

sword class

Dr TOKUNO's private study

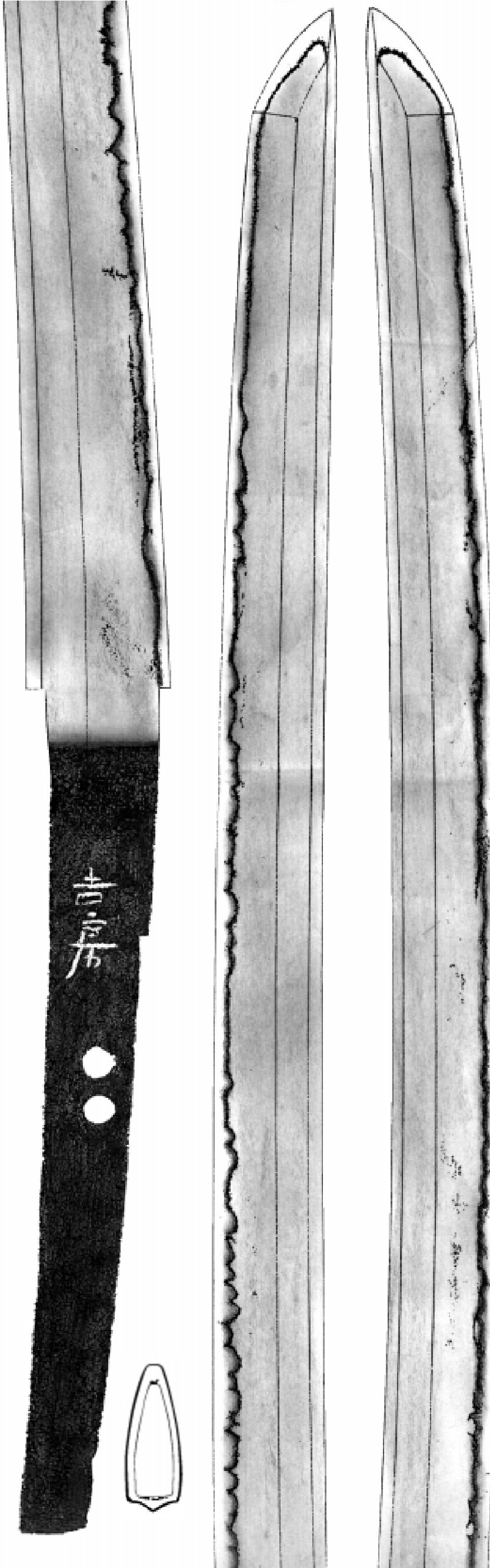
sho-shin annotation

kOTO

FUKUOKA ICHIMONJI YOSHIFUSA

TACHI OMOTE: 吉房 (福岡一文字)

YOSHIFUSA (FUKUOKA ICHIMONJI)



On YOSHIFUSA:

From ancient times it has been said that there were 3 or 4 YOSHIFUSAs. However, according to the MEI-KAN, there was TOJIRO YOSHIFUSA, SHO-KYU 1219 through JO-EI 1232, who was the grandson of NOBUFUSA 延房. Also we have KYUGORO YOSHIFUSA in HO-JI 1247 and finally SHO-AN 1299 YOSHIFUSA of the FUKUOKA ICHIMONJI line. Therefore, in these eighty odd years from early to late KAMAKURA, we can tell there were several YOSHIFUSAs. The second, HO-JI, YOSHIFUSA made the most gorgeous HAMON; and it is said he was the maker of OKADA-GIRI (NOBUNAGA and son, NOBUO's famous sword named from an encounter at the battle of NAGAKUTE 1584). Generally speaking, early YOSHIFUSAs are made in KO-BIZEN style with KO-NIE. Late YOSHIFUSAs, from about BUN-EI 1264 to SHO-AN 1299, are made with a conservative HAMON and the signature will be smaller than earlier YOSHIFUSAs.

This example would appear to be made by SHO-DAI or the first YOSHIFUSA.

YOSHIFUSA

Blade:

NAGASA: 73.9cm

SORI: 1.98cm

Tang:

NAKAGO-NAGASA: 19.0cm

NAKAGO-SORI: 0.3cm

NAKAGO-KASANE: 0.84cm

Point:

KISSAKI-NAGASA: 2.8cm

SAKI-HABA: 1.71cm

SAKI-KASANE: 0.45cm

Base:

MOTO-HABA: 2.87cm

MOTO-KASANE: 0.755cm

SHINOGI-TSUKURI, low IHORI-MUNE, ordinary SHINOGI-HABA blade width, and SHINOGI-TAKA raised SHINOGI ridge. Narrow MIHABA blade width. KOSHIZORI with FUNBARI. And KO-KISSAKI that is TACHI-SUGATA of the early KAMAKURA period. There is much NIKU and the healthy blade is comfortably heavy.

The JI-GANE is KO-MOKU mixed in KO-ITAME HADA with JI-NIE. The steel shines and appears pale shallow blue with wetting. There is vivid, clear MIDARE-UTSURI that mixes on the pattern of the HADA. Powerful and wonderful JI-GANE.

The HAMON is basically KO-NIE DEKI KO-MIDARE with KO-ASHI. In some places we can see KINSUJI and SUNAGASHI, and NIE dropping into the JI. This NIE forms NIJUBA along the line of HAMON and some NIE TOBI-YAKI is seen in the JI.

BOSHI is SUGU with shallow KO-MARU turning back at the point. The OMOTE is a little slack.

UBU, KIJIMOMO NAKAGO has HIRA-NIKU on the MUNE and a swept NAKAGO-ZORI. There are two MEKUGI-ANA but not, apparently, SHINOGI-SUJI line. The YASURI is SUJICHIGAI and the point of the NAKAGO is a small KURIJIRI.

The TACHI-OMOTE signature is cut strong in small characters and centered below the HABA and above the MEKUGI-ANA.

sho-shin note:

TOZAEMON SUKEFUSA KEN-PO 1213

TOJIRO YOSHIFUSA JO-EI 1232 SUKECHIKA SUKETOSHI KAMAKURA SUKEZANE

KYUGORO YOSHIFUSA HO-JI 1247

KORESUIKE NORIYE UMANOSUKE SUKEFUSA