

Scientific and Medical Network



OPEN DIALOGUE and BOOK LAUNCH

Natural Selection and Beyond:

Celebrating the Intellectual Legacy
of Alfred Russel Wallace

Linnean Society, Burlington House, London SW1

Saturday 22nd November 2008

Speakers:

Prof. Charles Smith • Dr. George Beccaloni
Roy Davies • Prof. David Collard
Dr. Peter Raby

Chair:

Prof. Aubrey Manning



THE CONFERENCE

Alfred Russel Wallace (1823 - 1913) was one of the late nineteenth century's most potent intellectual forces. His link to Darwin as co-discoverer of the principle of natural selection alone would have secured him a place in history (presented in a joint paper to the Linnean Society with Darwin in 1858), but he went on to complete work entitling him to recognition as the 'father' of modern biogeographical studies, as a pioneer in the field of astrobiology, and as an important contributor to subjects as far-ranging as glaciology, land reform, anthropology and ethnography and epidemiology. Beyond this, many are coming to regard Wallace as the pre-eminent field biologist, collector, and naturalist of tropical regions (he collected 125,000 natural history specimens in SE Asia alone). Add to that the fact that he was a vocal supporter of spiritualism, socialism, and the rights of the ordinary person, and it quickly becomes apparent that Wallace was a man of extraordinary breadth of attention. Yet his work in many of these areas is still not well known, and still less recognised is his relevance to current day research almost 100 years after his death. This day conference will mark the launch of an authoritative edited volume – *Natural Selection and Beyond: the Intellectual Legacy of Alfred Russel Wallace* (Oxford University Press) - a rich collection of writings by more than twenty historians and scientists reviewing and reflecting on the work that made Wallace a famous man in his own time, and a figure of extraordinary influence and continuing interest today.

PROGRAMME

- 9:15 Registration
- 9:30 Introduction: Prof. Aubrey Manning
- 9:40 Dr. Peter Raby: *Alfred Russel Wallace: The Evolution of an Unforgotten Naturalist*
- 10:30 Dr. George Beccaloni: *Wallace, Darwin and the Discovery of Natural Selection*
Roy Davies: *Wallace, Darwin and the Discovery of Natural Selection – a New Interpretation of the Events*
- 11:40 Coffee
- 12:10 Prof. Charles Smith: *Wallace and Final Causes: Spiritualism, Evolution, and Beyond*
- 1:00 Lunch
- 2:10 Prof. David Collard: *Alfred Russel Wallace as a Social Reformer*
- 3:00 Tea
- 3:30 Plenary Dialogue
- 4:20 Wine reception



THE ORGANISER

THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK The Scientific and Medical Network is an interdisciplinary forum exploring frontiers of science, consciousness and spirituality, consisting of qualified scientists and doctors, psychologists, engineers, philosophers, psychologists and other professionals. The Network came into existence in 1973 and has Members in more than 50 countries. It questions the assumptions of contemporary scientific and medical thinking and seeks to reach beyond a materialistic world-view. By remaining open to both intuitive and spiritual insights, the Network fosters a climate in which science as a whole can adopt a more comprehensive and sensitive approach. See www.scimednet.org

THE SPEAKERS



Professor Aubrey Manning, OBE, FRSE is Emeritus Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh and has presented numerous BBC television and radio programmes on natural history including BBC2's *Earth Story* and *Talking Landscapes*. Most recently he could be heard on Radio 4 series such as *The Sounds of Life*, which attempted to recreate the first sounds heard on earth and explored natural sounds ranging from the seabed to the jungle, and *The Rules of Life* which attempts to get across the way natural selection operates at all stages of an animal's life history. He has been Chairman of the Scottish Wildlife Trust and a Trustee of the National Museums of Scotland and Project Wallacea.



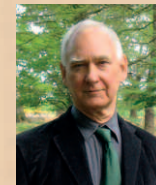
Professor Charles H. Smith is Science Librarian and Professor of Library Public Services at Western Kentucky University in the U.S.A. Charles is primarily a biogeographer by training, and has published research in that field, history of science, library science, bibliography, and systems theory. His books include *Alfred Russel Wallace: An Anthology of His Shorter Writings*, *Biodiversity Studies: A Bibliographic Review*, and the co-edited *Natural Selection and Beyond: The Intellectual Legacy of Alfred Russel Wallace*. He has also created and maintains a dozen free access informational websites on subjects ranging from music to biogeography, including *The Alfred Russel Wallace Page*.



Dr. George W. Beccaloni is an evolutionary biologist/entomologist who is currently the curator of grasshoppers, cockroaches and related insects at The Natural History Museum, London. George founded the A. R. Wallace Memorial Fund which has restored Wallace's grave in Broadstone, Dorset, and has erected monuments to commemorate him at his birthplace and elsewhere. He played a key role in helping The NHM acquire an important collection of Wallace's manuscripts, books and insect specimens from his surviving family in 2002. He is co-editor of *Natural Selection and Beyond: The Intellectual Legacy of Alfred Russel Wallace*.



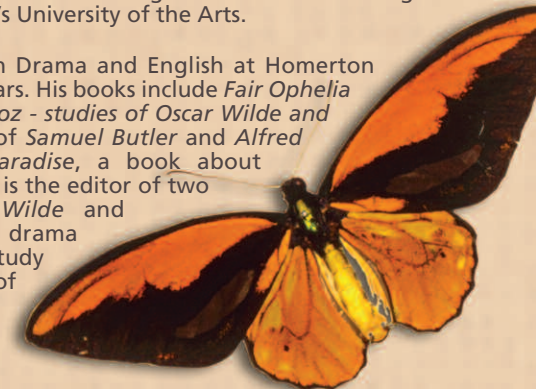
Professor David Collard - After first class honours in the Economics Tripos at Cambridge in 1960 David Collard took up lectureships at the Universities of Wales and Bristol. In 1978 he was appointed to the Chair of Economics at the University of Bath where he has been pro-Vice-Chancellor and is now Professor Emeritus. His main interests are in welfare economics and the history of economics and he has written extensively on Malthus, Bentham, Pigou, Marshall, Hicks and other leading economists. He is currently working on the problem of choice across the generations.



Roy Davies - In a BBC career spanning 30 years, Roy Davies wrote, produced and directed many acclaimed programmes for the BBC2 archaeology and history series *Chronicle*. In his seven years as editor of the history series *Timewatch* he commissioned ground-breaking investigative documentaries which challenged popular historical beliefs. His final position at the BBC before retiring in 1995 was as Head of Factual Programmes for BBC Wales. He is now a visiting lecturer in screenwriting at the London College of Communication, part of London's University of the Arts.



Dr. Peter Raby has lectured in Drama and English at Homerton College, Cambridge for thirty years. His books include *Fair Ophelia - a life of Harriet Smithson Berlioz - studies of Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley*, biographies of *Samuel Butler* and *Alfred Russel Wallace*, and *Bright Paradise*, a book about Victorian scientific travellers. He is the editor of two Cambridge Companions, on *Wilde* and *Pinter*, and has written extensively on modern drama and theatre. He is currently working on a new study of *Wilde*, and on an expanded second edition of the *Cambridge Companion to Pinter* (November 2009).



BOOKING FORM

Natural Selection and Beyond: Celebrating the Intellectual Legacy of Alfred Russel Wallace

22 November 2008

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Please send to: Conference Administrator, Scientific and Medical Network,
PO Box 11, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos GL56 0ZF.
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PAYMENT OPTIONS

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Cancellations: a fee of £15 will be retained. No refunds after 10th November