

1056-C1-382      **Peter N Wong\*** ([pwong@bates.edu](mailto:pwong@bates.edu)), Department of Mathematics, Bates College, Lewiston, ME 04240. *What is sangaku?* Preliminary report.

During the national seclusion (1641-1853) or Sakoku when Japan was isolated from the West, the traditional Japanese mathematics (wasan) flourished. Appearance of sangaku helped popularize wasan. Mathematical votive tablets (sangaku) were hung under the eaves of shinto shrines and buddhist temples. Many of these sangaku were beautifully drawn with geometric figures painted in bright colors. Sangaku can be regarded as a form of publication during the Edo period as well as objects of the Arts. A sangaku dating back to 1885 was recently discovered (June 2009) in a small village in Fukushima prefecture, Japan. In this talk, I will give a pictorial introduction to sangaku and the mathematical problem contained in this recently discovered sangaku. (Received September 03, 2009)