

1086-01-1524      **Thomas Preveraud\*** (thomaspreveraud@yahoo.com). *John Farrar's French mathematics textbooks translations for Harvard new curriculum (1818-1824)*.

In the mid-1810s, John Farrar, professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at Harvard College, convinced its president, John T. Kirkland, to give up the old mathematics course strongly influenced by English textbooks or their American versions. Two years later, Farrar published the first part of a new revolutionary teaching plan, An Elementary Treatise on Arithmetic, taken principally from the arithmetic of Lacroix, for the use of his students. From 1818 to 1824, Farrar would achieve the translation from the French of five other parts of his mathematics course, introducing to Harvard, among others, Lacroix's Elements of Algebra (1818), Legendre's Elements of Geometry (1819) and Bézout's First Principles of Differential and Integral Calculus (1824). With Farrar, Harvard led mathematics education in the United States in the 1820s. Our talk will first describe the origins and motivations of Farrar in this important educational change. The comparative analysis between the Farrar's works and the originals will then depict the specificity of his adaptations for American courses. Lastly, with the French textbooks, we'll show how Farrar introduced European continental mathematical content that had never been taught in America partly due to the conservatism of English colleges. (Received September 23, 2012)