**<A>Appendix: Transcriptions of ‘Dr Benjamin Cooke’s Protest’ and Letter from Samuel Arnold to Benjamin Cooke**

**<B>‘Dr Benjamin Cooke’s Protest’**

*<Txt:fullout>Editorial Method*: the document is paginated and copied on one side only, with occasional notes for insertion on the blank verso page of an opening. There is no archival foliation. Original page numbers are indicated bold in square brackets. Original punctuation and capitalization have been retained. Cooke’s insertions into the text are shown with open and closed chevrons. Crossings out are shown with strike through; no attempt has been made to differentiate different methods of crossing out (i.e., an ‘x’; double strike through). Text flanked by asterisks is written on the facing verso page and inserted where indicated by a symbol. Annotations by Henry Cooke are shown with footnotes.

Sr. J. H.’s cane. // Dr. P. Picture // Ac’ Medal. //

Rings. ~~N.~~ M. M. S. Watch.

[rule]

desire the Minutes of the last G. M. may be read.

[rule]

Gents

<Txt:indent>As you sit in the Places of my much Respected and Regretted Friends the deceas’d or dispers’d Members of the ~~Old~~ Academy of Ancient Musick and as you still continue to meet under that Title I shall address you accordingly and consider you as their worthy Successors and Representatives – In so doing <Gents.> if I shd. complain that my old Friends <without just cause have> ~~had~~ Forsaken deserted and abandon’d me, you will please to excuse ~~me~~ <it>, I mean not to reproach any of you personally, my real and true Old friends of this Society are most of them dead <Rings o o o o o {as these memento’s testify}> and <Their Bodies are> buried <in peace> <but their Names and their Persons too live yet in my memory> ~~you~~ <you Gents> are but their mere Representatives, and <not> from any of you individually and severally have I a <~~right & to~~> claim ~~??~~ to Friendship, although, (till of late) collectively <and jointly> as a Body, I flatter’d myself I had – but from you and from ev’ry one I may be permitted to claim Equity and Civility. I have a right to be heard in my own Defence if I am accus’d.

With Permission then, Gents, I beg your Indulgence and attention while I ~~endeavour to~~ make a few **[p. 2]** remarks on the Proceedings of your last General Meeting in respect to myself, and herein I must entreat ~~you to make~~ great allowance <to be made> for my inability of expression; yet I hope to be <understood &> heard without interruption, even if an indiscrete or unguarded word shd. escape me. – It is not my intention to dispute the Right of any collective Body to act as may seem good to themselves, my desire is only to investigate the motive of their proceeding in regard to myself that I may know how far I may have been culpable ~~and~~ <or> deficient, ~~??~~ how far they may have acted without good Reason; and tho I shall finally submit to the Power of Numbers, yet surely the propriety of such Decision is a matter fairly open to Discussion; not that I shd. have undertaken it, had I not been impelld thereto by the necessity <I am under> of making <for the 3d. time> a serious claim to certain MSS. that are <still> withheld from me, ~~??~~ <and> which ~~my~~ are my own property beyond Dispute. I therefore <desire> <~~have a right~~> <~~desire~~> to be heard not only defensively, but ~~I must~~ <~~also~~> ~~?????~~ <~~claim a right to~~> \*I must also beg leave to insist\* insist on a speedy restitution of these <my own compositions> which have been as I may justly say, seiz’d upon ~~and detaind~~ without my knowledge or Consent, and detaind contrary to my inclination after repeated application: \*If this restitution (for which I have already waited near six months,) be much longer delay’d I must have new Copies made for my own use, the expense of which I shall find means to reimburse myself for. – \* In truth, Gent. I **[p. 3]** can affirm that your proceedings have left a very strong impression on my mind, and I do at this instant feel a very keen sensation of the Slights cast on me by the last meeting, the impression perhaps has sunk the deeper because the injury was rec. and communicated to me at a time when I was ill – After having been nurtur’d in this Society, and ~~after having~~ during almost Fifty Years in ~~various~~ <different> capacities ~~after having~~ been uninterruptedly engag’d in labouring to promote its prosperity, and for many of those years, having kept it afloat at a very slender comparative Expence almost without assistance ~~till within these few last years,~~ <~~of late~~> what was it that cou’d thus induce the present moderniz’d race of Members (Gentlemen of liberal Minds,) to concur in superseding and laying aside <me> their ‘Ancient Lyrist’ – No motive or reason having been assign’d renders the transaction doubly vexatious, for it has oblig’d me to recollect and examine in what ~~wh~~ points I may have offended. what is it I have done? what left undone? in what have <I> been found deficient, incapable, assuming ~~??~~ negligent or unwilling, that it shd. cause me to be thus instantaneously, on the ~~un~~ sudden ~~proposition~~ <motion> of some Junior Member, who perhaps may scarcely have contributed two <or three> annual Subscriptions, to be thus ignominiously blackballd as if I had been guilty of some ~~mistake that in~~ <crime> Charit~~y~~ably ~~was ??? kept~~ conceal’d ~~and yet~~ <but ~~which~~> <which> made it necessary immediately to remove and degrade me from that Post ~~which~~ I had so long maintain’d with Credit**?[p. 4]**[[1]](#footnote-1) In ~~I~~ what Respects does my Successor excell me~~?~~ What advantages to any Particular Person, or to the General Body are likely to accrue from my Removal <?> These questions naturally arise <in one’s mind> from this Transaction, for I coud scarcely avoid presuming that by length of time I had acquird an acknowledged ~~right~~ <title> to Preference ~~and in case~~ <so that supposing> a change in the Mode of conduct was necessary and that a Contractor was expedient, either the Offer of that Contract shd. first have been made to me, or else a vacancy shd. have been declar’d ~~in which case I might have had a ????? of becoming a Candidate and making proposal for ???~~ <a reasonable time allow’d> and ~~public~~ <public> Notice given that a Contract was ~~propos’d~~ intended in which case I and ev’ry one else woud <have> had ~~the~~ <an equal> choice of making proposals or not – observe that my Appointment was not of the same kind as the other Performers, theirs was per Night during the Season <only> mine was annual and had remain’d permanent for more than 40 years theirs therefore terminated ~~at~~ <with> a limited number of Nights, but mine, unless ~~warning~~ <notice> was given to the contrary was durable so long as any Society or effects <in the Library> remained, at least in reason it ought so to have been understood, because I have upon this expectation (no warning having been given me) enterd into some <lasting> engagements which I shd. probably not ~~had~~ done but with a view of supporting this Society, and beside the Books ought not consistently with any regard to propriety or Equity to have been transferr’d from one hand to another **[p. 5]**[[2]](#footnote-2) <without> previous Examination of what was ~~given~~ <surrender’d> up and what recd. otherways who is to be accountable for their safe Custody & this was <cautiously> done ~~carefully~~ (and it was, a work of time) when they were put ~~???~~ under my Care in the Year 49. as will appear by the signature <and Dates> ~~of~~ on many of the old covers, ~~????~~ <but> in the present case half ~~or the ?? of the~~ <the> Property may <have been> <or will be> lost, mislaid or convey’d away ~~and~~ without any one’s knowledge, or <without> any one ~~to be~~ <being> responsible, for no body <but myself> knows what the Library did or ought to have contain’d. \*I do reprobate ~~most~~ this Measure most heartily, nor <can> I approve of their present Custody.\* In one of the preceding Committees, (the last at which I was present) a Resolution was made and a Minute ~~of it~~ taken relative to ~~the~~ it’s <then present> state ~~of the Library~~, was this <ever> brought forward at the General Meeting or has it been ~~neglected~~ <conceal’d> for I have not heard that it was rescinded? the late Mr. Thompson has for some years past been the acting Librarian, for the Business encreasd to such a degree that it became impossible for me to execute it, he was therefore appointed Assistant, but I am at this Moment your only legal, tho not your actual Librarian, and I still carry the Key in my Pocket for it has never been recall’d, and so many of the Books have been deriv’d from my honour’d Old Master Dr. Pepusch [symbol for portrait of Pepusch] and from other <Friends> whose Designs in giving them ~~I am w~~ <are well> known to me that I cannot but consider myself as a kind of Trustee in Duty bound to see them properly employ’d and <safely> dispos’d <of,> and I produce these things [symbols for watch, portrait of Pepusch, key, Hawkins’s cane] as tokens of my Authority. \*and I possess many more that are not portable\* ~~And I possess~~ <~~many more~~> ~~divers~~ <~~many more~~> **[p. 6]**

Had more deliberate Counsels prevaild, I shd. probably have declin’d <accepting> what I have been given to understand I ought to receive as an unmerited favour conferr’d upon me in my absence and without my knowledge, I mean the favour of having my name, who had been near 50. years in unmolested Possession, jumbled with ~~another~~ <Dr. Arnolds.> who comparatively was an alien and a stranger, \*~~and thus a Colour was given to the Matter and <at a single snap> I was fairly, or rather unfairly out jostled out of the seat~~ Thus a Colour was given to the matter and at a single snap I was <un>fairly ~~(or rather unfairly)~~ jostled out of the seat\* the Contract was to me an ~~?????~~ <absolute> secret, but I think it improbable that it shd. have been so to him for is <a> Contractor ever nominated and elected before the Conditions of such contract have been settled and agreed on? – This Conduct seems to me very arbitrary – it has however been vindicated ~~to me~~ by asserting, (as some Gentlemen present have done) “that the Old Academy was absolutely dissolved and brought to a final conclusion the present Establishment (say they) is ~~quite ?? in ?????~~ <~~fact~~> <in fact> quite a new Institution”, perhaps I am ready enough to confess that I think this true, but then I must deny that this new Institution ~~has~~ is justly entitled to claim the Books and Instruments – the last are <now> actually in my Possession \*~~They had been removed from your Possession ???? long before they came into mine~~ from your’s they had been remov’d sometime before,\* and are thereby sav’d from perdition, some of them have been so long neglected that they are become little better than Lumber, upon one of them I have bestow’d some expence and <upon another> my Son some trouble in repairing and preserving them, these two were, by **[p. 7]** their owners personally deliver’d into my <own> singular Possession when they quitted the Society more than 30. Years ago, no Memorandum was ever desird or directed to be made, no acknowledgement or Thanks follow’d, ~~the Donation and the Names of the Donors~~ there never existed and ~~thus~~ consequently cannot remain a single trace or memorial of the Transaction except ~~with myself~~ <in my own> Mind, the Names of the Donors <with the Gifts themselves> if they were ever known, have been long since <equally> forgotten; ~~equally with the but they left me~~ <and I was left perfectly at my own Discretion> to interpret their intentions; ~~and~~ I do conceive the Instruments were put into my hands upon trust, for the Benefit of such an Academy as at that time existed and <which> employ’d me to educate young Persons in the Practice of Musick to whom <the use of> these Instruments might be ~~useful~~ beneficial, and this Academy met then (not 8. times in the year but) once evry Week the year throughout and continued so to do for a long course of time, till the expence gradually encreas’d and render’d the Meetings less frequent, but <till within> ~~till~~ the last 7. years there have <never> been <less than> 28. Nights ~~in a~~ <each> Season. Now an Academy similar in many respects to the Old One has met for 6 or 7 years <past> weekly at my own house, where improvement of young Students is a principal consideration, and here I have frequently <~~have~~> entertaind sev’ral of the Elder Members with their old Stile of musick **[p. 8]** Since I have been at the expence of repairing I have at these meetings been us’d to play on one of the Instruments which pleases me, and for that reason I rather wish to have it left in my hands but not for that reason only, but also, because I think it will be thus employ’d more in conformity with Donor’s intention than it wou’d be if left to lie useless in this cold Hall <where I have caught many a severe illness &> where in a short time it will propably [*sic*] drop <to pieces> for want of Care and by Damp; I am however not very anxious on this head for I have a number of Instruments sufficient for my ~~Pur~~ purpose, having inherited sevral [*sic*] of the worthy Mr. Needler’s, who was to the End of his Days a constant and unbounded Benefactor to this old Institution of which he was one of the Prime Members, I cou’d also produce you his Picture was it not too large as ~~also~~ another token of credit, besides things similar from Mr. Shelvocke Mr. Mathias and others my former ~~old~~ <respectable> Friends \* ~~Witness these Memento’s on my Finger~~ \* all members of the Old Academy, not of the Present. ~~One~~ Another of the Instruments ~~????? ??~~ a Gentleman now living has a claim to, it was his Father’s, nay the other Donors may be still surviving for what I know to the contrary; the remainder <~~of them>~~ are before my time[.] I know not how they derive, and had rather return them, but having so long been acquainted with them I retain a kind of charitable affection toward them for which reason only I give them as yet House Room without Fee or Reward **[p. 9]** but cannot afford to do so much longer; I am very willing to part with these, but I must first be properly indemnified from all future claims, and my own MSS. must also be first safely restord me, among which if there appears any ~~that the Society~~ <that> have ~~paid for the copying~~ <been copied at the Societys expence> I will not detain them. <But> When the Instruments are return’d is there <among you> any Subscribing Member, not of the musical Profession who is able and willing to ~~make~~ <~~use~~> ~~of~~ <employ> them for the general Benefit, let such Gentleman step forth and claim ~~them~~ the use of them; I think the same Doctrine might well apply to the Books let some, Gentleman, capable of singing his part ~~by~~ at sight or at least by Notes, stand up as Champion for the whole Body, and maintain their Right. \*This wou’d accord with the original Institution.\* As I have ~~formerly~~ asserted myself to be at this instant your only legal Librarian so I might maintain that I am still your Chapel Master (tho not a Contractor) suspended indeed but not finally excluded, for by the Custom of all well regulated Bodies, the Proceedings of one General Meeting are not conclusive till confirm’d by ~~a~~ <~~another~~> a subsequent one, but this I shall decline doing. ~~as I am equally averse from being either continued or restor’d to my former station. Nor have I the most distant Idea of demanding <or obtaining> any Equivalent for the loss I may have sustaind~~ for want of proper ~~notice <in consequence>~~ **[p. 10]** ~~of this unforeseen and unexpected Event~~ <~~Disappointment~~> as I have not the most distant Idea either of demanding, ~~or~~ obtaining <or accepting from you> any Equivalent for the injury I may possibly sustain by this sudden and unforeseen disappointment, and as I am equally averse from being either continued or restord to my former station – But before I <finally> delare [*sic*] <myself> ~~my formal Resignation~~, let me <be> permitted to ask one or two more questions – Was I exorbitant in my Demands? did I make any new claim for the addional [*sic*] trouble of Rehearsals last year? ~~??~~ did I neglect <or refuse> to attend them, tho much to my own detriment and subjecting me to ~~several~~ <many> petty and humiliating ~~prevocations~~ <circumstances>? \*I have since suspected some of ~~them~~ <these> were contrivances to provoke ~~an immediate~~ <a hasty> Resignation this <perhaps> may be mere Suspicion, at least <it> is not worth notice.\* had I never given <any> pecuniary proofs of attachment to <the> Society? give me leave to explain a little on this head – My ~~first~~ Entrance was in the year 43. under the Sanction of Dr. P. and for the first 7. years Instruction was the most valuable, indeed the whole of my Reward and for this I bow ~~to you~~ in grateful Remembrance of those my worthy Benefactors – this Instruction was counterbalanc’d by my Services in singing – in 49. When Mr. H. (afterward Dr) retird I was promoted ~~in his~~ to a Salary of Ten Pounds per annum as Librarian and Assistant to Dr. P. **[p. 11]** who dy’d in 52. ~~and~~ when I was appointed to succeed him with an additional Stipend of 30. Guineas per Ann. on condition of my ~~find an~~ providing House Room with Fire and Candle when ~~found~~ necessary, which articles in Dr. H. time had been paid for separately, these Agreements as I observ’d before are annual and seem to include a necessity for notice <on both sides> previous to their cessation, as the ~~Care~~ Custody [of] Books must also do at all times. My Salary in the whole was 41. Ten Shillings per Ann: and the Academy met evry Thursday night in the year, the Subscrip – [*sic*] was 2 Guineas – ~~after that~~ Some years after that, Gents, there was a time when my Services were thought to merit an~~d~~ addition, and I did for a few years receive Sixty Pounds annually but I willingly relinquishd the additional 20. when the Finances of the Society requir’d it and till about 7. years ago I continued to receive Forty Guineas only as at first; during all this <Period of> time ~~from the very beginning~~, there had existed an allowance for the Boys distinct from the Salary paid me, which amounted to about 12 Pound per Ann. more, on an Average[.] But in Mr. Madden’s time the State of the Society requiring it <and in consideration of the small number of Performances> I consented for the first time to accept 40. Guineas in full for the whole, and <out of that sum> I still paid the Boys ~~out~~ <the> same as before; and this **[p. 12]** was during the time that Bartleman sung, before any other <Treble> singers were engag’d; and during this same time it is ~~in~~ well known, (tho I believe but few of the present Company are of so long standing) the Concert flourish’d – about 3. years ago Ten Pounds <more> annually was voted me, it was then suppos’d to be a new addition, and <as such it> was stated and declar’d. I thought it at that time immaterial to explain, and therefore <as such I> accepted it ~~as such~~ but from what I now <have> related it will evidently appear to have been no <real> augmentation, it only restor’d to me in part an annual Sum that I had previously for some years relinquish’d – I was moreover for some part of this latter time a Subscribing Member, myself with 3 of <my> near relatives and several of my special Friends, most of whom I believe have since declin’d – I had besides frequently been an <occasional> Contributor by introducing gratuitous and useful Performers, particularly my two Sons constantly for some years. As I had upon former occasions given up part of my reward, so probably in similar Circumstances I might have done it again, but this Gents, you have renderd needless which brings me to the pleasantest part of my Narrative and that is, to return you my ~~hearty~~ <cordial> thanks **[p. 13]** for having thus kindly ~~and generously~~ (tho not designedly) releas’d me from a troublesome (and I must say) of late an ungrateful office; You, Gents, have set me free from that chain which I wanted resolution to break, tho it grew uneasy to me, and for this release I sincerely thank you and chearfully acquiesce in your former Decision, for tho I cannot applaud the means, I heartily rejoice in the Event, and from this Moment tho not before I cease to be an agent of this Society.

The only articles to which an answer is requir’d (for the ~~rest are~~ <rest> Gent are to be answered in your own Bosoms) are

1.st The Return of my MSS.

2.d The ~~ex~~ Instruments, ~~and~~ <with> payment for the Repairs, and indemnity from future claims.

3.d The Repayment of one Guinea advancd for the use of the ~~????~~ Concert.

Let not these Answers be merely verbal and dilatory as they yet have been, for if they are not speedy and within a limited time they will prove totally ineffectual, let them therefore be immediate, as your former proceedings were in respect to my Removal, even <now if possible> before I withdraw **[p. 14]** ~~myself~~, which I shall do instantly and never again meet you in the same capacity.

Gent. I am oblig’d to you for your favourable Attention to my Harangue, I wish you all severally Health and Happiness, & remain, tho not in the strict sense as heretofore, yet still in a more liberal construction, I continue to be

Gents

Your very humble Ser

BC

**<B>Letter from Samuel Arnold to Benjamin Cooke**

<Txt:fullout>*Editorial Method*: the document is not paginated or foliated; editorial page numbers are indicated bold in square brackets. Original punctuation and capitalization have been retained. Arnold’s insertions into the text are shown with open and closed chevrons. Crossings out are shown with strike through. Annotations by Benjamin Cooke are shown in footnotes. Underlinings are those of Henry Cooke. An attempt has been made to differentiate light underlining, dark underlining and double underlining (there is some subjectivity in interpretation particularly of the first two types). H. Cooke’s text annotations are shown in curly brackets and in footnotes.

20 May. 1790

Sir

By a letter which you wrote some time ago to Mr. Primatt, & a conversation you lately had with Mr. Dupuis in Tottenham St. I find you have entertained an unjust and unwarrantable opinion of me, & of my character. {!!!}

Amongst other things I find you alledge[[3]](#footnote-3) that I withhold from you your properties, namely, some Anthems of your Composition which you say where[[4]](#footnote-4) in the Library belonging to the Academy of Ancient Musick – The instant I read this ascertion in the Letter you sent to Mr. Primatt, I wrote to Dorion in these words “I know not what Dr. Cookes property is in the Library of the Academy, I [*sic*] nor have I ever seen his Anthems – but do you go instantly to him, find out what they are, look them out, and return them as soon as possible to Dr. Cooke, and **[p. 2]** be sure that you show him this letter &c, and further, if you cannot find his Musick tell him, he is welcome to go himself & ~~and~~ look for them.” .’ {!!! !!! !!!}

I must also add, which I do upon my honour, that I have never had, even a key of the Library.[[5]](#footnote-5)

But I fancy {!} your resentment to me, Doctor Cooke, goes a little further than your Idea of my keeping my[[6]](#footnote-6) property from you (which property I once more repeat I never saw {!}& consequently know nothing of.) {!!}

You are angry because you did not preside as conductor of the Academy last year – if you are not acquainted with the facts as far as relates to myself, it is proper for me to state it, and leave you to reflect, {!!!} whether you, or I, have behaved in an ungentleman like manner. {!!! H Cooke} **[p. 3]** Previous to their last concerts, the morning after there was a general meeting of the Subscribers,{!} Mess. Primatt & Street called on me in the Strand, & informed me, “that in consequence of the late bad management of that Society, being left much in debt <&c> the Subscribers had thought fit to dissolve the Academy and that in order to begin[[7]](#footnote-7) di novo, they were determined to put the conduct of it into ~~the~~ a professional persons hands. That the names of Three gentlemen {!} had been nominated, that Two persons had voted for Dr Cooke, and all the rest for me – they were then about to make a proposal to me, which I rejected untill they had been with you, acquainting you with the circumstance, and acquitting me, of any unhandsome behaviour towards you -- The Gentlemen[[8]](#footnote-8) instantly went to you, and finding you was in a fit of the gout, they communicated their business to your son Mr R. Cooke[[9]](#footnote-9), and on their return to me, I felt myself justified in treating & closing with them.**[p. 4]** After which I took the first op[p]ortunity of calling on you, willing to shew you every attention in my power, requesting the attendance of the Abbey Boys at the Academy, offering the same terms that you had for many years[[10]](#footnote-10) received for them (altho your personal attendance was not required) as you was still confined, I left the message with your son, who calling on me the next day, left word with some of my people that the answer was NO! {!!! !!! !!!}

This is a true statement of facts, which I defy any person[[11]](#footnote-11) upon earth to contrevert. It then remains for you cooly to reflect whether you can be justified in harboring[[12]](#footnote-12) such unjust ideas of me, respecting my conduct towards you, or whether it will be proper in future to traduce my character merely because you think the late Subscribers <with me> to the Academy of Ancient Musick have treated you ill. I am Sir,

Your Humble Servant &c

{You are an ass H Cooke}

480 Strand

Arnold

1. On blank verso opposite p. 4: The Academy of Ancient Music ~~D~~~~r~~ ~~Arnold ??~~ existed under the management of Dr Pepusch & Dr Cooke 80 years. (i.e., 1710 to 1790) under di novo Dr Arnold 4 years !!! H. Cooke. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. On blank verso opposite p. 5: they were all stolen !!!. at last. H. Cooke & sold many of them by auction. (at Williams &c sale); lower on the page a receipt is pasted on ‘Mr. Patria paid one night at Academy of Musick July 9. 1789 G. Patria.’ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Annotated H. Cooke: ‘~~allege~~’. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Annotated H. Cooke: ‘were’. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Annotated B. Cooke: ‘No books return’d at this time when the Letter was written’. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Annotated B. Cooke: ‘your’. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Annotated B. Cooke: ‘this is denied by the Body’. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Annotated B. Cooke: ‘Dr. Ar: was sent for to the Meeting and it was instantly settled’. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Annotated H. Cooke on the facing page: ‘No. H Cooke’. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Annotated B. Cooke: ‘no terms offerrd at all’. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Annotated H. Cooke: ‘it wants none’. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Annotated H. Cooke: ‘certainly’. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)