

**2nd International Conference on Alfred Russel Wallace- His Predecessors and Successors. Naturalists,
Explorers and Field Scientists in South-East Asia and Australasia**

7 – 8 November 2013

Jointly organized by:

Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation (IBEC), [Universiti Malaysia Sarawak](#),
Jabatan Muzium Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry

Alfred Russel Wallace, Nature's Prophet: from Natural Selection to Natural Theology

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Despite considerable research into this famed naturalist's life and work, the metaphysical views of Alfred Russel Wallace (1823–1913) remain controversial. This paper seeks resolution in Wallace's experiences in the Malay Archipelago that presaged his own turn towards a comprehensive natural theology. Although distinct from the commissioned neo-Palean apologetic Bridgewater Treatises (1833–1837), Wallace's refurbishment of the argument from design represented the most innovative contribution of its kind in the Victorian/Edwardian eras. Wallace gave greatest expression to his natural theology in *The world of life* (1910), but his own evolution towards a coherent natural theology is evidenced by 1856. This paper reviews this significant aspect of Wallace's life and work, placing him within the highly charged intersection of biology and religion. Primary resources include Wallace's publications from the *Annals and magazine of natural history* (1856), *Journal of the Anthropological Society of London* (1864), *Quarterly journal of science* (1867), *Quarterly review* (1869), *Darwinism* (1889), *My life* (1905), and others. These are contextualized through selected secondary works (e.g., *Fichman, An elusive Victorian* [2004]; *Slotten, The heretic in Darwin's court* [2004]; *McCalman, Darwin's armada* [2009]; *Flannery, Here on earth* [2011]). This paper concludes that Wallace was nature's prophet, a teleological visionary inspired by his unique experiences as a prodigious collector of species and keen observer of nature. This vision influenced a later generation of scientists (e.g., physicist Sir Oliver Lodge [1851–1940], physician/palæontologist Robert Broom [1866–1951], and astronomer/mathematician Sir Fred Hoyle [1915–2001]).