

Cruikshank, George, artist. Mr. Kean as Timon. J. Alais, printmaker. London: J. Roach, 1816. Folger Art File K24.4 no.93

Edmund Kean, who rose to fame on the English stage in the early nineteenth century, was a volatile and bombastic actor whose popularity evinces England's changing tastes in actors. Kean's passionate performances overshadowed the stately and genteel ones given by John Philip Kemble, his late eighteenth-century predecessor in fame. Kean's acting style was well-suited to Timon's eventual despair and fury.