

大和当麻友長

Yamato Taima Tomonaga

SCHOOL	Yamato Taima
PERIOD	Nanbokucho Jidai: circa, Shohei 1346-1370
PAPER/CLASSIFICATION	NBTHK Juyo Token 37 th session
MEI	Mumei
FUJISHIRO RANKING	Jo Jo Saku
FORM	Wakizashi
NAGASA	49.8 cm
SUGATA	Shobu-zukuri nagamaki-naoshi
SORI	Saki-zori
SORI MEASUREMENT	1.4 cm
MUNE	lori-mune
KASANE	7 mm at the shinogi (2 mm at the mune)
MOTOHABA	2.8 cm
NAKAGO CONDITION	O-suriage
NAKAGO SHAPE	Standard with kuri-jiri
MEKUGIANA	Three (Two are copper filled)
YASURIME	Katte-sagari

Kitae: Ko-itame covered with ji-nie and chikei. All the nie are ko-nie and they are evenly distributed. Although naoshi, the Taima trait of the jigane becoming masame and turning with the kissaki can be seen at the saki.

Hamon: Nie-deki sugu gunome midare. The nioi guchi is thick, bright and saeru. Many ashi are present and they are overlapped by sunagashi. Vivid inazuma and kinsuji are abundant. The entire ha is packed with hataraki.

Boshi: Yakizumi.

The Yamato Taima smiths were active in the late Kamakura and Nanbokucho periods. Their role was to supply weapons to the sohei (warrior monks) of the Taima temple located in Western Yamato. This blade was originally a nagamaki. It was shortened and converted to its current shape, probably in the 16th century, to conform to the fighting styles of that time. Among Yamato works, the Taima school displays the strongest Soshu influence. This blade has vibrant inazuma and kinsuji as well as thick ji-nie and chikei. Overall, it shows a flavor of Soshu intermixed with classic Yamato style.

This blade is accompanied by Honami Ringa's saya-gaki. Ringa was a leading expert of the Honami family. He attributed this blade to Taima Tomonaga. Ringa was fortunate to be in possession of the Honami oshigata record book known as the "Origami Daichou". This book recorded all the data of swords which were given Honami Certificates (origami) since the Momoyama era. The Origami Daichou was an important source of sword appraisal information. Unfortunately, this record book was burned during the great Tokyo earthquake that occurred on September 1st, 1923. The saya-gaki of this blade is dated the eleventh year of Taisho (1922), one year before the tragedy.

The fact that this blade's appraisal was done by Ringa before the destruction of the Origami Daichou is important. Nowadays, Yamato blades are mostly attributed to one of the five schools and not the individual smiths. This is mainly due to the shortage of extant signed blades and lack of detailed existing records with which to compare them. When this blade passed Juyo shinsa in 1991, the attribution given was "Taima". Through the preservation of such saya-gaki, future generations can continue to learn from Honami Ringa and the Origami Daichou.

On December 5th, 1989, this was discovered in an antique shop in Northern Ohio as a WWII souvenir. Ex Dr. Tsuguyasu Wada collection.







Yamato-no-kuni Taima Tomonaga, suriage mumei
 Nagasa 1 shaku 6 sun 4 bu 1500 kan (gold 5 mai)
 Taisho 11th (1922) late spring, evaluated and confirmed, wrote this Honami Ringa (kao)
 大正十一年 壬戌 陽春 下浣 審定 記之 本阿彌琳雅 花押