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AMRC Newsletter

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



Happy
Christmas
to all

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Dionisio Alcalá Galiano Remembered in Cabra

by Barry Gough

Don Dionisio Alcalá Galiano, famous explorer of the British Columbia Coast, circumnavigator of Vancouver Island in the summer of 1792 and commander of the expedition of the *Sutil* and *Mexicana*, died heroically in combat at Trafalgar, 21 October 1805. To give credit and praise to his scientific, marine and command capabilities an International Conference was held in his honour in Cabra (Cordoba), the place of his birth. The event spanned many days, 17 to 23 October. Many dignitaries and officials were in attendance, and the event was funded by a grand consortium headed by the Ayuntamiento de Cabra, the Ministerio de Cultural, the Ministerio de Defensa, the Embajada de Canada, Asociación Española de Studios Canadensis, the Armada of Spain, the Cervantes Institute and the Diputación de Cordoba. Two representatives from Canada made presentations to the conference, and Victoria and British Columbia were thus well represented. Richard Inglis, the noted anthropologist, spoke about Mowachat and Muchalaht in Galiano's time. New worlds of understanding were enlarged by his presentation. Barry Gough, also a Victoria resident, took for his sweeping theme the joining of the coast exploration and contact to the Spanish connection leading to the sad death of a famous scientist-commander.



For further details, please get in touch with Barry Gough bgough@wlu.ca.

Other presentations embraced the family history, the career history of Galiano, the political times in which Galiano and Malaspina found themselves, and the literary history of the voyage narratives. Conference proceedings are to be published, in English and Spanish translation as required. A plaque identifying the town house in which Galiano was born was unveiled. Mass was sung in his memory.

Below: the usual suspects gather at Cabra to remember Malaspina's most famous lieutenant!



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