

**Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre  
Vancouver Island University**

**Annual Report 2019-20**

**Overview**

This report covers the period from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, during which the Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre at Vancouver Island University has continued its research and outreach activities in the quiet way adopted in recent years. On account of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent closing of the University, there was no Malaspina Lecture during this period.

**Personnel**

Director:	Dr. John Black	Professor Emeritus, VIU Liberal Studies
Associated Scholars:	Dr. Erik Liddell Dr. David Livingstone	Eastern Kentucky University VIU Liberal Studies/Political Studies
Honorary Associates:	Dr. Robin Fisher Robin Inglis Ian Johnston Dr. Russell McNeil Dr. Brad Piekkola	Mount Royal University (retd.) Director, North Van. Museum (retd.) VIU Liberal Studies/English (retd.) VIU Liberal Studies/Physics (retd.) VIU Psychology (retd.)

**Centre Research Projects**

**Translation and Web Publication of Source Documents**

In May 2019, John Black visited the Archivio-Museo dei Malaspina in Mulazzo, Italy, in search of new material for this endeavour. A number of letters written by Malaspina, previously published in Italy by the late Dario Manfredi, former director of the Centro di Studi Malaspiniani in Mulazzo, were obtained in electronic form.

More recently, John Black began a creative non-fiction project in the form of a fictional autobiography of Alexandro Malaspina.

## **Other Activity**

### ***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 fourth annual issue. The journal, whose student editorial board is overseen by Centre Associate David Livingstone, 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.”

### **Alexandro Malaspina Liberal Studies Awards**

The fund for these awards has grown sufficiently to allow for multiple awards each year. The recipients of the 2020 Awards, which honour both Alexandro Malaspina’s broad range of intellectual achievement and VIU Liberal Studies students’ success in interdisciplinary study, were Christopher Bruce Shanks, Hannah Christine Cox, Sarah Katherine MacDougall and Tayelor Bourque.

Respectfully submitted,

John Black  
Director  
Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre  
June 8, 2020