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 American Legion, Chicago Art Institute,
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 Collection Exhibit For:
 U.S. Military Academy Museum, West Point,
 and Navy Memorial Museum, Washington
 D.C.

日本刀
JAPANESE SWORDS™

WANTED **WANTED**

\$250.00 to \$500,000.00

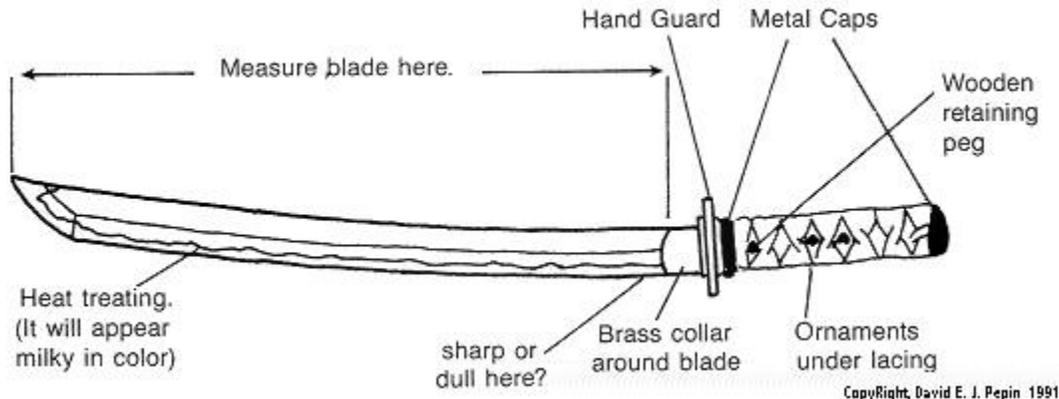
Single pieces and entire collections wanted.
I will exceed any legitimate offer by 25%,
for swords I wish to add to my collection.

FRENCH ART GLASS (GALLE & DAUM),
FINE QUALITY JAPANESE ANTIQUES ALSO WANTED.
ANTIQUE AND HIGH QUALITY FIREARMS
 (Premium Prices Paid)

Evaluation Sheet

Samuraisword.com
 P.O. BOX 2641
 La Crosse, WI 54602
 USA
 1(608) 315-0083
E-Mail:
info@samuraisword.com

[Want List](#)



For all Figure's Referred to On This Page, See [Page 3](#)
Please show location of damage or flaws above blade.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Length of Cutting edge? 2. Is cutting edge sharp or dull, where it enters the brass collar? 3. Are there any chips, nicks or cracks and is the point broken? If so, please measure the depth. (See Figure D.) 4. Can heat treating be seen? What is the closest style? (See Figure A.) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Description of fittings: (See Figure B.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Metal cap on either end of handle. B. Ornaments under lacing. C. Color of lacing D. Description of hand guard. E. Color and material scabbard is made of. |
|--|---|

VERY IMPORTANT!

Please include your phone number _____

Please Send Clear Digital images of All Signed & Unsigned Swords.

A verbal description may be necessary for completion of the evaluation. See page two: for dismantling your sword, and page 3 for identifying it.

Identification of swords requires removal of the TSUKA, which may be accomplished by carefully forcing out the single tapered wooden peg (MEKUGI) which fastens it to the tang. The TSUKA may then be slid off the tang, revealing the maker's signature and other identifying marks incised in the metal. The signature often consists of the maker's name, his titles, and place at which the sword was made. The date of manufacture, when shown, is usually found on the other side of the tang. Certain patterns of file marks on the tang are also distinctive, aiding the expert in determining the authenticity and dating of the sword.

Monetary value of the Japanese sword obviously depends upon many factors, such as; age, condition, maker and historical associations, but we can all appreciate the value of any of these swords as magnificent examples of the artistic ability and dedication of the Japanese sword smith.

**HOW TO REMOVE THE HANDLE
AND MAKE RUBBING OF THE INSCRIPTION ON THE TANG.**

DO NOT REMOVE RUST FROM TANG!

Please Send Clear Photos Of All Signed & Unsigned Swords.

(See Fig. C., Page 3) Which is closest?

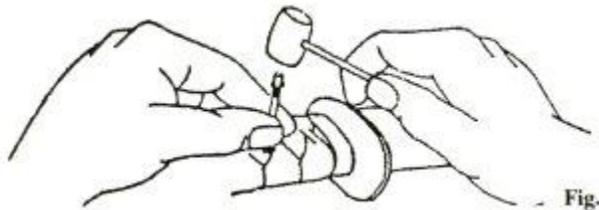
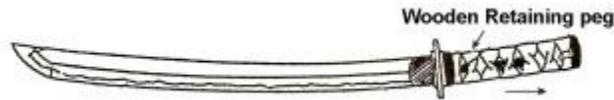


Fig. A

STEP 1-Removal of the retaining peg.

The peg is normally located approximately 1 1/2" from the hand guard and between the lacing crossover. To remove it, simply place a small dirt punch, (brass only), on the small end of the retaining peg, a sharp tap should dislodge it. (Figure A)



Fig. B

Step 2-Removal of handle.

After the removal of the retaining peg has been accomplished, one should grasp the handle with the left hand, (as illustrated). Holding the sword in an upright (point up) position, with the cutting edge away from the body, strike the left wrist area with the right hand. This should loosen the handle and enable it to be easily removed.



Fig. C

Step 3

If the above fails proceed as indicated in Figure C, utilizing a wooden hammer and block, (plastic or Nylon is also accepted), be very careful not to place the drive block on the hand guard itself, it should rest on the spacer. Never use a metal hammer or place the blade in a vice, this will in all probability ruin your sword. (An expensive lesson)

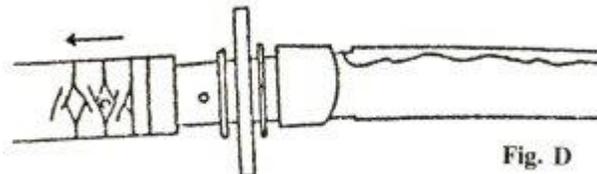


Fig. D

Step 4

Now that the handle has been removed, proceed with the removal of the hand guard and collar (figure D). They slide off in the same direction as did the handle.



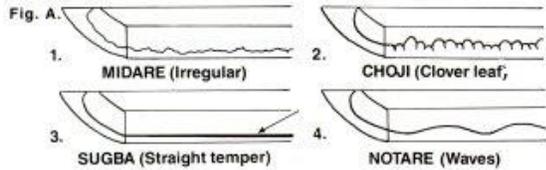
Step 5

Take digital images of the blade and tang area (whether you see an inscription or not). If necessary see page 4 for rubbings.

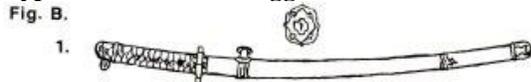
Thank You for your time and trouble, we will return, free of charge, all discernible information about your sword to you upon receipt of this paper.

P.S. A clear photograph would be most helpful. (Please, do not send videos.) **All offerings will be held in the strictest confidence.** Recommended reading material: Official Price guide to Military Collectables (published by Random House), The Art s of the Japanese Sword (by B. W. Robinson).

Hamon (heat-treated) basic styles

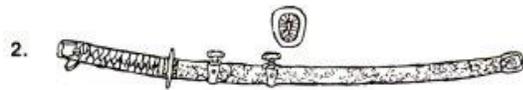


Types of swords and daggers



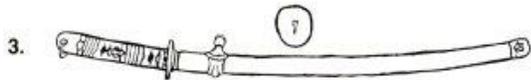
Army Officers Katana

The Saya (scabbard) is usually painted olive drab in color. This type is also found with leather covered wood Saya. 50% chance for an old blade. Do not confuse the all metal handled N. C. O. type that has a serial numbered blade.



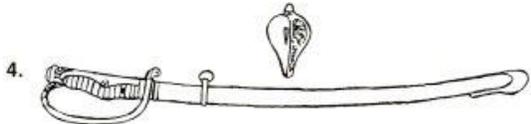
Naval Officer's Model

The Navy sword is actually a copy of an Old Tachi. It can be easily identified by its SA-ME (occasionally simulated) covered Saya and two hangers. The location of Mons (crests) are the same as the Army sword. This type is also found with a leather covered wood Saya. 40% chance for an old blade.



Marine officer's type

The main distinguishing points of this type are its Helmet designed caps (Kahria Kojuri). Its Saya is normally composed of brown lacquer over wood. 20% chance for an old blade.

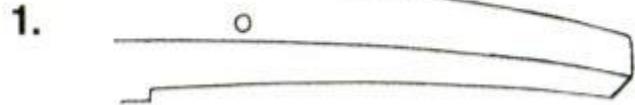


Army Officers Sword (Russo-Japanese War)

This sword comes in both Army and Navy models. The Tsukas (handles) are basically the same. There are also two sizes - Large (Katana blade), approximate handle length 10", Small (Wakizashi blade), approximate handle size 6". Both have visible Mekugi's (retaining pegs). Do NOT confuse it with Parade or Police sabers (smaller handles, no Mekugi, dull blade). Swords in this type mounting carry old blades most of the time, and should never be passed over without a close examination. 95% chance for an old blade.



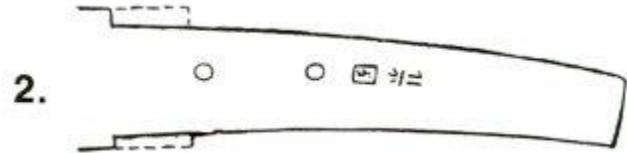
The blade in a Shira Saya (storage scabbard) should always be checked very closely. Most blades found in this type of mounting are very good quality, and could be valuable. The Shira Saya will resemble a plain white wood cane, its purpose however, is to protect a blade prized too highly to be used in battle.



Ubu, Nakago, Mu-Mei

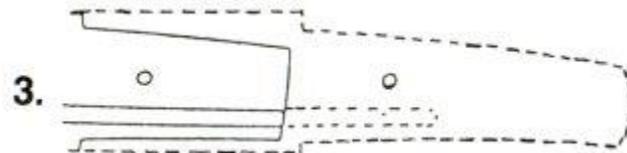
(virgin, tang, unsigned)

There is normally a good reason for Ubu Nakago being unsigned, 90% of the time the blade either turned out with Kizu or it was a mass production blade. At any rate use caution in buying an unsigned sword with an Ubu Nakago.



Machi-Okuri

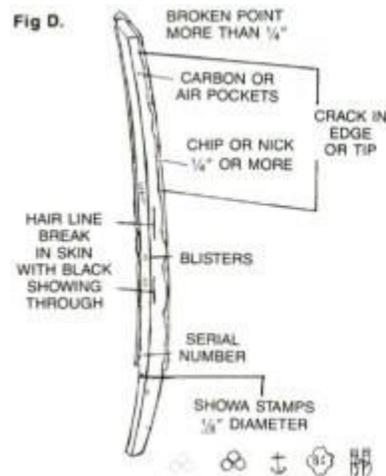
(none of the original Nakago remaining) Note that when HI (grooves), are present that they go in the entire length of the tang.



O-Suriage

All of the original Nakago remains, only the Machi has been filed forward and a new Mekugi Ana (hole for the peg), has been added. The signature should be in the proximity of the original hole.

Undesirable Blade Characteristics



Ink stone method: In this method you use a black ink stone rubbed on a piece of rice paper. The rice (mulberry) paper can be found in many bookstores that carry Japanese books or art stores that carry a variety of papers in the US. Place the sword flat and securely on a table (Weight down with heavy book). On top of the nakago (tang) place the rice paper. Use the ink stone to gently rub on top of the paper. The impressions of the signature will show up on the paper as light spaces surrounded by ink. You can try rubbing a pencil (such as a carpenter's pencil) on top of a sheet of typing paper. This works but not as well.

Carbon paper method: In this method you use carbon paper, typing paper and a dowel. Place the carbon paper on the sword's nakago (tang) carbon-side up, then place the typing paper on top. Round the end of the dowel. Use the rounded end of the dowel to gently rub on the paper. Remove handle, wipe signature (inscription) area of tang clean with a towel or cloth. Rub carbon paper firmly and evenly over tang apply scratch tape (Wide) to tang, smooth out wrinkles. Remove tape and apply to plain white piece of paper.

Pressure-sensitive paper method: We no longer provide pressure-sensitive paper. This paper is very costly so we ask if you please provide us with digital images.

Photographic method: You can use a camera and photograph the NAKAGO (tang of the sword). If you need to add contrast to the characters try rubbing some white chalk into the characters and then photograph. You will have to adjust the light so that the signature is visible. When you are finished remove the chalk with a dry toothbrush. Do not disturb the rust on the NAKAGO. The black and red rust help identify the age of the blade.

Smoking and tape method: In this method you use the soot from a candle, Scotch Magic tape, and white typing paper. Light the candle and let it burn until you have a nice long flame. Wrap the sword blade in a towel or chamois. While holding the sword blade wrapped in chamois or cloth, and above the candle, pass the very top of the candle (the coolest part of the flame) across the signature to soot the area. Take care to not heat up the blade. The blade should never get hot enough so that you cannot hold onto the tang without burning yourself. After sooting the signature, put the sword flat and securely on the table. Take off a strip of Scotch Magic tape and careful place on tang. For most tangs you will need to overlap the tape two or three times. After the tape is in place on the tang, rub the top of the tape with your fingertip to make the characters show up. Then remove the tape and place on a piece of white paper.

When you are finished, remove the soot first with a dry cloth or tissue. Next wash the tang with a mild soap and rinse. Dry the tang and then remove the cloth on the blade and oil and uchiko the blade. Do not disturb the rust on the nakago. The black and red rust help identify the age of the blade.

For safety reasons, always weight down blade with a heavy book.

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