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# AMRC Newsletter

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

## A Voyager Passes

With the deepest regret we note the passing of Freeman Tovell (1918-2011), a good friend of the Centre and a generous donor of books to our special collection.

The following is an extract from the notice placed by his family in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*:

"Freeman left his doctoral studies in history at Harvard University to enlist in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1942. In 1944 he entered the fledgling Department of External Affairs with postings in Péru, Bolivia, Denmark and the USA. The highlights of his diplomatic career included service as assistant to Lester Pearson, ambassador to Péru and Bolivia and director of the cultural affairs division. The latter office allowed Freeman to pursue his deep interest in the arts, fostering the international reputations of Canadian artists, writers and musicians. Retiring to Victoria in 1978, Freeman served on the boards of the

Victoria Symphony Orchestra and the Maritime Museum of BC. The achievement in which he took the greatest pride was his research and award-winning book on Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra, which revealed the neglected history of Spanish exploration of the Canadian west coast. His all-encompassing love and support sustained his family.

His generosity of spirit and his wry sense of humour brought pleasure to all who knew him. Freeman was a gentleman in every sense of the word."

A more detailed Life is online at Tom Hawthorn's website: <http://tomhawthorn.blogspot.com/2009/12/life-dedicated-to-filling-gap-in-bc.html>

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Photo: DEDDEDA

**Freeman Tovell at home, December 2010**

### Malaspina Lecture 2011

This year's Malaspina Lecturer was Robin Inglis, who spoke on February 22 at VIU on *Northwest Coast Native Societies and the Malaspina Encounters of 1791*. Robin is an Honorary Research Associate in the AMRC and a former Director of the Vancouver

Maritime Museum and of the North Vancouver Museum and Archives. Of his many publications the most recent is the *Historical Dictionary of the Discovery and Exploration of the Northwest Coast of America* (Scarecrow Press 2008).

**AMRC Website: [web.viu.ca/black/amrc/](http://web.viu.ca/black/amrc/)**