Charles Darwin & the Galapagos

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Department of Rare Books
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CHARLES DARWIN
& THE GALAPAGOS

an exhibit from the
C. Warren Irvin Collection
of Charles Darwin
and related collections

Graniteville Room
Thomas Cooper Library
University of South Carolina
April-May 2002

**Some Early Visitors to the Galapagos, 1697-1837**

Professor Larson’s book *Evolution’s Laboratory* charts changing attitudes to the islands Darwin made famous, from the first European explorers onwards. Early accounts shown here from the original holdings of the South Carolina College library are:


* Vancouver, George, 1757-1798. *A voyage of discovery to the North Pacific ocean, and round the world; in which the coast of north-west America has been carefully examined and accurately surveyed*. London, Printed for G. G. and J. Robinson, 1798.

* Colnett, James, 1755-1806. *A voyage to the south Atlantic and round Cape Horn into the Pacific Ocean, for the purpose of extending the spermaceti whale fisheries, and other objects of commerce, . . . in the ship Rattler*. London: for the author by W. Bennett, 1798.


* Fitzroy, Robert, 1805-1865, ed. *Narrative of the surveying voyages of His Majesty's ships Adventure and Beagle, between the years 1826 and 1836, describing their examination of the southern shores of South America, and the Beagle's circumnavigation of the globe.* London: H. Colburn, 1839. In South Carolina College binding.

**Darwin on the Galapagos**


* Darwin, Charles, *Journal of researches into the natural history and geology of the countries visited during the voyage of*

Reporting what Darwin had found

Three Newly-acquired Darwin First Editions from the 1840s

Until this spring, among the very few gaps remaining in the Irvin Collection were three significant first editions from the 1840's. When all three became available within a two-week period, three library endowments made possible their immediate purchase:

Herman Melville in the Galapagos

Shown here is the first part of Melville’s apocalyptic account “The Encantadas,” from Putnam’s Monthly Magazine (1854, in publisher’s cloth; from the Joel Myerson Collection), together with matching volumes of Darwin’s Journal of Researches and Melville’s travel book on the Marquesas Islands, both published in John Murray’s Home and Colonial Library, nos. 22-24 and 30-31 (1845 and 1846).

The Galapagos and Darwin’s Origin of Species


Twentieth-Century Perspectives


* Wilson, Edmund, 1895-1972. “In the


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In addition to providing members with access to library services, in its first decade it has purchased significant books, and sponsored the prestigious Thomas Cooper Medal for Distinction in the Arts & Sciences, visits by leading writers, talks relating to the library’s collections, dinners, exhibitions, and occasional publications. Its membership is currently just over 500, and its endowment has grown to just over $80,000.

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