

**Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre
Vancouver Island University**

Annual Report 2017-18

Overview

This report covers the period from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, during which the Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre at Vancouver Island University has continued its research and outreach activities on a number of fronts, in the quiet way adopted in recent years. The Malaspina Lecturer for 2017 was Michael Layland, who introduced his new book *A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island*.

Director John Black retired from his position as Dean of Social Sciences at the end of June 2017. However, he continues as Director of the Centre and as an Honorary Research Associate in the Liberal Studies Department.

Dr. Barry Gough and the Rt. Hon. Josie Osborne have relinquished their rôle as Honorary Research Associates during the year.

Personnel

Director: Dr. John Black

Associated Scholars:	Dr. Erik Liddell	Eastern Kentucky University
	Dr. David Livingstone	Liberal Studies/Political Studies

Honorary Associates:	Dr. Robin Fisher	Mount Royal University (retd.)
	Robin Inglis	Director, North Van. Museum (retd.)
	Ian Johnston	VIU Liberal Studies/English (retd.)
	Dr. Russell McNeil	VIU Liberal Studies/Physics (retd.)
	Dr. Brad Piekkola	VIU Psychology (retd.)

Centre Research Projects

Translation and Web Publication of Source Documents

The project of translating, among other documents, the letters of Alexandro Malaspina and historical newspaper articles about him and his expedition, for publication on the Centre's website, continues.

Malaspina 2010

John Black's article "La Meditación sobre lo Bello en la Naturaleza de Alexandro Malaspina," was published in *Historias Malaspinianas*, eds. Andrés Galera & Víctor Peralta, part of the series Estudios Americanos: Perspectivas, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, 2016. This publication was the main deliverable of the Centre's participation in the international and interdisciplinary Malaspina 2010 project, of which Dr. Galera directed the historical component.

Public Events and Other Activity

Malaspina Lecture

The Malaspina Lecturer for 2017 was Michael Layland, who on March 23 introduced his new book *A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island*.

The Compass Rose

The collaboration with the Liberal Studies Department, an online journal for undergraduate students (at <http://wordpress.viu.ca/compassrose/>), has completed its third annual issue. The journal is "for students of all disciplines, seeking essays which succeed in transcending the compartmentalization of discipline and address matters of importance to the human whole: questions to which the great works in the liberal arts tradition point us."

The Malaspina Fellows Program

With support from the Institute for Liberal Studies and Vancouver Island University, the Liberal Studies Department and the Centre also collaborate to promote student engagement in the study of historically influential ideas. Students selected as Malaspina Fellows take part in a co-curricular seminar on concepts of freedom, under the direction of AMRC Associated Scholar Dr. David Livingstone. At the completion of the seminar participants receive a small honorarium and are encouraged to submit written work to *The Compass Rose*.

The following students were selected as Malaspina Fellows for Spring 2018: Braedan Zimmer, Colin Howarth, Madeline Warr, Thomas Penner, Matthew Graham, Steven Burnett, Tyeson Barton and Lauren Davies.

Alexandro Malaspina Liberal Studies Award

The recipient of the 2017 Award, which honours both Alexandro Malaspina's broad range of intellectual achievement and a VIU Liberal Studies student's success in interdisciplinary study, was Erica Greenup.