

UYK Sword Register No. 90

Type: Shinto katana

Nagasa: 66.0 cm

Saki-haba: 3.0 cm

Moto-haba: 2.1 cm

Sugata: Shinogi-zukuri, iori-mune, with a shallow and even tori-zori tapering to a ko-kissaki. The kissaki has a full fukura.

Jihada: Tight ko-mokume with ji-nie.

Hamon: Predominantly o-gunome midare with occasional choji like inclusions, in nie, with some nioi. The gunome reaching the shinogi in places. Quieter approximately 5cm towards the machi area, where it is mostly ko-midare with a single togari. Short sunagashi brushing through the hamon throughout. The boshi is hakikake and slightly midare-komi with kaeri.

Nakago: Three mekugi-ana with a fourth combined with the top hole. Possibly slightly suriage, kiri yasuri and ending in ha-agari kuri-jiri. Signed on the omote INSHU JU FUJIWARA KANESAKI.

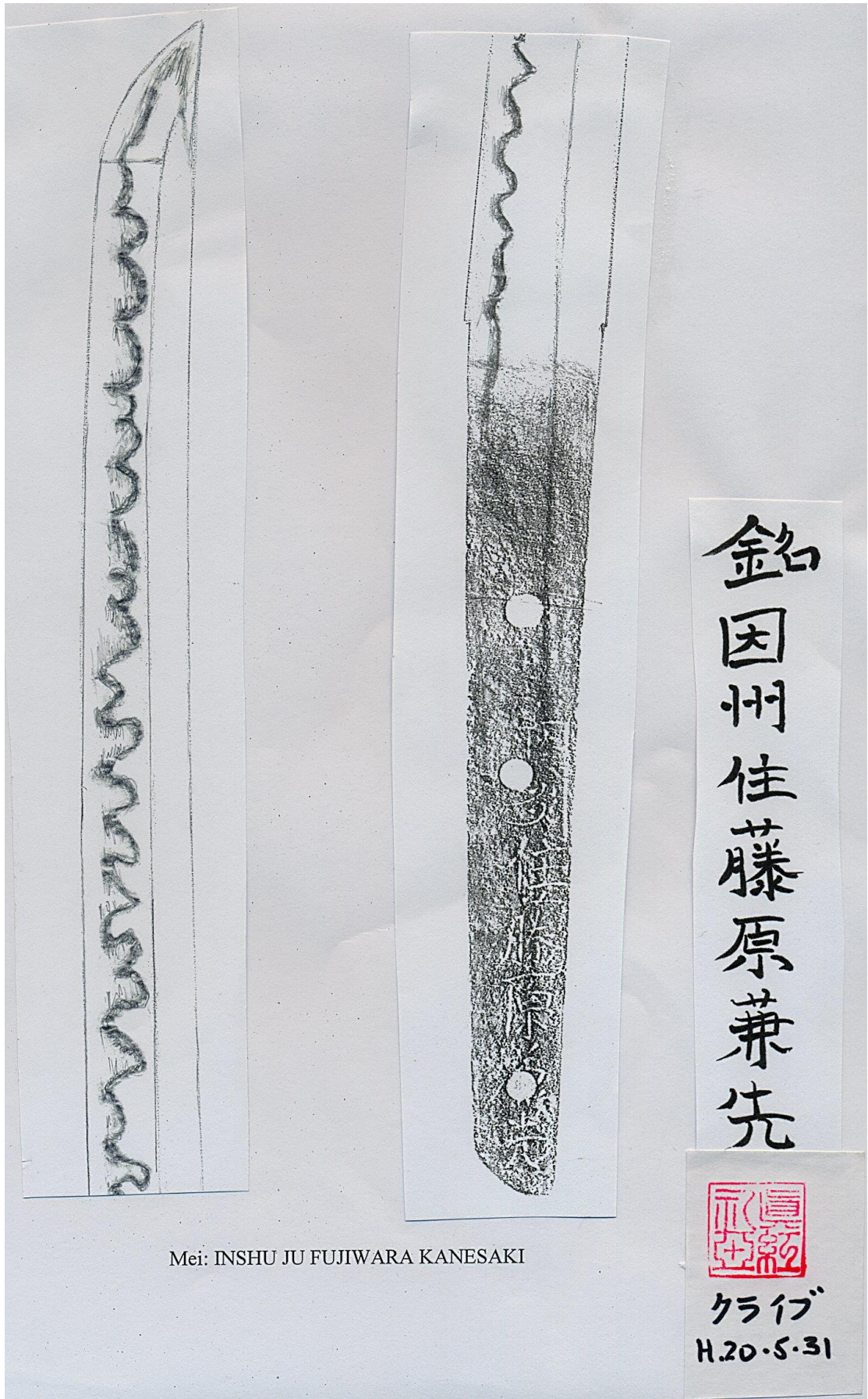
The sword is of a good length and in good condition with no faults or flaws apparent. The hamon is wide and eye catching as it reaches the shinogi in places, although the quieter section, which looks more “Mino” than the rest of the blade, appears like a yakidashi section. The shallow zori and distinct tapering towards the ko-kissaki, conveys the distinct impression of swords dating from the Kanbun period. (1661-1672). This style was especially represented by Edo-shinto swords popularised by smiths such as Nagasone Kotetsu and Yamato (no) Kami Yasusada, but it seems that some swordsmiths in the provinces were also influenced by this especially practical style of swordmaking, that reflected the increasing use of the shinai (which was straight) in the kendo of that time. This sword has somewhat more zori than those Edo swords previously mentioned.

The line of swordsmiths named Kanesaki originated in Koto times and, coming from Seki, followed the Mino tradition of swordmaking that was pre-eminent at that time. During the Tensho era ((1573- 1591) the head of the family moved to Inaba province (Inshu) and founded the so-called “Inshu Kanesaki” line of swordsmiths. Several generations worked through to one named Hoki Yazuburo Miochi in the Ansei era (1854). However, I believe that the maker of this sword is the third generation of Inshu swordsmiths. His personal name was Hioki Hyouemon and he was the son Hioki Suemon Kanesaki, the nidai and also grandson of the Kanesaki that moved from Seki to Inaba. Many of his swords were tempered in gunome although he also made some in suguha. He was the most prolific of the Inshu Kanesaki line and was active in the Kanbun period, which is confirmed by the sugata of this sword. The mei corresponds well to that shown in Shinto-Taikan. Interestingly, it was with this generation Inshu Kanesaki that started the habit of having the name Kanetsugu before becoming the head of the family and adopting the Kanesaki name.

This swordsmith is rated as Chujosaku (better than average) by Fujishiro and this sword was designated as Tokubetsu Hozon by the Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai, at their August 2003 shinsa. It is contained in a shira-saya

with saya-gaki by Tanobe Michihiro and is understood to have koshirae which was not present at the time of appraisal.

Clive Sinclair
Bexley, June 2008



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因州住藤原兼光



クラブ
H.20.5.31

Mei: INSHU JU FUJIWARA KANESAKI