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Issue 10

AMRC Newsletter

Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre, Malaspina University College, Nanaimo, BC, Canada

Official Opening of Centre Set for June 23

After six years of existence limited to hyperspace and to the minds and activities of its members, the AMRC will finally move into its dedicated physical space this summer.

The suite of rooms on the new fifth floor of the expanded Library will be opened by Alex and Doris Malaspina on the afternoon of June 23.

The facility is just one of several additions to the Library which will enable Malaspina University College to fulfil its rapidly developing rôle in scholarly research.

We are very grateful to Bob Foley, Director of the Library, for playing a leading part in securing the space for AMRC and other research units. Its occupancy will coincide with a broadening of the mandate of the Centre, to include many aspects of intercultural communication, a topic close to the heart of Alexandro Malaspina himself.

We should like to extend to all Malaspinistas around the world a cordial invitation to attend the opening. More details will appear in a subsequent issue.

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Stop Press:

The Malaspina Global Portal has recently been enhanced with the addition of a wide variety of links to information about the broader rôle of the Malaspina family in world history. Please visit and have a look: www.malaspina.org

Don't forget to sign the Guestbook!

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Sad News

We are very sorry to report the passing of John Bovey and Donald Kirschner, two great contributors to the study of Alexandro Malaspina and to the history of Canada and the United States.

John Bovey was the British Columbia provincial archivist until his retirement in 1998 and an inspiration to many a research project. Earlier, he held the same position in Manitoba, where he met and married Pat Bovey, returning to live there when Pat became director of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. He will be remembered for his astonishing ability to breathe excitement into dry historical material, a gift he exploited to the full in his many appearances on CBC Radio. A fuller account of his life is online at: www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/bovey_ja.shtml.

Don Kirschner began teaching history at Simon Fraser University in 1967, and is remembered with admiration at the AMRC for his collaboration with his spouse Teresa Kirschner on the English translation of Dario Manfredi's life of Alexandro Malaspina. Don was known for his relaxed and tolerant amiability, which yet could not entirely conceal the tenacity of his mind when he was confronted by a challenging historical puzzle. A fuller appreciation of his life, by SFU colleague Norman Swartz, is at: www.sfu.ca/retirees-forum/msg00403.html.

We should like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of these gifted scholars and exemplary human beings, whose friends remember them with a loyalty and affection surpassed only by their own.

AMRC Website: web.mala.bc.ca/black/amrc/index.htm