
On the Origin of Species. *Charles Darwin.* A facsimile of the first edition with an introduction by Ernst Mayr. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1964. (xxvii) + ix + 502 p. \$5.95.

Classics are often books that are put on the "when time permits" reading list. Darwin's *The Origin of Species* is without doubt a work that has greatly influenced modern biological thinking and changed the vista of western man. Such a book would thus easily qualify as a classic on anyone's list.

Harvard University Press has made available in facsimile the now rare and expensive first edition of 1859. This edition, as Ernst Mayr points out in his enlightening introduction to the facsimile, presents Darwin's fresh statement of his theory. Compared with the generally available sixth edition, the first is bolder and less cluttered with the amplifications meant to answer contemporary critics.

The facsimile edition is well printed, and much more useful to the scholar than the poor quality London reprint of 1950, as it maintains the pagination of the original work. The inclusion of a bibliography of Darwin's major writings and a modern index makes the volume especially useful. Together with the University of Pennsylvania Press "variorum text" (1959), the new facsimile will provide for the historian of science a ready reference to Darwinian evolution theory and its changes during its author's lifetime. Any reader would find it worth his while to take the time to read or reread this classic in its new attractive facsimile form.

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