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DEPARTAMENTO DE MATEMÁTICA

COLÓQUIO

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Falará sobre:

Sangaku – a mathematical tradition in Edo Japan

Resumo. The Japanese people have a custom of dedicating painted votive plaques to shrines or temples, expressing their thanks and offering their prayers. During the Edo period (1603 - 1867), when Japan was almost completely isolated from the western world, mathematicians, professional and amateur alike, dedicated votive tablets (sangaku) on which mathematical problems were written and solved. Most sangaku problems were geometric, usually with beautifully drawn colored figures. Since these tablets were hung in open air, many of them perished. Today, nearly 900 such tablets have survived and are scattered all over Japan. The practice of hanging sangaku tablets in shrines and temples helped popularize wasan (traditional Japanese mathematics) in Edo Japan. These sangaku tablets can be regarded as a form of publication among mathematicians. Moreover, Edo mathematicians used to record interesting mathematical problems from tablets hung in shrines and temples along their travels. It is not uncommon to find the same problem appearing on different tablets from different prefectures. In this lecture, I will give a guided tour of the history of sangaku.

DATA: 11/06/2014 HORÁRIO: 16:00 Hs
LOCAL: Auditório do DM