

The Ascent of Darwin: Commemorating the *Origin of Species*
Janet Browne, The Drue Heinz Lectures, Monday, February 9, 2009

By the time of his death Charles Darwin was one of the most celebrated –and one of the most notorious— scientists in the world. Today he is just as famous. Still controversial, Darwin has become an icon of modern science at the same time as his theories have become the basis of modern biology. In her Drue Heinz Lecture exploring Darwin’s legacy, Browne examines how Darwin came to write the *Origin of Species* and its impact in Victorian England and also looks at the controversies that surrounded Darwin and his famous book, with a particular focus on the debate over ape ancestry.