

## Wasan under a Historical Inversion

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**Keywords:** sangaku, wasan, extracurricular activities

During the Edo period (XVII-XIX century) Japan society was politically encapsulated turning itself into social and cultural protected area. Those status cultivated a unique mixture of religion, mathematics and art called wasan (wa=Japanese, san=calculation). The most beautiful wasan manifestation were sangaku (calculating wooden tablet). Nowadays the sangaku heritage is area of interest in Japan and in many other countries but 30 years ago the situation was quite different. Wasan was forgotten for more than a century with some rare exceptions. The revival of studies over wasan refer to Hidetosi Fukagava. However, the Fukagava’s studies most probably would passed unnoticed if the Bulgarian journal *Obuchenieto po matematika* did not started a long term propaganda of the sangaku problems. For more than a decade the sangaku drawings appeared on both front and back cover of the journal provoking Bulgarian teachers to solve the problems and in the same time to ground the rigor mathematics theory of wasan. The breakthrough was the dissertation thesis of Fukagava defended in IMI (the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of Bulgarian Academy of Science). This thesis presented systematically a huge collection of mathematical results which appeared on sangaku. The interest to this particular cultural heritage returns in Japan under the Bulgarian inversion. Two more dissertations were defended in IMI expanding the research of Fukagava and applying modern computer technologies to obtain new sngaku-likely math theorems. The doubled inversion returns the interest in Bulgaria. Sangaku ideas became source for extracurricular activities. The Bulgarian impact to the international dissemination of wasan can be felt by the recently founded international journal dedicated to sangaku-related research.

**Acknowledgements.** This study is partially supported by the Chernorizec Hrabar Educational and Research Program.