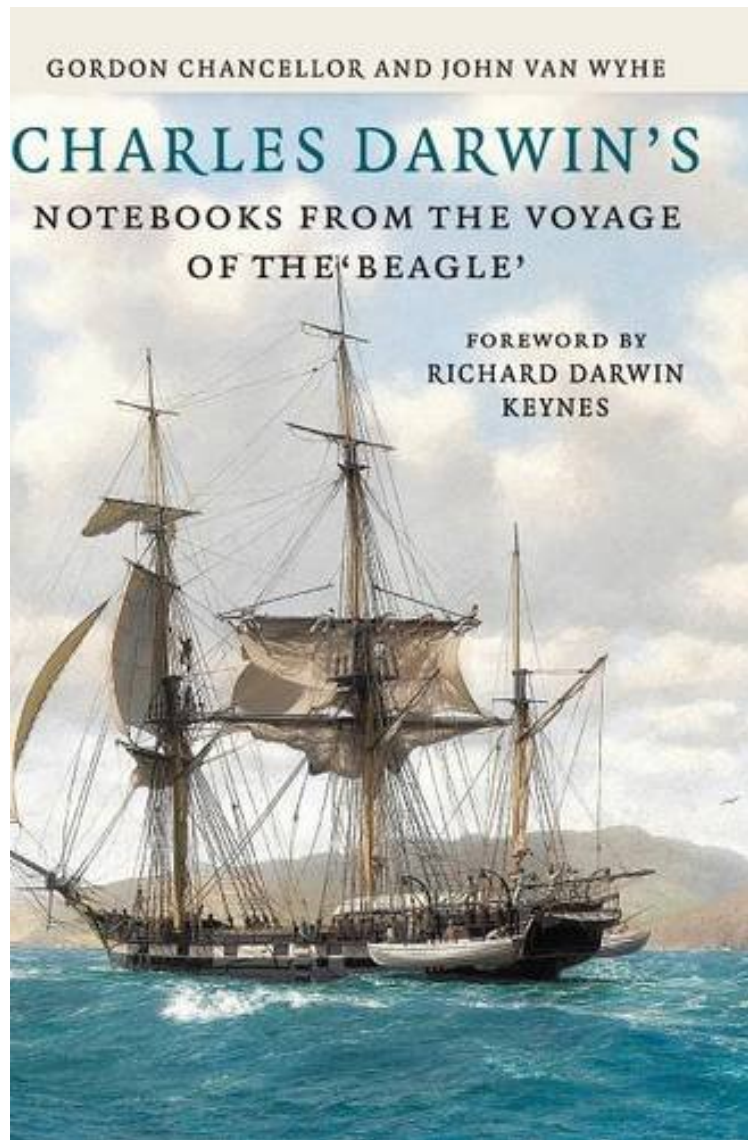


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Charles Darwin's Notebooks from the Voyage of the Beagle

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From Brand: Cambridge University Press : Charles Darwin's Notebooks from the Voyage of the Beagle before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charles Darwin's Notebooks from the Voyage of the Beagle:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The greatest discovery By Carl If your looking for more than just written stories on Darwin's adventure and want to get to the source, this is the ultimate book for any history buff or any one wanting to know how Darwin came up with his evidence for evolution. All the notebooks from his voyage has

been deciphered and explained and gone over to make it accessible to the general public. Well done by the researcher's including Darwin's descendent to go over and research this very important scientific voyage that has made us think of how we and all species on this planet have evolved through the natural process of evolution.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Another Darwin Gap Filled By Ronald H. Clark With this volume, we finally have the complete publication of all 15 field notebooks Darwin used on his historical Beagle voyage. These notebooks should not be confused with Darwin's published diaries of the voyage (in his autobiographies) or his "Journal of Researches" published in 1839. These are the actual notebooks Darwin used on the sea and on land, into which he wrote his impressions, data, interviews and suggestions for further research. This handsome volume (in library-tough binding) from Cambridge University Press is the result of 30 years of the editors working with Darwinian materials. Each of the 15 notebooks has its own introduction, and there are frequent photoduplications of notebook pages as well as other abundant illustrations throughout. There are all sorts of helpful aids included, for example diagram showing at which point in time each notebook was in use. Some helpful charts and maps used by Darwin and the crew also make an appearance. A foreword by Richard Darwin Keynes (a great-grandson), editor of Darwin's "Beagle Diary," opens the volume, followed by an excellent Introduction by the two editors. From these essays we learn some interesting background facts: Darwin considered himself primarily a geologist on the trip; 33% of the entries were made while on land; we learn about the history and physical configuration of the notebooks via reproductions and pictures; and how the use of the notebooks changed during the course of the voyage. Since so much of Darwin's writing and writing about him spring from these sources, it is interesting to peek into them and see the original entries. The editors describe some of the challenges of working with the material, noting for example that Darwin wrote many of the entries on horseback or while moving around on foot--so penmanship is not of the highest quality. The authors have added other helpful touches: frequent annotations place Darwin's notebook entries into context; an extensive "Chronological Register" pins down where Darwin was at any point during the voyage; "Expedition Equipment" is addressed in another essay; and a fine bibliography and extensive index round out the volume. All told, the book runs some 600 pages of the finest typography and paper, with numerous illustrations and photoduplications; something to be considered given the high price of the book. One can only stand in amazement when reviewing the inexhaustible thoroughness of the entries--nothing missed Darwin's eye and his pen apparently. We are just plain fortunate that this outstanding volume has appeared with its potential to enhance ever further our understanding of this most unique individual during his bicentennial year.

This is the first full edition of the notebooks used by Darwin during his epic voyage in the Beagle. It contains transcriptions of all fifteen notebooks, which now survive as some of the most precious documents in the history of science. The notebooks record the entire range of Darwin's interests and activities during the Beagle journey, with observations on geology, zoology, botany, ecology, barometer and thermometer readings, ethnography, anthropology, archaeology and linguistics, along with maps, drawings, financial records, shopping lists, reading notes, essays and personal diary entries. Some of Darwin's critical discoveries and experiences, made famous through his own publications, are recorded in their most immediate form in the notebooks, and published here for the first time. The notebook texts are accompanied by full editorial apparatus and introductions explaining Darwin's actions at each stage, focussing on discoveries that were pivotal to convincing him that life on Earth had evolved.

"Gordon Chancellor and John Van Wyhe are to be thanked for doing this onerous job and doing it so carefully and thoughtfully by providing nice introductions to the notebooks and careful editorial annotations throughout." Michael Ruse, *The Quarterly of Biology* "The transcriptions of the notebooks will excite naturalists and historians of science. Recommended." J.S. Schwartz, *Choice Magazine* "This impressive book comes with a detailed chronology indicating where Darwin was for about every day between 1832 and 1836, plus appendixes, bibliography, and a detailed index. All in all, this hefty Charles Darwin's Notebooks from the Voyage of the 'Beagle' is a meticulously edited piece, for advanced scholars in natural sciences, history of science, palaeontology, and anthropology. It provides some interesting dimensions about how scientific observation was made two centuries ago." Yves Laberge, *PaleoAnthropology* About the Author Gordon Chancellor is currently Business Manager at the UK Data Archive, University of Essex. He was formerly based at the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, and before that, managed several regional museums in the UK. He graduated in geology from the University of Wales in 1976, and completed his PhD in palaeontology at the University of Aberdeen, with periods of research at the Universities of Uppsala and Texas at Austin. He carried out post-doctoral research at the University of Oxford in the early 1980s, and began work on the initial transcriptions of the notebooks. He has published works on Cretaceous palaeontology as well as several scholarly papers on Darwin and the Beagle, and is now writing introductions to Darwin's geological publications as Associate Editor of Darwin Online. John van Wyhe is an historian of science. He is the founder and Director of Darwin Online (<http://darwin-online.org.uk/>) - the largest edition of Darwin's publications and manuscripts ever published, and a Bye-Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge (Darwin's own college). He recently led the restoration of Darwin's rooms at Christ's College. Dr van Wyhe's research has challenged the long-held view that

Darwin held back or kept his theory secret for 20 years (Darwin's delay). His books include *Charles Darwin's Shorter Publications, 1829-1883*, with a foreword by Janet Browne and Jim Secord (Cambridge University Press, 2009), *Darwin in Cambridge* (Cambridge, Christ's College, 2009) and *Darwin* (Andre Deutsch, 2008, and National Geographic, 2009).