

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF  
 ‘CONTEMPORARIES’ OF  
 ERASMUS DARWIN

*Seventeenth to nineteenth centuries*

This index includes all names mentioned in Darwin’s letters and significant names from the notes, including authors of books cited. Dates of birth (b.) or death (d.), or both, are given if known. If not, the place of residence at the relevant time is given if known. The titles Mrs and Miss are sometimes needed for clarity; but Dr and Revd are usually omitted. If a surname changes, both forms are given. Dates of birth in the format ‘c.1750’ should be correct to within about five years.

The final item in each entry is the year-and-number designation of the letter where more details can be found.

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82156-8 - The Collected Letters of Erasmus Darwin

Edited by Desmond King-Hele

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82156-8 - The Collected Letters of Erasmus Darwin

Edited by Desmond King-Hele

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## GENERAL INDEX

This index covers topics, place names, and most personal names, each with surname and one forename, as in the Biographical index (pages 583-594). But personal names are omitted if (a) they already appear in the Biographical index *and* (b) no more is known than is given there. Names mentioned only in the Acknowledgements are not usually indexed. All recipients of letters appear in this index, with the letters they received, up to a maximum of seven; for greater numbers, the alphabetical list on pages xxiii-xxvi is referred to. Repositories holding manuscript letters also appear, with a reference to the listing on pages xxi-xxiii. The index includes the authors of all books cited in the letters and notes, the surname and one initial normally being given: the reference is to the first citation. Books frequently cited have been given abbreviations, as indicated on pages xxvi-xxix: for the authors of these books, the index gives a reference to pages xxvi-xxix, where the full titles can be found.

An unconventional feature of this index is the use of letter designations, such as 57-3, rather than page numbers. This has the advantage of identifying the year at once. Note numbers are also indicated if appropriate, in the form 57-3n2: this provides a much more accurate 'address' than a page number. A number in brackets, as in 68-7(3), refers to the third page of letter 68-7: this format is used only for the few long letters. For items in the Introduction, the page number is used: for example 'p.xxiii'.

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-82156-8 - The Collected Letters of Erasmus Darwin

Edited by Desmond King-Hele

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