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# AMRC Newsletter

Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre, Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada

## E.J. Hughes Mural Celebration



Alessandro Malaspina  
by E.J. Hughes (1938)  
Nanaimo, B.C. Canada  
(Detail)

*Captain Malaspina Sketching the Gabriola Galleries*, the restored mural by E.J. Hughes, is available for viewing, not far from its original site, in the Nanaimo Conference Centre.

During the educational events organized by the Nanaimo Art Gallery in connection with the mural, AMRC Director John Black gave, on three occasions in June, a talk on depictions by the Spanish of the local landscape and of indigenous people. Much of his focus was on the contrast between the drawings made by two of the artists, José Cardero and, to give him his Italian name, Ferdinando Brambilla.

Whereas Cardero represented indigenous people as innocent and amiable, in landscapes that are calm and undisturbed, Brambilla, who worked up many of Cardero's originals, preferred dark, windy Romantic scenes and aggressive inhabitants, their faces obscured by shade. Thus the two artists represent two poles of the representation of indigenous people by Europeans, as noble savages or as benighted natives.

Other speakers included Diane Foster, the archivist who saved the mural, Cheryle Harrison, who restored it, and Jane Cole of VIU, who gave an overview of Hughes' life and work.

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[www.malaspina.org/index.htm](http://www.malaspina.org/index.htm)

And don't forget to sign the Guestbook!

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## Other News

- With the assistance of a SSHRCC Aid to Small Universities grant, the Centre was able to continue the positions of research assistants Maria Soto de Podriske and Lorill Ireland, who are currently working on the translation of Alexandro Malaspina's *Axiomas Políticos sobre la América*.

- John Black spent the month of May in Italy, where he visited Maria Teresa Malaspina and her brother the Marchese Obizzo Malaspina in Bobbio. At the latter's

palazzo he viewed the family archive, including a first edition of the 1885 Novo y Colson original publication of Captain Malaspina's *Journal*. He also visited Malaspina castles at Mulazzo, Fosdinovo, Bobbio, Monti and Massa.

- The AMRC has applied for "associated team" status with *Malaspina 2010*, a major Spanish scientific and historical research project led by Dr. Carlos Duarte and timed to coincide with the bicentenary of the death of Alexandro Malaspina.

- As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Robin Inglis curated, in connection with the opening of the Hughes mural, an exhibition of images from the Malaspina expedition. Talks will take place in the coming weeks with a view to placing the show on semi-permanent loan at the Nanaimo Museum.

- Detailed planning is currently under way for the third of the Biosphere Conversations, scheduled at the Clayoquot Field Station for September 25-27.

AMRC Website: [web.viu.ca/black/amrc/index.htm](http://web.viu.ca/black/amrc/index.htm)