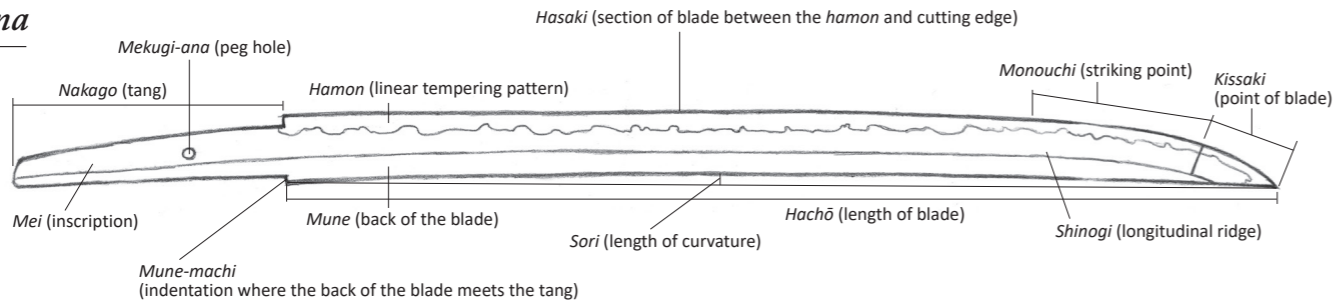
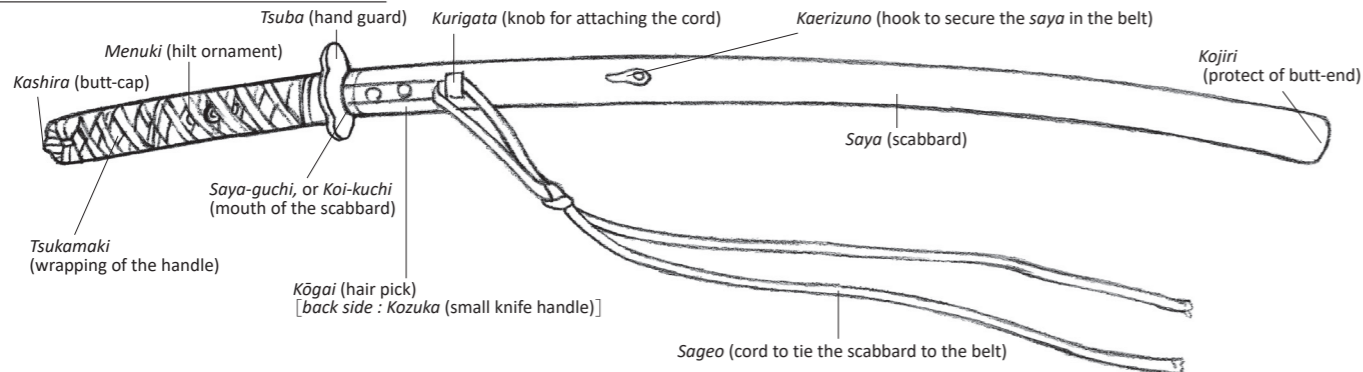


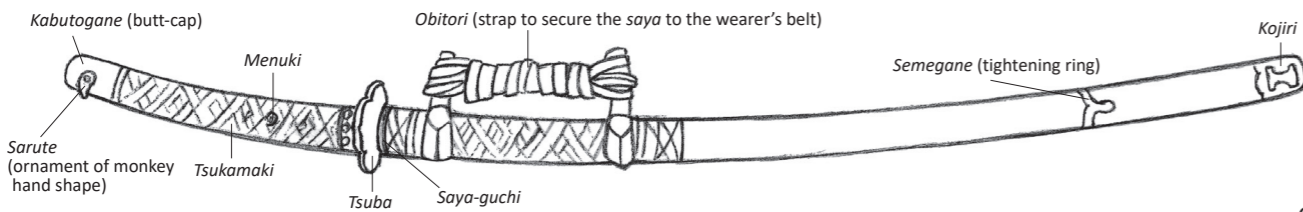
## Katana



## Katana Mounting (Koshirae)



## Tachi Mounting (Koshirae)



## TYPES OF SWORDS

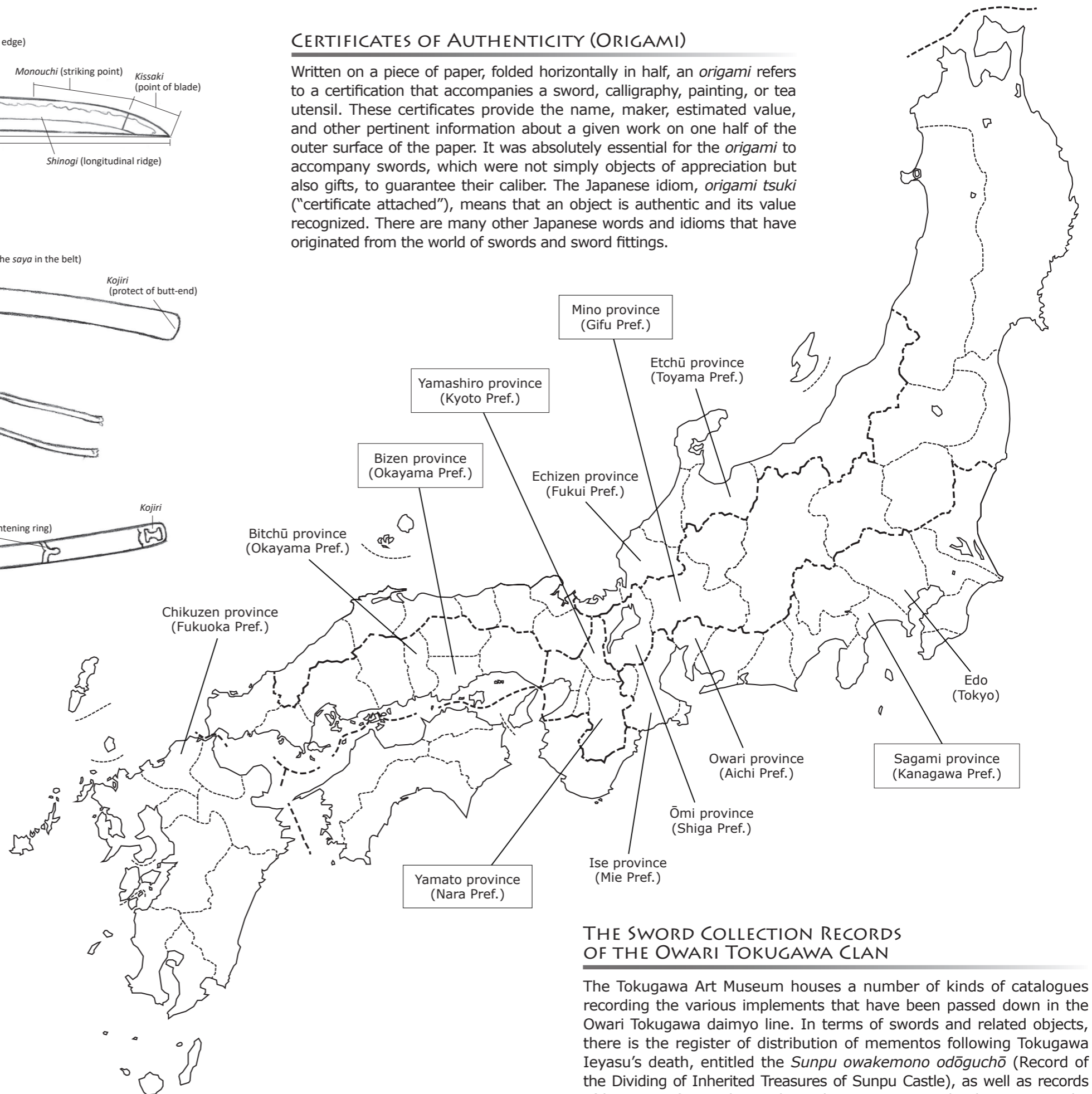
Swords are subdivided according to their formal features and shape. The main types include *tachi*, *katana*, *wakizashi*, and *tantō*. The *tachi*, or long sword, was used primarily from the Heian to the Muromachi period and worn hanging from the hip with the blade facing downwards. In the 17th century, during the Edo period, its function became mainly ceremonial. The *tachi* blade usually measures about 65 to 70 cm in length. The *katana*, or sword, took the place of the *tachi* from the mid-Muromachi to the Edo period. For actual combat, the pre-Muromachi *tachi* was sometimes shortened to a *katana* format. In contrast to the *tachi*, the *katana* was worn tucked into the *kimono* sash with blade facing upwards. Its blade generally measures about 60 cm in length. The shorter *wakizashi*, or "side-inserted" sword, worn together with the *katana*, has blades measuring from 30 to 60 cm in length, while the *tantō* (short sword) blades are about 30 cm long.

## SWORD FITTINGS

The wide variety of outer mounting equipment that accompanies the sword for carrying it is referred to as the *koshirae* (mounting). Of the sword fittings that are used in the *koshirae*, the representative ones are the pommel guard (*tsuba*) and the *mitokoromono*—comprised of a set of three items, the *menuki* (hilt ornaments), *kōgai* (hair dressing ornament), and *kozuka* (small knife handle). A distinction was drawn between those fittings that were made by the Goto family of metalsmiths who served the Edo shogunate, which were considered formal fittings, known as *oie-bori* (carved by "the family"), and anything made by any other metal craftsman, which were called *machi-bori* (carved by townsmen).

## CERTIFICATES OF AUTHENTICITY (ORIGAMI)

Written on a piece of paper, folded horizontally in half, an *origami* refers to a certification that accompanies a sword, calligraphy, painting, or tea utensil. These certificates provide the name, maker, estimated value, and other pertinent information about a given work on one half of the outer surface of the paper. It was absolutely essential for the *origami* to accompany swords, which were not simply objects of appreciation but also gifts, to guarantee their caliber. The Japanese idiom, *origami tsuki* ("certificate attached"), means that an object is authentic and its value recognized. There are many other Japanese words and idioms that have originated from the world of swords and sword fittings.



## THE SWORD COLLECTION RECORDS OF THE OWARI TOKUGAWA CLAN

The Tokugawa Art Museum houses a number of kinds of catalogues recording the various implements that have been passed down in the Owari Tokugawa daimyo line. In terms of swords and related objects, there is the register of distribution of mementos following Tokugawa Ieyasu's death, entitled the *Sunpu owakemono odōguchō* (Record of the Dividing of Inherited Treasures of Sunpu Castle), as well as records of bequests, financial records, and inspection records, documenting the transfer of items from first-generation daimyo Yoshinao onward. Through these materials, it is possible to research the provenance of various items that have come into and out of the family collection.