

PREFACE

This volume is about the life, work and intellectual legacies of Charles Darwin. The aim is to provide an accessible and up-to-date guide to Darwin and his influence. As we explain more fully in the Introduction, we have tried to meet the needs and interests of a wide range of readers. In keeping with the *Cambridge Companion* series, however, the emphasis is on Darwin as a thinker and on Darwinian themes within philosophy.

It gives us great pleasure to express our warmest thanks to our own editor at Cambridge University Press, Hilary Gaskin. We have been indebted throughout to her guidance and encouragement. Our gratitude is likewise profound to the contributing authors who have joined in the project and seen it through to completion. We appreciate especially their congenial, expert participation and their willingness to adapt their presentations to the distinctive demands of a collaborative volume. Our thanks go also to James Sumner for providing an exemplary index.

This second edition retains all of the first edition chapters while adding two that are new: one by Simon Blackburn and one by the editors. Changes have been made to the Introduction, the Guide to Further Reading and the List of References. Some contributors to the first edition have taken the opportunity to amend their texts. We are very grateful to Hilary Gaskin, the contributing authors and our assistant Chris Renwick for all they have done to make this revised *Cambridge Companion* volume possible in the Darwin bicentennial year.

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