

July 7, 2004
Issue 4

AMRC Newsletter

Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre, Malaspina University College, Nanaimo, BC, Canada

Generous Donation Will Enhance AMRC

The activities and prospects of the AMRC took a significant step forward this week after the receipt of a donation of US\$50,000 from two private individuals, who expressed the wish to remain anonymous.

“Our gratitude to these loyal friends of Malaspina studies is immense,” said Director John Black. “Through their great generosity we shall be in

an ideal position to multiply our efforts in research at the Centre and in its dissemination to the wider community, both academic and informal.”

The funds will be channelled in a number of complementary directions, including digital hardware and software for the new research suite in the MUC Library, financial support for student assistants and relevant acquisitions for

the Centre’s new Special Collections Room.

The Centre will also look into ways of using the seed money to leverage research grants from government and other sources. Under immediate consideration is an application to the Canada Foundation for Innovation to support the work of the Centre’s new researcher, Oscar Clemotte Silvero.

Dr. Oscar Clemotte Silvero Joins AMRC

The AMRC is delighted to welcome Oscar Clemotte Silvero as a researcher.

After completing his PhD at the University of Oviedo, Oscar taught philosophy and Spanish at Malaspina University College for several years, and is now a university-college professor.

Born in Paraguay, he has a strong research interest in anthropological philosophy and in both Latin-American

and Spanish philosophy. His first work under the Centre’s rubric will be with John Black on the translation into English of Alexandro Malaspina’s *Meditación* on Beauty in Nature.

Those who know Oscar also know that he is an accomplished classical guitarist, a sign of the interdisciplinary outlook much favoured here.



Contact Info:

John Black
Liberal Studies Dept.
Malaspina University
College
900 Fifth Street
Nanaimo, BC
V9R 5S5
Canada

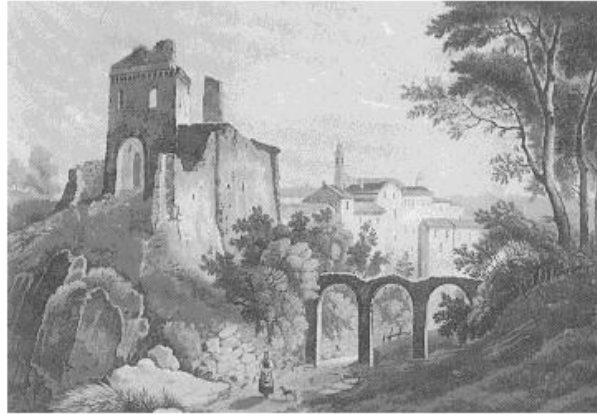
Tel: +1-250-753-3245
local 2171

Fax: +1-250-740-6458

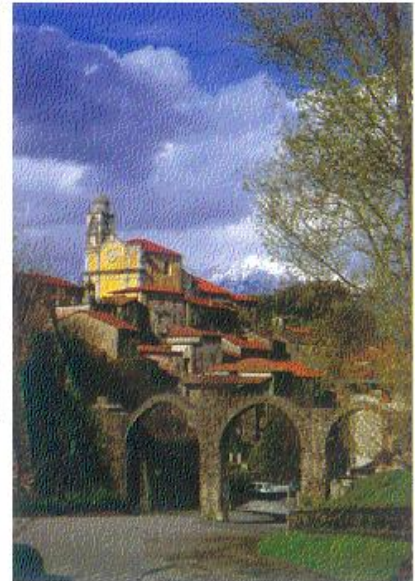
black@mala.bc.ca

© John Black 2004

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



Mulazzo (Massa-Carrara, Italia)



NEW AMRC PROJECT:

Alexandro Malaspina's *Meditación* on Beauty in Nature

“This current project is a major step ... made possible by the admirable spirit of co-operation we have encountered ... all round the Malaspinista world.”

Don Alexandro Malaspina wrote a number of essays when he was imprisoned in the fortress of San Antón after his disastrous encounter with the Spanish state in 1795. The manuscripts are held at the renowned Centro di Studi Malaspiniani in Mulazzo, where Dario Manfredi and Cristina Casanova have now produced a definitive Spanish text of one of them, the *Meditación*.

Over the next year, the two centres of Malaspina scholarship will be working in close collaboration preparing this text for publication in Spanish and English. As part of this project, Dario is writing an historical account of the genesis of the manuscript.

Beginning in September, in Nanaimo, Oscar Clemotte Silvero and John Black will translate the text and notes into English. Once that is complete, they will work on a philosophical analysis of the work and its relation to other Enlightenment debates about beauty. The intended product is a facing-page translation, supported by the historical and philosophical analyses.

Once the book is complete, the group of collaborators will decide whether it would be helpful also to pursue publication in digital form, whether in CD-format or on the web.

“One of the main objectives of the AMRC is to bring the life and works of Alexandro Malaspina to light in the English-speaking world,”

said John. “This current project is a major step in that direction, made possible by the admirable spirit of co-operation we have encountered in Mulazzo and all round the Malaspinista world.”

Conference Announcement

Spain's Legacy in the Pacific

Maritime Museum, San Diego

September 23-26, 2004

Speakers include AMRC Friends Christon Archer, Donald Cutter, Robin Inglis, Robert King and Wallace Olson, among many others.

For details visit:

<http://www.sdmaritime.org/>

and click on “DISCOVER.”