

**Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre
Vancouver Island University**

Annual Report 2020-21

Overview

This report covers the period from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, 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 were no public events 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

Autobiography of Alexandro Malaspina

John Black has continued work on this documentary fiction project, which takes the form of a fictionalised autobiography of Alexandro Malaspina.

Translation and Web Publication of Source Documents

This ongoing function of the Centre has continued, with the addition of several new letters written by Alexandro Malaspina.

Other Activity

Biography of Wilson Duff

Honorary Research Associate Robin Fisher has completed his biography, tentatively entitled *Coming Back: A Life of Wilson Duff*, of the celebrated Canadian anthropologist. It is expected to be published by Harbour Publishing during the coming year.

Website Maintenance

There have been several improvements to the Centre's website, including the removal of dead links and the restoration of corrupt files.

The Compass Rose

The collaboration with the Liberal Studies Department, VIU's online journal for undergraduate students (at <http://wordpress.viu.ca/compassrose/>), has also been affected by the pandemic, and has not published an edition for 2020-21. A new student editorial board has been formed by the faculty sponsor Prof. Warren Heiti (Liberal Studies and Philosophy) to review future submissions.

Alexandro Malaspina Liberal Studies Awards

The fund for these awards allows for multiple awards each year. The recipients of the 2021 Awards, which honour both Alexandro Malaspina's broad range of intellectual achievement and VIU Liberal Studies students' success in interdisciplinary study, are Chris Shanks and Kathryn Robson.

Financial Report

Initial Balance (April 1/20):	<u>\$ 13,253.12</u>
Revenue	\$ 0.00
Expenditures	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Closing Balance (March 31/21):	\$ 13,253.12

Respectfully submitted,

John Black
Director
Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre
May 22, 2021