

Monument 1 in honor of Dr. Yoshio Mikami

神測妙算

學貫天人

文学博士 佐伯好郎 題書

A man of Rare Deductive Talent, Excellent Calculation Powers, and
Towering Scholarship. Writing by Dr. Yoshiro Saeki



Location: In front of Naka-Machi bus stop

He was born at Kodacho Takata-Gun Hiroshima Prefecture on February 16, 1875.

He was admitted to the Second High School, Tohoku Univ. at present but he left the school after several months due to his eye disease. He had read in mathematics through English or German books, and got wise and profound knowledge from them.

He started to study the history of Japanese mathematics in 1905, and after understanding its prosperity was based on Chinese one, he devoted himself to study the development of Chinese mathematics. In response to the Imperial Academy, he engaged in research on the history of Japanese mathematics and consolidated its foundation.

In 1911, he was admitted to the optional philosophy course, Imperial Univ. of Tokyo and went on to the graduate school of the same Univ.

After he studied the several points of the history, which underlay at the basis of science history and collected materials of Japanese mathematics, he published the book "Japanese mathematics in view of Cultural History." He studied the basic points of Japanese mathematics by the method of cultural history in this book, which is a laborious work and epoch making with respect to the science history of Japan.

In due time, he applied this method to Chinese mathematics and published "The Development of Mathematics in China and Japan: (Chelsea), "Distinction of Chinese Mathematics," "Study of Lives of Hereditary Mathematicians," "The History of Chinese Mathematics," and others.

He was elected as a member of International Science History Committee. He was invited to Tokyo Science College as a lecturer, afterward he was promoted to a professor and taught the history of Japanese and Chinese mathematics. His scholastic energy did not weaken even in his late life. He made exact study of mathematics in the Seki school and published "The Study in the Discovery of Enri" in 1930.

Abstract aspects of the Japanese and Chinese mathematics were scientifically reevaluated by him and he submitted his dissertation, "Achievement in Wasan by Takakazu Seki & Comparison and Relations of arithmetic operation between mathematicians in Osaka and Kyoto and Chinese mathematicians." He was awarded the doctor's degree in science from Tohoku Univ. in 1949.

He sincerely pursued truth, kept lofty spirit, was above riches and fame, stood aloof from secular things and did not compromise with the world. In consequence, he might bear a lot of hardship during wartime. Unfortunately he lost his wife during World War II, what was worse he lost his ancestral farmland by agrarian reform after the war.

He at the age 75, passed away in loneliness at his hometown on December 31, 1950.

Dr. Yoshio Mikami was the most honorable science historian in the world as a Japanese researcher of oriental history of mathematics. His books in his life are unpredictable in the quality and in the number of it. His learning and virtue is glorious in the science history academy. Here we elect this monument to hand his honor down to prosperity.

October 26, 1958

Edited by Dr. Yoemon Yamazaki

Monument 2 in honor of Dr. Yoshio Mikami

我國の數學史は我國に

確乎たる自覺の力を賦與する

山田孝雄筆

The history of Japanese mathematics gives us a firm confidence.

Writing by Takao Yamada



Location: On the premises of Kodachi Elementary School

This title is quoted from his lecture at Osaka in which he said "Because the history of Japanese mathematics had proven the fact that we Japanese have much mathematical talent, we should have firm confidence." I would like to assert that we should make use of it in mathematics education."

Excerpt from the report of the Science Society of Japan

A brief summary of career: at right side of the monument

Born: at Kodachi Village on Feb. 16, 1875

1905 Started to study the history of Japanese mathematics, Wasan

1908 — 1923

Engaged in research on the history of Japanese mathematics in response to the Imperial Academy

1911 Admitted to the optional philosophy course, Imperial Univ. of Tokyo and went on the graduate school of the same Univ.

1929 Elected as a member of International Science History Committee.

1934 Lecturer of Tokyo Science College afterward Professor of the same college.

1949 Awarded the doctor's degree in science from Tohoku Univ.

1950 Passed away on December 3 at a temple, Risoin.

Achievement: at left side of the monument

The development of Mathematics in China and Japan, Leipzig 1913

A History of Japanese Mathematics, Chicago 1914/ in collaboration with David Eugene Smith

Problems of Square Formation in Wasan, 和算之方陣問題

Japanese Mathematics in View of Cultural History, 1947,
文化史上より見たる日本の数学

Achievement in Wasan by Takakazu Seki & Comparison and Relations of arithmetic operation between mathematicians in Osaka and Kyoto and Chinese mathematicians:dissertation,

関孝和の業績と京坂の算家並びに支那の算法との関係及び比較(学位論文)

New Study of Takakazu Seki, 関孝和新研究

The History of Mathematics in the East and the West, 東西数学史

The History of Chinese mathematics, 支那数学史(未刊)

New Study of the History of Japanese Mathematics, 日本数学史の新研究(未刊)

History of Japanese Mathematics

Ryoji Tatsukawa

Excerpt from Preface in the History of Japanese Mathematics, N.DY., Dover 2004 .

Although for nearly a century the greatest mathematical classics of India have been known to western scholars, and several of the more important works of the Arabs for even longer, the mathematics of China and Japan has been closed to all European and American students until very recently. Even now we have not a single translation of a Chinese treatise upon the subject, and it is only within the last dozen years that the contributions of the native Japanese school have become known in the West even by name.

At the second International Congress of Mathematicians, held at Paris in 1900, Professor Fujisawa of the Imperial University of Tokio gave a brief address upon Mathematics of the old Japanese School, and this may be taken as the first contribution to the history of mathematics made by a native of that country in a European language.

The next effort of this kind showed itself in occasional articles by Baron Kikuchi, as in the Nieuw Archief voor Wiskunde, some of which were based upon his contributions in Japanese to one of the scientific journals of Tokio. But the only serious attempt made up to the present time to present a well-ordered history of the subject in a European language is to be found in the very

commendable papers by T. Hayashi, of the Imperial University at Sendai.

The most important of these have appeared in the *Nieuw Archief voor Wiskunde*, and to them the authors are much indebted.

Having made an extensive collection of mathematical manuscripts, early printed works, and early instruments, and having brought together most of the European literature upon the subject and embodied it in a series of lectures for my classes in the history of mathematics, I welcomed the suggestion of Dr. Cams that I join with Mr. Mikami in the preparation of the present work. Mr. Mikami has already made for himself an enviable reputation as an authority upon the *wasan* or native Japanese mathematics, and his contributions to the *Bibliotheca Mathematica* have attracted the attention of western scholars. He has also published, as a volume of the *Abhandlungen zur Geschichte der Mathematik*, a work entitled *Mathematical Papers from the Far East*. Moreover his labors with the learned T. Endo, the greatest of the historians of Japanese mathematics, and his consequent familiarity with the classics of his country, eminently fit him for a work of this nature.

David Eugene Smith's Words in the PREFACE