III. The Life of Robert Chambers

Robert Chambers (1802-1871): Scottish publisher, poet, journalist, encyclopedist, and anonymous author of the most widely read book on the topic of evolution (*Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*) between Lamarck’s *Philosophie Zoologique* (1809) and Darwin’s *Origin of Species* (1859). Chambers will be the focus of the spring semester reading group which will explore the historical context within which Charles Darwin began his analysis of the process of evolution.

**Readings will include:**

*Just Before Darwin* (1959, Milton Millhauser - a biography of Chambers and analysis of *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*)

*Victorian Sensation* (2000, James A. Secord - an historical analysis of the publication of *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*)

*Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* (1844) and *Explanations: a Sequel to Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* (1845)

Critiques of *Vestiges* by Thomas Huxley, Adam Sedgwick, Hugh Miller, Charles Darwin and others

Students, postdoctorals, and faculty are welcome. The reading group will meet monthly, in the evening, on the following dates: January 18 (Saturday), February 16 (Sunday), March 18 (Tuesday), April 16 (Wednesday). If you are interested in participating in this group (limited to 13 members), contact William (Ned) Friedman (ned@colorado.edu, 492-3082, or in person). The first organizational meeting will be in December, 2002.

**Nota bene:** This reading group will not count for graduate credit, and will require attendance (with preparation) at all sessions. Reading loads will be significant.