

# Telling lives in science

Essays on scientific biography

EDITED BY

**Michael Shortland**

*Unit for History and Philosophy of Science, University of Sydney*

*and*

**Richard Yeo**

*School of Cultural and Historical Studies, Griffith University, Brisbane*



# Contents

- List of contributors* ix
- Preface* xiii
- Introduction** 1  
MICHAEL SHORTLAND AND RICHARD YEO
- 1 Existential projects and existential choice in science: science  
biography as an edifying genre** 45  
THOMAS SÖDERQVIST
- 2 Life-paths: autobiography, science and the French  
Revolution** 85  
DORINDA OUTRAM
- 3 From science to wisdom: Humphry Davy's life** 103  
DAVID KNIGHT
- 4 Robert Boyle and the dilemma of biography in the age of the  
Scientific Revolution** 115  
MICHAEL HUNTER
- 5 Alphabetical lives: scientific biography in historical dictionaries  
and encyclopaedias** 139  
RICHARD YEO
- 6 The scientist as hero: public images of Michael Faraday** 171  
GEOFFREY CANTOR

- 7 'Tactful organising and executive power': biographies of Florence Nightingale for girls 195  
MARTHA VICINUS
- 8 Taking histories, medical lives: Thomas Beddoes and biography 215  
ROY PORTER
- 9 The scientist as patron and patriotic symbol: the changing reputation of Sir Joseph Banks 243  
JOHN GASCOIGNE
- 10 Metabiographical reflections on Charles Darwin 267  
JAMES MOORE

*Index*

283