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# AMRC Newsletter

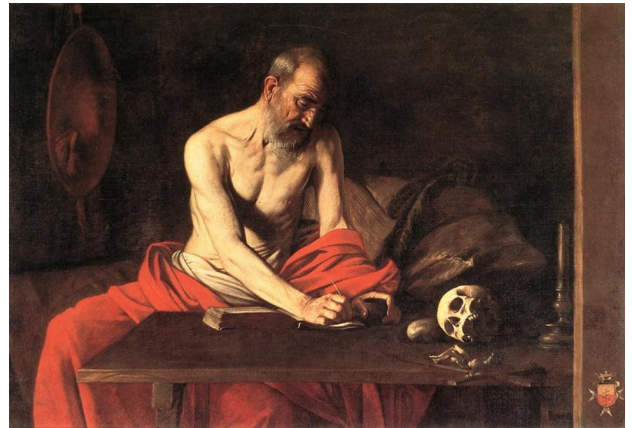
Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre, Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada

## Malaspinas in Malta

It is well known that Alexandro Malaspina began learning the arts of navigation with the Knights of St. John of Malta following his graduation from the Clementine College in Rome.

It is less well known that he is not the only Malaspina connected with the Mediterranean island, as John Black discovered during a visit in February.

Among the prize possessions of the Cathedral of St. John in the Maltese capital Valletta are two paintings by Caravaggio. *The Beheading of John the Baptist* is more famous, but the other, *St. Jerome Writing* (ca. 1610), is no less accomplished.



In the bottom right, in a painted border often omitted from reproductions, appears the coat of arms of Ippolito Malaspina, the presumed donor, who was a member of the Spino Fiorito branch of the family, and was buried in 1627 in the left aisle of the Cathedral, as John discovered after lifting the floor-mat!

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Don't forget to visit the Portal to keep in touch with Malaspinas and Malaspinistas worldwide.

[www.malaspina.org/index.htm](http://www.malaspina.org/index.htm)

And don't forget to sign the Guestbook!

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## Other News

- Erik Liddell, of the Foreign Languages and Humanities Department at Eastern Kentucky University and Associated Research Scholar with the AMRC, has just published his English translation of the *Critical Letter on Don Quixote* by Alexandro Malaspina.

Previously published in the original Spanish and an Italian translation by Dario Manfredi of the Centro di Studi Malaspiniani in Italy, the *Letter* argues that this most praised work of the national literature of Spain is, in

comparison with classic texts both ancient and modern, and in spite of its undeniable virtues, "weak, not at all poetic, and lacking invention."

Dr. Liddell's annotated translation and introduction appeared in *Metamorphoses, a journal of literary translation* in Spring 2013.

By kind permission of the author and publisher, they will soon be posted on the AMRC "Research" website under Research Projects.

- 2011 Visiting Scholar Reetta Niemi Sippola gave birth to a daughter, Elvi, in Helsinki, Finland, in December last year.

- Robin Fisher, author of *Contact and Conflict* among many other contributions to BC history, accepted an invitation to become the 2013 Malaspina Lecturer. Details of the talk, to be held in the Fall, will appear on the AMRC website as soon as they are available.

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