

John Mitchell Kemble (1807–57)

A Commemorative Conference
in the Old Combination Room
Trinity College, Cambridge

27–8 July 2007

To J.M.K.

*My hope and heart is with thee – thou wilt be
A latter Luther, and a soldier-priest
To scare church-harpies from the master's feast;
Our dusted velvets have much need of thee:
Thou art no sabbath-drawler of old saws,
Distilled from some worm-cankered homily;
But spurred at heart with fieriest energy
To embattail and to wall about thy cause
With iron-worded proof, hating to hark
The humming of the drowsy pulpit-drone
Half God's good sabbath, while the worn-out clerk
Brow-beats his desk below. Thou from a throne
Mounted in heaven wilt shoot into the dark
Arrows of lightnings. I will stand and mark.*

*Tennyson
1829–30*

Trinity College
Cambridge
July 2007

John Mitchell Kemble (1807–57)

A commemorative conference

The purpose of this event is to bring together a small number of people to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Mitchell Kemble (1807-57), who was an undergraduate at Trinity College in the late 1820s.

There will be a small display of Kemble books and papers, drawn from holdings within Trinity College. The papers will include some of his working notes, from the family archive which in the 1980s was in the possession of Kemble's great-granddaughter, Miss Mary Barham Johnson (1895–1996). We hope that Martin Sharman, Miss Johnson's great-nephew (and Kemble's great-great-great grandson), will be joining us from Brussels.

The meeting will be held in the Old Combination Room, Trinity College, chosen because it has a particular association with Kemble, which will be explained. The OCR is approached from the steps leading up to the Hall in Great Court. Proceedings will start on Friday with a buffet lunch in the Allhusen Room (adjacent to the OCR), at 1 pm, followed by introductory remarks at 2pm.

We are fortunate to have four speakers from the USA: Professor W. C. Lubenow, of the History Faculty, Stockton College of New Jersey, Pomona, NJ, author of *The Cambridge Apostles 1820-1914*; Professor Eric W. Nye, of the Department of English, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, author of various works on Thomas Carlyle and John Sterling; Professor Haruko Momma, of the Department of English, New York University, who has recently completed a 'Companion to the History of the English Language' (Blackwell), and is now working on a book tentatively titled 'Liminal English: a Cultural History of Philology in the Long Nineteenth Century, 1775–1925'; and Professor Robert Bjork, Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University, who has nearly finished his work on the 4th edition of Klaeber's *Beowulf* (Toronto).

In 1827 Kemble won an English Declamation Prize (established by Dr Hooper in 1763), for his disquisition on 'The Effects of the Policy which Overturned the Feudal System in Europe, considered'; and a text not unlike this occurs among Kemble's student notebooks (now in the Law Library of the Library of Congress, Washington DC). In the early evening on Friday, Malcolm Underwood, of St John's College, will re-enact Kemble's prize-winning declamation in the college chapel, where it would have been delivered. The Hooper Declamation Prize is still awarded annually.

The Declamation will be followed by an inspection of the college's memorial to Kemble, currently in D1 Great Court – the marble bust commissioned by a group of Kemble's friends, made by Thomas Woolner RA (1825–92), one of the founder-members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and completed in 1866.

There will be a small dinner in the Allhusen Room, at 7.30 pm, for the speakers and a few others (about 25 people). It will involve smoked salmon, beef Wellington, and crème brûlée with raspberries, plus wine and coffee.

We hope that the conference will lead in the fullness of time to a published volume of essays, exploring different aspects of Kemble's life and work.

Simon Keynes
27 July 2007

Programme

Friday 27 July

1.00 Buffet lunch (Allhusen Room, adjacent to the Old Combination Room)

Session 1 (Old Combination Room)

2.00 *Introduction*, Simon Keynes, Trinity College

2.15 *Kemble at school and at Trinity*, Jonathan Smith, Trinity College Library

2.45 *'With me speculation and action are but one thing': John Mitchell Kemble and the search for recognition and identity*, William Lubenow, Stockton College of New Jersey, Pomona, NJ

3.30 Tea

Session 2 (Old Combination Room)

3.45 *The Spanish Expedition*, Eric Nye, Department of English, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

4.30 *John Mitchell Kemble and Jacob Grimm: Two National Philologists*, Haruko Momma, Department of English, New York University

Special events

5.30 Re-enactment of Kemble's English Declamation 1827, by Malcolm Underwood, St John's College (in the Chapel)

7.00 Thomas Woolner's bust of John Mitchell Kemble (D1 Great Court)

7.30 Kemble Commemorative Dinner (Allhusen Room)

Saturday 28 July

Session 3 (Old Combination Room)

9.00 *Kemble's 'Layamon'*, Richard Dance and Matthias Ammon, Department of ASNC

9.45 *The context of Kemble's 'Beowulf'*, Robert Bjork, Arizona State University

10.15 *Kemble and the 'Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici'*, Simon Keynes, Department of ASNC

10.45 Coffee

Session 4 (Old Combination Room)

11.15 *Kemble on names and runes*, David Parsons, University of Nottingham

12.00 *Kemble's archaeology*, Steven Archer, Trinity College Library

12.45 *Concluding remarks*, Simon Keynes, Trinity College

Items on display in the Old Combination Room

1. [John M. Kemble] A bound volume containing eight pamphlets, at least three of which are from Kemble's library:

- George Phillips, *Versuch einer Darstellung der Geschichte des angelsächsischen Rechts* (Göttingen, 1825). Inscribed by JMK on title-page: 'John M. Kemble, Esq.'

- Benjamin Thorpe, *The Anglo-Saxon Version of the Story of Apollonius of Tyre* (London, 1834). Inscribed by BT: 'To John M. Kemble Esq, Trin. Coll. Cam. with kind regards, from the Editor'.

- Jacob Grimm, *Ueber den altdeutschen Meistergesang* (Göttingen, 1811).

Inscribed by JMK on title-page: 'John M. Kemble, Esq.'

Ex libris G. E. Selby. Inscribed by Prof. Siegbert Praver to Prof. Peter Ganz, 'in remembrance of an auspicious day, and in anticipation of many happy years of working together', 9 March 1972. Given to SDK by David Ganz in 2006, for Trinity College.

2. [John M. Kemble] A bound volume comprising offprints of several of Kemble's published papers, followed by many closely written pages (pp. 1–126), all in Kemble's hand, mainly of philosophical and philological import.

- 'Burial and Cremation', from *Archaeological Journal* 48 (1855)

- *History of the English Language: First, or Anglo-Saxon Period* (Cambridge, 1834)

- *Über die Stammtafel der Westsachsen* (Munich, 1836) [Greenfield and Robinson 1769]

- 'Zur Geschichte der Succession des Hauses Hannover in England' (Hannover, 1855)

- *The Utility of Antiquarian Collections, as throwing Light on the Pre-historic Annals of the European Nations* (Dublin, 1857)

- the philosophical and philological notes cover a variety of subjects, including detailed notes on Grimm, *Deutsche Grammatik* i.571–95 (pp. 69–82), a transcript of the Florentine Glosses in Cotton Vespasian E. vi, made by Kemble on 15 Feb. 1832 (pp. 109–13), and some notes on Old Norse (pp. 123–6), including a note on *Beowulf* (p. 125)

Trinity College Library, Adv. C. 16. 62. Karen Thomson, *Catalogue 14*, no. 49; bought by Professor Christine E. Fell, University of Nottingham; acquired from her Executors by Trinity College, 1999.

3. John M. Kemble, 'Specimens from the Chronicle of England by Lajamon, the monk of Severn, to which is prefixed A grammatical enquiry into our ancient language, especially during its state of transition from A[nglo-]Saxon into English' (1831). Comprising a preface, an introduction, an extended grammar of the English language in its transition between Old English and Middle English, and then the specimens.

Trinity College Library, MS. R.3.64 (James 633c). Inscribed by JMK to his father, and subsequently given to Trinity College by Kemble himself, 'among his other printed books and MSS'. The manuscript 'left' the library for a while in the later nineteenth century, and was not returned until 1903.

4. John M. Kemble, ed., *The Anglo-Saxon Poems of Beowulf, the Travellers Song and the Battle of Finnes-burh* (London: Pickering, 1833). Inscribed by JMK to Trinity College. No. 4 of 100 copies printed. The first edition of *Beowulf* published in England.

Trinity College Library, 212.c.83.1; also 212.c.83.5 (with translation, 1837).

Beowulf was first edited by Grimur Johnson Thorkelin (Copenhagen, 1815). TC Hare 29.315.

5. Benjamin Thorpe, *Analecta Anglo-Saxonica. A selection, in prose and verse, from Anglo-Saxon authors of various ages* (London, 1834). Inscribed by BT: 'J. M. Kemble, Esq., with the Editor's kind regards'. Reviewed by Kemble in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, with disparaging remarks about the Anglo-Saxonists of Oxford University, sparking the 'Anglo-Saxon Controversy' of 1834–5. Inscribed by John Bromwich to Michael Lapidge, 5 October 1981, and by Michael Lapidge to Simon Keynes, 1 October 1999.
6. John M. Kemble, 'On English Præterites', *Philological Museum* 2 (1834), pp. 373–88, also issued separately. Inscribed by JMK: 'Arthur H. Hallam, from his affection[ate] friend. J.M. Kem[ble].'
Given to SDK by Dorothy Whitelock.
7. Notes by John M. Kemble, headed '3 Periods' [1. A.S. period, 5th to XIth cent. 2. Anglo-Norman period, XII–XIV cent. 3. Classical period, XV–XIX cent.], with notes on the Anglo-Saxon period, and on 'the history of Norman cultivation' (i.e. the Norsemen) to the end of the eleventh century. 1 p.
Given to SDK by Mary Barham Johnson.
8. John M. Kemble, *History of the English Language: First, or Anglo-Saxon Period* (Cambridge, 1834). Pamphlet advertising the structure and content of Kemble's course of lectures in Cambridge.
Given to SDK by Dorothy Whitelock.
9. [? Joseph Bosworth, *et al.*] *The Anglo-Saxon Meteor; or Letters, in Defence of Oxford, Treating of the Wonderful Gothic Attainments of John M. Kemble, of Trinity College, Cambridge* [1835]. One of three known copies; this one sent from Oxford to William Whewell, Fellow of Trinity College (Master, 1841–66).
Trinity College Library, 203.c.83.9/10.
10. Transcript by John M. Kemble of part of the Old English Martyrology (ed. Herzfield, p. 40, line 3–p. 122, line 25), from Cambridge, Corpus Christi College MS. 196 (Ker, *Catalogue of Manuscripts containing Anglo-Saxon*, no. 47). 14pp.
Given to SDK by Mary Barham Johnson.
11. Notes by John M. Kemble, made presumably in connection with the compilation of the *Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici* (1839–48). 'Yet to be copied', listing several of the Cotton Charters in the British Museum; etc.
Given to SDK by Mary Barham Johnson.
12. Transcript by John M. Kemble, made presumably in connection with the compilation of the *Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici* (1839–48), of Queen Eadgifu's declaration concerning the history of certain estates in Kent (S 1211). KCD, no. 499, from Lye, *Dictionarium* (1772), Appendix ii (*Chartæ*), no. 4, from Astle MSS (now BL Stowe Charter 28).
Given to SDK by Mary Barham Johnson.
13. John M. Kemble, *Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici*, 6 vols. (1839–48)
SDK

14. John M. Kemble, *The Poetry of the Codex Vercellensis, with an English Translation*, Ælfric Society (London, 1843), bound with John M. Kemble, *The Dialogue of Salomon and Saturnus*, Ælfric Society (London, 1848)
 SDK. Kemble's edition of *Andreas*, from the Vercelli Book; and his edition of *Solomon and Saturn* (Poetic), from CCC 422 and 41, with editions of the 'Proverbs of Alfred' and other texts.
15. John M. Kemble, 'The Names, Surnames, and Nicknames of the Anglo-Saxons', *Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, at Winchester, September, MDCCCXLV* (London, 1846), pp. 81–102
 SDK (ebay July 2007)
16. John M. Kemble, *The Saxons in England* (London, 1849)
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17. John M. Kemble, *Horae Ferales; or, Studies in the Archaeology of the Northern Nations*, ed. R. G. Latham and A. W. Franks (London, 1863)
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18. William Bodham Donne and W. Ll. Birkbeck, 'Kemble Memorial' (1867), a leaflet describing the establishment of a fund for memorials to Kemble in Dublin, where he died, and in Trinity College, with a list of subscribers (and amounts contributed).
 Given to SDK by Mary Barham Johnson. The bust in Trinity was executed by Thomas Woolner (1825–92), and originally stood in the Library. It was rescued from a college basement in 1976, and now stands on a wooden plinth in D1 Great Court.
19. [Photocopies]. 'The Johnson Letters'. Correspondence between JMK and his friend William Bodham Donne (1807–82), from 1827 to 1855; and correspondence between JMK and his daughter Gertrude in 1857.
 These letters form part of an archive which belonged to Catherine Bodham Johnson (née Donne) (JMK's granddaughter), author of *William Bodham Donne and his Friends* (1905), who died in 1967. They passed thereafter to Catherine's daughter Mary Barham Johnson (1895–1996), to Mrs Margaret Sharman (1924–2002), Miss Johnson's niece, and to Martin Sharman. The letters are listed by Raymond A. Wiley, 'Anglo-Saxon Kemble: The Life and Works of John Mitchell Kemble 1807–1857, Philologist, Historian, Archaeologist', *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History* 1 (1979), pp. 165–273, at 264–6; in 1982 they were lent by Miss Johnson to SDK, for photocopying.
20. *William Bodham Donne and his Friends*, ed. Catherine B. Johnson (London, 1905)
 Inscribed 'Mrs Yorke – from her old friend – W. Mowbry Donne, 16 March 1905'. WMD was CBD's paternal uncle (son of William Bodham Donne).
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21. [Photocopies]. Miscellaneous correspondence and papers of John Mitchell Kemble, including:
- Kemble's student notebooks, Trinity College
 Law Library, Library of Congress, Washington DC.
 - A bound volume of letters to John M. Kemble (1827–31)
 Public Library, Dunedin, New Zealand
 - Letters from John M. Kemble to his sister Fanny
 Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington DC
 - Notes on philological, literary and historical subjects
 The Library, Goucher College, Towson, Maryland
 - 'Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici', vol. VII
 Beinecke Library, Yale