

## **Japanese tsubas: basic decorating techniques and terminology**

### **Summary**

The purpose of this article is to systemize the basic terminology of decorating techniques used in the making of tsubas, or hand guards in Japanese swords. Section by section, the author explains the difference between particular techniques as well as the complicated terminology used by manufacturers and researchers. The body of the article is devoted to the openwork, relief, engraving and incrustation techniques. The author also focused on the finishing and working of the surfaces of tsubas. The historical objects presented to illustrate each technique are drawn from the tsuba collection of the National Museum in Krakow, a gift of Feliks Jasiński.