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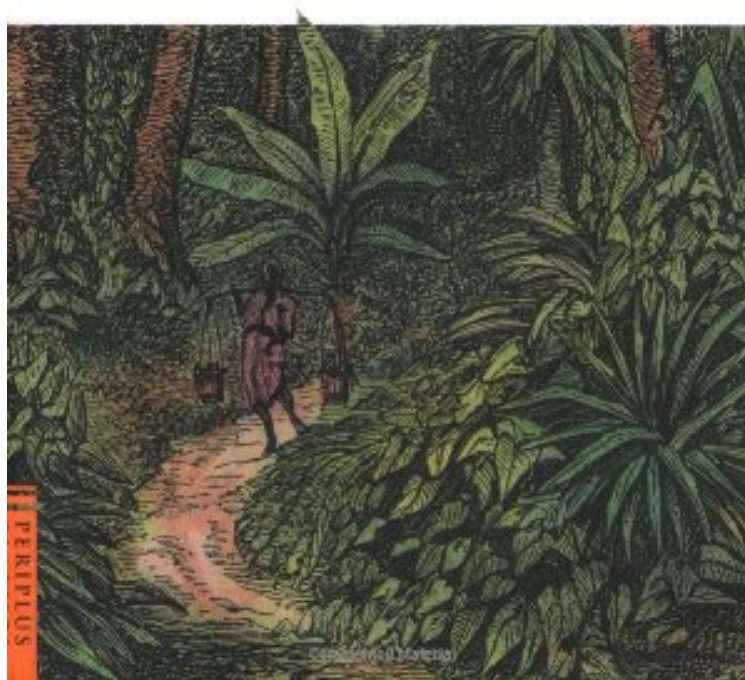
*Alfred Russell Wallace, Tony Whitten Ph.D*  
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### THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO

ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE

*Introduction by Tony Whitten*



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**Alfred Russell Wallace, Tony Whitten Ph.D : The Malay Archipelago (Periplus Classics Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Malay Archipelago (Periplus Classics Series):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Early days with WallaceBy M. L. BennerIf I buy a hard back classic book, I want to be sure it is in acceptable condition and is something I will keep as a reference source. I was very pleased with my copy of 'The Malay Archipelago'. It arrived in a timely manner. The geographical location is known to me and having read Tim Severin's book, and a lot on Charles Darwin this year, I thought it valuable to go to the 'main man' on discovery in the field and parallel ideas to Darwin. It is not an easy read but absolutely fascinating. I even read all the lists of species he finds. Wallace seemed such a simple, humble man and now has the famous Wallace line named after him. He endured so much while living in very difficult conditions, with all sorts of dangerous pests, diseases and strange food. Then Darwin was given all the credit. I was talking to a college professor last week and he said anyone who reads Wallace is "a hard core explorer", but I would recommend it to anyone who has the time to read and enjoy travelling in both time and location.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is one of my all-time favorite books. Some find it too long and detailedBy Susan L. RuddySimply charming window on both the flora and fauna (including humans) of the Indonesian islands. It is one of my all-time favorite books. Some find it too long and detailed, but I found it mesmerizing and return to it often when I want an hour or so of immersion in a world where reality is both stranger and more fascinating than fiction.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Malay Archipelago; Cosimo Classics hardcover editionBy Dr Geoff WilliamsIn effect this is a facsimile edition of Wallace's seminal manuscript; early editions of which, if you are lucky enough to find one, do not come cheap. The Cosimo Classics hardcover volume is well bound, the typeface and reproduction of the illustrations are clear, and the general layout is without any obvious faults. The only glitch I found was that the publisher has wrongly 'corrected' the author's name to Alfred Russel Wallace, instead of Russel with one 'L'. This aside, it is a volume that sits proudly in my library.

This is one the first and most important books about 18th century Malaysia and covers a wide array of topics from Malaysian culture and history to nature and wildlife. It is essential reading for anyone interested in Malaysia. A century and a half after it was first published, this book remains one of the great classics of natural history and travel perhaps the greatest. Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) deserves equal billing with Charles Darwin for his independently drawn but parallel conclusions on the theory of evolution. Darwin himself called Wallace "generous and noble" and referred favorably to his work in later editions of *The Origin of Species*. *The Malay Archipelago* is an extraordinarily accessible book. There is a wealth of detail about premodern life in the Indonesian archipelago which Wallace accumulated on over 60 separate journeys spanning 14,000 miles. He was equally fascinated by the exotic peoples, flora and fauna he encountered in his epic travels. A mark of his achievement lies in the size of the collections he bequeathed to British museums—some 125,000 specimens ranging from large mammals to tiny insects, exotic butterflies and splendid birds of paradise. His basic thesis stands to this day: that two separate biological zones border these islands, separated by the deepwater channel now known as the Wallace Line, running between Bali and Lombok, which only a relative handful of species have crossed. The islands east of Bali in effect form a transitional zone where some of the world's strangest creatures are found.

"One of the great classics of travel literature. It is indeed good news that Oxford University Press has now made available a handsome new edition of the book . . . Natural scientists and anthropologists, in addition to being entertained, will find a vast store of scientific facts, many of which can no longer be observed firsthand." --Science Books and Films  
From the Back Cover  
Much as Charles Darwin's name is inextricably associated with the Galapagos, Alfred Russel Wallace's is deeply associated with Indonesia. A British biologist and explorer--and a contemporary of Darwin who developed his own theory of evolution in parallel--Wallace spent eight years in the region, covering 14,000 square miles in his expeditions, amassing an unparalleled collection of 125,000 specimens of local insects and animals, and becoming the first European to set foot in many of the exotic places in which he tarried to study. Considered one of the 19th century's greatest scientific and travel books, this classic volume details his journeys and intellectual endeavors, from his friendships with the natives to his startlement at the strange creatures who lived there. This replica of the 1890 tenth edition, complete with all the beautiful original line drawings and maps, will thrill students of natural history, armchair travelers, and anyone fascinated by the human urge to explore.  
About the Author  
Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) was a British naturalist, explorer, geographer, anthropologist and biologist. He was born on 8 January 1823 in the small village of Usk, Monmouthshire. Shortly after finishing school, Wallace's father passed away and he joined his brother to do work surveying countries for four years. Through this, he acquired the talent for observation and detailed recordings. He is best known for his theory of natural selection. From 1854 to 1862 he explored the River with his mentor Henry Walter Bates. During this expedition, he saw differences between the animals in Asia and the animals in Australia. Out of this experience came his theory of natural selection. He wrote a manuscript called *On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart Indefinitely from the Original Type*. He sent it to Charles Darwin who decided to publish his theory right away. To this day, Wallace's greatest accomplishment was to get Charles Darwin to publish his own theory.