

1154-01-356

June Barrow-Green* (june.barrow-green@open.ac.uk), School of Mathematics & Statistics, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, United Kingdom. “*A Senior Wrangler among Senior Wranglers*”: *the mathematical education of Robert Leslie Ellis*. Preliminary report.

Robert Leslie Ellis (1817–1851) was one of the most intriguing and wide-ranging intellectual figures of early Victorian Britain, his contributions ranging from advanced mathematical analysis to profound commentaries on philosophy and classics. His mathematical education began at home in Bath under the tutelage of Thomas Stephens Davies, later a mathematical master at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. At the age of 17, Ellis left home to prepare for Cambridge with the astronomer James Challis but his health broke down and his stay with Challis was cut short. After two further years at home he eventually went up to Cambridge in 1836 where he came under the guidance of George Peacock. Tutored in his third year by the famous coach William Hopkins, Ellis graduated as Senior Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos of 1840. In this talk I shall examine Ellis’s route to success in the Mathematical Tripos and consider to what extent he succeeded because of the Cambridge system or in spite of it. (Received September 02, 2019)