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AMRC Newsletter

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

Expanded Library Opens at Malaspina

On April 15 Malaspina University College celebrated the recent expansion to its Library, whose ribbon was cut by a host of dignitaries including Ida Chong, Minister of Advanced Education for the Province of British Columbia.

Although work on the refurbishing of the older parts of the building will continue until September, the research suite to be used by AMRC is finished and awaiting its official opening by Alex and Doris Malaspina on June 23.

Our opening will take place from 2 to 3 pm, and will be attended not only by the

University College Board, Faculty and Administration, but also by Mme. Danielle Giuntini-Malaspina and her son Alexandre, from Luxembourg, Dario Manfredi from the Centro di Studi Malaspiniani in Italy, and a number of local scholars and enthusiasts.

While the reception itself will be brief, it is hoped that the visitors from overseas will enjoy a few days exploring the local surroundings with the assistance of Centre personnel.

The Centre has engaged student Tonja Henigman to plan the event itself.

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www.malaspina.org

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Project Updates

Oscar Clemotte and John Black have completed the first draft of their English translation of the main body of Malaspina's *Meditation on Beauty in Nature*. While the work does not place its author in the front rank of philosophers who have explored this issue, it clearly demonstrates the great scope of the navigator's erudition.

Quoting easily in several languages, Malaspina positions himself in relation to more well-known figures like Hume, Rousseau and Burke, and adds his own special contribution derived in part from the ethnography he carried out during his great expedition. Clemotte and Black expect to finish work on the copious notes provided by the author in August.

Two other projects at the Centre are in their beginning stages. Russell McNeil and Bill Weller have prepared the Latin text of Malaspina's youthful work (and the only one published in his lifetime) *General Theses on Physics*. They will proceed with an English translation in the coming months.

In addition, the Centre welcomes two new researchers, Melody Martin and Laurie Meijer Drees, who are launching a student-centred program of research into indigenous oral history in Alaska.

The current standing of the Centre is now summarised online in the [Annual Report for 2004-5](#).

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