

1086-VC-1913 **Richard Stout*** (richard.stout@gordon.edu), Department of Mathematics, Gordon College, Wenham, MA 01984. *Reforming Mathematics at Cambridge: George Peacock and the Tripos Exam.*

Throughout the nineteenth century the Tripos exam played a significant role in mathematics education at Cambridge University. In the early part of the century, mathematics at Cambridge was somewhat stagnant and uninspiring, until the Analytical Society, a student-led group formed in 1812, started the discussion about initiating much needed reform. Among the leaders of that group was the mathematician George Peacock, who went on to have a distinguished career at the university and later served as the Dean of Ely Cathedral. As a young faculty member Peacock realized that changes in the Tripos exam would make a significant contribution toward reforming mathematics at Cambridge and took on the challenge. In this talk we will consider the importance of this exam in Cambridge mathematics, Peacock's role in making changes to the exam, and how his work helped bring about reforms in the British mathematical community. (Received September 24, 2012)