Components of the Early American Mathematics Publication Community.

Although no professional research community emerged in American mathematics until the last quarter of the nineteenth century, a small but active community of academic and non-academic mathematical practitioners published in various journals in the last decades of the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries. This group of writers came from widely varying backgrounds and worked in an array of professions. This paper will focus on who these men were, where they came from, and the sort of mathematics they published. It will also analyze the mathematical content of the three most popular general-science periodicals of the period 1771-1834 (the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Journal of Science and Arts) in an attempt to understand what the publication community deemed important in American mathematics. (Received September 09, 2004)