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AMRC Newsletter

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

Dario Manfredi: the Greatest Malaspinista

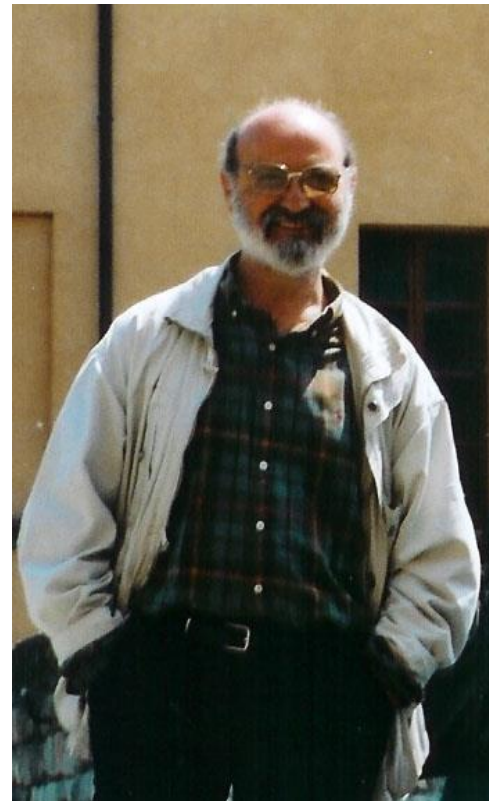
We were deeply saddened to hear of the death in February of our colleague and friend Dario Manfredi, Director of the Centro di Studi Malaspiniani in Mulazzo, Italy.

Having grown up in La Spezia, and after a successful career in the business world, Dario was instrumental in founding the Centro in 1987. Steadily he built up its collection of books, letters, other manuscripts and artefacts connected with the Comune of Mulazzo's most famous son.

This collection did not however sit gathering dust. Dario worked (in the words of his late wife Fiorenza "like a devil!") to make the name of Don Alexandro Malaspina as well known in the world as its bearer's exploits deserved. He published many of the navigator/thinker's prison essays, a biography and many academic articles on his subject.

Said Alberto Pincione, President of the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Carrara, "Max was one of the few great men of culture in our area; his passion for history and collaboration with both Italian and foreign cultural associations constituted such important gifts to us all."

Dario came to British Columbia three times, twice to the AMRC, and many of its members visited him in Mulazzo. Robin Inglis, one of our Research Associates, called him "a kind and generous colleague," while Robert King has "the happiest memories of being in his company and of his unbounded hospitality; he made a huge contribution to Malaspina studies."



Dario Manfredi, Pontremoli 2003

The AMRC owes a great deal to a long collaboration with Dario which resulted in a number of its website entries and publications. He will be sorely missed.

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The Compass Rose: Explorations in Thought



Launch of *The Compass Rose*

AMRC and the Liberal Studies Department at VIU have joined forces to create a new online journal for social sciences, arts and humanities undergraduate scholarship.

The Compass Rose will be edited and produced by students, under the oversight of AMRC Research Scholar David Livingstone, a professor in the Departments of Liberal Studies and Political Studies.

Under its subtitle "Explorations in Thought" the journal will focus on the fundamental questions asked

and variously answered across the long and wide history and geography of human thought.

In keeping with the theory and practice of the Liberal Studies BA programme, preference will be given to articles which "transcend the gaps between disciplines in the search for a more comprehensive account.

Submissions are now being accepted at:

wordpress.viu.ca/compassrose/

Malaspina Fellows Programme

A further collaboration between AMRC and the Liberal Studies Department has produced a new set of awards for students at VIU.

Malaspina Fellowships will be available to students who complete successfully a non-credit seminar on an important classical text.

The Fellows Programme is supported by a grant from the Institute for Liberal Studies, matched by the University.



Malaspina Lecturer for 2016



This year's Malaspina Lecture will be delivered by BC Historian Jim McDowell, whose book on José Narváez has just been published by Ronsdale Press.

[*Uncharted Waters: The Explorations of José Narváez \(1768-1840\)*](#) is effectively the second edition, of an earlier biography of the Spanish *piloto* who was the first to

reconnoitre the Georgia Strait branch of the Salish Sea. Jim will discuss the conclusions of the book and Narváez' sometimes overlooked place in the Spanish presence in local waters.

As always, the Lecture is free and open to the public. It will take place on Thursday September 29 in Building 355, Room 203, on the Nanaimo campus of VIU. The time is 7:00 pm.

