

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

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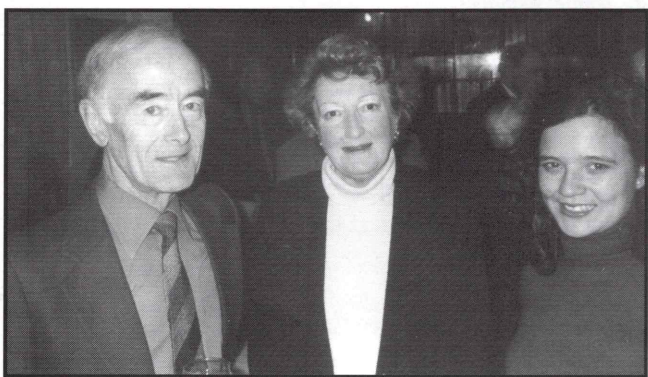
THE SIR LESLIE BOWES MEMORIAL LECTURE

An illustrated talk on the marine painter Thomas Sommerscales was given by Mr. Alex Hurst, a world-renowned expert on maritime paintings, at Canning House on 15 October 1998. Although in this, his own country, only those people with an interest in marine art know of Sommerscales, and few of them have seen any of his pictures, in Chile his name is well known and revered almost universally. While many of his nautical paintings are owned and exhibited there, he is regarded in Chile primarily as a landscape artist. One canvas that shows him to be one of the greatest marine artists is "Off Valparaíso" which is in the Tate Gallery in London.

Wine and snacks were served



Mr Alex Hunt (centre) in the company of Mr Peter Shaw and Mr Peter du Bruyne



Dr Valerie Fyfer (centre) and other guests

WHEELS WITHOUT FRONTIERS

This much-awaited illustrated lecture took place on 18 March at Canning House, and certainly came up to everybody's expectations.

Starting from California, with Cape Horn as his final destination, Hallam Murray covered 17,000 miles on his bicycle in two and a half years. He told us of that part of his journey through Bolivia, Argentina and Chile.

He confessed to a fascination with the remote corners of the world and meeting the "potters and weavers" who inhabit

those areas. His bicycle, apart from being custom-built and extremely reliable, seemed to have all the comforts of home strapped on somewhere. He also carried a small camera and a tape recorder to record the sights and sounds of his voyage.

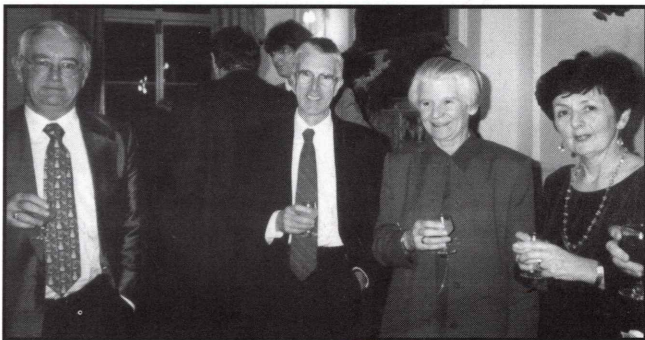
The lecture started with his departure from Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. He told a spellbound audience of his journey down to Salta, in Argentina, through Argentina to Mendoza and across the Andes via the "Camino de los Andes" into Chile. After a brief stay in Santiago, he continued south to Puerto Montt, across into the island of Chiloé and into the temperate forests of southern Chile where even the local "huasos" warned him not to proceed further as the way was impassable. Despite several brushes with danger crossing rivers in some of the remotest parts of South America, he finally reached Punta Arenas in May, before the winter set in – although it was a very rain-soaked cyclist who viewed the magnificence of the National Park "Torres del Paine"!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Over one hundred members and friends of the Society attended this social occasion, which took place at Canning House on 17 December. The highlight of the evening was the annual Christmas draw that this year had very attractive prizes ranging from a special Shiseido facial at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, and a week-end for two at a country hotel in Berkshire to a beautiful copper relief mural of the conquest of South America. Mr. John Fisher, Chairman of the Society gave the following address:



From left: Mrs Belle Drummond, Mr & Mrs Rupert Reid



From left: Mr John Fisher, Mr Robert Hart, Mrs Judith Hart and Mrs Ann Fisher

"I should like to begin by welcoming the members of the Society and their guests. An event such as this involves a considerable amount of hard work by not only the Secretary, María Teresa Lamarca, but also, and in particular, Claudia Munro-Kerr, Alisdair Grant and Angélica de Shaw.

Several people who would have wished to be here but, for differing reasons, are not, deserve, I believe, a word of tribute. My first is my predecessor as Chairman, Roger Venables – I spoke with Roger yesterday, and he asked me to convey his best wishes. Most people here will know that he suffered a major stroke during the summer. He is now back home, although still receiving hospital treatment for two days a week. Currently confined to a wheelchair he is determined to walk again, and hopes to be at the Society's next function (the lecture to be given here by Hallam Murray on 18 March). Also absent, although until very recently he planned to be here, is H.E. the Ambassador. All of us, I am sure, would wish to express our good wishes to Mario and Mrs. Artaza, and our gratitude for their support of the Society throughout the year; I propose to write to them to do precisely that. John Naylor, Editor of Chilean News for, I think, the last 7 years is here. John has decided that the time has come for him to hand over the editorship – Georgina Roberts has agreed to take over – our thanks are due to him for the splendid work that he has done to keep the members informed of the activities of the Society during those 7 years.

It is very gratifying to see so many friends of Chile here tonight although, of course, the context in which we meet at this precise time is far from a happy one. This Society has been in existence for some 54 years as a non-political organisation and a registered charity, for two declared purposes; (a) to promote, and I quote 'the advancement of the education of the people of Great Britain in respect of Chile, its people, language, literature, institutions, folklore, culture and current affairs' and (b) to help 'persons resident in Chile who are in conditions of hardship and distress'.

More broadly, we seek to foster and preserve good relations between the people of Chile and those of Great Britain. Clearly that relationship is currently under strain. As Chairman of the Society I have corresponded and talked with most members of the Committee during recent weeks about the present difficulties. Throughout, I have been, and remain, adamant that, whatever our individual views, we should not comment as a Committee on the primary issue that lies at the root of the present difficulty. However, I will be discussing with the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting on 7 January whether there are any limited steps that we might take in an attempt to reassure the people of Chile and Great Britain of our determination to work for the preservation of the friendship that has characterised Anglo-Chilean relations not just since 1944, when the Society was founded, but since the nearly two centuries since the foundation of the Republic of Chile.

In the meantime, I should like to conclude by wishing everybody here – and our absent friends – 'Feliz Navidad', and by inviting you to join me in a toast to 'The People of Chile'.



From left: Mr Alan MacDonald, Mrs Mary Michelle, Mr John Naylor and Mrs Maureen Monteith



Miss Rowena Colthurst, Miss Karen Pecemkus and other guests

MY LIFE IN PATAGONIA

By Jennie Saunders

I had so much to learn when I arrived in Chile to live on a Sheep Farm in Patagonia. It was very different from life in Darlington, Co. Durham with my widowed mother, and working as a shorthand typist for the London, North Eastern Railway, as I had been doing during the 1930s and the years of the Second World War.

I arrived in Punta Arenas on 3 May 1946, sailing south from Valparaíso. It was a very interesting journey through the canals, complete with a visit to Chiloé. The vegetation and varied greens of the scenery had so many similarities with Ireland.

My husband, George, had worked for forty years with the sheep farming company Ganadera de Tierra del Fuego, on large sheep farms with anything from 90,000 to 160,000 Corriedale sheep and Shorthorn cattle. He had managed 'estancias' bigger than the biggest counties in the British Isles, and his pioneering work in land reseeded attracted people from all over the world.

The fact that we were not blessed with children left me free to help him in some aspects of his work – for example, I did all the typing of his information reports to the Directors of the Company, and all the planning of the year-round work on the farm.

Estancia Cerro Castillo was the Company's show farm

and we lived there from 1949 to 1965. George, as Manager, commenced the big pasture improvement programme there, and, in consequence, we had to look after and entertain visitors who were sent by the Company to see his work. He had, as well, to look after the general running and work of a large sheep farm. The majority of the visitors came from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which had its headquarters in Rome, and represented the many countries that the FAO was advising and helping with agricultural problems. Owing to the huge area of the farm, it needed time to see the work being done at Cerro Castillo and the majority of these visitors stayed overnight or longer, depending on how much of the work they had time to see before moving on to other parts of Patagonia.

The Manager's house at Cerro Castillo had four double bedrooms for visitors and we often had a "full house". Naturally, I had a large staff to help me run the house efficiently. Feeding the visitors was a full time job, as they came throughout the summer months, and some even came during the winter.

I am not a very good housekeeper, but I had learned a great deal from my mother, who was very efficient at the preparation of food, such as preserving fresh soft fruits in season, and making brawn from fresh meats. We had an excellent garden in Cerro Castillo, with raspberries, strawberries, plums, gooseberries, black and red currants, rhubarb, apples etc. I made jams and jellies and bottled much of it for use in the winter. I also made a mustard pickle from fresh vegetables that was very popular with cold meat and salad.

Another preservation technique I learned was the curing of pork. We would kill four pigs for use throughout the year. As we had no freezers, this would be done in mid-winter when it was cold enough to keep the meat fresh. The assistant butcher on the farm used to cut the animal into portions suitable for salting, and I would put these in brine stored in large beer barrels. After soaking for a time suitable to the size of the portion, it would be smoked in our smokehouse. Of course, we did keep certain fresh cuts for roast pork. I would also preserve beef in brine, prepare beef brawn, and smoke legs of mutton, this last being passable as ham! All very delicious in sandwiches...

We kept hens for fresh eggs, and we raised all our own fowl, such as chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, for the pot! Once a month I made up an order for groceries to get from the stores on the farm. These stores were supplied in bulk from the Company's warehouse in Punta Arenas. The annual wine and spirits order was made out by George, and was sent directly from the warehouse to our house as, of course, no drink of any kind was available on the farm for purchase.

As there was so much entertaining to do I used to make out a weekly menu for the cook so that she was not left without ideas for meals. On many an occasion, visitors arrived without previous notice; only with their letter of introduction. It was nothing unusual for 8 to 10 people to arrive at lunchtime. So, a little more water would be added to the soup, and there was never any shortage of fresh meat and eggs.

On such a large farm, there were many times when the visitors would be away all day. For these occasions I would prepare picnics which, at times, could be for 20 to 30 people. Picnic lunches would consist of cold meats, mustard pickle salads, bread, butter, large jam tarts and fruit cake together with coffee and tea in thermos flasks – not forgetting the delicious Chilean wines to wash all this down with. With no modern luxuries such as aluminium foil or 'cling film', I

would slice the cold meats and put a sheet of greaseproof paper between slices. Also, in those days there was no such thing as plastic food containers, cups, plates and cutlery. However, I always had boxes ready packed with enamel cups, plates and cutlery, and once everything was ready the boxes would be loaded into the truck for transporting to the picnic site.

I had to ensure that the house was well stocked with linen and kitchen equipment, and all the curtains, loose covers, etc. were replaced when worn. Whenever I visited Punta Arenas, I always had a list of purchases to ensure the smooth running of the house. Once the list was checked by the Company's office, I would go shopping. It was great fun to spend other people's money!

The house had a sheltered spot in the garden where, in the summer, we had 'Asados'. The assistant cook would tend the meat, and I would see to all the rest of the food and wine.

The house had a good vegetable and flower garden. I enjoyed an excellent rapport with the gardeners and I arranged that the Company ordered all the seeds they needed. Any special ones the Company could not supply, I would obtain from friends in England. There was also a greenhouse, where, as well as melons and tomatoes, there was a vine producing good grapes. I used to get yellow tomato seeds, and the gardener was so proud that his greenhouse was the only one on the Company's farms producing yellow tomatoes!

At 82 years of age, my mother came to live with us at Cerro Castillo. She had had a serious operation in England, and the doctors had given her only two years to live. However, she spent four years with us in Patagonia before finally succumbing to a heart attack. George and I were delighted to have had her with us for so long. She loved the garden, and was delighted to meet all the visitors we entertained. Everyone on the farm made her so welcome, and the staff in the house looked after her so attentively. She would write such glowing accounts of life at Cerro Castillo to friends and relations, that I am sure they must have thought she was "romancing"!

I have never been back to my home at Cerro Castillo, although I went to Chile in 1980 and 1985. I just wanted to remember everything as it was when George was alive. We had seen the end of an era; we had been part of the golden years of Patagonia.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, VALPARAÍSO

By Mary Walbaum

After years of silence, the organ at St Paul's is once again filling the Church with its marvellous music. This near miracle is the result of many tedious hours of hard work by Roland Geddes, who, together with an organ expert, has managed to get this 95-year old organ playing again.

For the last three years, weekly organ recitals have been held at the church every Sunday. In this way many people have got to know this beautiful old church, which is celebrating its 140th birthday this year.

There have also been a series of special concerts held at the church over the last years, such as a choir from Universidad de Chile in Santiago, a choir from a New Zealand girl's school, the choir from the Adolfo Ibañez University and a special concert of organ music performed by Dominique Proust, a French organist.

ANGLO-CHILEAN HERITAGE

The new life brought into the Church by the restoration of the organ is just one of the many activities which are part of the restoration of the Church as one of the centre pieces of the Cerro Concepción, which, together with the Cerro Alegre, constitute arguably one of the finest architectural neighbourhoods in Valparaíso.

The Church, which has been declared a national monument, was built in 1858 and has been a witness to the rise and decline of Valparaíso, and especially of the tremendous influence the British community had on the city. One of the curiosities of the Church is the lack of a steeple, a reminder of the times last century when officially there was no religious freedom – though tolerance existed.

People of all creeds and nationalities, as well as Companies have been approached for help towards the restoration, and have contributed to the work and repairs undertaken so far. These include: roof, gutters, paint, renewal of electrical circuits, water mains, fire-extinguishers, 55 metres of oak railing, as well as the restoration of the organ.

During 1997, the Restoration Committee formed a "Friends of St. Paul's" group, which means that now there are over fifty families or individuals who actively care about the present and future of the Church. It is hoped that, as more people visit the Church, discover their roots in Valparaíso and see for themselves what has been achieved so far, the number of Friends will also increase.

Because so many old and beautiful buildings in Chile suffer seriously from earthquakes and the passing of time, very little of the past can be shown to our children and grandchildren. The Friends feel it is worth making the effort to preserve this magnificent link with the past so as to allow future generations the joy of visiting this 140 year old church and being able to listen to its unique organ.

The Restoration Committee has been working closely with the "Corporación del Patrimonio Cultural" in Santiago, with the Municipalidad de Valparaíso, as well as architects and specialists in conservation and restoration on academic projects of international standards, which would allow the project to be submitted for possible funding to government and private organisations in Chile and abroad.

(An appeal for funds appeared in the March 1993 issue of the Chilean News – ed.)

LUIS POIROT TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

This was held at Canning House on 2 December 1998

Luis Poirot is a Chilean and a professional photographer who started his career in 1965. He lived and worked in France and Spain, and joined the Spanish newspaper El País as a staff photographer. He also contributed photographs and articles on travel, theatre and other topics to French, Spanish and Chilean magazines.

Wine and snacks were served.

The exhibition was organised by the Cultural Department of the Chilean Embassy.

THE ENIGMATIC WORK OF ARTURO DUCLOS

The exhibition of the renowned Chilean artist Arturo Duclos was held at the Bolivar Hall on 11 January 1999.

The observer is struck by the contemplative and enigmatic character of the paintings. The artist plays with symbols and images, which invite the viewer to contemplate and interpret for himself.

Wine and snacks were served.

The exhibition was organised by the Cultural Department of the Chilean Embassy.

It all started when 9-year-old Christopher Heap came back from a holiday in Chile and couldn't stop telling his fellow pupils about the beautiful country that his mother came from. Mrs. Cooper, form teacher at Sumercroft School in Bishop's Stortford, Herts., was swept along by Christopher's enthusiasm, and started a project on Chile as part of the Geography class. Twenty-eight of her pupils carried out research into several aspects of the country.

Christopher Heap

Invaluable help was received from both the Chilean Embassy and Consulate in London. The children designed their own tourist brochure and the project culminated in an exhibition of their paintings and drawings, which was seen by the whole school.



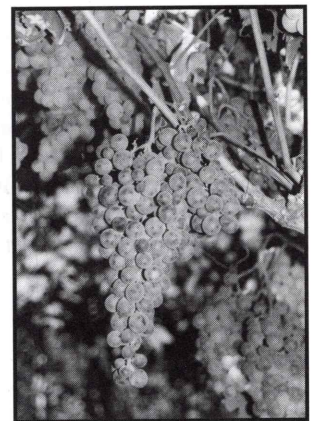
The pupils of Sumercroft School

... ON THE SUBJECT OF CHILEAN PISCO

by Raúl Cordero, Instituto Historia, Universidad Católica.

To understand the first steps in the Pisco industry in Chile one has to go back to the days of the Spanish Conquest. In 1549 Pedro de Cisternas and Francisco de Aguirre successfully cultivated the first grapevines in the zones of Copiapó and La Serena.

At the same time, during the sixteenth century, the silver deposits of Potosí were discovered and the mines, given their geographic location and proximity, could be supplied from Chile with provisions. One of the products was a very sweet grape juice produced in what today is known as "Norte Chico". However, as the juice was unfermented, it rapidly decomposed during the long journey to its destination. It was decided to distil the juice, this way forming an "aguardiente" or liquor with both a pleasant aroma and flavour.



This distilled product was much easier to market in the large urban centres, and thus it was that by the middle of the seventeenth century, La Serena was known for its copper, its wine and also for the "aguardientes".

Due to the strict control exercised by the Spanish Crown over the importation of alcohol into Perú, it was prohibited to import it via the port of El Callao. This restriction brought

about a clandestine alcohol market for the Viceroyalty, centred on the port of Pisco, located to the south of Lima. This could be the origin of the name "pisco", used to describe the aguardiente smuggled in from the north of Chile. Another possible derivation may be from the earthenware jug used to transport the liquor, this also being called "pisco".

The growth of the pisco industry commenced slowly. By the nineteenth century, it was no longer exported to Perú. However, by this time, an internal market had grown up, located in the central zone of Chile.

Pisco production began to be developed by small farmers with a few hectares of land, and who produced their own brands in their distilleries. Thus were born the first branded piscos, such as Alba, Pastilla, Elqui and Celestial, among others.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, the Pisco distillers still consisted of small farmers, located primarily on the slopes of Elqui, Limarí and Huasco valleys; producing piscos of differing strengths and qualities, each with distinctive labelling. All enjoyed considerable success.

The opening of the Panamá Canal allowed for easier importation into Chile of the spirits of other countries, and this, together with the production of other types of aguardiente from the valleys of central Chile, presented serious competition to Pisco, resulting in a drop in the price. In the face of this competition, the Pisco distillers formed into a united front and petitioned the President of the Republic, Don Carlos Ibañez del Campo, to instigate measures that would set a standard for the quality of Pisco, with a view to the exportation of the product.

At the beginning of the 1930s the producers again united to combat the effects of the global economic crisis. They formed an organisation that sought the development of a co-operative system for the industry, while respecting the right of the individual to manage his own property. It is interesting to note that this same organisation exist to this day, comprising almost 80% of the Pisco industry.

During this period the two most important companies were founded. In 1933 the "Sociedad Cooperativa Control Pisquero del Elqui y Vitivinícola de Norte Ltda" was formed, which produced the "Pisco Control" brand. A few years later saw the formation of the "Cooperativa Agrícola y Pisquera del Elqui Ltd" whose products were marketed under the name of "Pisco Capel".

This situation lasted until the 1960s, when CORFO initiated a programme destined to increase the production of Pisco, aguardiente and raisins, this time in the provinces of Atacama and Coquimbo. Throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s, the production of Pisco increased rapidly.

The economic crisis of the 1980s seriously affected the Pisco industry. The liberalisation of the economy which allowed the virtually unrestricted importation of goods into the country, also meant the flooding of the drinks market with imported alcoholic drinks, predominantly that of whisky, which reached a peak of ten million bottles a year. This reduced the demand for Pisco by an alarming amount.

By investing large sums of money in technology and publicity the Pisco industry overcame the crisis and growth was once again steady. By 1995, the co-operatives of Control and Capel between them controlled more than 80% of the production, with sales of over \$45,000,000,000.

Today, this sector has new and important challenges to face, such as the drought and the reduced tax on whisky and other imported liquors. Creative thinking is necessary to protect the 60,000 jobs directly and indirectly related to the Pisco industry.

(Published in El Mercurio, 2 February 1997)

FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London successfully ended another year of activity that culminated with the donation of stainless steel tables to a value of £1,600 to assist in the refitting of the kitchen of the Centre "Los Ceibos" of COANIL (Fundación de Ayuda al Niño Limitado) in Colina. The Centre had been destroyed by fire in September 1997, causing the death of 31 children.

Los Ceibos was also the recipient of nine boxes containing children's clothing, while CONAPRAN (Consejo Nacional de Protección a la Ancianidad) received nine boxes with clothes for the aged. The dispatch of these boxes was only possible thanks to the valuable assistance given by the then Chief of the Chilean Air Force Mission in London, Group Captain Ricardo Gutiérrez.

Letters of appreciation were received from COANIL in Santiago and from Mrs. Silvia Sotta de Rojas, President of CONAPRAN.

It was with sadness that the Group had to bid farewell to Mrs María Inés Nozawa who left the country to take up residence in New York. For this reason a lunch was offered in her honour at the R.A.C. Country Club in Surrey.

The Dieciocho Lunch to celebrate the Chilean Independence Day was hosted by Mrs Ginetta Izurieta and Mrs Georgina Roberts. The "empanadas", "pastelera", "pollo escabechado" and "porotos granados", together with the best of Chilean wines, were much praised by those present. The toast was proposed by Mrs Anita Artaza.



Mrs María Inés Nozawa and her hostess, Mrs Carmen Pearson



The Group of Chilean Ladies at the Dieciocho Lunch

VENERABLE BRITISH TRAVEL COMPANION

REACHES 75

A review of the South American Handbook

By Alan MacDonald

Graham Greene called it the best guidebook in existence. He evidently preferred its dependable companionship to the vicissitudes of travelling with his aunt.

When first published in 1924, the South American handbook was intended for British traders. Nowadays it is revered by tourists and travellers of all nationalities and, with the look and feel of the Good Book, has been sanctified as the backpacker's bible. Many readers are astonished to discover that their hallowed possession emanates not from, say, Chicago or New York, but from the quintessentially English city of Bath.

The seventy-fifth anniversary edition, like its predecessors, manages to contain as much, or more, useful information on each location as is achieved by single-country guides.

Most young travellers I encountered during my sojourn in Chile were visiting several countries. In fact, you cannot go overland from Puerto Montt to the south without entering Argentina. In any case, a tour of the Lake District is incomplete without a diversion to the 'beautifully-situated' Bariloche.

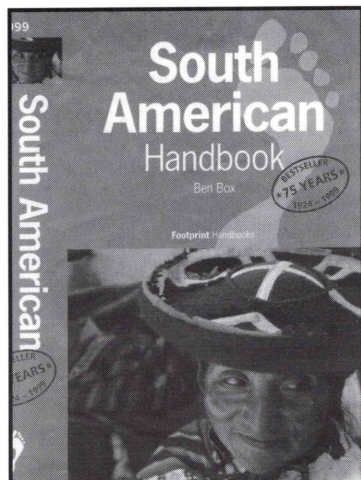
Equally, having reached San Pedro de Atacama, why deprive yourself of the 'weird and fantastic' Sala de Uyuni over the border? Lago Chungara, with its volcano views and diverse wildlife, is best accessed from Bolivia. Mount Aconcagua, the highest peak in the Americas, should be approached through Argentina. From Arica, Peru's Inca Trail tantalisingly beckons to the north. So the possession of this weighty tome is the solution to travelling in Chile.

The handbook is detailed, concise and occasionally poetic on the tourist Meccas and their environs, including Santiago, San Pedro, the Valle de Elqui, Pucon, Laguna San Rafael and Torres de Paine.

But it also finds ample space for some of my own familiar haunts. These include the colonial town of Carahue, west of Temuco, the temperate shores of Lago General Carrere, 'the fairy-tale castle' of Cerro Castillo, the 'breathtaking' Reserva Jeinimeni and the coastal hills and Penguin Island of Pan de Azúcar. My favourite beach resorts, such as Cartagena, Algarrobo and Zapallar, are in there too.

If I find inadequate the venerable volume's treatment of Valparaíso, bursting as this city does with British associations, it is because the premier port is frankly no longer on the visitor's itinerary. If the remoter vineyards are ignored, it is because they are not yet on it.

Being updated annually, unlike most guides, this one is reliable on bus, boat and train departure times. But where it really comes into its own is in the accommodation listings.



Many young travellers will only choose *hospedajes* recommended by the Handbook. These can be convenient and congenial meeting places, as I experienced in the warm embrace of Roberto and Alicia's family kitchen in Pucón, shared with a collection of aspiring cooks from around the world.

Michael Palin consulted the Handbook constantly during the making of *Full Circle*. This television documentary was extended to a ten-part series thanks to 'the unparalleled beauty of the granite peaks of Southern Chile and the salt-stacks of the Atacama Desert...', culminating in the rail ride from Arica to La Paz.

The South American Handbook is printed by Footprint Handbooks at a cost of £22.99 (1728pp, Catalogue number ISBN 1 900949 21 0).

WOMEN'S CAFÉ TURNS TABLE ON CHILE CONVENTION

Scantly clad men serve drinks

By Gwen Florio, *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Starbucks never sold coffee like this.

"*Café con piernas*," they call it. Coffee with legs.

For once the meaning is literal, and has nothing to do with the caffeine content.

In fact, the energy in the cafés of Santiago – where very tall women in very short dresses serve a mostly male clientele – has more to do with testosterone.

With one exception.

For two years now, working women in central Santiago have taken their coffee breaks in a dimly lit café staffed by men wearing welcoming smiles and very little else.

It is called Café Only Cyber Woman and, despite its name, it has about as much to do with computers as, well, coffee usually does with sex.

The city's only coffee bar especially for women attracts a *feminista* clientele ranging from middle-age business matrons in power suits to students sporting tank tops and tattoos.

"We get more executives than anyone else here," said Paola Reyes, who works the cash register. "They come here to relax, to talk – and to look at the men."

Meaning Axel, 24, and Juliano, 26. They didn't want their last names used. Only Cyber Woman is a first-name kind of place.

Each new client who leaves her workaday world for the comforts of the café is greeted with a kiss. Her beauty garners effusive praise. And with the older ones, there is the age game.

"You are 43? No. Impossible, You are only 32." Kisses all around.

OK, so it's a little cheesy.

But for a woman, it can be a welcome change from the other coffee bars that line the bustling Paseo Ahumada, the pedestrian mall that cuts through the centre of town.

The only way to distinguish among the macho cafés, other

that their names – Café Caribe, Café Haiti, Café Cousiño – is the colour of the dresses on the servers. The styles themselves are nearly indistinguishable – low necks and high hemlines, with redundant side slits.

The bars compete among themselves as to which has the most attractive servers.

“It is the custom,” said Enrique Estévez, stirring sugar into his espresso with a demitasse spoon at Café Haiti. “It is a good custom, no?”

Well, no – not if you’re a woman and you happen to like coffee.

For years the only way a woman could feel comfortable entering one was on the arm of a man.

These cafés are more like bars, with coffee in tiny glasses drunk standing up, in quick gulps, like tossing back shots. No food is served and nobody lingers.

At Only Cyber Woman, there are concessions to the female clientele. There are stools, so that the women of Santiago, who wouldn’t be caught dead in flat shoes, can rest their feet. Cappuccino – which in Santiago comes with a gooey topping of whipped cream that renders it more of a dessert – is more popular than bitter espresso here, and soft drinks also are served.

“Men need their places, and women need this,” said Juliano, who came to Only Cyber Woman three months ago after working in a textile factory.

A slender 18-year-old woman named Mijal entered. She eyed Juliano’s get-up, a vest over his bare chest and black bikini shorts stretched tight over a lighter, which he produced the instant Mijal raised a cigarette to her lips.

“*Hombres sin pantalones?*” she said. Men without pants? Then she switched to English.

“That is very, very good.”

Down the street, Cecilia Vega did not look nearly so happy as Mijal.

She was stuck in Café Haiti with her friend Estévez and she was the only woman in the line of grey suits on her side of the bar.

When asked about the curvaceous young women on the other side of the counter, the sour expression on her face spoke volumes.

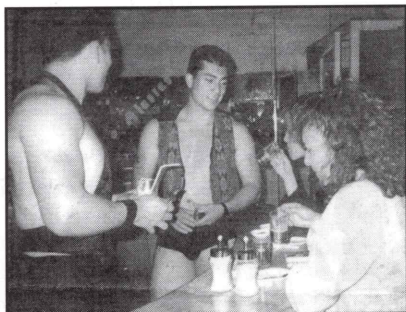
“These places,” she said, “they are more for men. I’m only here with him.”

But word about Only Cyber Woman is getting around.

Vega’s face brightened, and she leaned forward conspiratorially.

She had heard about it, she said. The place with young men in bicycle shorts. She arched an eyebrow. The smile she tossed Estévez was like a gauntlet.

(Published in The Arizona Republic, 29 November 1998)



WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE IN CHILE

By Andy Newton

Chairman, Shaftesbury Scouts Jamboree Committee

The 19th World Jamboree took place in Chile at the beginning of this year. The seven scouts from Shaftesbury left Dorset on Boxing Day in the heaviest rain we have seen for a long time – something to remember England by! When I asked my daughter Charlotte what Chile was like, all she could say was “HOT”! What were the Andes like? “BIG”! She found the people especially friendly and likeable and has a Chilean pen friend Renato – aged three. They met when Charlotte was helping to make a garden in a school. They have all had a great time. They have mixed with a large number of scouts of many nationalities, swapped lots of badges and other items of clothing. Charlotte now has the travel bug, and, soon after returning, went to the travel agent to enquire the costs of going back to South America, but A-levels loom.

When I said that the trip would be a mind-broadening experience, it was rather tongue in cheek. However, all the parents have been pleasantly surprised by the changes in character of their offspring. Charlotte is now more confident and mature, and very proud of having been to Chile. The Jamboree Committee would like to say thank you to the members of the Society who helped with our fund-raising appeal and made the trip possible. There are now at least seven new Chilephiles in North Dorset.



BIRTHS

On 20 January 1999, to Pedro and Virginia Montt, a daughter, Valentina, a sister for Octavio and Eloísa

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Arthur and Patricia Richardson. Arthur died suddenly on Sunday 13 December 1998 and Patricia died after a short illness on 20 January 1999.

Arthur (1937-1998) first went to Chile in the late 1950s, to work with Price Waterhouse in Santiago. There he met, and married, Patricia Thomson, a member of a distinguished Chilean family. During the 1960s he pursued an interesting career in Ecuador, Colombia, France and Switzerland. Eventually he returned with his family to England, and set up his own Accountancy Practice in Reading, where he established contacts over a wide area, both in this country and abroad. He was a keen golfer and grew to love the game. The epitome of his golfing career came last June when he won the Captain’s Day competition at the Sonning Golf Club in

Berkshire. An enthusiastic member of the Anglo-Chilean Society for more than 25 years, he supported all the Society's activities and was last seen with his family at the Dieciocho Party on board the Esmeralda.

Patricia (1942-1999) was the great-granddaughter, on her mother's side, of President Don Jorge Montt, and a distant relative to Juan Carlos Délano, past Chilean Ambassador to the Court of St. James and past President of the Anglo Chilean Society. She was greatly admired, for she excelled at everything she did. A superb social hostess who showed an artistic talent in her painting, knitting and floral arrangements. She was also an accomplished golfer at local championship level. She was one of the founder members of the Group of Chilean Ladies in London. Her enthusiasm and generosity towards the Group's charitable work for the underprivileged never faltered, and she was much loved for her outstanding human qualities.



Arthur and Patricia shared a love for travelling and visited many countries, not only in South America and Europe, but also Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Bali and, very recently, China. Two sons, Arthur and Edward, survive them.

LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES GOLF DAY

This year's golf day will again be held at the West Surrey Golf Club, near Milford, Surrey, on Thursday 17th June 1999. The club is half a mile from Milford station on the Waterloo-Portsmouth line or, if members are coming by road, a map will be provided nearer the time.

The competition, which this year will be sponsored by the Anglo-Brazilian Society, is over 18 holes and is open to members of the Anglo-Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean and other Latin America Societies. The competition is for the Ambassador's Cup, which is retained by the winner's Society for one year. There are other competitions that day for trophies put up by the various Societies and any one wishing to sponsor a prize would be more than welcome.

Steamond Travel has again offered a special prize this year in conjunction with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. This comprises two round-trip tickets to any destination in Latin America for the first competitor to achieve a hole-in-one on any hole as part of the competition on the day. Lunch will be available from 13:00 until 14:30 and prize giving will follow this.

Those wishing to play or just attend should contact Tim Rumboll, c/o the Anglo-Argentine Society, 2 Belgrave Sq., London SW1X 8PJ.

Entry fee as a player (including Coffee and Lunch) = £45.

Entry fee as a non-player (including Coffee and Lunch) = £16.

Applications should be received by 30th April 1999 and cheques should be made payable to "The Anglo-Argentine Society".

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting will take place at Canning House on Tuesday, 4 May 1999 at 6:00 p.m., followed by a cheese and wine reception.

Golf Day: this will be held at the West Surrey Golf Club, near Milford, Surrey, on Thursday 17 June 1999

The Asado al Palo will be held at Bonhams Farm near Alton, Hampshire, on Sunday 27 June 1999.

Dieciocho Celebration: this event is currently planned for 18 September 1999. Details of the venue and guest speaker will be circulated in due course.

Wine Tasting: a tasting of Chilean wines is planned at Canning House for mid-October. Precise details will be given once these are known.

The Christmas Party will take place at Canning House on Thursday 16 December 1999 at 6:00 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Paola Andrea Ananía
 Mrs. María Eugenia Baldwin
 Mr. Peter Bradshaw
 Mr. Martyn Hemsley
 Mr. Peter Rodney Holmes
 Miss Zoila Lothian.

Spanish – Chilean Style!

Chileans are very fond of using slang expressions. In what we hope will be a regular feature, some of these expressions are explained.

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| A todo chancho: - | All the way |
| - | Full blast |
| - | To do something with all possible enthusiasm and energy |
| A precio de huevo- | Dirt cheap |

(From "How to Survive in the Chilean Jungle" by John Brennan and Alvaro Taboada)