1154-VD-330 **Brittany Anne Carlson*** (bcarl005@ucr.edu). *Mediating Victorian Geometry Anxiety Through Curve Stitching.*

The turbulent mathematical scene of the nineteenth century was ridden with anxieties regarding the crumbling formal axiomatic foundations of Euclidean geometry, which was previously considered a gold standard in mathematics in the early 19th century. Consequently, many anxieties regarding its validity and utilitarian purpose emerged in mathematical and non-mathematical communities alike. To learn Euclidean geometry in this anxiety-ridden climate, geometry required mediation through less-threatening media. In this paper, I assert that everyone ranging from the young men studying geometry for the first time to professionals – including fictional ones such as Sherlock Holmes –mediated geometry anxieties by blurring the boundary between mathematics and art/play with common ephemera, including string, curve-stitching (as popularized by Mary Boole), and cigarette cards. By doing so, not only did people confront their anxieties and learn geometry, but their practices also contributed to the field of mathematical knowledge as a whole, thus turning the geometrically anxious into geometers in their own right. (Received August 31, 2019)