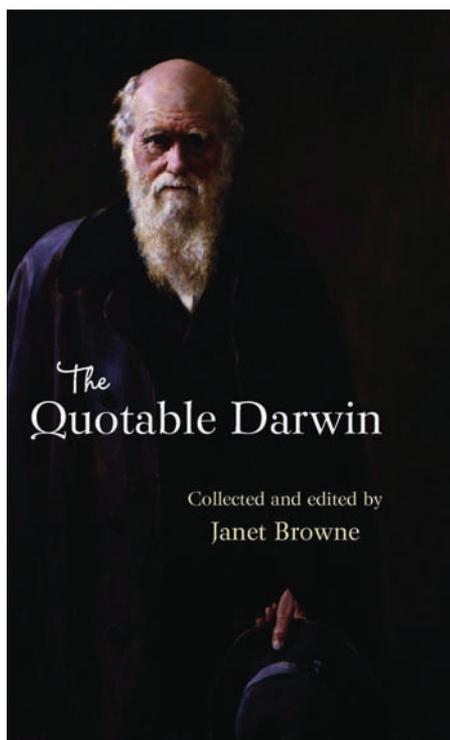


EVOLUTION SPECIAL EDITION

Editor's Note: For our special issue on Evolution commemorating the birth month of Charles Darwin, this column features several recent publications centered on evolution, Darwin, and related topics.



A DEEPER PERSPECTIVE ON DARWIN

The Quotable Darwin. Collected and edited by Janet Browne. 2018. Princeton University Press. (ISBN 9780691169354). 348 pp. Hardcover, \$24.95.

This book is an essential addition to the collection of any person who studies evolution or takes an interest in the history of evolutionary study or Darwin himself. A somewhat small and

pleasantly unassuming text, it represents the life of Darwin through his own words, from writings, publications, correspondences, and other sources. Following him from the earliest days of his life to his explorations on the *Beagle* and through his later years in research and the synthesis of his positions, Browne has captured the essence of Darwin in a way that few besides hardcore Darwin scholars could.

Appropriate for scholar and casual reader alike, the book presents Darwin in all his many roles – young man, student, family man, adept scholar, and conscientious thinker. While many of us speculate about Darwin's thinking from an exterior perspective, he comes to life in these pages as we view his concerns, troubles, joys, excitement, and considerations of science through his own lens.

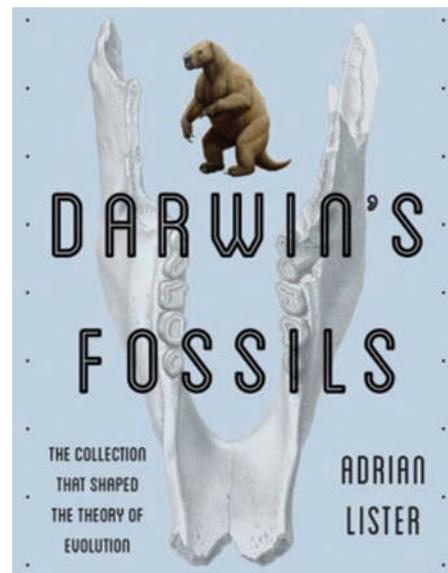
The structure of the book itself is useful, gathering the chapters into six sections: “Early Life and Voyage of the *Beagle*,” “Marriage and Scientific Work,” “Origin of Species,” “Mankind,” “On Himself,” and “Friends and Family.” Each section contains a number of subdivided chapters that address contributing elements to those areas of his life. I personally found this layout to be both easy to navigate and useful, in that I have read through the book as a whole but also have moments when I like to peruse specific sections, according to my thoughts that day or my preparations for class. The format lends itself equally well to either approach.



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DARWIN'S SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Darwin's Fossils: The Collection That Shaped the Theory of Evolution. By Adrian Lister. 2018.



Smithsonian Books. (ISBN 978-1588346179). 160 pp. Softcover, \$19.95.

Adrian Lister's new book offers an excellent account of the thrust of scientific discovery as it developed within Darwin during his formative years, complete with ample and detailed photographs and artwork of fossil specimens collected by the eminent scientist during the voyage of the *Beagle*. These fossils, collected over a span of five years, were pivotal in the argument for natural selection and the writing of *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (Darwin, 1859). Lister also offers insight into the process and the adventure of scientific thinking and discovery.

In the chapter “The Making of a Naturalist,” the reader learns about the training Darwin received that led to his position aboard the *Beagle*. Upon arrival in South America, he set upon a series of excursions focused on geological inquiry and fossil collection. The book's detailed maps of the *Beagle's* voyage are magnificent, and the photographs of Darwin's colleagues and mentors are crisp.