

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, SS 3A, AMS-MAA Special Session on History of Mathematics, I

1003-01-1352 **Deborah A. Kent*** (dak8x@virginia.edu), Kerchof Hall, P. O. Box 400137, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904. *Benjamin Peirce and The Cambridge Miscellany: Directing a National Mathematical Research Agenda?* Preliminary report.

There were few publications available to aid aspiring mathematicians—who increasingly desired to assert national scientific character—in early nineteenth-century America. Access to European research journals was scarce, and efforts to publish mathematical journals in the United States had generally failed. Most of these attempted publications, like Robert Adrain’s *Mathematical Diary*, printed amateur problems and solutions in the puzzle-journal tradition of Britain’s *Ladies and Gentleman’s Diary*. In 1842, however, Benjamin Peirce assumed editorship of *The Cambridge Miscellany of Mathematics, Physics, and Astronomy*, which he planned to model on Crelle and Liouville’s journals. Peirce and his co-editor, Joseph Lovering, aimed to increase mathematical sophistication in America through the content of *The Cambridge Miscellany*. Although the project only produced four volumes, the material they chose to print indicates what Peirce and Lovering envisioned as fruitful directions for the future of mathematical sciences in America. (Received October 04, 2004)