

A Spanish manuscript map. The sea is pale turquoise and the ship has a delicate touch of colour on its hull and flag. The title reads: *Carta Esférica en la Costa N.O. de América para la Entrada de Juan de Fuca. Reducida por Pablo Barnet y Roca 1808.* [ Nautical chart of the Northwest Coast of America showing the entrance to Juan de Fuca Strait. Compiled from larger charts by Pablo Barnet y Roca 1808 ].

## Charts from the Malaspina expedition—by Nick Doe

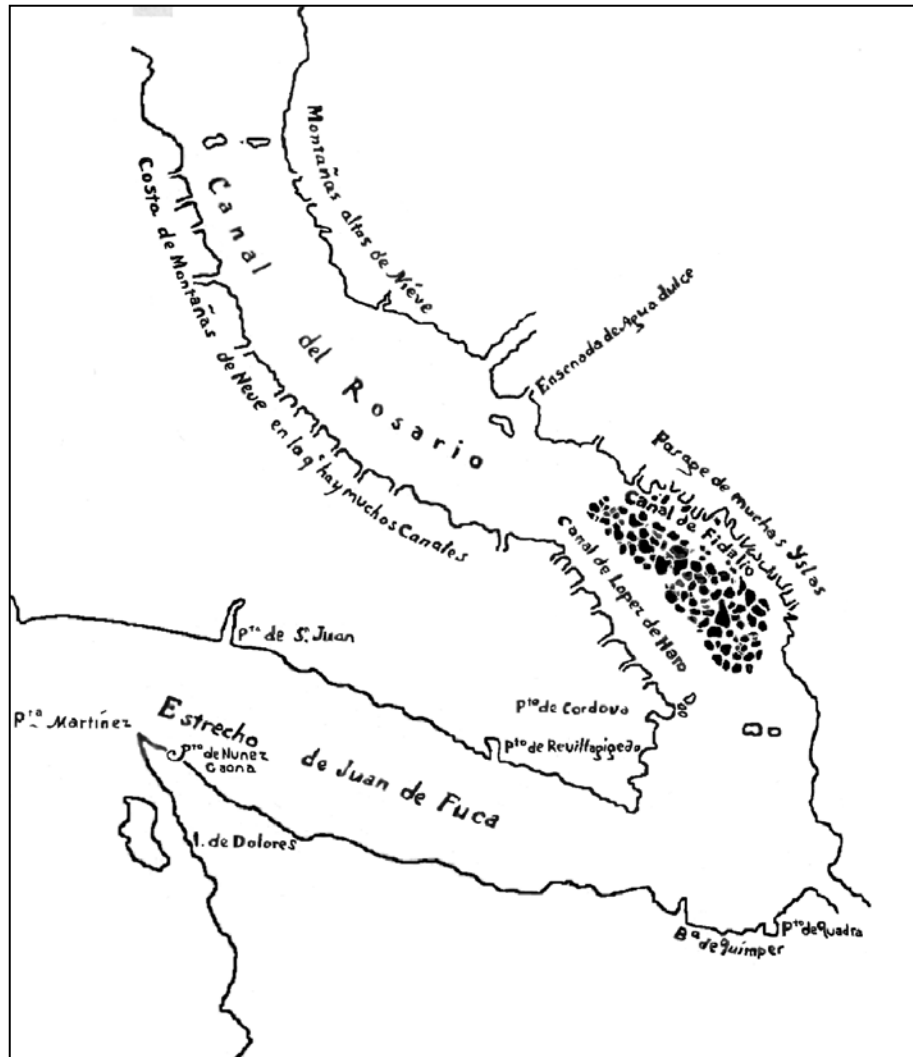
Most of the charts that the Malaspina expedition made of the northwest coast during their 1789-1794 expedition are available in archives and libraries, but now and then, a chart comes to light that has escaped attention, either because no public institution has a copy, or because it has been catalogued in some unusual way. Here are two examples. Gabriola is in both, but not in a way you'd find useful if you were lost.

The chart of Vancouver Island shown above was until four years ago completely unknown to most people familiar with the

Spanish naval expeditions of the late-18th century. It is dated 1808, and has been carefully drawn, showing details of the coast that at the time were not public knowledge.

The date of the chart was, at first, especially interesting because so far as was known, there were no visits to the coast by the Spanish between 1797 and 1820. However, it quickly became apparent that the information in the chart all dates from the expeditions of the 1790s including the contributions by Malaspina's officers Galiano and Valdés in 1792.

The chart may have been intended for inclusion in the Nautical Atlas—*Portulano de la América Setentrional*—published by



*Carta Esférica de las Costas del NO de la América que corren desde el Puerto y Archipiélago de Bucarley h[as]ta el Estrecho de Fuca segun los ultimas Reconocimientos h[as]ta el año de 1791.*

[Nautical chart of the Northwest Coast of America running from Barkley Sound to the Juan de Fuca Strait according to the latest reconnaissance of 1791]

Courtesy: Museo Naval, Madrid

the Spanish Ministry of the Marine in 1809, but it never made it. That the chart existed at all only became known because the image above was posted on the Internet by a dealer in rare books and manuscripts in New Haven CT. Where the chart is now, I have no idea, but it is probably in a private collection. My thanks to Mike Layland in Victoria for drawing my attention to it before it vanished.

The second chart, part of which is shown above, is in the official records, but likely because it quickly became out of date in late 1791 or early 1792, was never widely

copied. It has evaded being catalogued more than once.<sup>11</sup>

The chart was drawn by Felipe Bauzá y Cañas, who was Malaspina's cartographer aboard the *DESCUBIERTA*. Like Malaspina, Bauzá never visited the Juan de Fuca Strait or the Strait of Georgia (the Salish Sea), nor did he meet the 1791 exploring expedition led by Francisco de Eliza. Bauzá's information could only have come from Juan Carrasco when they met in Monterey in

<sup>11</sup> But no longer. Museo Naval 3-E-6; Luisa Martín-Merás, *Fondos cartográficos Españoles de la costa Noroeste de América en el Museo Naval de Madrid*, 92.

September 1791 while Carrasco was returning the SANTA SATURNINA, the small schooner that was used in 1791, to San Blas.<sup>12</sup>

What I find so charming about this chart is that it captures exactly Malaspina's sentiment that because of the lack of log books, which were still at Nootka, Carrasco couldn't give a very satisfying account of the recently completed exploration. Bauzá just had to use his imagination—perhaps based on "...we went down the Fuca strait; made a sharp left; ran into thousands and thousands of small islands; went northwest into a broad strait with a river on the east side and then snow-capped mountains on both sides; got as far north as latitude 50°; returned along the west side of the strait and saw lots of entrances to inlets (which would have included Nanaimo Harbour)".

Some of his annotations are:

*Canal del Rosario* [Strait of Georgia];

*montañas altas de nieve* [high snow-capped mountains...of the mainland coast];

*paraje de muchas islas* [place with lots of islands...of the San Juans];

*ensenada de aqua dulce* [fresh water inlet...of the estuary of the Fraser River]; and

*costa de montañas de nieve en la q<sup>e</sup> hay muchos canales* [coast with snow-capped mountains and many inlets...of the east coast of Vancouver Island].

My thanks to Tomás Bartroli of Spain for drawing my attention to it, although I'm not absolutely sure he intended to. Tomás, in his sometimes charmingly idiosyncratic style, once used the back of a photocopy of the chart to write a letter to me because he had run out of writing paper. ◇

<sup>12</sup> The details of the encounter are on p.24 in Nick Doe, *Who named Saturna Island?*, *SHALE* 18, pp.18–30, April 2008.

## Time for a beer—by Nick Doe



A good choice would be that Gabriola special *Lulu's Lager* in the middle, but the stoneware bottle on the left holds a bit more—700 mL (1.23 imperial pints) rather than 650 mL. The old bottle was found by Mark Shaw in a garden at the west end of El Verano. It was made by Henry Kennedy & Sons Ltd. at their Barrowfield Potteries, Glasgow, Scotland. The company operated from 1866–1929, but a friendly antique dealer in Chemainus reckoned that this style of beer bottle was common in the 1880s. There is therefore every chance that it once belonged to one of Gabriola's earliest settlers, Thomas McGuffie 1831–1895, who definitely was a Scot.

There's information about Thomas and his family and their life on the island in Jenni Gehlbach's brickyard article in *SHALE* 15, and on the Museum's website. ◇