1067-01-521   **Adrian Rice*** (`arice4@rmc.edu`), Department of Mathematics, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA 23005. *"Splendidly isolated"? Some reflections on the transnationality of 19th-century British mathematics.* Preliminary report.

The phrase "splendid isolation" is often used to describe late 19th-century British foreign policy, which was characterized by a self-imposed aloofness from the affairs of mainland Europe. But could the same words be used to describe much of 19th-century British mathematics? After all, mathematics in 19th-century Britain was typified by a certain insularity with regard to European mathematical developments, and the character and style of British mathematics differed considerably from that produced on the continent. Nevertheless, at the same time many British mathematicians were in touch with both European mathematical developments and European mathematicians, and several of the notable contributions made by British mathematicians during this period were well known on the continent. So was mathematical communication really impeded by the English Channel? To what extent did 19th-century British mathematical developments transcend national boundaries? In this talk, we will examine the extent of British mathematical "isolation" during the 19th century and attempt to reach some estimation of how "splendid" this status really was. (Received September 08, 2010)