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AMRC Newsletter

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Spring Events Keep AMRC Busy

Spring began early at AMRC with the visit of Juan Pimentel, whose lecture at Malaspina University College on Tuesday March 7 was very well-attended.

Dr. Pimentel, of the History of Science Department of the History Institute of the Interministerial Commission for Science and Technology in Madrid, focused on Alexandro Malaspina's place in the Enlightenment, as a traveller who tried to bring theoretical ideas and observational experience into contact. In what was in many ways a summary of his book *The Physics of Monarchy*, Dr. Pimentel represented Malaspina as a Newtonian who sought to apply the results of physical science to the realm of social interaction.

AMRC was also one of the co-sponsors of a symposium on George Vancouver, held at the Maritime Museum of British Columbia in Victoria on April 21. *What's*

New to Say about George Vancouver, organised and chaired by Barry Gough, featured papers by some notable maritime historians, including Andrew David and Eric Groves from England, Dee Longenbaugh from Alaska and Robert King from Australia. Together with Christon Archer, John Lutz, John Crosse, Brenda Guild Gillespie and Robin Inglis, all based in Canada, they presented a many-levelled approach to the understanding of the mariner.

In the week after the symposium, Robert King paid a visit to the AMRC, where we had the opportunity to thank him for the many materials, including scholarly papers, letters, images and historic newspaper articles, he has provided for our website. On these occasions a trip to the Malaspina Galleries on Gabriola Island is *de rigueur*, and local historian Nick Doe was kind enough to act as guide.

New Book on Malaspina and Haenke to be Launched

We hear from Mercedes Palau in Madrid that a new book on Malaspina and the botanist Thaddeus Haenke will be launched there on May 9-10.

El Paraiso Ilustrado: Malaspina Y Haenke En El Nuevo Mundo, by Mercedes Palau, Emilio Soler and Joseph Opatrný, is published by Lunewerg Press in preparation for 2007, which has been named Malaspina-Haenke Year.

The launch will be accompanied by that of two books by Dario Manfredi, namely the original Spanish text and the Italian translation of Malaspina's *Critical Letter on Don Quixote*, the first edited with Blanca Saiz. The many dignitaries in attendance will also hear an aria from José-Luis Greco's opera *Malaspina*, and news of an upcoming exhibition on the botanical work of Haenke.

AMRC Website: web.mala.bc.ca/black/amrc/index.htm