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Issue 29

AMRC Newsletter

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

A Busy Spring

The AMRC was busy in March and April this year, with two of its recurring events taking up most of its attention.

The third of the Biosphere Conversations, focusing on the ecology of food, took place at the Clayoquot Field Station in Tofino, BC, from March 19-21. The symposium, well attended by new participants and old, covered the interrelated topics of food safety and sovereignty, its production and distribution, peak oil, and the sociocultural dimensions of aquatic resource management, all from both local and global perspectives.

- Director John Black and his spouse Connie Kovalenka attended a dinner in Victoria with Grover Wilkins, music director of the Dallas-based Orchestra of New Spain, Jim Munro of Munro's Books and Freeman Tovell, author of *At the Far Reaches of Empire*, the biography of Bodega y Quadra mentioned in Issue 25. Among many topics discussed was the Orchestra's goal of bringing to both popular and critical attention the music of the Mexican Baroque.

The 2010 Malaspina Lecture, by Neil Safier of the UBC History Department, was postponed until April 12. The talk was entitled "Malaspina in the Torrid Zone: Tropical Passages through the Spanish Enlightenment," and drew on Prof. Safier's book *Measuring the New World: Enlightenment Science and South America* (Chicago, 2008).

Both works turn a critical eye on the pretensions of European scientists as they endeavoured to establish epistemological sovereignty over the natural phenomena of the Americas.

Prof. Safier has since spent much of the summer in Berlin continuing his research in this relatively new area of historical scholarship.

Other News

- Carlos Duarte, the project co-ordinator, reports that final planning for the Malaspina 2010 Expedition is well underway. He writes, "We will have the last general meeting prior to the initiation of the Circumnavigation expedition on July 14 and 15 in Madrid."

"The R/V Hespérides is set to take off on October 7, from Cádiz, Spain, although there are some uncertainties on the dates as the King of Spain may attend the departure

ceremony and the Royal Family requested some flexibility. ...

"The R/V Sarmiento de Gamboa, covering the leg Cádiz - Miami, along 25 N as well as the return track along the same path, will depart in late November."

After these expedition are completed, the project will host a scientific and historical conference in Spain, at which AMRC is hoping to participate.

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Malaspina Global Portal

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