

9-2000

The Other Darwin

Philip A. Metzger
Lehigh University

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Recommended Citation

Metzger, Philip A., "The Other Darwin" (2000). *Flyer: A Special Collections Newsletter*. 14.
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No. 14 • September 2000

Lehigh University
Information Resources

Special Collections Flyer

The Other Darwin

The biologist and naturalist Charles Darwin (1809–1882) is known for the most part for three books: his youthful and seminal report on *The Voyage of the Beagle* (1839), and



From *The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication*

two towering works of modern science, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1858) and *The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex* (1871).

First and other early editions of these works, as well as nearly everything else Darwin published,

including a proof copy of *On the Origin of Species* with corrections in his own hand, can be consulted in Special Collections.

Darwin was born into a leading English professional

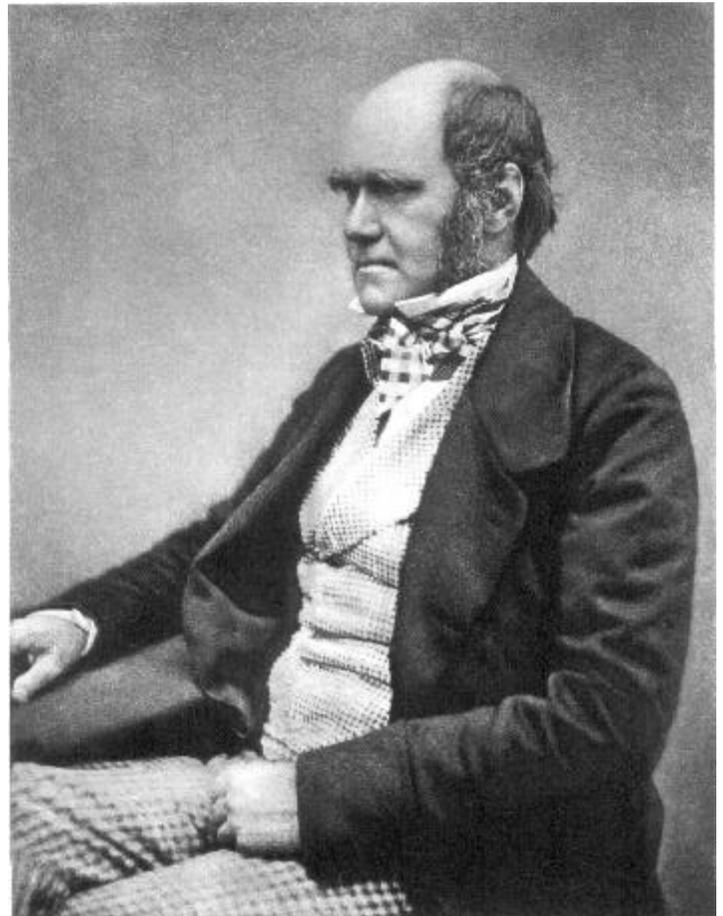
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upper-class family. Both his father and grandfather were physicians, and Darwin managed to disappoint the family by showing no interest in medicine.

Although a mediocre student, he evinced early on a keen interest in collecting natural specimens and in performing chemical experiments, activities which his public school teachers made every effort to discourage. Two years' study of medicine at the University of Edinburgh confirmed his dislike of the subject, although it brought him into contact with zoologist Robert Grant and geologist Robert Jameson, who encouraged his interest in natural science.

Sent to study divinity at the University of Cambridge, Darwin soon found himself a member of its circle of natural scientists. These experiences and contacts led, despite initial family objections, to his appointment in 1831 as a naturalist on board the *Beagle*. The rest, as they say, is history.

The prominence of his major works tends to obscure



Darwin in 1853

the fact that Darwin published many other books on a variety of topics in biology.

His earliest publication after the report on his

Citak, Special Collections Assistant. Reading room hours are Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Telephone: (610) 758-4506; fax (610) 758-6091; e-mail: inspc@lehigh.edu