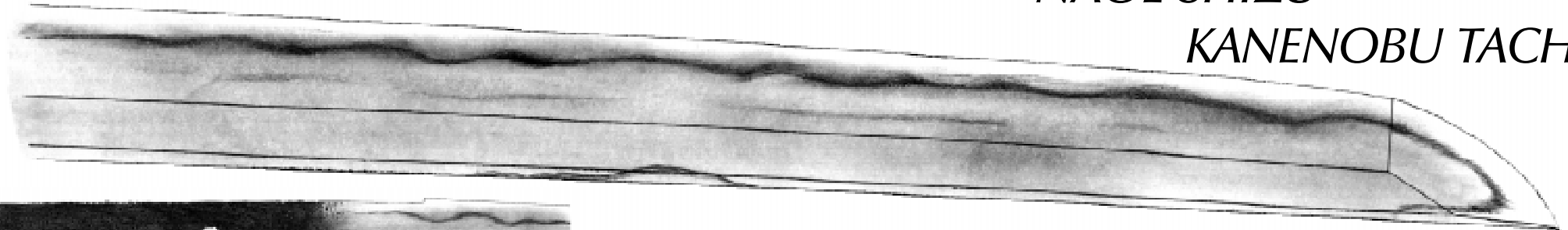
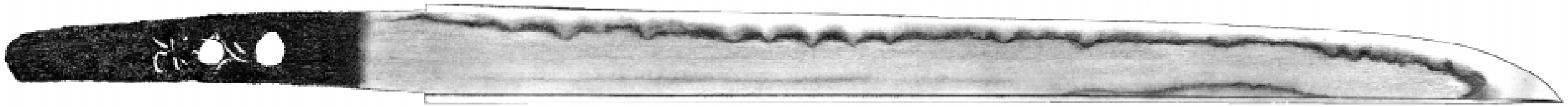
NAGASA is 19.4cm, subtleties of expression create an unusually strong and exciting SUGATA. KUNIMITSU produced the tight, almost NASHIJI KO-ITAME HADA for which the ENJU hold their fame. KO-NIE SUGU KO-MIDARE BA is painted in by tightly defined NIOI SUNAGASHI of strikingly high calibre while little energetic SHIMABA still dance from the quench. The rich complexity within the YAKIBA play against the HAMON and powerful SUGATA to make a moving and dramatic elegance. Polished, SHIRA-SAYA and KANTEI-SHO by TOEN of MURAKAMI KOSUKE. Excellent sword. \$5800

HISAMITSU TANTO

NAGASA 24.5cm with MU-SORI. BO-UTSURI runs along the body of flowing and very tight ITAME HADA. NIOI-DEKI and KO-NIE SUGU gently moves while GUNOME and "Bean" GUNOME push evenly spaced TOGARI into the JI. MUNE-YAKI graces the back. There are few HISAMITSUs in history. An OSAFUNE line falls from NAGAMITSU and an EI-SHO smith works in SAGAMI. The tight JI-GANE brings us to the YAMASHIRO stylists who have their roots in AWATAGUCHI TORIN second son, HISAKUNI. Here we find HISAMITSU in YAMASHIRO RYOKAI School and with TORIN HISAKUNI's OSUMI transplants, we find another. BO-UTSURI in BIZEN will touch tops like a butterfly in flowers, so the relatively straight BO-UTSURI and tight HADA leave us to place the RYOKAI smith of EI-TOKU 1381. Direct branch from KYO RYOKAI.

KOSHIRAE

Rich black URUSHI is turning a deep brown with age. Lacquer SAYA and TSUKA with plain SHIBUICHI FUCHI-GASHIRA and TSUBA of plate with carved Japanese maple and maple MENUKI. Elegant. \$6650

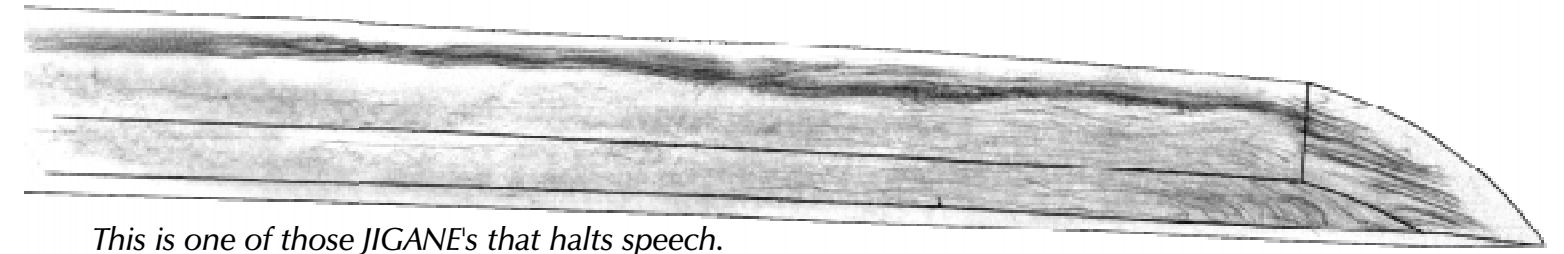


Reduced 55%

KAMAKURAbecame the hot spot in EN-GEN 1336 with the fall and sack of the city. Most mice had long left, with NORISHIGE and GO YOSHIHIRO to ETCHU andKANEUJI settling SHIZU style to the little town of NAOE in the mountains of MINO. KANENOBU is the pupil.

There is little SAKI-ZORI and at 70.8cm the curve appears low, more KOSHIZORI. A solid sword with a long, 22.1cm - nearly 11 inch, O-SURIAGE NAKAGO and very straight MONOUCHI, it was once a very long TACHI. Extra-ordinarily pronounced ITAME-MOKUME is mixed with flowing MASAME HADA where JI-NIE becomes ARA in places and MUNE-YAKI sneaks off the back ridge. A serenity is brought by it's luminescent NIOI-DEKI HAMON of GUNOME-MIDARE drifting in NOTARE which lays motionless like far-off, billowing clouds frozen in time. There is SHIMABA, and HOTSURE occasionally juts from the HABUCHI. TheBOSHI is fine and very defined KO-NIE which becomes HAKIKAKE swept at the head.

The sword has a quality SAYA with hard silver HABAki which has been precision dressed in sheet gold. MEKUGI and receptacle are "Black Ivory." This fine sword has TOKUBETSU KICHO and HOZON KANTEI-SHO to SHIZU KANENOBU \$12000



SENDAI KUNIKANE  
long-sword shortened to  
WAKIZASHI by SHIBATA

This is one of those JIGANE's that halts speech. A well-known polisher said if it weren't for the MEI, any SHINSA would award for top TAIMA or TEGAI as a TACHI point. Both HADA and YAKIBA appear KOTO and of top YAMATO work Luminescent and shinning MASAME HADA streams in vivid definition from the head where a HAKIKAKE BOSHI sprays a thousand water-falls of finely formed andminute KO-NIE. The URA is so full, it's almost ICHIMAI. Long ribbons of KINSUJI dance and weave in a bright yet delicate NIOI-DEKI and fine KO-NIE KUICHIGAI and NIJUBA that shows SUNAGASHI sweeping along in a CHU-width SUGU YAKIBA. Whisps of MUNEYAKI and UTSURI-like JI-NIE form along the SHINOGI. HOTSURE and HAKIKAKE sweeps little HOTSURE sprays out into the JI. It is lively and at the same time refined. A very fine sword. \$2200

SHIBATA's CAO on the very finely dressed NAKAGO authenticates this as an early KUNIKANE long sword that was shortened by SHIBATA in the year of the Tiger and the Dog, a year that repeats every sixty. As the highly esteemed, earlier 20th century swordmaker and the year of the Tiger and Dog only happened once, we can safely assume that an officer of rank had the sensei shorten a very fine sword in a particularly fine manner for his service mount.

