

Top Match-locks

KUNITOMO OMINO Pistol

INOUE KANZAEMON SAKU - TOSHITSUGU (Cao)

22" or 55.87cm overall

Carefully considered inlay brings striking contrast to the rich, dark hue; and at the same time an artful poetry, achieved with the ancient characters, **SEIHEN**, "control emergencies", opens a unique window on a world, last seen through Samurai eyes. Seemingly straight forward, the gentle play of twin meaning stitches a balance of opposites. Not only individual action, "control" has propriety because it also places legitimate governance. Expressed in two characters, "control" marks social stability, where "emergencies" are chaos. This yin-yang polarity marries the down to earth practicality of responsible social engagement with the ancient and deeply philosophical. Correct action in support of correct order, the balance of high and low.

A .5 bore through an attractive, bulb-head, octagonal sloping barrel with its striking contrast of silver and gold inlay, this OMINO matchlock has Chinese dragons, NAMBAN style, and DOKUTSUKI-KEN sword along its fixed sight.

The archaic Chinese characters with their Japanese pronunciation and evocative dynamic meaning are a fulcrum to the AOI Hollyhock, TOKUGAWA MON placed just above the br

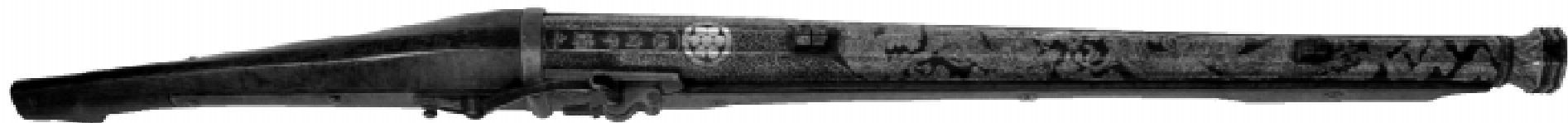
Signed, in normal fashion, on the underside:

INOUE KANZAEMON SAKU TOSHITSUGU Cao

One piece wood stock with brass fittings and brass SAKURA MEKUGI-GUCHI.

NBTHK ORIGAMI

\$15,000



HACHIRO SHIGESUKE Wrap-forged Matchlock

Silver and gold NUNOME Dragon & Clouds cover the powerful octagonal barrel that slopes from a flared muzzle, itself defined of silver NUNOME striping. An attractive scrolling separates an intricate silver NUNOME vine lattice-work that covers the whole of the breech area and offers a ground from which a large MATSUDAIRA family MON sits above the framed, gold NUNOME title, ECHIZEN no KAMI SHOKU SHI.

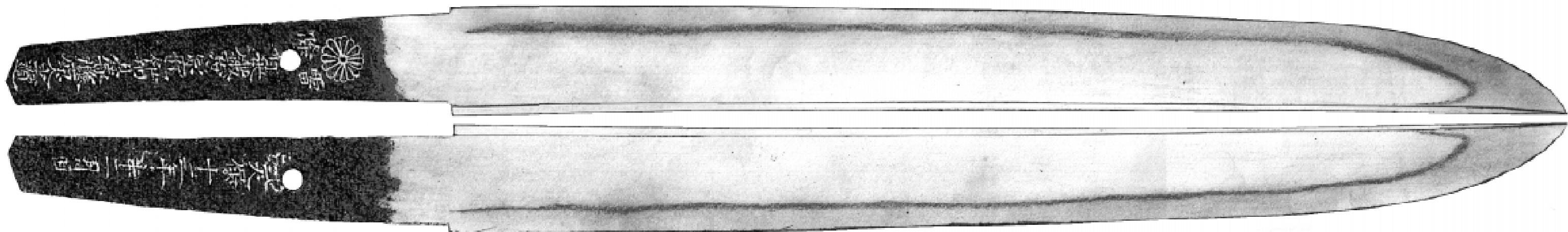
.62 bore has front and aft peep sights and is signed on the underside:

SHIMATANI KI HACHIRO SHIGESUKE SAKU

One piece wood stock has brass fittings, silver NUNOME lattice on the frizzen and brass SAKURA MEKUGI-GUCHI.

47 1/2" or 107.9cm overall

\$20,000



KIKU-MON RAI-YOKE "Lightning Rod for the Empire"

KINMICHII HIGO AIKUCHI O-TANTO

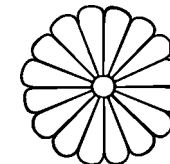
NAGASA: 9.5 SUN/28.75cm

NAKAGO-NAGASA: 3.75 SUN/11.5cm

MOTO-HABA: 8.65 BU/2.65cm

Tight ITAME HADA graces a firmly stated HIRA-TSUKURI blade. CHU-SUGUHA widens at the BOSHI to march directly for a KO-MARU turn and long falling KAERI. A stately sword in JIDAI original polish and copper HABAKI.

The prominent KIKU-MON and KINMICHII title, RAIYOKE "Lightning Rod" transliterate as Lightning Rod for the Emperor.



KIKU-MON
RAI - YO-KE

NIHON KAJI SOSHO IGA-no-KAMI FUJIWARA KINMICHII
TEMPO JU SAN-NEN JU-NI GATSU HI - 1842

HIGO AIKUCHI mounts are ensuite iron with silver labyrinth fretting. String wrap. Iron FUCHI/GASHIRA, KOI-GUCHI, KURIKATA and KOJIRI have simple inlaid silver labyrinth fret work with gold-wash copper embellishment, gold now gone. All pieces have the typical HIGO gold rim lining the edges. A different KODZUKA, with blade, was replaced later. In plain hemp bag with draw string.