

NOTE ON THE TEXTS

This book has three aims: to encourage further exploration of the writings of Charles Darwin; to offer the complete text of his most engaging work, the autobiographical *Recollections*, in a reliable text as free as possible from editorial intervention; and finally, to encourage an understanding of Darwin's works informed by their reception, especially in a global context.

As the focus is on Darwin as a public figure, in dealing with writings published during his lifetime I have chosen those editions in which his work first reached a wide audience. Wherever possible I have included complete chapters, unabridged except for the omission of Darwin's notes. All passages omitted from the text have been briefly summarized in passages marked off with square brackets.

The chapters from the *Journal of Researches* are taken from the first issue of the second edition of his *Beagle* book, entitled *Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited during the voyage of H.M.S. Beagle Round the World, under the Command of Capt. Fitz Roy, R.N.* (London: John Murray, 1845). This included important new material that reflected Darwin's still largely secret views on the transmutation of species. (Darwin's preface to the 1845 edition, which thanked his shipmates and listed the voyage publications, is here omitted.) The selections from *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (London: John Murray, 1859) and *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex*, 2 vols. (London: John Murray, 1871) are from the first issue first editions. The review extracts and letters are taken from the sources as indicated; where possible these are from the first printings (e.g. in newspapers and periodicals) rather than later reissues. Ellipses (. . .) in these ancillary texts are the editor's; those in the texts by Darwin are his own.

The text of the *Recollections of the Development of my Mind and Character* is complete, unabridged, and edited for the first time to the standards of modern scholarship. For the past fifty years, the standard text has remained Nora Barlow's pioneering edition of 1958, which regularized spelling, expanded abbreviations, italicized titles,

and made other changes that tend to reduce the informality and immediacy of a document which Darwin wrote without thought of style. The aim here is to provide an accurate and complete transcription of Darwin's final text. For the first time in any edition of the *Recollections*, all original spellings, abbreviations, and underlinings have been preserved, following the conventions of *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*. Unlike the *Correspondence*, however, no attempt has been made to record systematically in textual notes evidence of the process of composition, although the more substantial of Darwin's later additions have been noted. The text has been established by Anne Secord from the original manuscript (DAR 26) in Cambridge University Library (henceforth CUL).

The *Recollections* were first published in an expurgated form in Francis Darwin (ed.), *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin, including an Autobiographical Chapter*, 3 vols. (London: John Murray, 1887), i. 11–20, 21–2, 26–107, 307–13. Significant passages, especially on religion, were left out and first became available in Nora Barlow's edition. As the cut-down version was crucial in establishing Darwin's reputation for over seventy years, the major omissions in the *Life and Letters* abridgement have been here signalled in endnotes.

The autobiographical fragment of 1838 was first published in *More Letters of Charles Darwin*, ed. Francis Darwin and Alfred C. Seward, 2 vols. (London: John Murray, 1903), i. 1–5. The version here is reproduced by permission, and is from *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*, ed. Frederick Burkhardt et al., ii (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), 438–42, based on a fresh transcription from the manuscript (DAR 91: 56–62). The extensive records of Darwin's alterations and annotations have not been reproduced here.