



Darwin Correspondence Project

Darwin Correspondence Project, James Andrew Secord (director), Alison Pearn (associate director), Samantha Evans, Shelley Innes, Francis Neary (et al.) (ed.), 1985ff. <https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/> (Last Accessed: 23.11.2019). Reviewed by Sabine Seifert (Theodor Fontane Archive, University of Potsdam), sabine.seifert@uni-potsdam.de.



Abstract

Charles Darwin's correspondences are an invaluable resource for understanding his theories and works as well as English social life of the 19th century. About 15,000 letters are known, of which many appear for the first time in this hybrid print and digital edition of the *Darwin Correspondence Project*. It presents an authoritative edition of the letters from and to Darwin that is based on up-to-date scholarly standards and that is as comprehensive as possible. The completion of this project in progress is scheduled for 2022. Currently, all letters until 1875 are online with full transcriptions, and all remaining letters until Darwin's death in 1882 are available in their metadata and summaries. Explanatory notes and extensive contextual essays provide valuable background information. The technical realisation of the project via the Epsilon framework is convincing as the edition is intuitively easy to use. It is, however, not possible to view the TEI-encoded files of the letters or to download the transcriptions and essays. With plenty of additional material, the *Darwin Correspondence Project* exceeds the scope of an edition and presents a widely interlinked online project that makes it a valuable and rich resource.

Introduction

1 With the name Charles Darwin (1809–1882) most people immediately associate the theory of evolution, natural selection, and the idea of the survival of the fittest. Darwin is counted among ‘the most influential figures in human history’,¹ who radically changed the self-perception of mankind. However, Darwin not only conducted research in the field of evolution. He also worked in the fields of geology, palaeontology, zoology, and botany. During his lifetime lasting more than 70 years, he was in regular contact with numerous scientists, scholars, and savants, engaging in intellectual debate and discussing new ideas. Darwin was an observant contemporary of the 19th century and an important witness to the developments of his time.

2 Darwin maintained extensive correspondences with a large number of people, with friends, family members, colleagues, and fellow scientists. His letters—as well as the letters he received from many hundreds of correspondents—provide substantial insight into his intellectual and scientific networks as well as the development of his theories. Besides discussing his ideas with his peers, Darwin used letters to collect data, figures, and facts to support and verify his theories.² He made marginal notes, colour coded subjects with pens and crossed out whole paragraphs of information already included in his writings. Darwin cut out pieces of information of the letters and filed them with his notes or stuck them into his experiment book.³ Many letters also contain diagrams, drawings, or specimens.⁴

3 It is evident that Darwin’s lifelong correspondences are an invaluable resource for understanding his life, his theories, and works. Information on more than 2,000 people mentioned in the letters⁵ portrays the social life of the English Gentry and (London) city life of the 19th century. The relevance of a complete and authoritative edition of the letters from and to Darwin based on up-to-date scholarly editorial criteria is beyond doubt. As Darwin unfortunately burned piles of old letters when he needed space to store new ones,⁶ there must be big losses and severe gaps. However, the number of surviving letters is remarkable: About 15,000 letters are known of which more than 8,000 letters are housed at the Darwin Archive at Cambridge University Library⁷—and new ones are discovered regularly as there is an active hunt for unknown or lost letters.⁸

4 Before the Darwin Correspondence Project, only selections of letters have been published with varying and obsolete standards of editing, e.g. *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, edited by Charles’ son Francis Darwin in 1887 (F. Darwin 1887),

followed by *More letters* in 1903 (F. Darwin, and Seward 1903).⁹ Some collections are out of print or insufficient as they contain transcription and dating errors (Burkhardt, and Smith 1985, xv). It was not until the *Darwin Correspondence Project* that an edition was realised, both authoritative and as comprehensive as possible.

The Darwin Correspondence Project



Fig. 1: Homepage of the *Darwin Correspondence Project*, <http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/>.

5 The *Darwin Correspondence Project* was founded in 1974 by the American scholar and editor Frederick Burkhardt (1912–2007), then retired President of the American Council of Learned Societies. The initial aim was to identify and locate all letters written by Darwin and to publish them in summaries.¹⁰ After a pilot phase, the project took a new turn and the project members redefined their objective to also include all letters written to Darwin and especially to edit them with full transcriptions not just summaries.¹¹ Since 1975, a team at Cambridge University Library has been involved. Currently, the project is based at Cambridge University and is managed by the Cambridge University Library as well as the American Council of Learned Societies.

Since 2006, the director of the project has been James A. Secord, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at Christ's College Cambridge.

Objective of the project

6 The project understands its compilation as ‘the definitive edition’¹² of Darwin’s correspondence. The target audience are students and researchers—not only in the natural sciences, but also in history, history of science, philosophy, and other fields of study—, educators, and the general public.¹³ It is a hybrid edition that combines printed volumes with a digital edition. The first publication of the project, *A Calendar of the Correspondence of Charles Darwin*, was a guide to Darwin’s correspondence with a chronological list of all letters written by and to Darwin published in 1985 (Burkhardt 1985).¹⁴ In the same year, the first printed volume of *The correspondence of Charles Darwin* was published containing letters from 1821 to 1836 (Burkhardt, and Smith 1985). Until now, 27 volumes have been published covering the letters until 1879. They appear on a yearly basis, and the completion of the intended 30 volumes is scheduled for 2022. Selections of letters of this edition are available as well, e.g. the correspondence from Darwin’s voyage around the world with the *Beagle* (Burkhardt 2008) or his correspondence with women (Evans 2017).¹⁵

7 Four years following the printed publication, transcriptions and the commentary are published online. Therefore, the letters from the first volumes spanning 1821 to 1875 are online with full transcriptions and all letters from 1876 onwards are available simply in their metadata and summaries. The introductory texts of the printed volumes are also published online¹⁶ without the four-year delay. The summaries of the letters, available online in the whole corpus, originate from the second edition of the *Calendar* from 1994.

Editorial policy and practice

8 Regarding the editorial guidelines, the basic precondition is to provide definitive transcriptions and to reach ‘a text that reproduces [...] what Darwin actually wrote’ (Burkhardt, and Smith 1985, xv). Transcriptions are based on either original letters (and their digital facsimiles respectively) or the best available source against which they are checked several times.¹⁷ The original spelling by Darwin and his correspondence partners are retained, including mistakes. The paragraphs but not the line breaks seem to be reproduced. Unfortunately, more detailed information on single text phenomena and

their editorial handling are missing from the section 'Editorial policy and practice'. Hopefully, the editing guidelines will ultimately be made available online in greater detail.

9 Darwin often marked passages and made marginal notes and additions that were usually rather short but could also grow into texts of several (attached) pages (Burkhardt, and Smith 1985, xxix). These notes are handled in two different ways. First, notes on letters he received are documented in the section 'CD annotations'¹⁸ and displayed under the transcription of the text. Here, line numbers are given but these refer to the printed edition and therefore might not be valid for the online presentation.¹⁹ Second, Darwin's deletions, additions, and other changes to his own letters appear in the print edition in the appendix and not in the transcribed text. As the print edition's chapter on editorial policy states, the 'clear-text' method was followed to keep the text free of brackets recording deletions, insertions, and other changes (Burkhardt, and Smith 1985, xxvi). At present, these changes can only be found in the print edition's appendix, and are not included in the digital edition.²⁰ They will probably be incorporated at some point in the future, although it is not stated clearly in the section 'Editorial policy and practice'.²¹ Currently, however, this results in explanatory footnotes occasionally leading nowhere.²² Apart from that, the explanatory notes and appendices put the letters in context and give valuable information about references, mentioned people, and related published works.²³

Technical implementation and layout

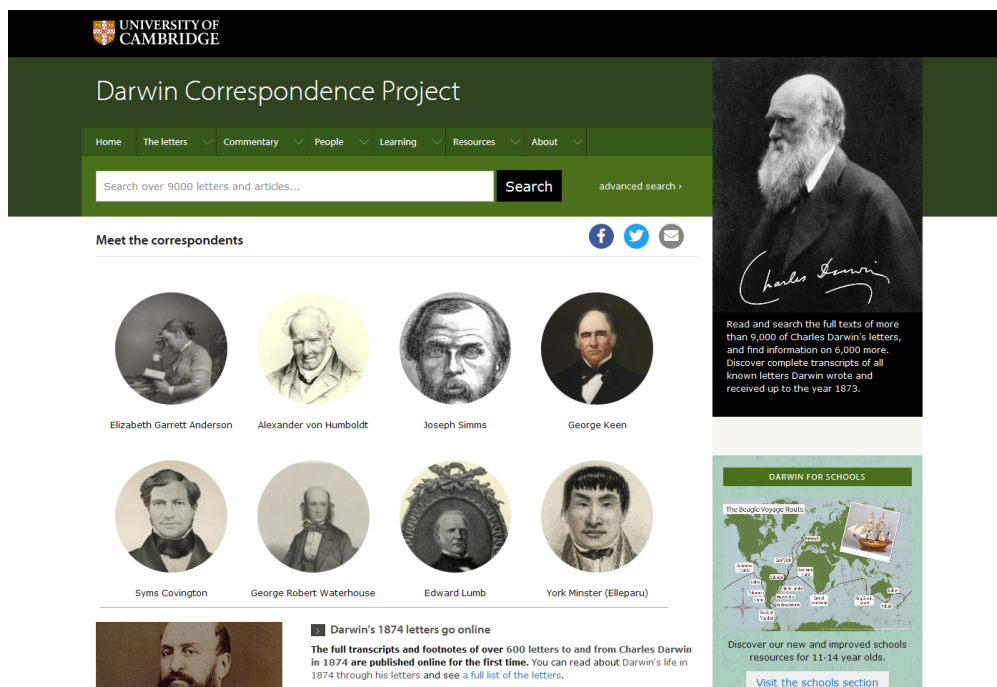


Fig. 2: Tabs and category 'Meet the correspondents' on homepage.

10 The page offers several ways of navigating and of getting to individual letters. The menu shown on each page offers tabs to 'The letters', 'Commentary', 'People', and others. This structures the content of the page very well and efficiently leads the user to the information he or she is looking for, to the essays, or letters. Below the menu, the homepage shows the category 'Meet the correspondents' with pictures of (regularly changing) eight correspondents as another possible access point. The links lead to their biographies and then to selected 'related letters'. There is a news section—although it is not labelled that way nor does it give the publication date or lead to a 'news archive'—that informs of (major) additions, publications, and new online features. Keywords on the right of the screen may attract the user's attention and lead to a compilation of links to essays or letters within the project's website.

Display of the individual letter: Image, transcription, and metadata

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Letter / DCP LETT 3374.xml

Darwin Correspondence Project

Home The letters Commentary People Learning Resources About

Search over 9000 letters and articles... Search advanced search >

Transcript Original Around this date With this correspondent

From J. D. Hooker [29 December 1861]¹

Kew
Sunday.

D^r Darwin

We employ several heaters & have written fully to Mr Cresy about them.²

My wicked conscience smited me about the Gongora when your letter came— I am truly shut up & confess I forgot that very trifling commission.³ I do not give up *Acropera luteola*—& think I shall find some reference to it yet.⁴

Do you hear from Asa Gray now? & if so does he with you (as with me) avoid all allusion to politics & war. I do not know your views on this crisis I am with the popular view in this country & do confess I long to see the Yankees well drubbed by us.— I have no further sympathy with the South than that it is the weakest.—& I have no wish to see England break the blockades.⁵

Willy has returned from his Quarantine—all dear. I think he improves but is singularly backward & childish of his years.⁶ he is very good & a charming boy in disposition & manners, so generous unselfish & conscientious, like poor dear old Henslow.—⁷ he has lots of brains, but no power whatever of using them, no memory, & the most volatile disposition of any child I ever saw. The rest are all well.

I have been in bed half day with violent cold to the amazement of the household (& 3 words illeg and text destroyed)

Do you want *Eul(ophia) (viridis)*⁸ Have you any inquir(ies) () Otago? D^r Hector () Geolog. Surveyor eal () () & dines with me on Fri(day) () send at once & I will () for his executing any so(entific) commissions.⁹

I have been reading J. Haast's survey of N.W. parts of Middle Island. he alludes to extensive drift formations (Glacial) amongst the mountains.¹⁰

Oliver gave me enclosed reference possibly worth your consulting

Yours | J D Hooker

[Enclosure]

Lestibudois Phyllotaxie Anatomique in Ann. Sc. Nat.¹¹

CD annotations

4.1 Willy ... saw. 4.5] 'Whately'¹² brown crayon

Top of first page: 'Naudin'¹³ | Henslow's life'¹⁴ ink

End of letter: 'Glacial' ink, circled ink; 'Jan.— 1862' ink

Footnotes

¹
Dated by the relationship to the letter to J. D. Hooker, 27 [December 1861]. The following Sunday was 29 December.

²
See letter to J. D. Hooker, 27 [December 1861].

³
See letters to J. D. Hooker, 18 [December 1861], 27 [December 1861], and 28 [December 1861].

SUMMARY

Asks CD whether he hears from Asa Gray. J.D.H.'s opinion of the crisis [Trent case, Nov 1861] and the American Civil War.

Julius von Haast alludes to glacial drift in Middle Island of New Zealand.

Backwardness of J.D.H.'s son, Willy.

Encloses a reference from Daniel Oliver which may be useful.

LETTER DETAILS

Letter no.
DCP-LETT-3374

From
Joseph Dalton Hooker

To
Charles Robert Darwin

Sent from
Kew

Source of text
DAR 101: 1, 2a-c

Physical description
3pp damaged 1, end 1p
[See symbols & abbreviations](#)

PLEASE CITE AS

Darwin Correspondence Project, "Letter no. 3374," accessed on 21 November 2019, <https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3374.xml>

Also published in *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*, vol. 9

Images of original letters from the Cambridge University Library collections are courtesy of Cambridge University Digital Library (cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk).

Fig. 3: Display of a letter, example: J. D. Hooker to Darwin, written on 29 December 1861 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191121140347/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3374.xml>).

11 The display of the individual letter is clearly arranged and self-explanatory. The main part of the screen is occupied with the transcription. Below, one can find annotations by Darwin in the letters he received in the 'CD annotations' section, and the commentary in the 'Footnotes' section. Occasionally, more detailed information on

special circumstances or mentioned people and works is desirable. For example, a letter by Darwin to his fiancée Emma Wedgwood from November 1838 deals with their recent engagement and future plans which is not obvious to the reader at first sight.²⁴ There is no commentary at all for this letter, and only the summary in the metadata section states that this is the first letter after their engagement which finally makes the context and the content of the letter more comprehensible to the reader. Sometimes one wishes for more information when people and their works are mentioned. Full names are given in the commentary but no other information like dates of birth and death, or the relation to the sender or addressee. Neither a link to the project's register of names nor an external authority files repository is shown.²⁵ The people can be found in the project-specific register of names to which the footnotes will probably be linked later, and the current state seems to reflect the preliminary result of a project in progress.

12 Works and articles mentioned in the letters are identified in the footnotes that link to the section 'Bibliography' for each letter at the bottom of the page. Here, the full bibliographic information for many of the works mentioned is given.²⁶ The ones still missing can be found with an additional query via the search box, and the information will surely be added later.²⁷ Contrary to the search results for people, the search results for bibliographic items are just shown in a list in which the items are not clickable. Therefore, the books or articles do not have individual pages (yet?) where one might, for example, trace the steps to other letters with other correspondents in which a respective text was also mentioned.

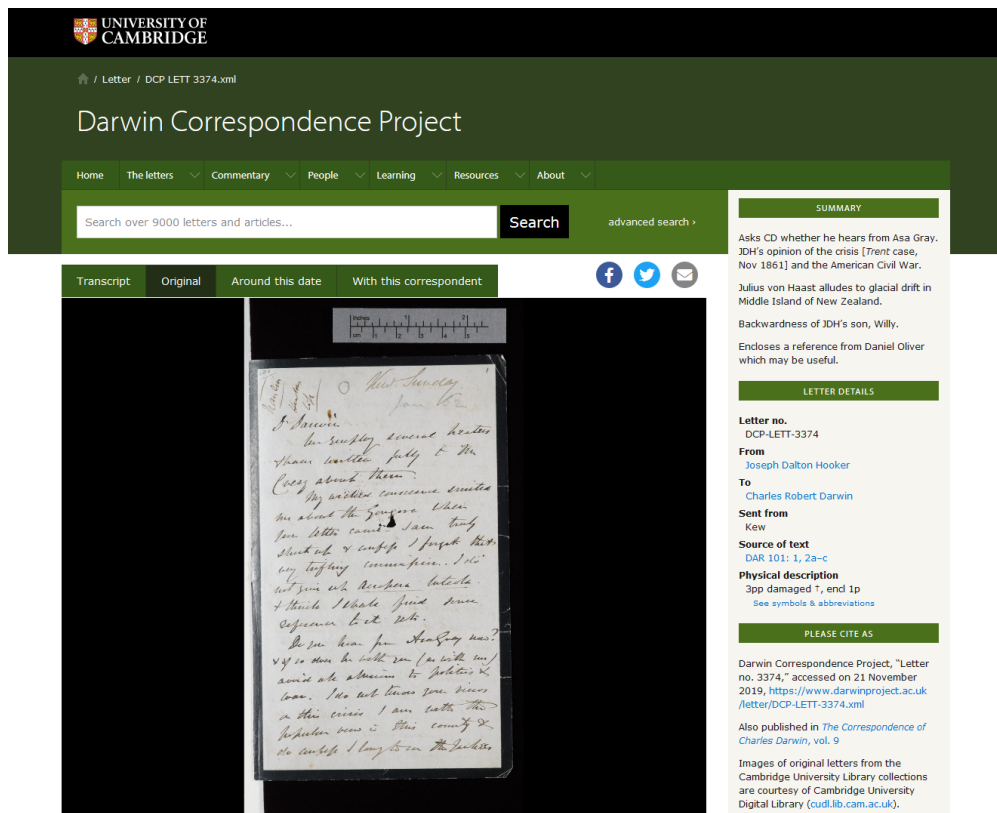


Fig. 4: Display of the image, example: J. D. Hooker to Darwin, written on 29 December 1861 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191121140347/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3374.xml>).

13 If a digitised image of the letter is available, there is a button with the label 'Original'.²⁸ The current design of the website—it was relaunched in the beginning of 2016²⁹—unfortunately does not allow for viewing the edited text and the facsimile simultaneously to compare them, or to read the edited text and simultaneously view the drawings that Darwin or his correspondence partner added.³⁰ Until now, there seem to be only few images of the letters online as it takes a while to stumble across them by accident while browsing the edited letters. There is no information given on how many images and from which collections are already available. The high-resolution images are being incorporated in co-operation with the Cambridge Digital Library³¹ and can be viewed in the convenient open-source viewer OpenSeadragon.³² For those parts of the letters not written horizontally but vertically one might wish for the option to turn the digitised image to the left or right to be able to read the letter more easily.³³ However, there is no information which page of the letter one sees and no connection whatsoever made between the transcription and the image. This makes navigating especially through longer letters complicated.³⁴

14 Next to the transcription, the main metadata about each letter plus summary and citation are shown on the right. Each letter gets a unique identifier that is also part of its URL. Usually, the names of the sender as well as the addressee contain links to shorter or longer biography pages of these. The place from which the letter is sent is mentioned, but there seems to be no place register, as there are no links to a page or map with more details to the respective place. The source of the edited text is given, i.e. holding institution and archival number. Then the physical description follows. As the abbreviations in use are clearly defined, automatic replacement of these in the metadata section for immediate understanding would be preferable to the display of a phrase like ‘3pp damaged †, encl 1p’³⁵ plus a link to a longer list of symbols and abbreviations.³⁶ Recording the materiality of the letters and papers seems not to be the focus of the project as there is no information given on the state of preservation of the letter, the paper, script or ink used, the history of the letter, or its provenance (in addition to its current repository).

15 The summaries to the letters are very helpful to quickly get information about the content, and they sometimes put the letters into context, which makes it easier to understand their content.³⁷ A citation for the whole edition cannot be easily found,³⁸ but the citation for each individual letter as well as the volume of the print edition (but not the page) that contains the respective letter is conveniently displayed in the metadata section.

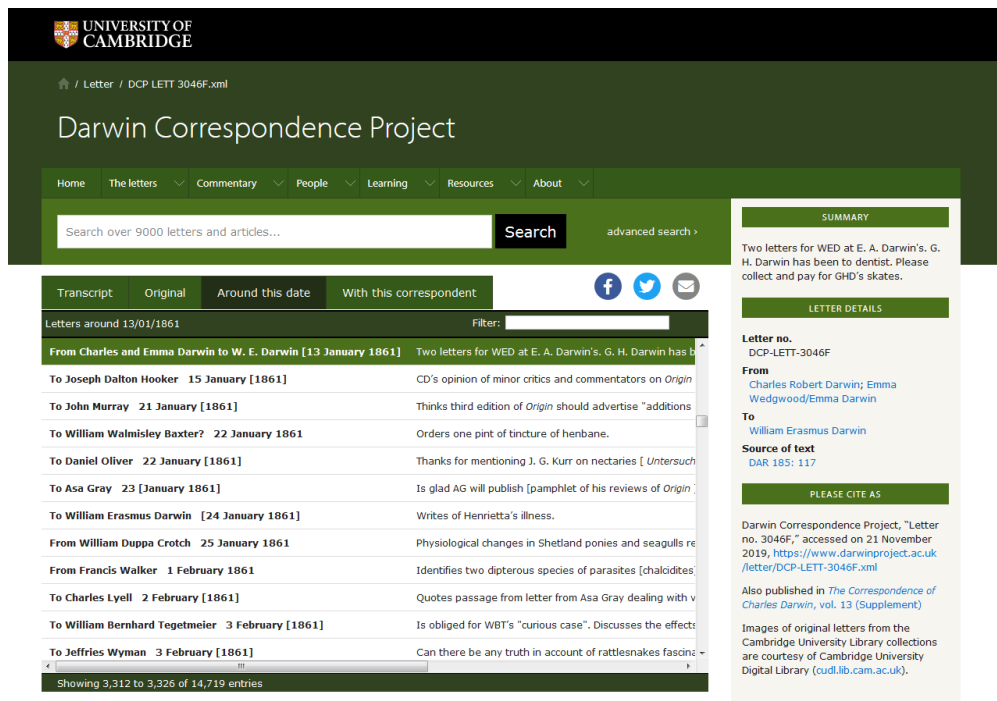


Fig. 5: Tab 'Around this date', example: Charles and Emma Darwin to W. E. Darwin, written on 13 January 1861 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150138/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3046F.xml>).

16 To put the edited letter into context, it is possible to see other letters written contemporaneously. The tab 'Around this date' presents a chronological list of all letters recorded in the project with information on sender or addressee, date of sending, and the summary. In this list with as many as 14,719 entries, the display jumps directly to the relevant point in time with the entry of the currently viewed letter at the top of the list being highlighted. This sometimes does not work that accurately and can be confusing, because the currently viewed letter, and at times even several of the following, is not shown but only later ones.³⁹ The window displaying the list cannot be enlarged probably due to webpage display reasons. So one has to scroll up and down as well as to the right to read the summary that is sometimes cut off. Therefore, there is a little pop-up window that shows this information again for easy reading plus a link to the letter. The same is true for the tab 'With this correspondent' that gives a good overview just of the letters between Darwin and the correspondence partner in question.

Index pages for people, internal interlinking, and search function

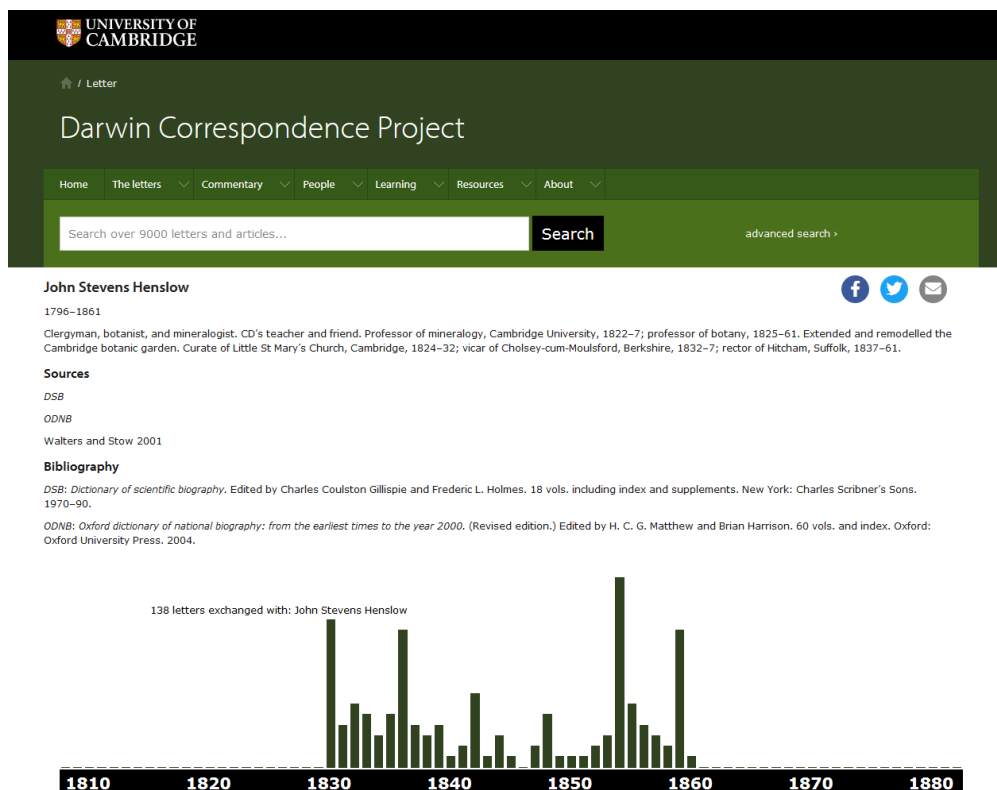


Fig. 6: Index page for John Stevens Henslow (https://web.archive.org/web/20191121154311/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/?docId=nameregs/nameregs_2235.xml).

17 The project offers biographical index pages for those mentioned in the letters. These index pages are generated from the respective entries in the names register. The brief biographical information is taken from the biographical index of the print edition. The sources are, like the works and articles mentioned in the letters, given in abbreviations, with a following section 'Bibliography', which lists the full bibliographic information. For Darwin's teacher and friend John Stevens Henslow, for example, who influenced young Darwin's public image as a skilled geologist through unauthorised publication of some of Darwin's letters from the *Beagle* voyage (Sloan 2003, 36), two of the three cited sources are given in full, and the third needs an additional query.⁴⁰

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/ John Stevens Henslow

Darwin Correspondence Project

Home The letters Commentary People Learning Resources About

Search over 9000 letters and articles... Search advanced search

John Stevens Henslow

The letters Darwin exchanged with John S. Henslow, professor of Botany and Mineral Cambridge University, were among the most important of his life.

It was a letter from Henslow that brought Darwin to sail round the world as captain Robert FitzRoy of HMS *Beagle*. He recommended him not as 'a finished naturalist' but as a personable young gentleman, able to take advantage of the opportunity to study the natural world. It had been walks in the Cambridge countryside with Henslow that had fostered Darwin's interest in a range of plants and animals, and inspired thoughts of travel. Once his place on the *Beagle* was assured, Henslow gave Darwin a present of Humboldt's *Narrative*, a much loved account of earlier travels in South America that Darwin kept to the end of his life, and which is now in Cambridge University Library. It is inscribed: 'J. S. Henslow to his friend C. Darwin on his departure from England upon a voyage around the World. 21st Sept. 1831'.

"For goodness sake what is No. 223 – it looks like the remains of an electric explosion"
(from Henslow, 15–21 January 1833)

During the voyage it was Henslow who received the vast numbers of specimens Darwin sent home, and Henslow who wrote with practical advice about how best to prepare, preserve, and ship them. And the scientific world first took notice of a young traveller called Charles Darwin when Henslow read some of his letters from South America to the Cambridge University Philosophical Society. After Darwin's return Henslow continued to assist in the distribution of the specimens to various experts, though the task of classifying the *Beagle* plants was eventually passed on to Joseph Dalton Hooker at Kew.

As a schoolboy Henslow had assisted in cataloguing the zoological collections of the British Museum; as a student in Cambridge he discovered a new species of freshwater snail, named after him, and began a life-long friendship with Adam Sedgwick, Professor of Geology, who introduced him to field studies. In 1819 Henslow carried out a field survey of the Isle of Man, and two years later made a comprehensive study of the geology of the island of Anglesey. He launched his plant collecting quite suddenly in March 1821, and by the end of the year had collected 263 flowering plants. In 1822, Henslow was appointed Professor of Mineralogy at Cambridge University, and, less than three years later, at the age of 29, was also awarded the Chair of Botany. He resigned the Chair of Mineralogy in 1827, but remained Professor of Botany until his death in 1861. As Professor of Botany he successfully campaigned for a new and much larger site for the Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

Despite Henslow's reservations about the evolutionary ideas put forward in *Origin* – he thought Darwin had 'pressed his hypothesis too far' – the two men remained friends to the end of Henslow's life; more than 140 letters between them survive. Darwin continued to rely on Henslow for information on a variety of plants, and wrote of him after his death 'a better man never walked this earth'.

Henslow was curate of Little St Mary's Church, Cambridge, from 1824 to 1832, then vicar of Cholesey-cum- Moulsholf, Berkshire, and finally rector of Hitcham, Suffolk, from 1837, a post he also held until his death.

Further information:
ODNB article: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/12990>

John Stevens Henslow by T.H. Maguire
B014334
U.S. National Library of Medicine, IMH

Related letters

- From George Peacock to J. S. Henslow [6 or 13 August 1831]
GP has been asked to recommend a naturalist to sail with Capt. Robert FitzRoy to Tierra del Fuego and the South Sea Islands. If Leonard Jenyns is not available, whom would JSH recommend?
P.S. Urges JHS not to lose this opportunity to have collections made for "our museum".
- From J. S. Henslow 24 August 1831
JSH has been asked by Peacock to recommend a naturalist as companion to Capt. FitzRoy on *Beagle* voyage. CD the best qualified person; not a finished naturalist but amply qualified for collecting, observing, and noting.
- From J. S. Henslow 15–21 January 1833
Acknowledges receipt of two letters from CD and a box of specimens.
Mentions attendance at BAAS meeting and a gift to him of a small living near Oxford. Some political news.
Congratulates CD on the work he has done – the specimens are of great interest. Gives advice on packing, labelling, and future collecting and suggests that – as a precaution – CD send home a copy of his notes on the specimens.
- To J. S. Henslow 24 July – 7 November 1834
CD is excited by JSH's high opinion of his collections.
Discusses his notes and some new discoveries. Summary of events since leaving Falklands.
Geology of Patagonia.
Corallines at Tierra del Fuego convince him of artificiality of arrangement of their families by Lamarck and Cuvier.
Geological expedition in Andes, ending with serious illness. Specimens being sent.
- From R. W. Darwin to J. S. Henslow 28 December 1835
Thanks JSH for copies of "Extracts from letters addressed to Professor Henslow by C. Darwin, Esq." [privately printed for Cambridge Philosophical Society; Collected papers 1: 3–16].
The family is sensible how much CD owes

Fig. 7: Additional biography page for John Stevens Henslow (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191121161734/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/john-stevens-henslow>).

18 The biographical information in the digital edition is—in comparison to the print edition—sometimes enriched with further information like the section ‘Further Reading’ in the entry for Emma Darwin.⁴¹ For selected people there is an additional page with more information on biographical aspects and especially their relationship to Darwin, accessible via the ‘People’ tab. These are thematically grouped, e.g. for ‘Key correspondents’, ‘Family and friends’, or ‘Darwin's scientific network’ and offer links to related letters and information about (but no links to) related people within the project. These pages are not (yet?) linked with the respective index page from the register of

names, because there is often no linking of names mentioned in the essays to the index pages.⁴²

The screenshot shows the Darwin Correspondence Project website. At the top is the University of Cambridge logo and the project name. Below is a navigation bar with links: Home, The letters, Commentary, People, Learning, Resources, and About. A search bar is present with the text "Search over 9000 letters and articles..." and a "Search" button. Below the navigation bar is a section for John Stevens Henslow (1796–1861), including a brief biography and sources. The main content area shows a timeline for the year 1855, with a list of letters. The letters are listed in a table with columns for the month, date, and a brief summary of the letter's content.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Letters around 01/01/1855											
To J. S. Henslow [11 July 1831] Has been learning to use a clinometer. Has investigated passage and fares for Canaries trip. Rereading Humboldt.											
From J. S. Henslow 24 August 1831 JSH has been asked by Peacock to recommend a naturalist as companion to Capt. FitzRoy on Beagle voyage. CD declines.											
To J. S. Henslow 30 [August 1831] Feels he should decline Beagle voyage offer because of his father's objections, which he lists. Would otherwise like to go.											
To J. S. Henslow [2 September 1831] Has just arrived in Cambridge; his father has changed his mind. Asks to see JSH.											
To J. S. Henslow [5 September 1831] Has met FitzRoy, who has now offered him the post of naturalist on board the Beagle. Other details about the voyage.											
To J. S. Henslow 9 [September 1831] All is settled – nothing can now alter CD's determination. Details of plan and arrangements. Beaufort believes CD should go.											
To J. S. Henslow 17 [September 1831] Plans to come to Cambridge to discuss Beagle voyage. Only difficulty is disposal of his collections. South Sea Islands.											

Showing 1 to 9 of 138 entries

Fig. 8: Index page for John Stevens Henslow time line zoomed in on the year 1855 (https://web.archive.org/web/20191121154311/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/?docId=nameregs%2Fnameregs_2235.xml).

19 The index pages do not only provide information on correspondents and the people mentioned in the letters but also show a list of all letters exchanged with Darwin in a time line. It is possible to zoom in the time line and see a list with metadata and short summaries of the respective letters.⁴³ It would be desirable to get a list of all letters in the edition in which this person is just being mentioned as this further improves the interlinking of people within the project. This could be easily integrated into the index page as the names in the letters are encoded and therefore retrievable. As it is now, the user can only generate such a list by using the search box. The search results, however, only approximately comply with such a list as all letters from and to the respective person and all letters from people with similar names are included as well.

The screenshot shows the Darwin Correspondence Project website. At the top, the University of Cambridge logo is visible. Below it, a search bar contains the text "Search: contains 'dinosaur'". The main heading is "Darwin Correspondence Project". A navigation menu includes links for Home, The letters, Commentary, People, Learning, Resources, and About. Below the navigation menu is a search bar with the text "Search over 9000 letters and articles..." and a "Search" button. To the right of the search bar is a link to "advanced search".

The search results are displayed on the left side of the page. The search criteria are "Search: contains 'dinosaur'" and "Sorted by: relevance". The results are listed in a table format. The first result is "American Quarterly" by Dean, Dennis R. 1969. The second result is "Mantell, G. A. (1790–1852)" with 2 hits. The third result is "Marsh, O. C. (1831–99)" with 1 hit. The fourth result is "To Edward Hitchcock 6 November [1845]" with 2 hits. The fifth result is "Buckley, A. B. (1840–1929)" with 1 hit. The sixth result is "To O. C. Marsh 25 January [1873]" with 1 hit.

On the right side of the page, there is a "REFINE YOUR SEARCH" section. It includes a "Document type" filter with options: letter (6), people (3), and bibliography (1). It also includes an "Author" filter with options: Darwin, C. R. (3), Blyth, Edward (1), Marshall, William (1), and Phillips, John (1). There is an "Addressee" filter with options: Darwin, C. R. (3), Hitchcock, Edward (1), Marsh, O. C. (1), and Phillips, John (1). There is a "Correspondent" filter with options: Darwin, C. R. (6), Phillips, John (2), Blyth, Edward (1), Hitchcock, Edward (1), and Marsh, O. C. (1). There is a "Date" filter with options: 1845 (1), 1863 (1), 1873 (1), 1874 (2), and 1875 (1).

Fig. 9: List of search results, example: search for term ‘dinosaur’ (<https://web.archive.org/web/20191121171126/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/search/?keyword=dinosaur&tab=>).

20 The search function is part of the layout that is permanently shown no matter what content is being displayed, e.g. an essay, an edited letter, or an entry from the register of names. It is thus very convenient to perform a simple search or run a query via the advanced search form from each web page of the edition. The general search covers all aspects of the edition (transcriptions, scholarly commentary, metadata, summaries, index entries, additional texts, essays, editorial policy, etc.). Refining the results is

possible for document types (letter, bibliography, people, repository), senders and/or addressees (these categories are oddly called ‘Author’, ‘Addressee’, and ‘Correspondent’), and the date of sending. The advanced search form allows for a query with more detailed search parameters⁴⁴ but only, it seems, within the document type letter, and not in the register of names or the bibliography. One problem with the search function is the query for names with initials like ‘J. S. Henslow’ as they are commonly given in the footnotes. Such a query works fine in the advanced search but delivers no results in the general search with the document-type ‘people’⁴⁵—whereas the full name ‘John Stevens Henslow’ with the document-type ‘people’ accurately lists the entry of index of names.⁴⁶

Back end

21 Regarding the back end and the technical implementation of the edition, the information given is rather general and one would hope for a more detailed documentation. For a research project that started over 40 years ago, it is a challenge to keep data formats up to date for efficient performance and long-term sustainability. To ensure compatibility, the *Darwin Correspondence Project* converted the data to TEI P5, the de facto standard for encoding, editing, and exchanging text-centric data in the field of Digital Humanities.⁴⁷ These TEI files constitute the basis for both the print and the digital edition.⁴⁸ The Encoding Guidelines—as well as the Editorial Guidelines—are not published yet but will be made available in the future.⁴⁹ As the identification of ‘all the people, all the organisms and publications, and all the places’⁵⁰ plays a crucial role, it will be reflected in the TEI encoding. The project also uses the TEI encoding model, developed in 2015, for correspondence based on the element correspDesc for capturing correspondence-specific metadata.⁵¹ Unfortunately, it is not possible to view the TEI files of the letters or index entries although this is considered good scholarly practice in digital editing.

22 The TEI files are imported into the open source software XTF (eXtensible Text Framework) that enables the display of the transcriptions, metadata, and the queries on the website.⁵² The project makes use of the digital infrastructure Epsilon⁵³ that launched in September 2018. It serves as a collaborative public platform, as a repository for TEI encoded texts, metadata and images. Epsilon is ‘designed to link letter-texts from multiple sources for cross-searching and analysis’.⁵⁴ It focuses on letters of science from the 19th century and aims at recreating networks of scientific knowledge. The necessity

of interlinking such correspondence materials as the Darwin letters has been clearly seen in the project. Consequently, the *Darwin Correspondence Project* and the Cambridge Digital Library are, amongst others, founders of the Epsilon framework.⁵⁵ The technical implementation is realised by mapping the data to TEI P5 using the `correspDesc` element mentioned above.⁵⁶

23 There have been efforts made to build metadata repositories for collections of correspondence editions and to develop interactive visualisation tools like the project ‘Mapping the Republic of Letters’,⁵⁷ or to aggregate and search the metadata of several editions with one query like the web service ‘correspSearch’,⁵⁸ that analyzes files in the Correspondence Metadata Interchange Format (CMIF) which is based on the `correspDesc` element. These projects put emphasis on metadata. Epsilon, however, aims at making the edited letter-texts themselves searchable across several editions. Up to now, such an objective has not been realised, and such a tool has been long-awaited by scholars working with correspondence editions.

24 The project’s web page in its current version does not provide the possibility to download or harvest—and, therefore, to reuse—the transcriptions, metadata, TEI encodings, or any other of the numerous essays and texts via technical interfaces like OAI-PMH, or a general API. Even a print button is missing, and the printing function of the web browser does not go well with the layout of the web page. Hopefully, these aspects will be addressed soon.

Beyond a digital edition

25 It has become clear that the *Darwin Correspondence Project* goes beyond a ‘mere edition’ and in the direction of a dynamic and widely interlinked web project. Next to locating and researching all letters by and to Darwin to build up an inventory that is as complete as possible, the publication of the letter texts and the commentary is accompanied by extensive contextual essays and articles providing valuable background information. The essays in the section ‘Darwin’s Life in Letters’,⁵⁹ for example, describe and illustrate Darwin’s correspondences from that particular period, characterise key correspondence partners, and put them in relation to Darwin and his biography. Bibliographic references offer an extensive overview of relevant literature, and links to letters related to the person or topic discussed direct the user straight to those letters.

26 The *Darwin Correspondence Project* collaborates with the Cambridge Digital Library in publishing the images of the letters online at the project's website and in making the transcriptions, the commentary and the summaries available in the Digital Library. For example, the letter by J. D. Hooker to Darwin from 29 December 1861 is accessible via the *Darwin Correspondence Project* and simultaneously via the Digital Library as part of the collection of the Darwin-Hooker Letters that comprises more than 2000 letters.⁶⁰ There is also a collaboration between the two projects concerning the publication of Darwin's manuscripts on evolution,⁶¹ as the letters contain invaluable information for editing these.

27 There are more online services to Darwin that the *Darwin Correspondence Project* integrates by linking to, e.g. the Darwin Manuscripts Project⁶² at the American Museum of Natural History, also in collaboration with the Cambridge University Library. When referring to published works, the *Darwin Correspondence Project* links to the online resource *The Complete Work of Charles Darwin Online*.⁶³ Here, searchable texts, and images of all of Darwin's published books and articles are made available. As online services to Charles Darwin are many and manifold, the *Darwin Correspondence Project* connects with these and puts its own content into a wider context, from which it then benefits.

28 Other ways in which the *Darwin Correspondence Project* exceeds the scope of an edition should be mentioned even if briefly. This concerns the teaching material (via the 'Learning'⁶⁴ tab) provided, which contains questions and tasks, activities, experiments, and videos for kids from the age of 7 up to university level. Furthermore, there is impressive audio and video material offered to the user: interviews with experts, conference talks, professional readings of selected letters, a BBC Radio drama based on Charles and Emma Darwin's correspondence, as well as short films on Darwin, about editing his letters, the project, and about working in the Darwin archive.⁶⁵ These materials as well as the social media activities of the project, like Twitter or Facebook,⁶⁶ address different types of users, widen the user groups of the project, potentially introduce users to the edition, and spark interest for Darwin in those who not have had interest in reading his correspondence.

29 All in all, the *Darwin Correspondence Project* presents an authoritative digital edition with high scholarly standards. The project orients itself to state-of-the-art digital editing and meets these demands convincingly—as one can say on the basis of the

current state of the web page. A closer look reveals that there is still a lot underdeveloped and not yet finished, as certain types of information are not interlinked within the project (names, works, mentioned letters, etc.), some minor mistakes can be found,⁶⁷ and no (or only little) information on the current state of the page is available. The user does not know about additions or features to come. Editorial and technical documentation as well as Encoding Guidelines should be published online now (and not only when finishing the project in 2022 if that is intended) to make the edition more transparent as scholars and the public read and work with the substantial amount of already edited texts and essays. One wishes the greatest possible readership and reception for such a great project, and awaits curiously the remaining letters and, if intended, new essays and additional material with even more background information.

Notes

1. <https://web.archive.org/web/20180716170917/https://www.newscientist.com/round-up/darwin-200/>.
2. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121090809/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/about-letters>.
3. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121090809/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/about-letters>.
4. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091114/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/darwins-life-letters>.
5. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091420/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/who-we-are>.
6. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091114/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/darwins-life-letters>.
7. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091114/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/darwins-life-letters>.
8. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121090809/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/about-letters>.
9. Further selected editions are Barlow 1933, and Barlow 1967.

10. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121092720/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/history-project>.

11. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091420/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/who-we-are>.

12. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121093454/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/publications/correspondence-charles-darwin>.

13. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121090809/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/about-letters>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121093454/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/publications/correspondence-charles-darwin>.

14. A revised and enhanced edition was published in 1994 (Burkhardt, and Smith 1994).

15. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121104506/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/charles-darwin-beagle-letters>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121104632/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/publications/darwin-and-women-selection-letters>.

16. They can be found in the section 'Darwin's Life in Letters': <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091114/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/darwins-life-letters>.

17. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121105426/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/editorial-policy-and-practice>.

18. E.g. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121111245/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-1735.xml>.

19. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121105426/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/editorial-policy-and-practice>.

20. E.g. the print edition records six alterations by Darwin in a letter to his father Robert Darwin from 23 October 1825 (Burkhardt, and Smith 1985, 573), but the digital edition does not give this information. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121112126/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-16.xml>.

21. The phrase that Darwin's changes to his own letters are 'not yet available' suggests that an online presentation is intended, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121105426/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/editorial-policy-and-practice>.

22. E.g. the letter from Emma Wedgwood from 21–2 November 1838, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121141356/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-441.xml>: Emma complains that her fiancé Charles misspelt her name in a former letter. The commentary (footnote 8) states that ‘CD had corrected the salutation of his letter of [14 November 1838] from ‘Eras’ to ‘Emma’. See Manuscript Alterations and Comments for letter to Emma Wedgwood, [14 November 1838] [<https://web.archive.org/web/20191121113825/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-437.xml>].’ Following the link to the letter mentioned, no manuscript alterations or comments are shown.

23. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121093454/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/publications/correspondence-charles-darwin>.

24. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121113825/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-437.xml>.

25. E.g. the letter from Emma Wedgwood to Darwin from 21–2 November 1838 <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121141356/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-441.xml>.

26. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121142829/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-905.xml>.

27. Sometimes, a query with the abbreviated bibliographic information does not deliver a result e.g. in the letter to Charles Lyell from 25 August 1845, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121142829/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-905.xml>, a bibliographic reference to ‘Wells 1815’ is given in footnote 4. In the bibliography, however, no entry can be found when searching for ‘Wells 1815’, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121145447/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/search/?keyword=wells+1815>. But this information will probably be supplemented at a later date.

28. E.g. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150138/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3046F.xml>.

29. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150340/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/technical>.

30. E.g. there are drawings in a letter from Darwin’s brother Erasmus Alvey. The drawings are not reproduced, the edited text marks their occurrence with ‘[DIAGRAM

HERE]', <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121151500/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3.xml>.

31. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091420/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/who-we-are>.

32. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121151819/https://openseadragon.github.io/>.

33. E.g. the added note by Emma Darwin to a letter by Charles Darwin from 13 January 1861, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150138/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3046F.xml> (second image).

34. E.g. a letter from Charles Darwin to Joseph Dalton Hooker from 15 January 1861 has seven pages and it takes some time to find the passage one is interested in <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121152325/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3047.xml>.

35. E.g. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121140347/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3374.xml>. These abbreviations stand for 'three pages, damaged, annotations by recipient [in this case Charles Darwin], enclosure one page'.

36. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191115124848/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/symbols-and-abbreviations>. Occasionally the physical description is missing, e.g. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150138/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3046F.xml>.

37. There might be discrepancies between the summary and the edited text which will be eventually corrected finally, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121105426/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/editorial-policy-and-practice>.

38. It is unclear whom to cite as the main responsible editors for the edition or what the date of the initial publication is (or the date of the current version).

39. E.g. for the letter from Mary Congreve from 27 October [1821], <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121153856/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-1.xml>, the tab, 'Around this date', omits this and several of the following letters and just shows letters from the end of 1822 at the top of the list.

40. https://web.archive.org/web/20191121154311/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/?docId=nameregs/nameregs_2235.xml.

41. https://web.archive.org/web/20191121160617/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/?docId=nameregs/nameregs_1218.xml. Further reading is offered on 'Relevant Gender Resources' (however, all offered links seem to be place holders as they lead to empty pages), as well as further primary and secondary sources.

42. E.g. the essays of the section 'Darwin's life in letters', <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091114/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/darwins-life-letters>, or some essays of the tab 'Commentary', e.g. 'Natural selection', <https://web.archive.org/web/20191115125936/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/commentary/evolution/natural-selection>.

43. Some index pages do not show letters in the time line and wrongly state that there are '0 letters exchanged' which is very probably due to the project and web page still being in progress, e.g. https://web.archive.org/web/20191121160617/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/?docId=nameregs/nameregs_1218.xml.

44. E.g. just in transcriptions, commentary, or summaries, just in senders, addressees, or specific dates, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122084710/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/advanced-search>.

45. Query for 'J. S. Henslow' via the advanced search: <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122124238/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/search?text=§ionType=&search-correspondent=J.+S.+Henslow&year=&month=&day=&year-max=&month-max=&day-max=&search-date-type=on&exclude-widedate=Yes&f1-document-type=letter&smode=embedded>; query for 'J. S. Henslow' via the general search within document-type 'people': <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122124518/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/search?keyword=J.%20S.%20Henslow;f1-document-type=people>.

46. It appears, however, only as the third-to-last search result: <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122125109/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/search?keyword=John%20Stevens%20Henslow;f1-document-type=people>.

47. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150340/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/technical>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122150325/https://tei-c.org/>.

48. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121092720/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/history-project>.

49. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150340/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/technical>.

50. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121090809/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/about-letters>.

51. Chapter 2.4.6 Correspondence Description <https://web.archive.org/web/20190123042448/http://www.tei-c.org/release/doc/tei-p5-doc/de/html/HD.html>. Cf. Stadler, Illetschko, and Seifert 2016.

52. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121150340/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/about/technical>. XTF is maintained by the California Digital Library, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122135109/https://xtf.cdlib.org/>.

53. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122143535/https://epsilon.ac.uk/>.

54. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122140017/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/Epsilon>.

55. It is also funded by the *Darwin Correspondence Project* and Cambridge University Library, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122140017/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/Epsilon>.

56. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122140017/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/Epsilon>.

57. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191118111452/http://republicofletters.stanford.edu/>.

58. 'correspSearch' launched in 2014 and is maintained by the German Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122150122/https://correspsearch.net/>. Cf. Dumont 2018.

59. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121091114/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letters/darwins-life-letters>.

60. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191121140347/http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/letter/DCP-LETT-3374.xml> and <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122151011/https://>

cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-DAR-00101-00001/1. The Cambridge Digital Library also offers the possibility of downloading the images (which the *Darwin Correspondence Project* does not). There are direct links from the Cambridge Digital Library to the given letter within the *Darwin Correspondence Project* that in turn offers a link not to the exact page but to the general homepage of the Cambridge Digital Library.

61. https://web.archive.org/web/20191122151345/http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/darwin_mss/1.

62. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122151556/https://www.amnh.org/research/darwin-manuscripts>. This project also initiated the project of Darwin's Virtual Library that offers digital images of Darwin's books with transcriptions of marginalia, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122151836/https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/collection/darwinlibrary>.

63. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122152100/http://darwin-online.org.uk/>.

64. E.g. for the ages from 7 to 11, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122152303/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/learning/7-11>.

65. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122152616/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/tags/audio>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191122152914/https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/tags/video>.

66. Each page (i.e. for individual letters, the essays, the biography pages etc.) offers share buttons for Twitter, Facebook, and e-mail, and the *Darwin Correspondence Project* maintains accounts for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, <https://web.archive.org/web/20190818204529/https://twitter.com/mydeardarwin?lang=en>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191123151120/https://www.facebook.com/MyDearDarwin/>, <https://web.archive.org/web/20191123151553/https://www.instagram.com/mydeardarwin/>.

67. Some links might lead to nowhere, there is the occasional typo or missing space, names are given sometimes with initials, sometimes in full.

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Factsheet

Resource reviewed	
Title	Darwin Correspondence Project
Editors	James Andrew Secord (director), Alison Pearn (associate director), Samantha Evans, Shelley Innes, Francis Neary (et al.)
URI	https://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/
Publication Date	1985ff
Date of last access	23.11.2019

Reviewer	
Surname	Seifert
First Name	Sabine
Organization	Theodor Fontane Archive, University of Potsdam
Place	Potsdam, Germany
Email	sabine.seifert (at) uni-potsdam.de

Documentation		
Bibliographic description	Is it easily possible to describe the project bibliographically along the schema "responsible editors, publishing/hosting institution, year(s) of publishing"? (cf. Catalogue 1.2)	yes
Contributors	Are the contributors (editors, institutions, associates) of the project fully documented? (cf. Catalogue 1.4)	yes
Contacts	Does the project list contact persons? (cf. Catalogue 1.5)	yes
Selection of materials		
Explanation	Is the selection of materials of the project explicitly documented? (cf. Catalogue 2.1)	yes
Reasonability	Is the selection by and large reasonable? (cf. Catalogue 2.1)	yes

Archiving of the data	Does the documentation include information about the long term sustainability of the basic data (archiving of the data)? (cf. Catalogue 4.16)	yes
Aims	Are the aims and purposes of the project explicitly documented? (cf. Catalogue 3.1)	yes
Methods	Are the methods employed in the project explicitly documented? (cf. Catalogue 3.1)	yes
Data Model	Does the project document which data model (e.g. TEI) has been used and for what reason? (cf. Catalogue 3.7)	yes
Help	Does the project offer help texts concerning the use of the project? (cf. Catalogue 4.15)	yes
Citation	Does the project supply citation guidelines (i.e. how to cite the project or a part of it)? (cf. Catalogue 4.8)	yes
Completion	Does the edition regard itself as a completed project (i.e. not promise further modifications and additions)? (cf. Catalogue 4.16)	no
Institutional Curation	Does the project provide information about institutional support for the curation and sustainability of the project? (cf. Catalogue 4.13)	yes
Contents		
Previous Edition	Has the material been previously edited (in print or digitally)? (cf. Catalogue 2.2)	yes
Materials Used	Does the edition make use of these previous editions? (cf. Catalogue 2.2)	yes
Introduction	Does the project offer an introduction to the subject-matter (the author(s), the work, its history, the theme, etc.) of the project? (cf. Catalogue 4.15)	yes
Bibliography	Does the project offer a bibliography? (cf. Catalogue 2.3)	yes

Commentary	Does the project offer a scholarly commentary (e.g. notes on unclear passages, interpretation, etc.)? (cf. Catalogue 2.3)	yes
Contexts	Does the project include or link to external resources with contextual material? (cf. Catalogue 2.3)	yes
Images	Does the project offer images of digitised sources? (cf. Catalogue 2.3)	yes
Image quality	Does the project offer images of an acceptable quality? (cf. Catalogue 4.6)	yes
Transcriptions	Is the text fully transcribed? (cf. Catalogue 2.3)	yes
Text quality	Does the project offer texts of an acceptable quality (typos, errors, etc.)? (cf. Catalogue 4.6)	yes
Indices	Does the project feature compilations indices, registers or visualisations that offer alternative ways to access the material? (cf. Catalogue 4.5)	yes
Documents		
Types of documents	Which kinds of documents are at the basis of the project? (cf. Catalogue 1.3 and 2.1)	Letters
Document era	What era(s) do the documents belong to? (cf. Catalogue 1.3 and 2.1)	Modern
Subject	Which perspective(s) do the editors take towards the edited material? How can the edition be classified in general terms? (cf. Catalogue 1.3)	History of Science
Presentation		
Spin-offs	Does the project offer any spin-offs? (cf. Catalogue 4.11)	none
Browse by	By which categories does the project offer to browse the contents? (cf. Catalogue 4.3)	Authors, Documents, Dates
Search		
Simple	Does the project offer a simple search? (cf. Catalogue 4.4)	yes

Advanced	Does the project offer an advanced search? (cf. Catalogue 4.4)	yes
Wildcard	Does the search support the use of wildcards? (cf. Catalogue 4.4)	yes
Index	Does the search offer an index of the searched field? (cf. Catalogue 4.4)	yes
Suggest functionalities	Does the search offer autocompletion or suggest functionalities? (cf. Catalogue 4.4)	yes
Helptext	Does the project offer help texts for the search? (cf. Catalogue 4.4)	yes
Aim		
Audience	Who is the intended audience of the project? (cf. Catalogue 3.3)	Scholars, Interested public
Typology	Which type fits best for the reviewed project? (cf. Catalogue 3.3 and 5.1)	Text Critical Edition
Method		
Critical editing	In how far is the text critically edited? (cf. Catalogue 3.6)	none
Standards	(cf. Catalogue 3.7)	
XML	Is the data encoded in XML?	yes
Standardized data model	Is the project employing a standardized data model (e.g. TEI)?	yes
Types of text	Which kinds or forms of text are presented? (cf. Catalogue 3.5.)	Facsimiles, Diplomatic transcription, Commentaries
Technical Accessibility		
Persistent Identification and Addressing	Are there persistent identifiers and an addressing system for the edition and/or parts/objects of it and which mechanism is used to that end? (cf. Catalogue 4.8)	none
Interfaces	Are there technical interfaces like OAI-PMH, REST etc., which allow the reuse of the data of the project in other contexts? (cf. Catalogue 4.9)	none
Open Access	Is the edition Open Access?	yes

Accessibility of the basic data	Is the basic data (e.g. the XML) of the project accessible for each part of the edition (e.g. for a page)? (cf. Catalogue 4.12)	no
Download	Can the entire raw data of the project be downloaded (as a whole)? (cf. Catalogue 4.9)	no
Reuse	Can you use the data with other tools useful for this kind of content? (cf. Catalogue 4.9)	yes
Rights		
Declared	Are the rights to (re)use the content declared? (cf. Catalogue 4.13)	no
License	Under what license are the contents released? (cf. Catalogue 4.13)	No explicit license / all rights reserved
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Editors	Rosemary Clarkson (Research Assistant and Associate Editor) Samantha Evans (Editor and Research Associate) Amparo Gimeno-Sanjuan (Editorial Associate) Shelley Innes (Editor and Research Associate) Francis Neary (Editor and Research Associate) Anne Secord (Editor and Research Associate) Elizabeth Smith (Associate Editor - Technical Development) Paul White (Editor and Research Associate)	
Contributors	James A. Secord (Director) Alison Pearn (Associate Director) Michael Hawkins (Technical Director) Sally Stafford (Education and Outreach Officer)	