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AMRC Newsletter

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

Updating the Centre

After two and a half years of reduced activity, mostly as a result of the pandemic, it has been decided to renew the mandate of the AMRC so that it serves a wider range of interests,

Director Dr. John Black has been meeting with Associated Scholar Dr. David Livingstone, of the Departments of Liberal Studies and Political Studies, with a view to designing the new focus.

Paramount in this effort is honouring the legacy of Alexandro Malaspina, his contributions not only in navigation and constructive contact with the First People's around the globe, but also his contributions to philosophy, politics, economics, linguistics, ethnography, the physical sciences and literary criticism. Watch this space for news!

Recent Publications

The AMRC is pleased to announce the publication of two books by scholars associated with its work.

Honorary Research Associate Dr. Robin Fisher is the author of an academic biography of the noted anthropologist and museologist Wilson Duff.

Wilson Duff: Coming Back, a Life, brought out by Harbour Publishing, tells the story of Duff's pioneering work about and with First Nations cultures of the Northwest Coast. It also explores the connections between his academic career and his early life growing up in Vancouver and serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II, all set against the background of the stormiest period of the twentieth century.

Duff's early death by suicide did nothing to dim the light shone by his many important books, the relationships he developed with First Nations and the impact of his teaching on generations of students.

harbourpublishing.com/products/9781550179750

Former Honorary Research Associate Dr. Barry Gough, also through Harbour Publishing, has produced a book of crucial interest to the understanding of past and present relationships between First Nations and European settlers in British Columbia.

Possessing Meares Island: A Historian's Journey into the Past of Clayoquot Sound is also a work of connection, in this case between the historical record, written mostly by Europeans, and contemporary efforts by the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council to secure legal recognition of its rights to land and land use.

Gough himself was involved as an expert witness in the legal process concerning Meares Island, settled in favour of the Tribal Council. His first-hand account of that process is every bit as riveting as his meticulous reconstruction of historical times.

harbourpublishing.com/products/9781550179576

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