

Memories of Professor Teiji Takagi

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I am particularly sensible of the honor of being given this chance of speaking today at this international meeting on the memories of Professor Takagi, Japanese mathematician who founded the class field theory, as well known to all of you. Personally, he was an unforgettable teacher for me to whom I owe, so to speak, my whole existence as a mathematician. Not only myself, the Japanese community of mathematicians as a whole, owes much to him, I believe. May I remind you that he was born in 1875 and deceased in 1960? I was born in 1906 so that I have a privilege of having lived 54 years on this earth with him, but more precisely I met him for the first time at a class-room at the University of Tokyo when I had 20 years of age. Thus I could share with him more than 30 years in mutual acquaintance, which have left me numerous personal memories, on which I shall touch in the present talk, together with the role of Takagi in the development of mathematics in Japan, a more important subject. But the main theme of my talk of today should be, I believe, to trace how he came to found the class field theory. With this in mind, I have made the following short chronological table of his life. (→ next page)

This table contains only five titles of Takagi's work: three in German, one in French and one in Japanese, the last one is of his talk on Reminiscences and Perspectives, particularly important for the history of the class field theory. Takagi published many other papers and books, many of which only in Japanese, which contributed greatly to the progress of Japanese mathematics. His Collected Papers, gathering all his papers published in European languages, ran into the second edition; the first edition being sold out, the second augmented edition is now on sale at bookstores. It has an appendix containing Iwasawa's "On papers on Takagi in number theory" and if you permit me to mention, also my