

筑前信国行国 (重包)

Chikuzen Nobukuni Yukikuni (Shigekane)

SCHOOL	Chikuzen Nobukuni
PERIOD	Late Edo Jidai: dated, February of 1858
PAPER/CLASSIFICATION	NTHK Yushu Saku 2000
MEI	Omote: "Chikuzen No Kuni Ju Nin Nobukuni Minamoto Yukikuni" Ura: "Ansei Go Nen Ni Gatsu Hi Gyonen Nanaju-Sai Kore O Tsukuru"
FUJISHIRO RANKING	Chu Jo Saku
FORM	Katana
NAGASA	81.06 cm
SUGATA	Shinogi-zukuri
SORI	Koshi-zori
SORI MEASUREMENT	2.7 cm
KISSAKI	Chu-kissaki
KISSAKI MEASUREMENT	3.7 cm
MUNE	lori-mune
KASANE	8.5 mm
SAKIHABA	2.0 cm
MOTOHABA	3.0 cm
NAKAGO LENGTH	24.4 cm
NAKAGO CONDITION	Ubu
NAKAGO SHAPE	Standard with iriyama-gata jiri
MEKUGIANA	One
YASURIME	Katte-sagari

Kitae: Ko-mokume with ji-nie and chikei. The ji-nie is thick and made up of ko-nie. Chikei are long, vivid and abundant. The entire ji looks "wet".

Hamon: Ko-nie deki suguha. The nioi-guchi is tight and well controlled. There are ko-gunome in some areas. Nezumi ashi are plentiful.

Boshi: Sugu and ko-maru with a short kaeri on both sides.

An exemplary katana by Chikuzen Nobukuni Shigekane. He used several mei in his career. These include Sadakuni, Hisakuni, Masayoshi and his late in life mei of Yukikuni, as seen in this example. He went to Edo and became a student of Suishinshi Masahide. He was later retained by the Kuroda Daimyo and received a stipend for the support of three assistants. He passed away in August of 1865 at the age of 77.

The mei of this blade states that Shigekane made it at the age of 70 in February of 1858. Such a mei is valuable for research and adds empirical importance to the work. Shigekane is highly regarded for his horimono skill. This katana includes a detailed shin-no-kurikara with a bohi on the omote. The ura features two bonji with a bohi. This blade passed NTHK kanteisho evaluation in New York at the 1999 shinsa. This was the last shinsa that Yoshikawa Koen led in the United States. The NTHK magazine, Token To Rekishi, issue 625 page 3, featured a write up and oshigata of this blade written by Yoshikawa Koen. He described this blade as having a powerfully magnificent tachi shape and stated that the jigane is gorgeous. He also mentioned that this sugata with its very long nakago, even for the massive length of this blade, was referred to as kinno-to or a "royalist sword". He notes that kinno-to are typically inelegant, but this example is an "entirely refined masterpiece". This sword was later awarded Yushu Saku status in 2000 by the NTHK.





