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Dotanuki

A thing that appeals to many is that the Japanese sword really knows unlimited variations. So even while we leave the sword mounting out of the picture and purely look at the steel we will see micro details in the steels structure, signatures of polishes and of course variations in curve, length, width and thickness.
All these physical feats will determine a swords' character and the balance of a sword can create the idea of an evil sword that seeks blood, or a neutral sword which adopts to its wielder. Will he/she/it be passive/reactive or more active and straightforward.
Martial artists will often describe a sword as a living person: stubborn, friendly, easy-going, aggressive etc etc.

The name Dotanuki will probably ring a bell with some martial artists as it's a popular design with Japanese made iaito. Usually this name is given to swords which are thicker and heavier than usual which seems correct for the most part. The heavy weight and the forward balance are often seen as aggressive and in the case of the Dotanuki, there is an interesting story behind it.

Dotanuki was the name of a small village in Higo province. The Dotanuki school was simply named after the village where the founder Oyama Kozuke no Suke was located. The school became famous for their preference of sober aesthetics but excellent cutting performance. These guys liked big swords and they would not lie ;) Dotanuki signed swords are thick, heavy and scary sharp.
Dotanuki are true combat swords and many of the remaining Dotanuki have dents, chips and

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other scars of war.

Why am I telling you this? Actually it's because the sword in the picture has a massive motohaba (width at habaki) over around 37-38 mm. The itame hada with spots of mokume of this folded Tamahagane steel sword show quite some similarities with original dotanuki. The simple notare hamon and sober appearance make it all more believable.

What do you think? Do you like big dotanuki b?u?t?t?s? swords?

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