

YANG DI-PERTUA: PRESIDENT Tun Mohammed Hanif bin Omar

## PERSATUAN ASIA DIRAJA BAHAGIAN MALAYSIA THE MALAYSIAN BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

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Dear MBRAS Member,

You are invited to a Joint ARI-MBRAS Lecture by Dr John van Wyhe.

Time: Saturday, 6 October 2012 6-7.30pm.

Place: Asia Research Institute, Seminar Room Level 10, 469A Tower Block, NUS @ Bukit Timah Campus, Singapore.

## The Talk

## WALLACE IN SINGAPORE

Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) collected natural history specimens throughout Southeast Asia from 1854-1862. He famously proposed a dividing line between the Asian and Australian fauna still known as the Wallace Line and independently proposed the theory of evolution by natural selection. These and more make Wallace's voyage one of the most important ever conducted in the region. During these extraordinary years Wallace used Singapore as his base for mail, shipments and supplies. In total he spent almost a year here during several stays. Yet Wallace's time and activities in Singapore have remained vague and little known. This is mostly because his own account of Singapore suffered from the loss of a notebook and letters. New research for my forthcoming book enables Wallace in Singapore to be restored. Several surprises emerge and it is now possible to appreciate just how much Wallace benefited from Singapore and the unknown legacies he left behind.

**Dr John van Wyhe** is a historian of science who specializes on Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, the Director of Darwin Online, a Senior Lecturer in the Departments of Biological Sciences & History at the National University of Singapore. He has published widely in this area including six books. A further three books on Wallace are in progress.

Admission is Free.

Dr Neil Khor Jin Keong

Hon. Secretary