

1014-01-682 **Deborah Kent*** (deborahk@sfu.ca), Shrum Science Building, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, Canada. *Mathematics as Popular Science: Benjamin Peirce in 19th-Century Boston.*

American scientists throughout the nineteenth century worked to shape institutions and to address the public in ways that would establish an authoritative voice to guide popular thinking about science. As a mathematician in this context, Benjamin Peirce attempted to communicate the wonder of mathematics to a general audience through public lectures that were subsequently discussed in lyceum circles from Boston to Chicago. Peirce hoped that these efforts, in conjunction with his fundraising talks, courtroom testimony, and society memberships, would also convey to the public an understanding of science as a serious enterprise. (Received September 22, 2005)