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AMRC Newsletter

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

Malaspina Global Portal:

Visit the worldwide connection to all Malaspina matters at www.malaspina.org.

Don't forget to sign the guestbook, and use this to keep in touch with other Malaspinistas.

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Grand Opening of the Centre



Ellen White

The AMRC's permanent location on the fifth floor of the Library received its official opening on June 23.

At a short ceremony attended by eight members of the Malaspina family, with local, national and international scholars and enthusiasts, as well as the MUC Board, staff and faculty, the ribbon over the door to the new office was cut by Alex and Doris Malaspina.

After a greeting and prayer from Ellen White, Elder of the Snuneymuxw^w First Nation, on whose traditional territory the university college stands, a number of speakers, including Rich Johnston (MUC president), Don Hubbard (Chair of the Board), Dario Manfredi (Director of the Centro di Studi Malaspiniani in Italy), and Alex himself, praised past efforts and predicted a bright future for all.

Connection Still Strong with Malaspina Family

In welcoming the eighty guests, Centre Director John Black reminded them of the long history leading up to the celebration itself, and also of the various rôles they had played in the Centre's development.

Key to that development has been the unwavering support and enthusiasm of Alex and Doris Malaspina, of Atlanta. It is therefore fitting, as well as a reason for great gratitude on behalf of the Centre, that Alex and Doris agreed to cut the ribbon.



From left to right: Roger Prior, Pat Dennison, Doris Malaspina, Edwin Deas, John Lepage, Alex Malaspina and John Black

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

Honoured Guests from Far-Flung Lands



From left to right: Paul Malaspina, John Black, Dario Manfredi, Danielle Giuntini-Malaspina, Tonja Henigman, Antoine van de Koornhuysse and Alex Malaspina

The Opening provided an opportunity for members of the Malaspina family and other guests to make and renew acquaintances. Alex and Doris were accompanied by their sons Paul and Mark, daughter-in-law Aman and granddaughter Sophia. With them for the first time was Danielle Giuntini-Malaspina, from Luxembourg, with her son Alexandre and Antoine van den Koornhuysse. Dario Manfredi of our twin Centre in Mulazzo made up the party.



From left to right: Alexandre Malaspina, Aman Malaspina, Sophia Malaspina and Doris Malaspina



Danielle Giuntini-Malaspina at the Malaspina Galleries

Historical Visit to Gabriola

As part of the festivities, the special guests made a visit to Gabriola Island, where they were given an historical tour, led by local geologist and historian Nick Doe, of sites related to the voyage of Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés in 1792.

These two lieutenants of Alexandro Malaspina were detailed to explore the Juan de Fuca Strait while the main expedition was on the other side of the Pacific. In doing so, they met two British ships under George

Vancouver, charted what is now Nanaimo harbour (which they named Boca de Winthuisen and anchored in what is now Pilot Bay on Gabriola.

The name Galiano and Valdés gave to their anchorage, Puerto del Descanso, has since migrated around the island to the present location of the ferry terminal, but painstaking research by Nick has determined that the original site was Pilot Bay. This work, published in SHALE,

the journal of the Gabriola Historical Museum Soc., was at first based on copies of sketch maps obtained from the Museo Naval in Madrid by John Crosse, a Vancouver-based AMRC collaborator. Nick then followed up with his own visit to Madrid for further evidence.

There was also a visit to the Malaspina Galleries, subject of one of the expedition's most well-known sketches by José Cardero.



Nick Doe

Collaboration with Mulazzo

In all the excitement about the Opening, it has been easy to forget other news. One highlight definitely worth mentioning, however, is the reopening, attended by John Black and Russell McNeil as well as about twenty students from MUC, of the Centro di Studi Malaspiniani in Mulazzo.

The museum there has been remodelled to great effect, so that the presentation of the displays is much improved.

During his visit to Nanaimo, Director Dario Manfredi, at right, also settled some details of our joint project on Malaspina's *Meditation on Beauty in Nature*.

