

Some original sketches of Alfred Russel Wallace in contemporary newspapers.

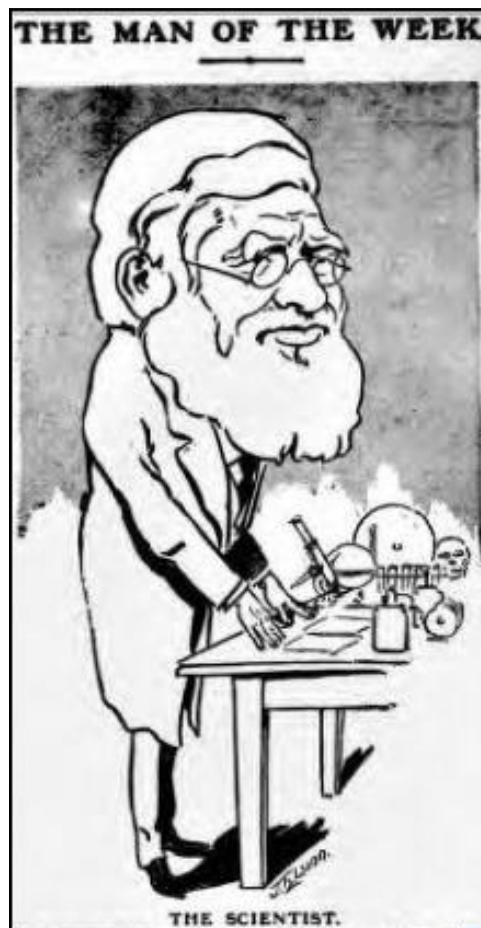
[First published on *Darwin Online* on 14/01/2020. Revised and enlarged 24/01/2020. RN2]

By Christine Chua with assistance from John van Wyhe.

[This revised version includes nine illustrations of Wallace that were not included in the first version, given as an appendix below.]

Several previously unrecorded portrayals of Alfred Russel Wallace have been found in international newspapers from 1898 to 1913. Original artworks based on photographs and paintings are included. Of interest is the first recorded caricature of Wallace. It was found by Chua in January 2020. In the past it has often been remarked that Wallace had never been caricatured. While one caricature hardly changes the big picture, it is nonetheless interesting. There may be more and there are no doubt further original portrayals in contemporary newspapers yet to be recorded.

The Sketches



The Citizen (West of England), 12 January 1911.

This is the first caricature of Wallace that has been recorded so far. It appeared in a weekly column entitled “The man of the week”. It was written in honour of Wallace’s 88th birthday. It shows a smiling, aged and contemplative Wallace with an over-sized head, as caricatures are wont to do. Wallace is standing at a desk or lab bench. There are sheets of paper in front of his splayed fingers, like a typist ready to work on a keyboard. There is also a small skull, a microscope and various instruments for scientific work. The drawing is signed by J. H. Lunn. From 1914-1918, Lunn was an illustrator for the *Abergavenny Chronicle* in Wales. His illustrations appear in the column ‘In lighter vein.’ His last contribution was on 19 April 1918. The accompanying text reads:

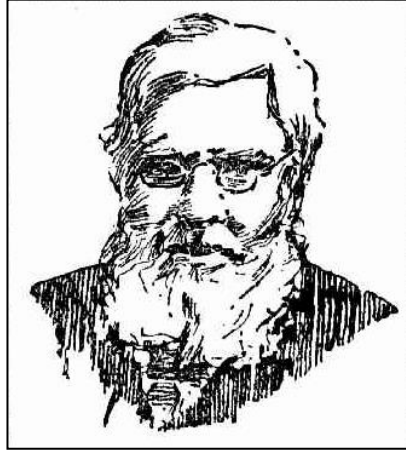
THE SCIENTIST.

For his age, there is not a younger man in this country to-day than Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the famous scientist who shares with Darwin the distinction attaching to the discovery of the principle of natural selection. Dr. Wallace has just celebrated his eighty eight birthday. It is a great age, and the years have made his hair and beard as white as snow. But his mind retains the vigour and the fire of youth. He is still keenly interested not only in the progress of science, but in all matters affecting mankind in general, and his fellow countrymen in particular. The world, he thinks, is moving, though slowly, but it is not, in his opinion at any rate, a better place for the very poorest than it was half a century ago. In spite of many improvements, what he describes as the foundation of all, the chance of a decent livelihood for every English man, woman, and child, is still to seek. Dr. Wallace is a Socialist, but he does not altogether approve of the Socialists in the House of Commons.

The caricature was reproduced in *The Globe* (Sydney) on 27 March 1912, under the section heading “People of the period”. A shorter version of the text accompanying the caricature reads:

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, who shares with Darwin the distinction attaching to the discovery of the principle of natural selection, celebrated his eighty eight birthday in 1911. He is still keenly interested not only in the progress of science, but in all matters affecting mankind in general, and his fellow countrymen in particular. The world, he thinks, is moving, though slowly, but it is not a better place for the very poorest than it was half a century ago.

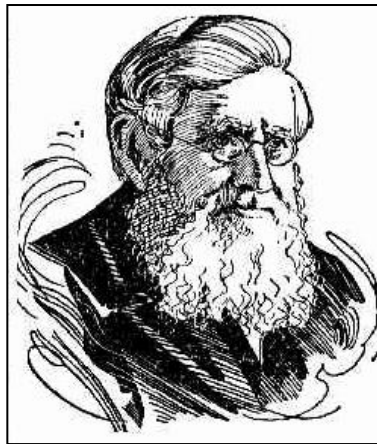
The caricature was also reproduced in *The Herald* (Melbourne) on 8 November 1913 under the heading of “Famous scientist: death of Dr. A. R. Wallace, co-worker with Darwin.” The article itself was from *The Times* (London) published that morning.



The Daily Telegraph (Sydney), 4 June 1898.

This woodcut is likely based on one of the 1895 photographs by the London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company (1854-1922). The article entitled “A book of the year” was a review of Wallace’s new book *The wonderful century* (S726 in *Wallace Online*). An extract of the article reads:

Dr. Wallace, who during a long life has been loaded with honors and medals from various learned societies, and has almost lost sight of his own name in a network of supplementary letters and titles, has written much concerning Darwin and his theories.

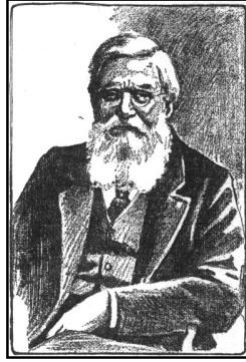


The Daily Telegraph (Sydney), 21 February 1903.

This woodcut is likely based on the 1909 photograph by Reginald Haines (1872-1942). The heading of the article reads:

The dawn of a great discovery “My relations with Darwin in reference to the theory of natural selection.”

This was a reprint from an article by Wallace in *Black and White* (S599 *Wallace Online*). Wallace had been invited by the editor of that periodical to write a short piece on his relationship with the recently deceased Darwin which Wallace said he would “gladly do so.”

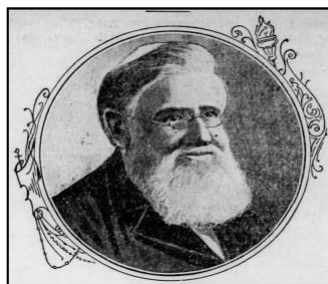


Indianapolis News (Indiana), 14 March 1903.

This drawing appears to be after the 1895 photograph by the London Stereoscopic & Photographic Company. The pocket handkerchief is omitted in this drawing, the right lapel is floating and the button there is also not drawn. The creases on Wallace's forehead are more defined when compared with the original photograph. Compare with *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney) 4 June 1898, above. The caption reads:

Distinguished English naturalist, who has startled the scientific world with the statement that the Earth is at the center of the material universe.

Under the banner, "Is the Earth, the habitation of man, in the center of the universe?" A biographical sketch of Wallace was given and there were statements made by Wallace and views from Monsieur Camille Flammarion, a noted French astronomer, Reverend Dr. George M. Searle of the Paulist congregation in New York and President Scot Butler of Butler College. See S728 in *Wallace Online*.

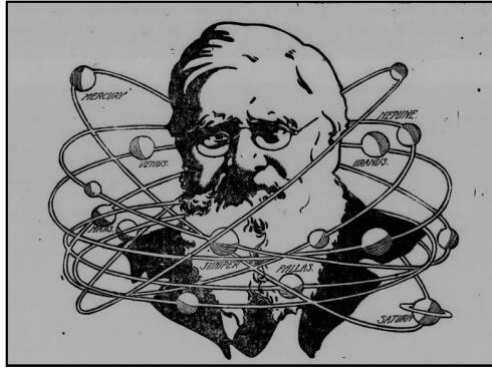


The Holton Signal (Kansas), 19 August 1903.

This appears to be an original portrait, most likely derived from previous photographs and drawings. An extract of the caption reads:

Dr. Wallace, one of the most famous scientific men of this generation, has just surprised the world by promulgating a new theory – that the earth is exactly at the center of the universe, and that the whole scheme of creation was evidently planned for the purpose of creating man.

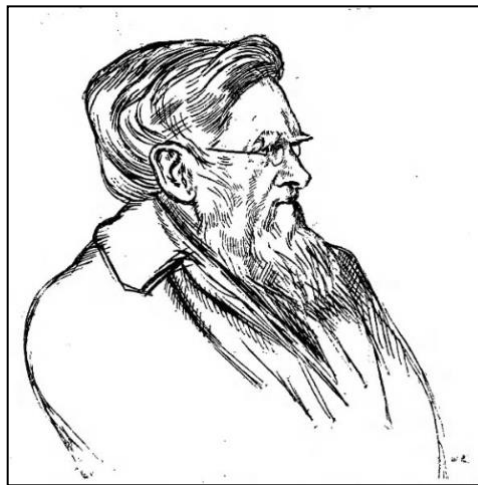
The same image was used in at least ten other publications with varying captions.



Boston Post (Massachusetts), 26 December 1903.

This drawing is also based on the same 1895 photograph by the London Stereoscopic & Photographic Company. It accompanies a half-page article on Wallace's new book *Man's place in the universe* (S728, *Wallace Online*). An extract of the article reads:

Without regard to Dr. Wallace's purely theoretical divagations, his book is of great value as a compendium of information – terrestrial, solar and astrophysical – rarely accessible to the general reader.



The Manchester Guardian, 16 October 1905.

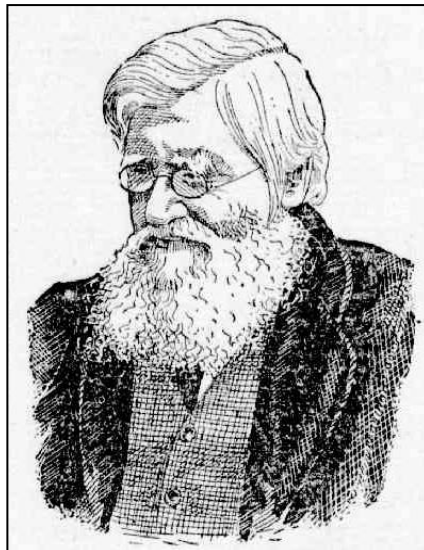
A lithographed sketch of Wallace in 1904 was given by the artist Sir William Rothenstein (1872-1945) to the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. This woodcut is based on it but is a new drawing. The article by C. E. W., was about Wallace's 1905 autobiography *My Life* (S729.1 and S729.2 in *Wallace Online*). The caption reads: Alfred Russel Wallace: Drawn for the Manchester Guardian by W. Rothenstein. C. E. W. concluded:

[...] the book is a remarkable achievement for a man of Dr. Wallace's advanced years, and that though we may disagree with him on some matters we would wish to be very heartily associated with the general tribute of admiration and respect which his book is sure to call forth.



South Wales Daily, 21 October 1905.

This woodcut appears to be based on the drawing of W. Rothenstein above, although Wallace here is looking down and his hair is not as full. The wide collar is very similar. Under the heading of “Usk’s famous son”, was a review of Wallace’s autobiography *My Life*. The article was entitled “Darwin’s great co-worker”.



The Daily Telegraph (Sydney), 13 January 1906.

This woodcut is based on the 1902 photograph by Florence Chant (1857-1930). It is the frontispiece in Wallace’s *My Life*. It appeared under the column “Literature”, being a review of Wallace’s autobiography. The writer concludes:

The last part of the octogenarian’s memoir is concerned largely with an account of his dealings with various ‘mediums,’ and of the messages and predictions supposed to have been made to him by alleged spirits inhabiting another sphere.

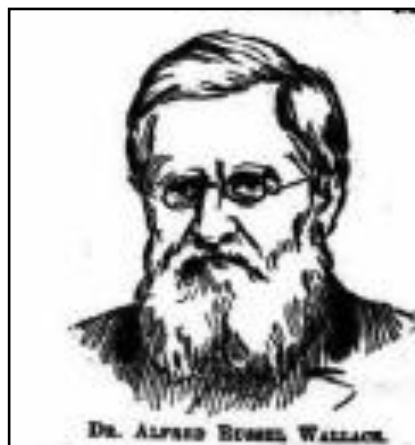


Wigton Advertiser (Cumbria), 18 January 1908.

This woodcut is based on the 1887 photograph by Isaiah West Taber (1830-1912). The article reads:

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, who has celebrated his ninetieth birthday, has earned his own living since he was fourteen years of age, when he went surveying with an elder brother. It was the difficulty of finding work in London sixty-five years ago that led him to think of going to the almost unknown forests of the Amazon, “in order to observe Nature and make living by collecting.” He met Henry Walter Bates and the two travelled together during four wonderful years. Later on, he went to the Far East, and it was on this journey that he discovered the great doctrine of Natural Selection.

The same image was used in at least ten other publications with varying captions.



Witney Gazette (Oxfordshire), 25 January 1908.

This woodcut is likely be based on the 1895 photograph by the London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company. Under the heading of “Famous octogenarian scientist”, an extract of the article reads: “Dr. Wallace is the last of the race of the great Victorian scientists. There is none left but he, after Lord Kelvin.”



Mid Sussex Times, 7 July 1908.

This woodcut is very similar to the 1902 photograph by Florence Chant. Under the heading of “A great scientist”, an extract of the article reads:

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the distinguished scientist who was awarded a Darwin-Wallace medal by the Linnæen Society at the Darwin Jubilee the other day [...], is in his eighty-sixth year, and it is fifty years since he and Charles Darwin made to the members of the society that joint communication on the subject of Natural Selection.



Belfast Weekly News, 12 November 1908.

This woodcut is likely to be based on the c. 1880 photograph by Mauill & Fox (1877-1928) although the profile is slightly different. Under the heading of “The King’s Birthday” and entitled “Order of Merit”, an extract of the article reads:

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, who has received the King’s appointment to the Order of Merit, shares with Darwin some portion of the fame which the discovery of the principle of natural selection will ever attach to the latter’s name.



Ross-Shire Journal (Inverness), 13 November 1908.

This woodcut forms part of a collage with four other men regarding the King's birthday honours list on the Order of Merit. The caption reads:

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, whose name is associated with that of the great Darwin in the discovery of the principle of evolution by the law of natural selection.



The New York Times, 11 May 1913.

This drawing is based on a 1909 photograph by Reginald Haines. The photograph was donated by Wallace's children to the National Portrait Gallery in 1916. A near full-page article with the heading reads:

"System of society rotten from top to bottom: Worst the world has ever seen, says Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the distinguished codiscoverer with Darwin of the doctrine of natural selection."



The Times Dispatch (Virginia), 19 October 1913.

This woodcut is based on the 1909 photograph by Reginald Haines. Under the heading of “Eugenics immoral, useless to improve the race, says Dr. A. R. Wallace,” the caption reads: “Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, the distinguished English scientist and interpreter of Darwin, who condemns the new science of eugenics.”

A full-page article followed in which Wallace declared the only way to improve the human race was to put society on a moral basis and thereby enable it to develop in a natural and moral way. He said freedom for women would be most helpful in improving the race, among other matters.



The Evening Record (Ontario), 6 December 1913.

This woodcut is based on the 1910 photograph by Emil Otto Hoppé (1878-1972). Under the heading of “Last of the giants: late Alfred Russel Wallace shared honor with Darwin,” the article states: “It may have been the mysticism of the Scot, but Wallace could not bring himself to believe that the mind of man was not subject to something higher and greater than mere mechanical and chemical forces.”

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Appendix

First is a series of original artworks that were published in *The Daily Press* (Newport). Uncle Ray's corner was a daily column in *The Daily Press* covering science, social and travel topics etc., for young readers. The writer was Ramon Coffman (1897-1989) who was with the *Wisconsin State Journal* for 45 years. Apart from the 27 June article's illustration which was not signed, the rest of the artwork was signed 'Papé'. Frank Cheyne Papé (1878-1972) was an English artist who studied at The Slade School of fine art. The second section's articles and artwork are from American newspapers.



The Daily Press (Newport), 27 June 1949.

An original woodcut of “Young Wallace in office of his brother William.” Artist unknown. Published in Uncle Ray's corner, the article is entitled, “Young Wallace took interest in rocks, plants.” An extract from the article reads:

About a century and a quarter ago – in the year 1823, to be exact – a baby was born in the Wallace family at Usk, and was given the name Alfred. This baby was to become one of the world's great scientists. People speak of him today as Alfred Russel Wallace.

This would appear to be the beginning of a series of mini stories on the life and adventures of Wallace. A brief biography of Wallace can be found here: http://wallace-online.org/Wallace-Bio-Sketch_John_van_Wyhe.html



The Daily Press (Newport), 28 June 1949.

An original woodcut of “Wallace during his Amazon valley trip” by Papé. Published in Uncle Ray’s corner, the article is entitled “Interest in insects led Wallace to go to Brazil.” An extract of the article reads:

Little things often change the course of a human life. That was true in the case of Alfred Russel Wallace. [...] The “little thing” which changed the life of Wallace was the fact that Bates like to collect insects. Looking at the insects which his friend had collected, young Wallace decided to follow the same hobby. [...] Wallace and Bates gathered together what money they could, and set out on the voyage.



The Daily Press (Newport), 29 June 1949.

An original woodcut of “The captain gave the order to prepare the lifeboats” by Papé. Published in Uncle Ray’s corner and although the woodcut did not specifically mention Wallace, the article is entitled “Burning vessel left Wallace adrift in Atlantic Ocean.” An extract reads:

One morning while the vessel was far out in the ocean, Wallace heard a knock on his cabin door. It was the captain , and he said: “I’m afraid the ship is on fire! Come and see what you think of it.” Going on deck, Wallace and the captain saw smoke coming out of the forecandle. [...] The best efforts of the sailors failed to do much good...Wallace ran to his cabin and picked up what he could to take into the boat which he boarded.

See [S714](#), Wallace Online.



The Daily Press (Newport), 30 June 1949.

An original woodcut of “Wallace during his long illness in the East Indies” by Papé. Published in Uncle Ray’s corner, the article is entitled: “Wallace puzzled over problem during illness in orient.” An extract of the article reads:

In the course of his travels, Wallace fell sick, from time to time. During one illness he suffered from a tropical fever which kept him in bed for weeks on end. He felt sorry to miss his work he might have done collecting, but his mind was busy. [...] He kept trying to answer the question of why there should be so many kinds, or species, of insects.

See [S715.1](#) & [S715.2](#), Wallace Online.



The Daily Press (Newport), 1 July 1949

An original woodcut of “Wallace working in his garden during his old age” by Papé. Published in Uncle Ray’s corner, the article is entitled: “Wallace wrote to Darwin about theory of evolution.” An extract of a very simple recapitulation of the day the letter from Ternate was received by Darwin reads:

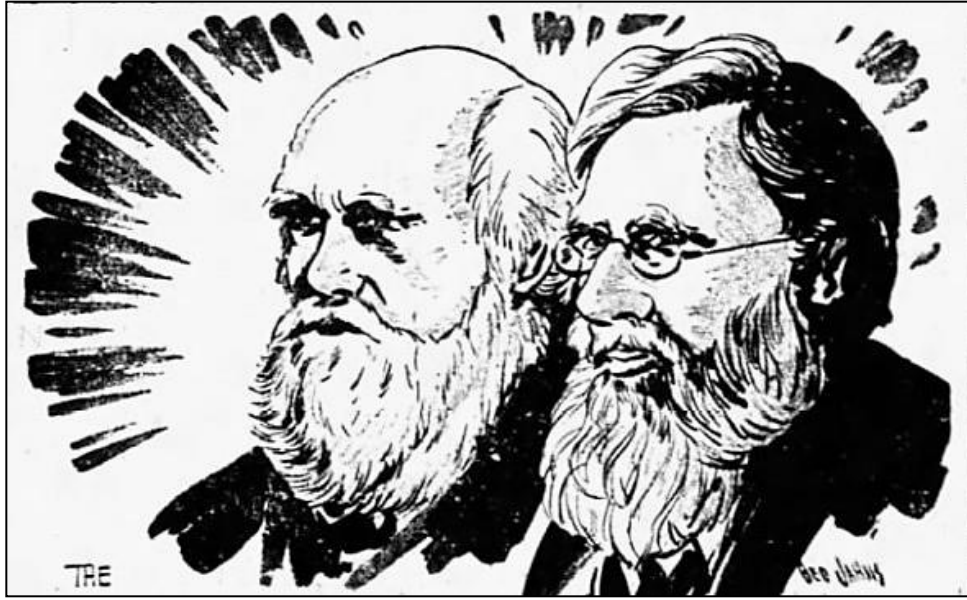
There he was, this 35-year-old scientist, on one of the islands of the East Indies, on the other side of the World from Great Britain. Yet his thoughts traveled back to his native land. He decided to tell about his ideas in a letter to an older scientist, a man by the name of Charles Darwin. [...]

Both Darwin and Wallace acted in a gentlemanly way. Wallace learned that the older scientist had been working in this field, and declared that Darwin should have the credit for the theory of evolution.

Returning to Great Britain, Wallace spent his time in writing and in learning more about science. He died in 1913, at the age of 90.

With this, the series came to an end.

The same article with the illustration was reproduced in *The Pittsburgh Press* (Pennsylvania) on 7 August 1964 with the caption “Wallace learned ‘secrets’ first hand.”



The York Dispatch (Pennsylvania), 30 March 1949. (An extract)

This extract featuring both Darwin and Wallace was made by feature artist George Jahns (1907-1994). It was published in the column 'Strange as it seems' (1928-1970). The column was originally created by John Hix (1928-1944). The other drawings sharing this strip were by Dick Kirby. It is not known who the writer was, though it is very likely Elsie Huber Hix, as both Dick Kirby and George Jahns were illustrators. The text reads:

The theory of evolution was presented simultaneously by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace...Wallace stumbled on the theory, submitted the idea to Darwin on the eve of publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species" on which he had worked for 20 years!



Streator Times Press (Illinois), 25 October 1960. (An extract)

This is the top half of an educational story-strip featuring Wallace, Darwin and Lyell. It was published in the column probing the origin and development of the 'Earth, stars and Man'. It published daily, on exciting events in science. The illustrator was John Lane and the article, entitled "Battle of the century," was written by Don Oakley. An extract of the article reads:

In 1858, Charles Darwin received a manuscript from a naturalist working in Malaya, one Alfred Russel Wallace. It duplicated Darwin's findings almost point by point. Darwin wanted to publish Wallace's paper and disclaim all credit for himself.



Detroit Free Press, 1 February 1983. (An extract)

This sketch is based on the 1910 photograph by Emil Otto Hoppé (1878-1972) by their in-house artist Nolan Ross (1943-1997). In the collage are Sir Isaac Newton, Franz Joseph Gall, a gorilla, a clairvoyant's crystal ball among other objects. The article written for the *New York Times* on 25 January 1983 by William J. Broad, a Pulitzer prize-winning science writer was entitled "What happens when heroes of science go astray." Here, a shorter version of the article is entitled "Why geniuses go wrong." An extract of the article reads:

Isaac Newton, after laying the foundations of modern physics, spent a quarter of a century dabbling with alchemy, compulsively heading down a blind alley. A misguided quest also took hold of Alfred Russel Wallace, co-discoverer of the theory of evolution by natural selection. He spent years mired in futile attempts to communicate with the dead. Great men sometimes go sour.



The Courier-Journal (Kentucky), 12 March 1983.

This artwork by staff illustrator Wes Kendall, is based on the 1869 photograph by Thomas Sims (1826-1910). It is essentially the same article as the one above by William J. Broad but with a different title, "Off on a tangent...sometimes even a genius lays an egg." Another extract from the article reads:

Alfred Russel Wallace, who hit upon the theory of evolution independently of Charles Darwin, was, by any standard, a great naturalist. However, he eventually took up seances and other attempts to communicate with the dead.