

CHARLES H. SMITH is Science Librarian and Professor of Library Public Services at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. A biogeographer and historian by training, he has been involved in Wallace studies for nearly thirty years. His previous works include *Alfred Russel Wallace: An Anthology of His Shorter Writings*, *Biodiversity Studies: A Bibliographic Review*, *Alfred Russel Wallace: Writings on Evolution 1843–1912*, and the website The Alfred Russel Wallace Page.

GEORGE BECCALONI is an evolutionary biologist and entomologist. He is curator of orthopteroid insects at The Natural History Museum, London. In 1999 he founded the A. R. Wallace Memorial Fund, which has restored Wallace's grave and erected monuments to him at his birthplace and elsewhere. George has published a number of articles about Wallace and is currently attempting to set up a project to compile and transcribe all of Wallace's correspondence.

Jacket illustrations: *front* Portrait of Wallace in oils by J. W. Beaufort in the NHM, London. This was commissioned by the Wallace Memorial Committee and unveiled at the Museum on 23rd June 1923. It was painted by Beaufort without charge, from photographs. © the Natural History Museum, London.

A male of Wallace's golden birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera croesus*). This specimen was collected by Wallace on Batchian (Bacan Island, Indonesia) in 1859. It has faint fingerprint marks on its wings which may be Wallace's. © The Natural History Museum, London.

back: Watercolour painting by Wallace in 1855 of a rainforest tree in a clearing at the Simunjon coalworks, Sarawak, Borneo (private collection). © Richard Wallace.

'Why did so many of the greatest intellects fail, while Darwin and myself hit upon the solution of this problem . . . ? . . . First (and most important, as I believe), in early life both Darwin and myself became ardent beetle-hunters.'

Alfred R. Wallace, from acceptance speech on receiving the Darwin-Wallace medal, 1908



'I am a socialist because I believe that the highest law for mankind is justice.'

Alfred R. Wallace, *My life: a record of events and opinions*

These quotations indicate at once the two driving passions in the life of Alfred Russel Wallace—his fascination with the natural world, and his deep sense of social justice. They ramified into his many works and achievements, and made him, by the end of his life, as famous in Victorian society as the now iconic Charles Darwin.

Natural Selection and Beyond is a remarkable collection of essays, most of them specially commissioned, which consider in depth aspects of the life and work of the co-discoverer of natural selection. Introduced by Peter Bowler and Lord Cranbrook, and with contributions from twenty-three other distinguished scholars and scientists, the many facets of Wallace's life and thought are at last brought together to produce an engaging and scholarly assessment of Wallace as scientist and socialist, as an astonishingly prolific collector and naturalist, and an influential thinker who questioned the materialism and progressivist capitalism that dominated Victorian society.

'These sparkling essays throw light on every aspect of Alfred Russel Wallace's richly varied intellectual adventures. For too long obscured by Charles Darwin's shadow, Wallace was a truly remarkable naturalist. In a brilliant flash of insight he too came up with the idea of evolution by natural selection, and his contact with Darwin not only led to the famous joint paper announcing evolutionary theory in 1858 but also to publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species*. Wallace could so easily have become an eminent Victorian. Yet his radical views took him outside the scientific mainstream. From spirit photographs to ardent beetle-collecting, this sprightly volume offers a unique perspective on one of the founders of evolutionary theory and opens up the other side of Victorian science.'

Professor Janet Browne, author of the 2-volume biography, *Charles Darwin*

'Alfred Russel Wallace, perhaps the greatest field biologist of the 19th century, has long been famous (among science historians) for being unfamous to the general public. Popular understanding tends to simplify, and when it simplified "Darwinism," Wallace disappeared from the picture. He and his revolutionary work, his courageous travels, his eclectic portfolio of interests and ideas should be better known by everyone. I hope this richly various collection of articles, expertly edited by Smith and Beccaloni, will help to bring a complicated man the recognition he deserves.'

David Quammen, author of *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*

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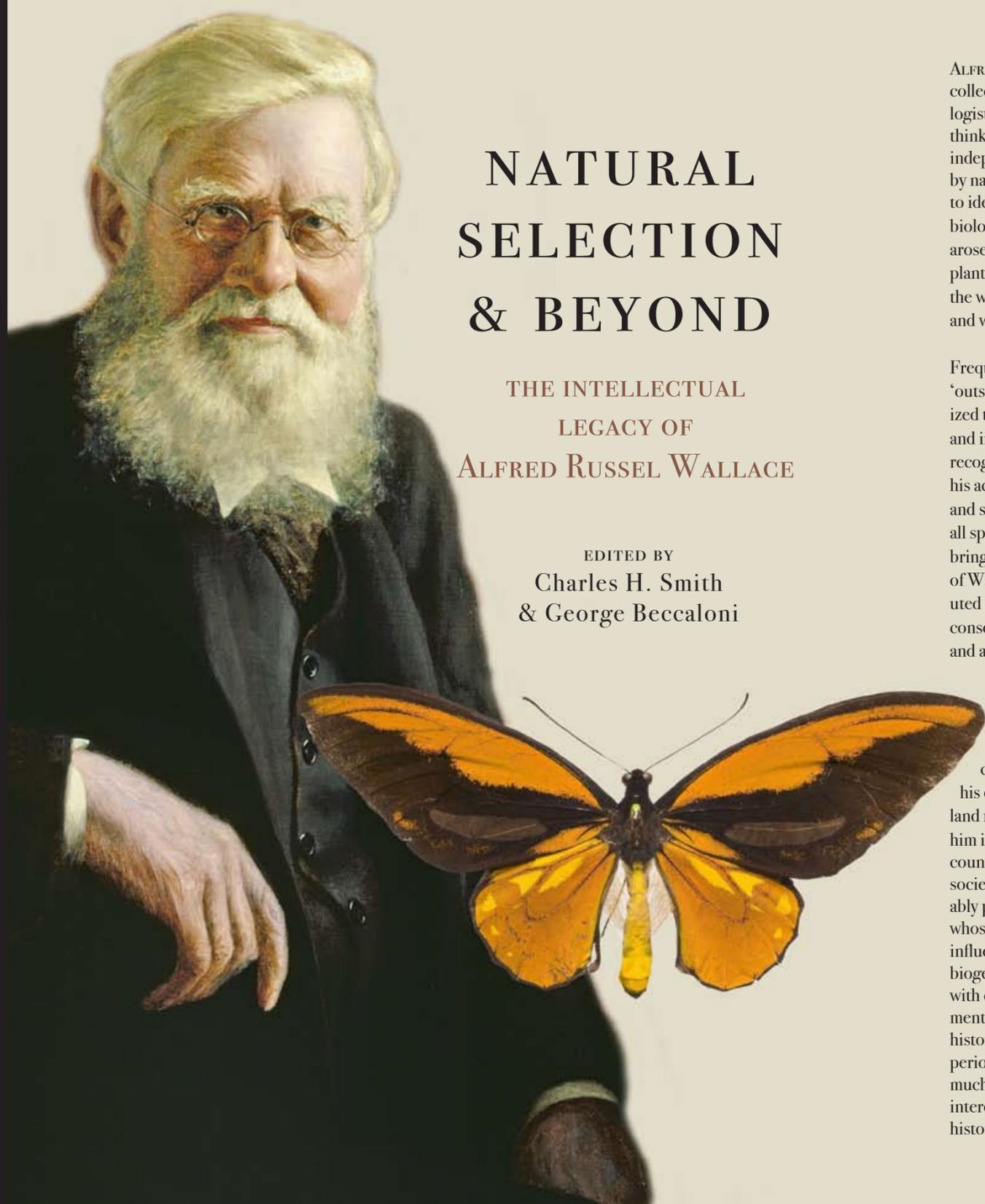
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Smith & Beccaloni

NATURAL SELECTION & BEYOND



NATURAL SELECTION & BEYOND

THE INTELLECTUAL
LEGACY OF
ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

EDITED BY
Charles H. Smith
& George Beccaloni

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE, 'ardent beetle collector', widely travelled naturalist, biologist, socialist, prolific Victorian writer and thinker, is best known as the co-discoverer, independently of Charles Darwin, of evolution by natural selection. While both men came to identify this fundamental principle of biology, from which all the diversity of life arose, through careful study of animals and plants in many different environments across the world, their lives, backgrounds, characters, and world views were quite different.

Frequently depicted as the awkward 'outsider', the modest collector who popularized the term 'Darwinism', Wallace's fame and influence in Victorian society are rarely recognized. Nor are the extent and range of his achievements widely known. This unique and scholarly collection of essays, almost all specially commissioned for this work, brings together analyses of various aspects of Wallace's life, thought, and work, contributed by distinguished historians, biologists, conservationists, anthropologists, a geologist and a literary critic.

Together, these essays reveal the depth and variety of Wallace's interests and concerns, from adaptation and animal coloration, to glaciation, astronomy, and his engagement with social issues such as land reform and vaccination. They also place him in his wider historical context, as part of a countercurrent of anti-materialism in Victorian society. What emerges is a picture of a remarkably polymathic and deeply humane man, whose work and ideas continue to exert their influence not only in evolutionary biology and biogeography, but in contemporary concerns with conservation and sustainable development. Invaluable to Wallace scholars and to historians of science and of the Victorian period, *Natural Selection and Beyond* contains much that will appeal to the general reader interested in Wallace, evolution, natural history, and Victorian Britain.