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AMRC Newsletter

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

The Views from the Deck and the Shore

October 4: Professor John Lutz of the History Department at the University of Victoria was this year's Malaspina Lecturer at Vancouver Island University.

What Connected at Contact? Aboriginal and European First Contact Stories from the Pacific Coast explored the multidimensional character of the concept of contact in both the historical analysis and contemporary understanding of relationships between European visitors and settlers and local indigenous inhabitants.

The talk drew from over 150 aboriginal accounts of meeting Europeans for the first time, as

well as some matching European accounts, to investigate what these stories tell us about those first meetings, about oral history, and about why some stories are remembered and others forgotten. "The stories lay bare," said Prof. Lutz, "the huge gap in cultural understanding between the cultures, but also, surprisingly, the main points in common, which explain why these encounters were (mostly) peaceful."

Prof. Lutz is the author of *Makuk: A New History of Aboriginal-White Relations*, which won the prize for the best

book in the Social Sciences in Canada in 2010.

He also edited *Myth and Memory: Stories of Indigenous-European Contact* (UBC 2007), and has directed or co-directed a number of historical websites, including *Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History*, *Victoria's Victoria*, *The Colonial Despatches*, *The Governor's Letters*, and *The Fort Victoria Journal*.

<www.Canadianmysteries.ca>
<victoriasvictoria.ca>
<bcgenesis.uvic.ca>
<govlet.ca>
<fortvictoriajournal.ca>

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www.malaspina.org/index.htm

And don't forget to sign the Guestbook!

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Other News

- October 3: Professor Barry Gough, AMRC Honorary Research Associate, presented his new book, *Juan de Fuca's Strait: Voyages in the Waterway of Forgotten Dreams* (Harbour Publishing, Sept. 2012), on the first European navigators to enter the Strait in search of the fabled Northwest Passage.

- Former visiting scholar Reetta Niemi (now Sippola) is pursuing her doctoral studies at the University of Turku in Finland.

Her topic is the pictorial depiction of aboriginal peoples of the Pacific, with special reference to the work of John Webber, who sailed with James Cook to many of that ocean's shores.

AMRC Director John Black and his spouse Connie Kovalenka paid a visit to Ms. Niemi in Helsinki in September, and congratulated her on her recent marriage to architect Jalo Sippola.

- In May, John Black was appointed Dean of Social Sciences at VIU, a position he will hold for a term of five years until retirement. He received the news while in Florence teaching in the Liberal Studies Abroad field school. John will remain as Director of AMRC, and hopes to make up after retiring for any slowdown in his activity in the Centre during the intervening period!

AMRC Website: web.viu.ca/black/amrc/index.htm