

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - John Naylor

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London, October 1997

12 Devonshire Street London W1

THE DIECIOCHO DINNER

This was held at the Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly on 17th September.

The Club, a former Royal House which later became the home of Prime Minister Lord Palmerston dates back to 1760. This however is the last occasion for the Society to hold a dinner there as the Club will move to new premises in St. James next year.

The dinner was attended by H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza and Sra. Anita de Artaza and the guest of honour and speaker was Baroness Hooper. Her distinguished career includes being M.E.P. for Liverpool before becoming a Life Peeress in 1985.

At the conclusion of the dinner His Excellency the Ambassador of Chile Sr. Mario Artaza proposed a toast to The Queen.

Mr. Roger Venables, Chairman of The Anglo Chilean Society, then proposed a toast to the The President of Chile, and made an address:

Baroness Hooper, Ambassador, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The opening thing I have to say is that this is the first time in many years that a very faithful and lovely member of this Society, Countess Dundonald, has had to remain in Jersey. She has just had a hip operation, and sent a message regretting her absence, and we wish her a good recovery.

For their great generosity in supporting this dinner, and hence in enabling the Society to further its charitable aims, we are indebted to and thank

*ANTOFAGASTA HOLDINGS PLC
RIO TINTO PLC,
and JOSE CANEPA Y CIA.LTDA.*

Wines were also generously donated by Viña Los Vascos and Torreon de Paredes.

We are also enormously grateful to Your Excellency, Mario Artaza, and to your staff at the Embassy, for your continued support, not only through the provision of an office, but with so much back-up in all our activities. I hope that we are also of service to you. I must also thank our magical secretary Valerie Buxton who does incalculable good for our Society. While most of us were on holiday she organized this dinner single-handed.

Congratulations also to Michael Cannon for his OBE for giving the best asados al palo this side of Viña.

During the past year, the Society has published its revised constitution, thereby sharpening the focus on our charitable aims.

We have made a grant of US\$3,000 to the School for Deaf Children in Temuco, and a grant of £250 to an Oxford Graduate, who is presently in Chile writing her M.Phil in Latin American Studies. She wrote to us saying, "Hey, I've



Sra. Anita Artaza, H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza and Baroness Hooper

just received the New Constitution about grants for students. What about me?"

In December 1998 Chile will be host to a great Boy Scout Jamboree. Sixteen scouts from Dorset are among those to have been selected. With commendable initiative their leader approached us for help, so letters were sent to you, the members, and there has been - in the words of Scout's leader - a tremendous response.

Most important, we are well on way to setting

up a Student Award Scheme for British Graduates doing Latin American Studies. This we aim to have running by the Spring of next year. There will be an essay competition, followed by an interview. The winner will receive a grant of £1,000 to help him or her in financing the journey to, and time in, Chile.

Most of this benevolence has been made possible by the dinner we gave for Sr. Frei, President of Chile, last year.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our Guest of Honour, Baroness Hooper. In Castilian Baroness becomes "Baronessa", a beautiful title. Its always been my advice to opera goers that if the opera does not have a Baronessa, don't go and see it.

Baroness Hooper's mother wisely decided that all her children should learn Spanish. In those (recent) days it was unusual in England to find a school that taught any foreign language other than French, so tutors were brought in, and her association with Latin America began.

Having read Law at Southampton University, Baroness Hooper applied for and won a Rotary fellowship to further her studies in Latin America. Being one of the first ladies to benefit from this award she was destined to go to Venezuela, but a Coup d'etat took place - not suitable for ladies - so she transferred to Ecuador. Once she had arrived, they too laid on a special Coup d'etat for her benefit.

She first travelled to Chile in 1983, as a Member of the European Parliament, then again in 1995 as leader of a British Chilean Chamber of Commerce trade mission.

She is a member of the House of Lords, of the All Party Latin American Group, and she is Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The Baroness Hooper.

Baroness Hooper then rose and began by saying how delighted she was to be celebrating the Dieciocho in such splendid surroundings.

Her first visit to Latin America was to Quito, Ecuador, some 30 years ago where she took a degree in Law at the University of Quito. The first visit to Chile was in 1983 as a member of the European Parliament, then again in 1995 as leader of a British Chilean Chamber of Commerce Trade

Mission. The next trip will be to the Falkland Islands via Punta Arenas.

As a member of the All Party Latin American Group and also a member of the All Party British Chilean Group, she is well aware of the many parliamentary and ministerial visits that have taken place on a bi-lateral basis and the many excellent personal links now established on that level. It is very important to maintain this contact and to develop it further.

The visit of the Foreign Minister is due to take place at the end of October, not only increasing political contacts but trade and commercial contacts also,

Chile is a country rich in resources with a sound economy and a scheme for dealing with pensions, much quoted as a world model. It is also a very beautiful country to visit and the people are warm and welcoming, and very industrious. For small and medium sized businesses venturing into Latin America for the first time, Chile is a reassuring place to start.

President Frei is currently in Japan, and Chile is one of the few countries to have a favourable trade balance with Japan.

The idea of a British centre for Latin American affairs began in the 1930's, but it was not until the course of the Second World War in 1943 that Canning House (proper name The Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Council), of which she is President, was founded. Its aim was to promote among the British people a closer relationship and interest in the people of Spain, Portugal and Latin America

Meetings are being organised around the Foreign Minister's visit on 29th October and it is hoped that members of the Society will be represented. It is, incidentally also the date of the annual Leslie Bowes lecture.

An important development to raise the profile of Latin American activities in this country and to emphasise the work of Canning House is that it is hoped to establish sister organisations in Latin America. There is already an embryonic organisation in Brazil. Preliminary steps and soundings are being taken in Chile, in the hope that Chile will be the second Canning House sister organization. This will provide yet another vehicle for improving links and contacts, not only in trade and commercial terms but also in the important areas of culture and education.

As one of the longest standing and most active groups,



H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza and Baroness Hooper making her speech



Baroness Hooper and Roger Venables



Chairman Roger Venables making his speech



H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza making his address



Sandra Carey, Eugenio Parada and Betty Makin



Sandra Tose, John Walters and Dominique Holland Martin

The Anglo Chilean Society has a role to play. It is a marvellous organisation, well organised with its Chairman, very efficient secretary and a base in the Embassy. It provides a rendez vous for expatriates and people who have lived and worked in Chile and who want to keep in touch. Cultural and fun events such as the asado al palo, social functions and lectures are organised. Fund raising efforts to help needy children and all the work which is done by the Society for ALAF is much appreciated.

There is a great need to set up educational links. Experience as a Rotary Foundation Fellow has shown that it is terribly important to set up two way exchanges, and there is awareness of the Society's plans to sponsor further education for young people.

Baroness Hooper concluded by expressing her thanks for the hospitality, and proposed a toast to The Anglo Chilean Society and its President.

H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza then responded with the following address: Baroness Hooper, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

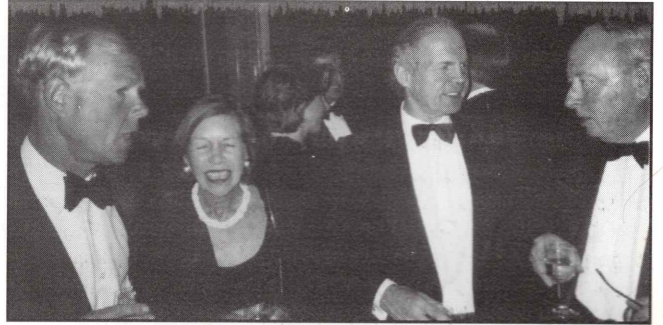
It is a great honour to have this first opportunity to address you, members and friends of the Anglo Chilean Society, on the occasion of celebrating the one hundred and eighty seventh anniversary of the independence of Chile.

I extend my sentiments and deepest gratitude to Baroness Hooper for her presence with us tonight, for her proven friendship to Chile and for her heartfelt words. If while I speak, I am only half as capable as her to maintain riveted the attention of the gentlemen present here tonight, I will consider myself very fortunate. I am sure that with her Presidency, Canning House will continue strengthening its reputation and its importance as the real centre in London for all Ibero and Latinamerican countries.

George Canning was a man of great ability, vision and perspicacity, virtues which are rare, but indispensable in a statesman. He looked always first to the national interest of Great Britain, as he should, but with his policies of free trade with the former Spanish colonies and opposition to the Holy Alliance, he gave a great impulse to the consolidation of the independence of the Latin American countries. His efforts culminated in 1824 when he gave diplomatic recognition to the independence of Argentina and Colombia, by negotiating trade agreements with the government of those countries. The same year he appointed Christopher Richard Nugent as the first British Consul in Chile. Therefore, Canning's name should be added to those of so many British citizens, soldiers and sailors who helped us to obtain our freedom. We are glad to be associated tonight with Canning House and to celebrate this anniversary of the Canning Club.



David and Heather Bouch and Hennie Subercaseaux



Alan Macdonald, Ester de Toro, Peter Wheeler and John Heath



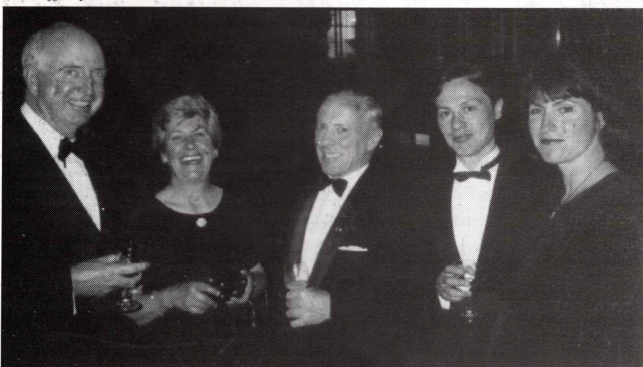
Audrey Mayne Nicholls, Joanna Douglas, Peggy Hart and Betty Blair



Geoffrey and Helbecia Larrson



Mrs Street and Mireille Chidiac



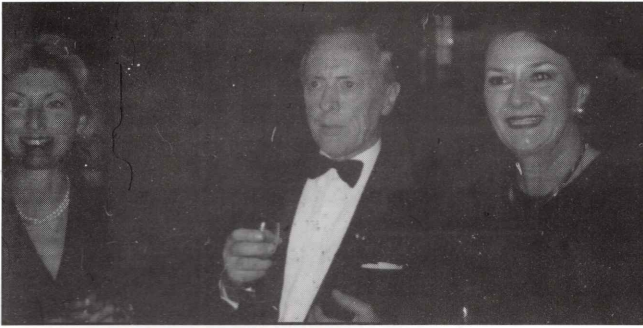
Harry Clements, Maria Angélica and Peter Shaw, Robert and Debra Shaw



Gonzalo Cuadra, Head of Codelco, Karen Mackerness, Victor Perez and Sandra Carey

The ideas of free trade continue to be important to both Great Britain and Chile. The international policies of both Presidents Aylwin and Frei place great emphasis on the internationalization of the economy and the elimination of trade barriers. More than 35% of our GDP now depends on foreign trade and we have a very open economy. We have signed free trade agreements with more than 30 countries around the globe, among them with Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, etc. We have a free trade agreement with MERCOSUR and we are participating in its political fora. We have been members of APEC since 1993. With the European Union, we have signed a Cooperation agreement in 1996, setting the framework for political, economic and commercial issues. This agreement was recently approved by both the House of Commons and by the House of Lords, and I am very grateful to Baroness Hooper for her support in these matters. With regard to NAFTA, Chile is ready to start negotiations with its members as soon as they are ready. The Government of the United States of America has requested authorization only yesterday to initiate these negotiations.

Free trade is one of the pillars of our efforts to develop Chile. We need to have access to established and emergent markets for our products, if our economy is going to continue growing. But we have other important challenges in that respect. President Frei believes that the country has an historic opportunity to overcome underdevelopment, with a final and decisive push. And we need to seize that opportunity with determination. We still need to create conditions for greater popular participation, for a stronger democracy, better distribution of income, improved judicial and educational systems, better health services, increased and improved infrastructure. In one word, we need to accelerate our modernization as a state and as a society, without leaving behind any sector of our national life.



Sandra Tose, Peter Shaw and Valerie Buxton



Claudia Munro-Kerr and Jacqueline Tichauer



Mr and Mrs Nosawa and Mrs Geogina Roberts

In this issue of Chilean News I have set out certain statistics with regard to the economy which I will not repeat here. However it is true that the economic model, successful as it has been, has not bestowed the same rate of income growth on all sectors of society, and we must continue the efforts to improve the conditions of the poorer sections.

The relations between Chile and the United Kingdom continue to be excellent. And the existence of this society is another proof of the strong roots of his historical friendship. We have trade for about 600 million pounds per year. The United Kingdom is our seventh most important commercial partner in the world, and the fourth for our exports. The UK has invested more than 600 million pounds in Chile since 1974, and 21 percent of those investments were materialized during 1996. The UK occupies the number 4 among foreign investors in Chile and the number 2 among the European countries.

But these figures are only indicative of the strength of commercial ties. Important as they are, they do not reflect the whole picture, because it is difficult to quantify or to measure the affection and genuine friendship that grows so naturally and so easily between British and Chilean people. And that historical feeling, so deep and so intense, is the real cement of our links. I am certain that these relations will continue to grow even stronger.

The Anglo Chilean Society is an example of that friendship.



Vanessa Orrego Grayson and Edwin Grayson



The Montuno Group

CHILE TODAY

By H.E.Sr. Mario Artaza Ambassador of Chile.

During the last 25 years Chile has witnessed a radical transformation of its political system, its economy and its society.

From the early 1930's onwards, the country has experimented with many political and social theories, implemented each time by governments of different ideologies. The frequency and sequence of the changes led to the polarization of Chilean society and to prolonged instability, affecting equally the economic activities and the expectations of each social group.

The democratic Government, elected in November 1989, after seventeen years of Military rule, made stability a national priority. We had experimented enough and we could not expect to have a country refounded after each election. A country is the product of slow historical evolution, whereby each Government makes a contribution. Therefore a decision was taken that whatever policies of the previous Government were proven to be effective, should be maintained.

However, it was clear from the beginning of Mr. Aylwin's Government that Chile had reached a national consensus on fundamental areas for maintaining the stability of the country. Firstly, there was agreement on the need for democracy and respect for human rights. Secondly, there was widespread agreement on maintaining and improving the model of social market economy and the strategy for economic development, with its main components: low inflation, prudent macroeconomic policies, and the primacy of the private sector as engine for growth. Thirdly, the country was committed to the promotion of exports and strong participation in world trade. Finally, Mr. Aylwin made it clear that the development of the country could not take place at the expense of the least privileged sectors of the society and, hence, of the long term political stability of the country. It was essential that those sectors share in the benefits of progress, so the fight against poverty, especially through provision of better and more extended social services, became an important priority.

Mr. Aylwin's Government was quite successful in its economic and social agenda. Continuity and stability were maintained. Chile was reintegrated into the international community. Economic growth reached about 6% per annum. The fight against poverty showed a dramatic reduction in extreme poverty, in absolute terms. However, many political issues remained unresolved, since the Government did not have a working majority in the Senate and its proposals to eliminate the institution of designated Senators and to carry out other reforms were therefore defeated. There were peaceful and normal changes in the command of the Air Force and Carabineros, the national police force. Those who feared a breakdown in the political system were reassured. The basic consensus of Chilean society was maintained.

Mr. Aylwin governed until 1994 and in that year another representative of the same political coalition, Mr. Eduardo

Frei, took over the Presidency.

During the last three years, Mr. Frei's government has expanded the priorities of Aylwin's government, although it has maintained its basic tenets. Mr. Frei is convinced that the country has an historic opportunity to overcome underdevelopment with a final and decisive push, which should involve greater participation, stronger democracy, better distribution of income, improved judicial and educational systems, better health services, increased and improved infrastructure and modernization of the State apparatus.

In these last three years the economy has grown at around 7% annually. In 1995, growth reached 8.5%. Inflation has been trimmed at 6.6%, and the investment rate has been maintained at about 27% of GDP. The balance of payments has been maintained on a sound basis, showing a surplus of about US\$ 1.2 billion in 1996. This has made it possible to keep advancing in meeting important social concerns, through targeted, moderate growth in social spending, and especially through the creation of 100,000 new jobs a year and significant real growth in salaries. Per capita income is estimated to be slightly above US\$5,000 per annum, while it was only US\$2,600 in the mid 1980's.

Progress has been made with respect to family welfare and the well being of the poor has been maintained. According to reliable international statistics, poverty levels have been halved, from about 48 per cent in 1989 to about 24% in 1996.

However, it is true that the economic model, successful as it has been, has not bestowed the same rate of income growth on all sectors of society and that this problem has been very difficult to tackle. There is agreement that in the long run the only viable way to improve income distribution is to continue pushing ahead with programs related to better education and workers' training. The Government is very aware of this and is working to carry out an extensive educational reform, which includes, amongst other initiatives, increasing the number of school hours, from 800 per year to 1,100, which is close to the average in developed countries. For us the challenge is very clear: either we have a better educated work force, or we will be unable to compete in the world's markets with products with higher value added.

The efforts to further amend aspects of the Constitution considered to be enclaves of authoritarianism have not been approved so far by the Senate. The discussion of these matters will be renewed after the Congressional elections in December of this year. The nine designated Senators will have to be appointed, in accordance with the procedures established in the Constitution. In 1998 the President will appoint a new Commander in Chief of the Army and a new Commander in Chief of the Navy, from among the five senior officers of the respective branch of the Armed Forces.

Another initiative which will have important consequences is the reform of the Judiciary. Congress is discussing the necessary legal reforms to establish a modern, more efficient and flexible system of justice.

The modernization of the State is one of the priorities of the Government. The privatization of ports and of water and sanitation companies is being discussed by Congress and we hope to pass the necessary laws in the near future.

It is a fact that the modernization of the private sector in Chile has advanced much faster than that of the public sector. The Government is now determined to advance as much as possible in this area, convinced that in a country like ours the State should provide the required services with expediency and with improved efficiency and productivity.

The strengthening of the municipalities and regional governments is also on the Government's agenda and important progress has been already made in those areas.

The international policies of the Frei Government have placed great emphasis on the internationalization of the

economy and the elimination of trade barriers. More than 35% of our GDP now depends on foreign trade and we have a very open economy, **with a uniform external tariff of 11%**, which we intend to reduce to 8% before the end of the year. To facilitate trade, the Government has taken initiatives at the multilateral and bilateral levels. Chile supports the WTO and all its agreements must be compatible with its regulations. We are an observer member of the Commerce Committee of the OECD and we have increasing connections with that Organization. In June 1996, we signed an agreement of association with Mercosur, with drastic reductions in tariffs. We have an especial interest in the success of Mercosur, which we see as going beyond a mere customs union. We have been members of the Asia Pacific States Association, APEC, since 1993. In November 1996 we signed a free trade agreement with Canada, which was approved by our Congress last week. Once in force, 92% of Chilean exports to Canada will have a zero tariff. As of January 1997, most trade with Venezuela and Colombia became subject to a zero tariff, which has been the case regarding trade with Mexico since 1992. With the European Union, Chile signed a Cooperation agreement in June 1996, setting a framework for political, economic and commercial issues. This agreement was recently approved unanimously by the European Parliament and is now subject to parliamentary approval in all member countries. The British Parliament has already approved this agreement. With regard to NAFTA, we are ready to start negotiations with its members as soon as possible. To initiate these negotiations, the Government of the USA requires the fast track authorization from the American Congress, which is still pending.

Chile sees itself as a bridge between South America and other regions. We are working hard to provide coast to coast corridors, linking the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard of South America, thus providing a gateway to the powerful economies of Asia Pacific. In addition, Chile could become an important gateway for Europe and North America into Latin America.

Foreign investors have responded well to the incentives offered by the Chilean economy. Investments exceeded six billion dollars in 1996. Of the investments materialized in 1996, 50.9 % were in services, almost 20% in mining and 17.8% in manufactures.

The emphasis on improving our infrastructure is well placed, since there is a great need for motorways, bridges, tunnels, ports and airports. The Government has invested considerably in this initiative and it has established a system of concessions and bids are already called for substantial amounts. So far, works amounting to about US\$ 1.2 billion have been placed under the system.

One of the main reasons why Chile has obtained a high rate of internal savings, similar to that found in Southeast Asia, is the private pension system. In 1996, a law was passed allowing the investment of pension funds abroad.

The Government places increasing importance to environmental protection. Chile has legislation covering these matters since 1994 and all more important projects are supposed to undergo a process of evaluation of their environmental impact. The debate about environmental concerns has become very important in Chilean society as people have become aware of the cost of ignoring them.

Let us review briefly the state of bilateral relations between Chile and the United Kingdom.

Both Presidents, Aylwin and Frei, have visited the UK and their visits were very successful. We do not have major disagreements, and the only one that we do have, related to the tax imposed on whisky, will be resolved soon.

The trade balance between Chile and the UK has been favourable to Chile since 1991. We had a record amount of exports in 1995, almost US\$1.1 billion, whilst we imported 247 million dollars that year. In 1996 our exports were only

US\$886 million, mainly because of a decrease in the prices of copper and cellulose, and we imported US\$281 million. Our main exports are copper, gold and grapes, wines and cellulose, in that order, while we import whisky, propane, vehicles, tool machines, steel and tractors. The UK is our fourth most important commercial partner in the world and the first in the European Union. With regard to investments, the UK has invested US\$1.1 billion since 1974, and 21% of those investments was materialized during 1996. The UK occupies the number 4 among foreign investors in Chile and the number 2 among the European countries. A great amount of these investments is concentrated in mining. A review of these figures shows that British exporters have a great challenge in Chile to overcome the competition of Korea, the United States and Germany, and increasingly Brazil. On investments, the British investors should have a better look at the area of services, doing some additional efforts to bring Chilean investments to the United Kingdom, especially from pension funds.

A word about Chilean investment abroad. In 1996, they were estimated at about US\$6.3 billion dollars, and it was highly concentrated in Argentina, Peru., Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil and Ecuador, in areas such as electricity generation and distribution, supermarkets, banking and telecommunications. The growth of Chilean investments abroad is a new phenomenon and will increasingly require a network of treaties to avoid double taxation. A framework legislation to negotiate this kind of treaties is under its final stages and it is very possible that negotiations with the UK will be carried out in the foreseeable future.

I hope that this article will be considered objective and accurate. I deeply object to boasting about the Chilean economic performance and I am against comparing Chile with other countries. We still have problems to overcome, like all developing nations. We have an agenda that will keep many successive governments busy, and we are not competing to become an example to others. Our responsibility lies with our own population, to overcome underdevelopment.

I must state, unequivocally, that I am quite optimistic about the future of Chile.

I believe in the long term stability of the country, based on the consensus that was reached after many years of divisions. I believe that we can build a better and more just society and become a truly developed country in the next ten to fifteen years. As President Frei has stated, we now have an historical opportunity and we must seize it with determination.

THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES' GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Ian Peters

This was held at the West Surrey Golf Club on June 19th, hosted by The Anglo Chilean Society. In spite of the weather it was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Golf was followed by a very good lunch and thanks go to The Anglo Chilean Society for providing some excellent Chilean wine.

David Nock presented the prizes, having expressed the Ambassador's apologies for not being able to do so, but I did have to make one last minute change and get Sandy Hay to present the Punta Arenas Trophy because the winner was David Nock. On the Chilean front Anne Nock acquitted herself well by winning the Lady's prize.

The Ambassador's Cup, the main prize, was won by Duncan McArthur, member of The Anglo Peruvian Society

ASADO AL PALO

By Valerie Buxton

The tables and chairs had been ordered from Alton Town Council for the 29th June. The empanadas had also been ordered (mitad con picante, mitad sin, por favor Kiko), so had the chorizos, fillet steaks, chicken drumsticks, strawberries,

etc. Most of the ingredients to keep 150 people happy at the biennial "Asado al Palo". And, of course, Chilean red and white wine. Bonham farm was once again the beautiful setting for this year's Asado, thanks to the kindness and generosity of Cherida and Michael Cannon.

Delicious aroma greeted the arriving guests, as the barbecue team, led by the Society's very own super chef Michael Ogilvie-Davis, was hard at work. Peter Heap, John Long and Sandy Hay were expertly turning over the chorizos, fillet steaks and empanadas alongside him.

Inside the early 19th century wooden barn the salad team had also been hard at work, washing, peeling, chopping; then arranging the large bowls with enticing displays of crisp lettuce and tomato salads liberally sprinkled with cilantro. Behind the bar, at one end of the barn, Chris Hopewell and Ted Davey were pulling corks and pouring wine for their thirsty customers. They did a superb job, never flagging until the very last glass had been poured and the very last "Salud" had been said.

At the opposite end of the barn a space had been left clear for the musicians. The group, called Montuno, were led by Carlos Rozo and were a tremendous success. His infectious Latin American rhythms meant animated dancing went on for most of the afternoon.

Meanwhile the younger contingent were enthusiastically organized by Claudia Munro-Kerr for games and races. Janet Lyall and Jacqueline Bowes gave a welcome helping hand. Later, a very colourful "piñata", made by Helbecia Larsson, was strung up inside the barn and the sounds of squealing children could be heard as they took turns to whack it until it burst and the goodies flew out in all directions. All the children received prizes, thanks to Peter de Bruyne's donation of soft toys.

Cherida Cannon drew the winning tickets for the raffle, while Roger Venables presented the prizes. The highlight was a case of red wine, very generously donated by H.E.Sr.Mario Artaza. The lucky winner was Maria Inez Nozawa. Nicolas Tucker gave three large, wonderful, mounted photographs with Chilean themes as prizes. He also kindly agreed to take photographs of that day, some of which are reproduced on this page.

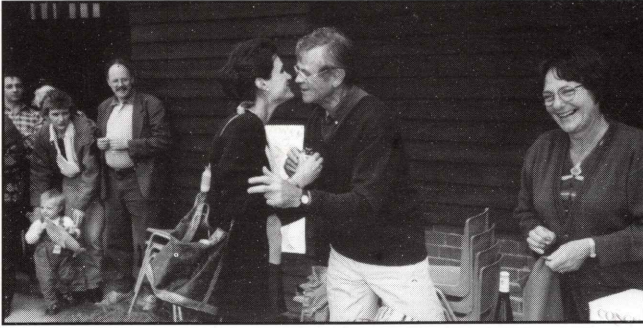
Many more were responsible for making the day a great success and we would especially like to thank Betty Blair, Peggy Hart, Hennie Subercaseaux, Heather Chapman, Linda Ogilvie-Davis, Olwen Long, Eileen Hay, Carmen Gloria Heap, Patricia Roach, Eliana Herrera, Joanna and Alan Douglas, Alan Macdonald and Roger Venables



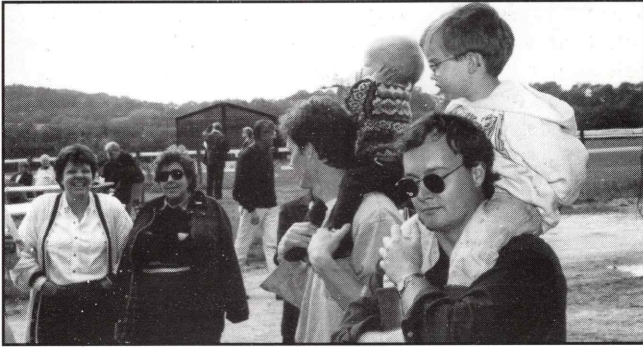
General View and Egg and Spoon race in progress



Lining up for the Egg and Spoon race and Michael Cannon



Roger Venables presenting a prize to Claudia Munro Kerr and Cherida Cannon



Eliana Herrera, Patricia Roach and other guests

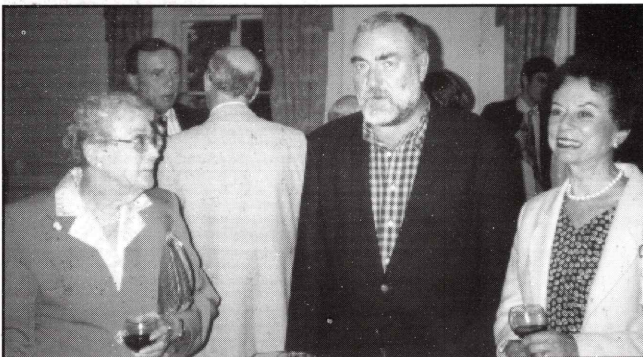
CHILE - LAND OF EXTREMES

What makes Chile's wildlife so unique is its geographical location. Separated by its neighbours by an impenetrable desert in the north, a massive range of mountains to the east, a vast ocean to the south and west, Chile is virtually an island on the South American continent. Effectively isolated for centuries, Chile's plant, animal and human community has pursued its own destiny, determined by the awesome nature of the country's geography and climate.

On July 2nd in Canning House Crispin Sadler showed films which he made of Chile's wildlife, and they took the viewer to some of the most remote and inaccessible places on earth. They examine the forces that have shaped this remarkable region and investigate the unique behavior of animals and plants, mostly unknown beyond these borders.

The films are a co-production between Television Nacional de Chile, New Zealand Television and The Discovery Channel.

A glass of wine was served after the viewing.



Peggy Hart, William Forwood and Eileen Hay

THE PATAGONIA EXHIBITION

A private viewing of an exhibition entitled "Patagonia; Natural History, Prehistory and Ethnography at the Uttermost Ends of the Earth" was held on September 19th at the Museum of Mankind, sponsored by the Governments of Chile and Argentina. The event was hosted by The Anglo Chilean

Society and The Anglo Argentine Society.

Dr. Colin McEwen, Curator of South American Collections, Museum of Mankind, made an introductory address, and conducted a preview of the exhibition.

Videos were shown in the lecture theatre with lectures by Dr. Luis Borrero, Archaeology Researcher, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Dr. Alfredo Prieto, Archaeology Researcher, Universidad de Magallanes, Punta Arenas and Dr. Héctor Laite, Head of Ethnography, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

They outlined a remarkable history of the first human habitation of this inhospitable region, going back some 10,000 years.

Chilean and Argentine wines and canapes were served

FIRST SHAFTESBURY SCOUT GROUP JAMBOREE APPEAL

Reg. Charity No. 301222

The following letter was sent out to members of the Society:

From C.A. Newton,
Shaftesbury Scout Jamboree Committee
6 Yeatmans Close, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8LU

To The Anglo Chilean Society

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you on behalf of the First Shaftesbury Scout Group because of your interest in Anglo-Chilean relations. Five of our Scouts and two of our Venture Scouts have been selected to travel to Chile for the 19th World Scout Jamboree in December 1998/January 1999. During their stay with Scouts from around the world they will be working on projects in the local community. This will be an amazing educational experience and as part of the challenge they must raise £17,000 to cover the cost of the trip.

This is a vast sum of money to have to find within the next eighteen months, especially in a small town like Shaftesbury. Members and parents of the Group are very proud to be so highly represented and are already in the process of fund raising to ensure the seven selected youngsters will be able to attend the Jamboree. Any financial contribution or sponsorship you or your organization could make to our efforts would be very gratefully appreciated.

If a financial contribution is not possible at this time we would be grateful for any prize donations towards our fund raising events including our Auction of Promises to be held in October. Please make cheques payable to "1st Shaftesbury Scout Jamboree Appeal".

We would also welcome copies of any useful literature you might have on Chile that we can use for publicity purposes.

I have included a leaflet describing the Jamboree, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information. Thank you for your time in reading my letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Andy Newton

Chairman, Shaftesbury Scouts Jamboree Committee.

What is a "World Scout Jamboree"?

A world Scout Jamboree is the coming together of scouts from many nations to share experiences and adventure, promoting peace, harmony and mutual understanding and respect, forming bonds of friendship that will last for decades, to the benefit of the World community. The event lasts only three weeks, but the benefits to the individual and the community continue indefinitely. A Jamboree comprises adventure training, service in the community, and of course companionship, teamwork, fun and excitement, all in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual environment. 24,000 scouts from

around the world will descend on the Jamboree site about 60 miles from Santiago in December 1998. Following three weeks camping, hiking and working together, the scouts will spend five days staying with local families in Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina.

A great deal of preparatory work is being undertaken - camping and team training weekends, for example - to ensure that a strong, smart and disciplined Dorset team travels to Chile to give a good impression of British youth. Costs are substantial. Each scout must raise £2500 to cover his or her own expenses. Part of this sum also goes towards assisting scouts from third world countries to attend.

The Scout movement, founded by Baden Powell in 1907, at present embodies 27 million youngsters and adults from 216 countries and territories. It is the largest movement for youth in the world.

The most important event of the Scout Movement is a World Scout Jamboree, and it takes place every four years. The first one was held in England in 1920 and since then 17 have been held. For the first time in the history of the Scout Movement, a Latin-American country will host a World Scout Jamboree.

The Asociacion de Guias y Scouts de Chile is a private, non profit corporation registered as a National Institution since 1925. Founded in 1909, it is the second oldest Scout association in the world and the first in America. More than 800 Scout Groups exist throughout the country. The membership of 70,000 youngsters makes Guias y Scouts de Chile the largest National Scout Organisation of Iberian-America.

The Jamboree will take place from 27 December 1998 to 6 January 1999 in the hacienda "Picarquin", located near Mostazal, a village in the Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins Region. The property is 600 metres above sea level and covers 3,000 hectares.

The 19th World Scout Jamboree will offer a great number of challenging and attractive educational activities to young people. This means that the activities will emphasize team work, the development of abilities, acquisition of new skills, art expression and physical effort as the most important elements. These include workshops, games, hikes, visits to agricultural and mining areas and participation in community development projects of 20 villages of the region. Of course there will be time to enjoy the hospitality of a Chilean family either before or after the event.

The role of the diplomatic missions is fundamental because their support can bring more participants from each country. They can also help out in the arrival-departure procedures and support the efforts of the National Scout Organizations to obtain the funds this big adventure requires

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE SIRLESIE BOWES MEMORIAL LECTURE will take place at Canning House on the 29th October at 6.30 pm. Dr. Bob Rix from the Department of Modern Languages at Trinity and All Saints' College, Leeds, will compare the Chilean author and film director, Antonio Skarmeta's film "Ardiente Paciencia" with the recent Italian version, "Il Postino", tracing the friendship between a postman and Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda. The talk will be given in Spanish.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at Canning House on 10th December.

IN MEMORIAM

The Society regrets to report the death, at the end of September, of Nancy Isabella Wedderspoon after a brief illness

RICHARD (DICK) NEILSON

By Olive Neilson

Many of you were friends of my husband, Richard A. (Dick) Neilson, and will know that he died very suddenly on 6th June, 1997. Not only was he Ambassador to Chile from 1990 to 1993, but he was also in the Embassy in Santiago from 1966 to 1969 as a junior diplomat.

Chile meant a lot to Dick - to such an extent that he suggested that we might return, and we considered the feasibility of making our permanent home there when he retired from the Diplomatic Service.

The Far North (the Atacama and the Altiplano) were particularly important to him. One mustn't forget that he had started his working life as a Physical Geographer. I have thus founded an appeal for a memorial to him in this area and to which, at least for a few years, his name might be associated. I don't mean a statue, but some form of capital item that will help some people of that area.

I have discussed this with the Ambassador, H.E. Miss Glynne Evans, and we believe the way to go ahead is to identify a small project akin to those considered for inclusion under the Embassy's Technical Assistance Programme. The project selected would of course bear Dick's name. The Ambassador is currently working with the Honorary Consuls in Arica and Antofagasta to identify a suitable project.

I have opened a sterling account (called "The RAN Memorial Fund") of which I am one of the two signatories. I would very much appreciate contributions. These should be sent to me: Olive Neilson, Maynes Hill Farm, Hoggston, Buckingham, Bucks MK18 3LG (tel/automatic fax: 01296 714837). I intend to keep the account open until Easter 1998. If you are in Chile and would like to contribute in sterling or pesos, would you please contact Isabelle Hachette at the British Embassy in Santiago.

I believe that Dick would have valued such a memorial. I hope very sincerely that you will contribute. Thank you very much.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Marcela Alvarez and Mr. Samuel Maldonado
Mrs. Margaret and Mr. Allan Ruxton
Miss Mireya Parischewsky-Godoy
John R. Stourton Esq.
Frank Wheeler Esq. C.M.G.
Derek Morris Esq.
Mrs. Luz Angélica and Mr. Ian Edwardes