

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the following people for giving me their time and comments most graciously despite the misgivings of some in the monster cognoscenti about how I was going to treat the field. Robert Ackerman, John Bodley, Loren Coleman, Joe Davis, Jonathan Downes, Gregory Forth, Richard Freeman, John Schoenherr, Rick Sprague, Alice Walters, and Milford Wolpoff supplied files and shared insights into monster hunting. Some gave me fascinating anecdotes recorded nowhere before now, but in their personal experiences. Thanks to Eric Altman, Raymond Rosa, Bob Schmalzbach, and all the Bigfooters who took the time to fill out my surveys. Archivists and librarians across North America and the United Kingdom, particularly at the National Anthropological Archive of the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, the American Philosophical Society, the British Museum, Natural History, the special collections library of University College London, and others showed endless patience in helping me root out obscure papers' collections and primary source materials. Garland Allan, Peter Bowler, and Joe Cain showed me great friendship and this project moral support and encouragement: support that, had it not been given, may have led me to abandon it. I presented a number of the ideas put forward in this book as papers at meetings of the

History of Science Society, British Society for the History of Science, and as a guest speaker at the Grant Museum's Darwin Theater Lecture Series, London, between 2007 and 2009. Each time, audience members made thoughtful critiques and suggestions for further study and showed great enthusiasm for the subject and my project. A number of the people listed here, including Alice Wyman, Christopher Bellitto, and Henry Nicholls, read all or part of the work and made suggestions for improvement and clarity (though in the end I take full responsibility for any factual mistakes). Thanks to the blind reviewers for their insightful and useful critiques, which enhanced the manuscript. Thanks to the staff at