

**Charles Darwin:
Evolutionary
Writings**, edited by
James A Secord (OUP,
£9.99)



Charles Darwin
Evolutionary Writings
including the Autobiography

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

Marx, Freud and Darwin were the intellectual giants who dominated the past century, but only Darwin has “survived intact” into the 21st century, Secord says in his perceptive introduction to this selection of the scientist’s writings. As well as extracts from the *Journal* of his Beagle voyage (1845), *On the Origin of Species* (1859), and *The Descent of Man* (1871), there is also the complete text of *Recollections of the Development of My Mind and Character*, a delightful memoir which Darwin wrote for his children. In it he confesses to stealing fruit from orchards as a child (“I was in many ways a naughty boy”) and, 30 years after the death of his daughter, Annie, he admits that “tears still sometimes come into my eyes when I think of her sweet ways”. Extracts from reviews, editorials and letters provide a fascinating glimpse of the reception of Darwin’s work. *Descent* was published two weeks after the revolutionary Commune seized control of Paris, prompting the Times to conclude gloomily that Darwin’s ideas “might exert a very mischievous influence”. **PDS**