AMRC Newsletter

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

Visit to the Archive-Museum of the Malaspinas

In May, Director John Black paid a visit to the Archivio-Museo dei Malaspina in Mulazzo, Massa-Carrara, Italy.

The Archivio-Museo is the successor to the Centro di Studi Malaspina which occupied the same location until 2005. After a period of relative quiescence during and following the illness and death of previous director Dario Manfredi, the Archivio-Museo has re-emerged with increased strength in recent years.

Under the direction of Francesca Guastalli and Rossana Piccioli, and backed financially by the Fondazione Malaspina and the Comune di Mulazzo, the Archivio-Museo is now open regularly to visitors. A number of highly-skilled volunteers and graduate interns are revitalising its archival functions, and have begun the large-scale project of digitising the entire collection.

The main purpose of Black's visit was to re-establish what had been a very productive working relationship, and this effort has already born significant fruit for the Centre.

Director Guastalli was kind enough to supply Black with electronic copies of a number of important documents, including Manfredi's book *Alessandro Malaspina e Fabio Ala Ponzone: Lettere dal Vecchio e Nuovo Mondo,* no longer in print. The book discusses Malaspina's mentoring of (his distant relative) the young officer Ala Ponzone and the related correspondence between Malaspina and the latter's previous tutor Ramón Ximenez.

These materials will be of great use as our Centre continues its translation of source materials into English for publication on its website.

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John Black and Francesca Guastalli in conversation at the Archivio-Museo

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