

## NBTHK HOZON to KAGA AOE IYETSUGU - MUMEI SOSHU-style DAITO KAGA AOE HASHIZUME are three

schools falling from founder HASHIZUME KUNITSUGU in the OEI, IYETSUGU, IYEMASA and KATSUIYE, the last of which became the DARANI of KAGA SHINTO. Their teaching comes from KAGA SANEKAGE, NORISHIGE's famous student and father or master of HASHIZUME KUNITSUGU. They are called AOE for the resemblance to BITCHU. This sword, however is very much in the style of SOSHU AKIHIRO. Although out of polish the NBTHK, none the less, gave it their HOZON to HASHIZUME with confidence and because of its strikingly "gorgeous" HAMON. HOZON is concerned with quality above the questions of authenticity. It has very deep curve and the classic TACHI look with its elongated CHU-KISSAKI and long, smooth NAKAGO with four MEKUGI-ANA. Many KAGA have similar REN-HI twin grooves. They run into the NAKAGO, one ending in a small MARU-DOME which supplies the original length of approximately 31". Presently: just shy of 28". It has seen polishes, but it is good steel and should easily take polish, which is recommended.

There is MUNE-YAKI spreading over the back-ridge in the lower of this SOSHU style HITATSURA "full-temper" of NIOI and profuse NIE. Bright KINSUJI arc off the tops of KO-CHOJI and KO-GUNOME that push from each other in chaotic angles. SUNAGASHI streams through the YAKIBA while ARA-NIE strafes the JI in YUBASHIRI like lines. Long CHIKEI colored strings twist through the lower where the YAKIBA actually makes way and follows along. An extremely active and masterful SOSHU style HITATSURA.

Comes in an odd looking SHIRA-SAYA and old SHAKUDO HABAKI. Priced to sell: \$4500