

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

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Our deepest sympathy goes across the Atlantic to a nation in mourning. As a mark of respect to those who died in the attacks of 11th September, 2001, the Anglo Chilean Society cancelled the September celebrations.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHILEAN AIR FORCE DAY

A reception was held by the Air Attaché to the Embassy of Chile and Mrs. Victor Rodríguez on Wednesday, 21st March, at the RAF Club, in Piccadilly, London.

The host greeted the distinguished guests as follows:

“Firstly, I would like to thank you for your presence at this gathering. For those who are wearing the blue Air Force uniform, are proud members of the Chilean Air Force, and in accordance with our Commander-in-Chief - General Patricio Ríos’s wishes, we have taken a break from our daily duties to commemorate 71 years as an independent Air Force.

“Today, as we celebrate a new anniversary we find ourselves looking into new developments such as acquiring a new fighter aircraft, updating our transport and helicopter squadrons as well as air defence, the visualisation of the operational infrastructure, logistics, training, education and the professional career of each of the members of the Chilean Air Force.

“We would like to point out that the Air Force not only belongs to its members, but it is also part of the Nations’ patrimony, part of all the citizens, hence we will never be far from any significant event related to our country.

“Therefore, all our efforts are directed to have a small airforce, efficient and functional, decisive in strategy and well centred.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to join me, raise your glasses for a toast to the Chilean Air Force, its Commander-in-Chief, with the hope that all the proposed goals will be achieved as planned.

“Thank you all very much.”



From left to right: Chilean Air Attaché Col. Victor Rodríguez, Mrs. María Gloria Rodríguez, Mrs. Marcela Rojas, Mrs. Rosana Cerda, Commander Sergio Cerda.



From left to right: Head of the Chilean Naval Mission Captain Gustavo Jordán, H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros, Chilean Military Attaché Col. Alejandro Riofrio.



From left to right: Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis, Mrs. Linda Ogilvie-Davis, Captain Carlos Fanta.

GUITAR CONCERT BY DIEGO BAEZA

The Chilean guitarist played to a packed house at the Bolivar Hall on Wednesday, 21st March.

Born in Santiago in 1971, he was musically inclined from the age of eight. In 1992 he won the first prize at the Moinx Sartour Guitar Competition in France and in 1995-97 he was awarded the Gold medal at the Conservatoire National Claude Debussy of Saint Germain en Laye.

Wine and snacks were served.

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

JAVIER GUTIERREZ AND KATIA CHORNIK IN CONCERT

This took place on Thursday, 5th April, at the Bolivar Hall in the presence of H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros.

Javier and Katia, playing the piano and violin respectively, interpreted music by Brahms, Novacek and Poulenc, among others.

He graduated from the University of Chile and then went to the Meadows School of Art in Dallas, Texas. At present he is doing postgraduate work at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Katia, born in Caracas, Venezuela, began her musical studies at the age of eight. She studied at the Institute of Music at the Catholic University of Chile from where she graduated in 1997. She is also doing a postgraduate course at the Royal Academy of Music.

Wine and snacks were served.



Javier Gutiérrez and Katia Chornik at the Bolivar Hall.

NAVAL LECTURE BY CHILEAN HISTORIAN

Mrs. Regina Claro, a member of the Chilean Academy of History, gave a lecture on the subversive movement that the Naval Forces of Chile, Perú and Great Britain had to face during the years 1931 and 1932.

It was held at Canning House on 11th April, 2001, and attended by H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros and the head of the Naval Mission, Captain Gustavo Jordán.

The lecture was followed by a reception.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held at Canning House on Wednesday, 2nd May, in the presence of H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros. The minutes of the previous AGM were unanimously approved as well as the Treasurer's report and accounts.

The Chairman thanked the Ambassador for the invaluable support given to the Society. He also thanked Mr. Robert Hart for his stewardship as Treasurer and Mrs. Georgina Roberts for her work as Editor of the Chilean News.

The Chairman regretted the departure of Paulina Donoso who was returning to Chile as her husband had completed his post-graduate studies in England. She had carried out the duties of Secretary in a most efficient and cheerful way.

The Chairman made reference to the loss suffered by the Society with the death of Mr. John Hickman. A card received from Mrs. Jennifer Hickman was read out to the meeting.

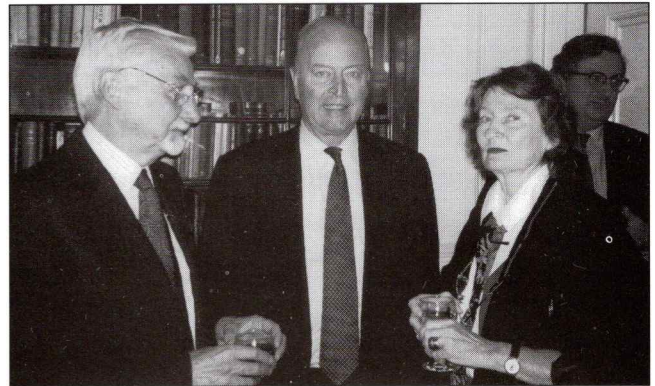
Mr. Peter Heap, past Treasurer of the Society, was appointed independent examiner since Price Waterhouse had resigned as Auditors. As a smaller charity, the Society does not need an Accounting firm to be the official auditor.

Mr. Alan Macdonald, Mrs. Angélica Shaw and Mrs. Georgina Roberts stepped down as members of the Executive Committee having completed their 3-year term of office, but Mr. Macdonald and Mrs. Roberts were voted co-opted members, Mrs. Roberts in her capacity as Editor of the Chilean News.

Miss Elnor Allhusen, previously a co-opted member, was elected a full member of the Executive Committee.

The AGM was followed by a slide presentation by Mr. Tim Murray-Walker, Marketing Manager for Journey Latin America and editor of Papagaio, the travel magazine that featured stunning photographs of the natural beauty of Chile in its summer issue.

Wine and snacks were served.



From left to right: Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis, Mr. Hugh Beveridge, Mrs. Patricia Vincent. In the background, Mr. Peter de Bruyne.



From left to right: Mr. Guillermo Echeverría, Mr. Ricardo Massu, Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE AND COMPETITION

The Society is initiating a drive to recruit new members. This is to increase the Society's income, allowing more of the proceeds from the various events to go to those deserving causes in Chile, rather than having to help support the Society's annual expenses, as at present.

To this end, a competition has been opened to see who can recruit the most new members up to 1st December, 2001.

To qualify for the competition, a member must nominate a minimum of five new members (corporate membership counts as three new enrolments; couples and their children count as one new enrolment).

Three prizes are to be awarded. The first prize is a case of Chilean wine, 6 white and 6 red. The second prize is 6 bottles of Chilean wine, 3 white and 3 red. The third prize is a bottle of Chilean Pisco. The winners will be announced at the annual Christmas party at Canning House on 12th December, 2001.

Enrolment forms can be obtained from Mrs. Valeska Crisóstomo, Secretary, The Anglo Chilean Society by telephone: 020 7580 1271, fax: 020 7580 5901, or e-mail to anglochilean@lineone.net

IN HONOUR OF DISTINGUISHED ACADEMICS

On 4th May, the Chilean Ambassador and Sra. Barros offered a reception to honour Professor Eleuterio Toro and Professor Marcial Echenique for the distinctions conferred on them; Professor Toro for the OBE awarded by H.M. The

Queen and Professor Echenique for receiving the National Award for Planning Achievement 2000 from the Royal Institute of Town Planners (Chilean News, March 2001).

H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros addressed those present as follows:

“First allow me to say that for Poly and I it is an honour to welcome you in our house today to celebrate Professor Eleuterio Toro and the architect Professor Marcial Echenique, two Chileans of outstanding achievement in the United Kingdom.

“Most of you know Marcial and Eleuterio very well, some professionally through academic activities or work, and others as old friends.

“Professor Toro comes from the Ninth Region of Chile, the Region of the Araucanía, land that bears the deepest roots of our nationality. Today, its capital, Temuco, is, without doubt, one of the most vigorous centres of national development. Eleuterio Toro grew up and studied there. First he was interested in Primary Education teaching and then he went on to mathematics that has given him so much satisfaction.

“In 1975, he came as a political exile. Warwick University gave him a warm welcome and his efforts were rewarded with an MSc Honours in Pure Mathematics. Later on, he obtained an MSc in Applied Mathematics at Dundee University, which was followed by a PhD in Computational Mathematics at the Teeside Polytechnic.

“From then onwards he dedicated himself to research and teaching. He has been invited to teach and lecture by different British universities as well as in Germany, Japan and Italy. He has written several publications on his main field of interest. Presently he is a senior lecturer in the Metropolitan University in Manchester.

“Professor Toro was awarded an OBE by a nomination from the Defence and Evaluation Research Agency for which he has done research for the past 18 years. Eleuterio Toro has become the first Chilean scientist honoured with this award.

“Marcial Echenique was born in Santiago. He studied architecture at the Catholic University of Chile. In 1963 he moved to Europe to improve his studies. Firstly, he went to the University of Barcelona and after completing his doctorate he went to Churchill College of the University of Cambridge where he obtained a Master of Arts.

“He has lived in the United Kingdom for 30 years and his professional activities are shared between teaching at the University of Cambridge and his internationally well-known consultancy firm.

“Marcial is a man renowned both within the architectural world as well as in the academic circles. He has lectured at universities throughout the world and has published widely in learned journals and leading newspapers. Presently, he heads “Cambridge Futures”, a research project which looks at the development options for the Cambridge region over the next fifty years. Marcial has also taken a special interest in an infrastructure plan for the Central Region of Chile.

“The National Prize for Planning Innovation, the highest distinction that a town planner can receive, has been awarded to Marcial by the Royal Institute of Town Planners for the study on the alternatives for the growth of the city of Cambridge.

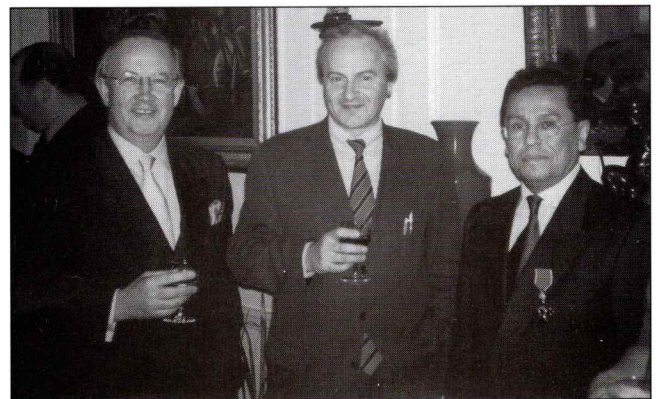
“Mathematics, logic, imagination, dedication and perseverance have coincided with these two men of such different backgrounds and inspiration.

“For me, the Ambassador of Chile, it is an honour to count on such distinguished fellow nationals and to know that there are many other Chileans who have also found a second home in the United Kingdom. Eleuterio and Marcial are their symbol today and I am sure that tomorrow there will be others.”

In their speeches, the two academics expressed their appreciation for the splendid reception.



From left to right: Prof. Eleuterio Toro OBE delivering his speech, watched by H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros and Prof. Marcial Echenique.



From left to right: Prof. Marcial Echenique, Prof. Alan O'Neill of Reading University, Prof. Eleuterio Toro OBE.



From left to right: Mrs. Patricia Fanta, Mrs. Ana Maria Riofrio, Mrs. Maria Gloria Rodriguez, Mrs. Georgina Roberts.

RECEPTION OF THE ANDEAN PROJECT

A packed audience that included H.E. the Chilean Ambassador and Sra. Barros, the Military, Air Force and Cultural Attachés gathered together at Canning House on Tuesday, 8th May, for two video presentations. The first was by Mrs. Patricia Vincent, Chairman of the Andean Project, and was titled “The Chilean Army and its rescue operation with a British Bailey bridge in Arica, Bolivia and Perú, isolated by floods, broken bridges and roads” after the flooding of the river Lluta in February this year.

Baroness Hooper, President of Canning House, congratulated the members of the Andean Project for their sterling work on behalf of the peoples of the Andes. Then she gave an illustrated talk of her visit to Arica and the work being carried out by the Andean Project in collaboration with the University of Tarapacá to protect and multiply medicinal plants of the high Andes in danger of extinction.

She also talked of her trip to Parinacota and Lake Lauca.

Wine, pisco sour and snacks were served.

The Andean Project is a registered charity devoted to promoting long-term sustainable development activity in the botanical and animal husbandry fields for the people of the Chilean Altiplano. A new Chairman is required to replace Patricia Vincent who will soon be retiring. Further information can be obtained by email to patriciavincen@hotmail.com or by telephone/fax to 00565-8214923.



From left to right: Mr. Brendan Kenny, Miss Lou Somerville, Mrs. Louise Cavanagh, Mr. Alan Kennedy, Mrs. Patricia Vincent.



From left to right: Baroness Thomas of Walliswood, Mrs. Jean Richardson, Mrs. Penny Benson, Baroness Hooper.

CHILEAN NAVY DAY

The annual wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of Admiral Lord Cochrane by the Chilean Ambassador H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros and the head of the Chilean Naval Mission Captain Gustavo Jordán took place at Westminster Abbey on Monday, 21st May.

During the elegant reception at One George Street Conference Centre, Westminster, Captain Jordán addressed the guests as follows:

“On behalf of the Chilean Navy I would like to thank all of you for being here with us today, to celebrate the Chilean Navy Day.

“Admiral Cochrane arrived in Chile in 1818. Under his command the newly-created Chilean Navy won the control of the sea in the South Eastern Pacific Ocean, contributing to consolidating the independence of Chile, Perú and Argentina.

“Commanding the Chilean Navy Admiral Cochrane always showed outstanding qualities of leadership, bravery, audacity and creativity.

“One of the most important victories achieved by Admiral Cochrane was the boarding and capture of the Frigate “Esmeralda”, under the guns of the Callao fortress in Perú.

“Almost 60 years later, on the 21st of May, 1879, during the Pacific war between Chile, Perú and Bolivia, the Chilean Navy Captain Arturo Prat, who was in command of a wooden corvette named “Esmeralda”, engaged the ironclad “Huascar”,

flagship of the Peruvian fleet. Prat boarded that ship and died with 149 other officers and sailors during this combat, demonstrating great courage and bravery.

“That combat was a moral victory for our Navy and it is still today an example for the new generations.”

Captain Jordán proposed a toast to the memory of these two great sea captains who shaped the Chilean Navy.



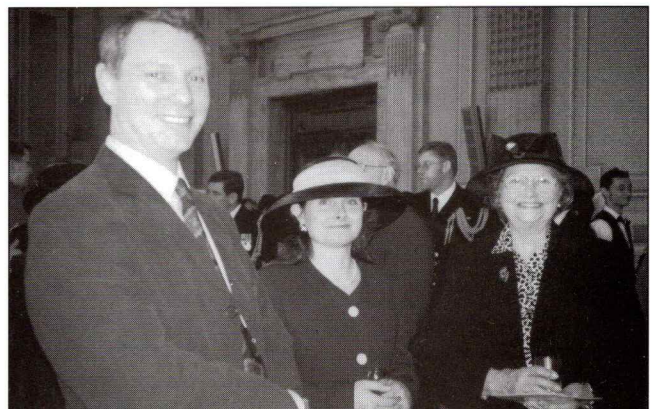
At Westminster Abbey greeting their guests. From right to left: Head of the Naval Mission Captain Gustavo Jordán, Mrs. Sarita Jordán, Mrs. Patricia Fanta, Captain Carlos Fanta.



At the reception. From left to right: Countess Dundonald, The Earl of Dundonald, Sra. Barros, H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros.



At the reception. From left to right: Commander Dai Morgan, RN, Mr. Alan Macdonald.



At the reception. From left to right: Mr. Roy Brooks, Mrs. Patricia Brooks, Countess Dundonald.

ECHOES OF THE PAST

25 years of Drive-in Lo Curro

by *Marcelo Simonetti, El Mercurio, 27 July, 2001.*

It was a time when to wear suede shoes and drive around in a "Citroneta" was to be the envy of everybody. To have ice cream in La Foca or La Escarcha was a sign of success. Summer holidays in Concón were considered a luxury. And if an individual was a regular visitor to Drive-in Lo Curro, it could be said that he had "arrived". By the seventies, Drive-in Lo Curro was more than fashionable; it had become an institution. It was the "in" place, where Santiago high society enjoyed itself and where the young people danced at those special parties from 7:00 to 9:00. That special atmosphere is sadly missed by the regular clientele, and is the reason that the owners are trying to recreate it on Friday nights in a well-known Santiago restaurant on Cerro San Cristóbal.

"We never intended Drive-in Lo Curro to fade away, but circumstances were against us. The area around the Drive-in during the seventies was vineyards and woods. But by 1986, the district of Lo Curro had become heavily populated, and the commercial rates were very high. We weren't interested in making money with the Drive-in, but neither did we want to lose money," said Felipe Rabat, one of the owners.

When it was opened in 1961, there were already other establishments built around the use of the automobile. Drive-in Charles had opened in the '40s, followed by Drive-in Las Totoras, Las Brujas and El Pollo Stop.

Lo Curro also started as a drive-in but soon became a place for dinner and dancing, and not just a location for automobile intimacy. "Of course, the rumours at first were of a night-time rendezvous for couples," said Fernando Rabat, son of Felipe. "When passers-by saw buildings being constructed, they believed that we were going to install bedrooms, when, in fact, these were the offices and stores. From the very beginning we set clear guidelines for the Drive-in."

The Rabats, owners of the Manquehue vineyards that covered the slopes of Cerro Manquehue, never thought of building a drive-in. As a devout catholic family they had thought of erecting a church for the people of Lo Curro. But one day Francisco Mujica, the licensee of the golf club of Sport Francés, came with a business proposition. He had bought the land adjacent to the proposed church, and was planning to build a drive-in. The two projects were considered incompatible. Mujica was not prepared to give up his drive-in project, but he did need business partners. "We accepted, on the condition that it would not become a lovers' tryst, but a proper restaurant geared to the motor car," declared Felipe Rabat. "People thought it strange for a respected family such as ours to get involved in the restaurant business, as this was looked down on."

It was not easy to get to the Drive-in. To start with, it was necessary to have a car. Then to go up a dirt road bordered with brambles, and cross the river over a bridge of three planks that was a far cry from what exists today. There were no houses around the Drive-in. It was in the country, filled with the scent of the eucalyptus trees.

Totó, Santis and Los Satélites

Drive-in Lo Curro opened on 31st December, 1961, and was an immediate success. Trusting in their partner, the Rabats had budgeted for 40 customers, but found themselves catering to over 100, and, before midnight, were running out of ice. Felipe Rabat remembers going to an ice factory in Bellavista at 11:00 p.m. "I couldn't get back to Lo Curro before midnight, so my first New Year's embrace was with a block of ice!"

This was not the only incident on that first day. In the morning of 31st December, the contracted orchestra decided to play at another location where they had been offered more money. Left with no music for the New Year's Eve party, Felipe called the Musicians Union, but there was no-one available. However, they did know of a Brazilian organist who was flying from Arica that day. Felipe waited for the flight at Los Cerrillos airport and hired Totó on the spot. Totó was to play at the Drive-in for several years.

He was not the only celebrity at the Drive-in. A young man of barely 18 years of age approached Felipe and offered to comper the 7:00 to 9:00 dances. "He was very enthusiastic and worked for soft drinks and a few pesos," Felipe recalled "His name was César Antonio Santis."

Los Satélites, named after the Sputnik satellite, also left their mark on Drive-in Lo Curro. Formed in 1958 by Martín Urrutia, Guillermo Forster, Carlos Alfonso Lastarria and Horacio Pérez Walker, they played at the debutantes balls. "We were not too well known, as we didn't play at many venues," explained Martín Urrutia. "We appeared at Lo Curro as well as the Gran Hotel Concón, where we transferred during the summer. That was the top summer resort. Quintero didn't exist at that time and Zapallar and Cachagua were rather inaccessible. Santiago high society went to Concón."

That was the trend at that time: Concón, El Coppelia at the junction of Providencia and Lyon, the cinemas in Providencia, Oriente, the Marconi in Manuel Montt, bubble cars and arriving from Mendoza with suede shoes.

Buffet and Travolta

"I think we filled the need for a respectable place where one could eat and dance. The young people had nowhere to go," Felipe remembers. "The dancing was between 7:00 and 9:00. It finished exactly at 8:55 with the theme from "Bridge over the River Kwai", when we turned the lights on and opened the restaurant."

Drive-in Lo Curro introduced many innovations, among them the first Buffet "a la Americana". Manuel Riquelme, maître at Lo Curro, remembers the menu. "We had around 25 different dishes: cebiche, locos in mayonnaise, soused chicken, pigs trotters in sauce, snacks, rice a la valenciana, fish, soups, salads... And for dessert we had everything for a sweet tooth. The clients could eat sweet potato or candy floss that they made themselves. There was a mountain of nougat and if you wanted some you broke it off with a hammer and chisel. Ah!, and the inevitable crêpes suzettes! The advertisement said eat as much as you like for a fixed price. The problem was that some people used to bring a tray to carry food home."

At the time of the Unidad Popular, the shortage of food made life complicated. Felipe Rabat remembers having to rely on the black market. "We had to pay a bribe to get 3 sacks of sugar instead of one. Sometimes we had to send staff out at 3:00 a.m. to queue for rice or flour."

The curfew brought in by the Army after the coup d'état brought other problems. Lo Curro closed for 6 months, although from time to time they managed to open for 3 hours in the evening. They managed to get a special permit to celebrate New Year's Eve on the condition that nobody could leave the Drive-in until 6:00 a.m. the next morning.

"At the time of 'Saturday Night Fever' I had to attend a meeting of the Association of Chilean Gastronomy in Valdivia," explains Fernando Rabat. "One night we saw someone who danced exactly like Travolta. In fact, he was Travolta! He moved and dressed the same, and even looked like him. We decided to bring him to Santiago and he became a sensation. He and his partner performed before the dancing started. It was like being in Las Vegas. Then everybody took

to the dance floor to keep on 'travolteando'."

And what happened to Totó? He missed his country very much, and had a paid holiday back to Brazil every summer. However, he started drinking and behaving irrationally. In 1970 he went back home for treatment and was never seen again.

Manuel Riquelme recalls seeing ex-presidents Jorge Alessandri and Gabriel González Videla in Lo Curro as well as the Sumar and Yarur families. Felipe Rabat was told that Allende went there sometimes.

To some, the place had a special significance. Dr. Gabriel Prat, Professor of Medicine at the Hospital of the Universidad Católica courted his future wife around the pool. It was there that he gave her the engagement ring.

There were some records that tried to capture the atmosphere of the place. A LP immortalised Totó on one side and Los Cinco Americanos on the other. Two films were made there. 'El Burócrata González', with humourist Manolo González and the actress Rosita Quintana, and 'Ventana al Exitó', with José Alfredo Fuentes as leading man.

In 1981, the Mapocho flood almost swept away Drive-in Lo Curro. It was closed for six months before it could reopen. But business failed to pick up and the final closure was only a question of time. Now there is nothing left. Even Felipe Rabat cannot exactly locate where it was, but believes the spot is now part of a supermarket.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

A very special gathering took place at the St. Teresa's Residential Care Home in Chelsea on Saturday, 23 June, 2001. It was the double celebration of St. Teresa's 75 years of caring for the elderly and of the life of one of the residents, Sra. Otilia Briones Figueroa, on her 100th birthday.

Señora Briones was born in Limache, a town in Central Chile, a month before President Federico Errázuriz Echaurren died and the year his cousin and brother-in-law, Germán Riesco Errázuriz, took over the presidency.

On that day El Mercurio published that, with a few exceptions, the presidential election had been fair and peaceful while the Argentinian correspondent reported that Buenos Aires was preparing for the biggest celebration seen in that capital for the 80th birthday of General Mitre.

On the world scene, oil drilling had begun in Persia, Marconi had sent Morse wireless signals from Cornwall to Newfoundland and Scott had taken his ship Discovery on an Antarctic expedition.

She was only a toddler when Caruso made the first of his 154 gramophone recordings, Henry Ford set up his motor company and the Wright Brothers made the first flight in a heavier-than-air machine.

In England, Queen Victoria had died and Edward VII, her eldest son, had become King of Great Britain and Ireland.

Doña Otilia left Chile some 40 years ago to go to live abroad with her daughter, the wife of a Swedish industrialist. In 1985 the family moved to London and, by joining the Anglo-Chilean Society, she has been able to keep in contact with her motherland.

Until recently, this centenarian was attending many of the social events organised by the Society, as well as being an enthusiastic member of the Group of Chilean Ladies in London since it started in 1986.

The highlight of the birthday celebration was the congratulatory message from the Vatican, sent by His Holiness the Pope, John Paul II, and presented to her by Mrs. Georgina Roberts on behalf of the Group of Chilean Ladies in London.



At the presentation. From left to right: Sister Tomasa of St. Teresa's Residential Care Home with the celebratory birthday cake, Mrs. Georgina Roberts holding the Papal blessing, Sra. Otilia Briones.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society received the following acknowledgement from Sra. Luisa Durán de Lagos, wife of the President of Chile.

"He recibido la generosa donación que hizo su organización a la Campaña 'Sonrisa de Mujer' que estamos impulsando desde mi Gabinete.

"Su colaboración permitirá que muchas de las miles de mujeres inscritas en este Programa que no tienen los recursos para costear un tratamiento dental, puedan al fin recuperar parte de su dentadura y, con ello, también su autoestima.

"Junto con agradecer este aporte, tanto en mi nombre como en el de quienes serán beneficiadas, le envío afectuoso saludo el que ruego hacer extensivo a cada uno de los integrantes de esta Organización.

Luisa Durán de Lagos.

Señora del Presidente de la República."

("I have received the generous donation made by your organisation to the 'Feminine Smile' campaign that we are promoting from my Office.

"Your collaboration will allow many of the thousands of women enrolled in the Programme, who have no resources for the cost of dental treatment, to be able to replace part of their set of teeth and regain their self-esteem.

"As well as giving thanks for this donation, both from myself and the beneficiaries, I send a cordial greeting to each member of the Society.")

Acknowledgement was also received from Sra. María de la Luz Latorre de Ríos, President of CONAPRAN (Consejo Nacional de Protección a la Ancianidad) to the Chilean Ladies in London for their donation of four hospital beds (as reported in the March 2001 issue of the Chilean News), which will benefit the elderly in a Home in the suburb of La Reina.

CELEBRATION OF O'HIGGINS' BIRTHDAY

On Monday, 20th August, representatives of the Chilean Embassy, Defence Attachés of Latin American countries and special guests gathered together in O'Higgins Square in Richmond, Surrey, to pay tribute to the Liberator of Chile, Bernardo O'Higgins, on the occasion of the anniversary of his birth.

In his speech, the Chilean Ambassador, H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros said:

"Thank you very much for making a halt in your daily activities to share this moment with us. As you might be aware, my first official engagement as Ambassador of Chile a few days after my arrival was to hold a similar tribute to our

hero of the Independence of my country. It has been a year since then, a year in which the bonds with the Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames have been strengthened. May I take this opportunity, Mayoress Stainer, to express our gratitude to your predecessor, Mrs. Barbara Westmorland, who welcomed us so warmly. I do believe that Bernardo O'Higgins, who once was described as "an Englishman at his heart" would have been delighted with this gathering here.

"His legacy - kept at the Public Records Office in London, the Library at Oxford University, the Scottish Records Office in Edinburgh and the correspondence with British authorities and friends - is a testimony to all of us, not only of his deep knowledge of the British culture and the admiration of the moral values of her society, but also of his nostalgia of his days spent in this capital.

"Diaries and memoirs of his contemporaries describe his conversations about England with great interest inquiring about Richmond-upon-Thames, the place where he started his English education and where he had his first experiences as a young man in the vineyard near the chapel, where Mr. Timothy Eeles was a teacher, and also around Kew Gardens.

"He was always grateful for the support received towards the success of his ideal. John Cunningham was a surgeon on the Cambridge, a ship which took the first British Consuls to Chile and the rest of Latin America. In his diary he describes the encounter with the Liberator on 17th November 1824. I quote "...to express how close he felt to the English Nation, being grateful for the efforts towards emancipation which could not have been possible without the profound and generous help of its nation"

"Bernardo O'Higgins never forgot the historic and political ideas he gathered in this country.

There are many monuments to him in different countries. However, there is no doubt in my mind that this is one of the most symbolic."

Afterwards, a vin d'honneur was offered at the Pitcher and Piano Bar in Richmond.



In O'Higgins Square: H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros, Mrs. Eleanor Stainer Lady Mayoress of Richmond.



During the ceremony. From left to right: Military Attaché Col. Alejandro Riofrío, Naval Attaché Captain Gustavo Jordán, Air Attaché Col. Victor Rodríguez.

PRESIDENT OF CHILE RICARDO LAGOS VISITS UK

H.E. President Ricardo Lagos arrived in the United Kingdom at 7 p.m. on 11th of September to complete a very tight agenda. He was greeted at Heathrow Airport by the Lord-in-Waiting to H.M. The Queen, The Lord St. John of Bletso, the Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir David Miers and the Ambassador of Chile, H.E. Sr. Cristián Barros.

That evening, he had dinner with a select group of British entrepreneurs at Claridge's, where he stayed during his official visit.

On the following morning, he attended the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where he was received by the Director of the Americas, Mr. Richard Wilkinson and by leading figures of the Confederation of British Industry, including Sir David John, Chairman of the Confederation. In an important investment meeting in the Locarno Conference Room, H.E. the President gave a speech to the CBI, followed by questions from the representatives.

At 9:45 am, H.E. President Lagos and the Official Party formed by H.E. Ambassador Cristián Barros, H.E. Sr. Heraldo Muñoz, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other members of the delegation, met the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP.

Later, President Lagos conducted an interview with The Economist and at 11:15 he received two distinguished Chilean members of the academic community in Great Britain, Mr. Eleuterio Toro OBE and Mr. Marcial Echenique.

Following this, he visited the Bank of England where he was greeted by the Governor, The Rt. Hon. Sir Eddie George.

At midday he was received by the Editor of the Financial Times, Mr. Richard Lambert, and its main editorial team for an early luncheon given by the prestigious British journal.

Early in the afternoon, H.E. President Lagos held interviews with the BBC News Service at his hotel before leaving for No. 10 Downing Street.

He was met by The Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair and held a meeting of approximately one hour. Afterwards H.E. President Lagos addressed members of the Chilean and British media.

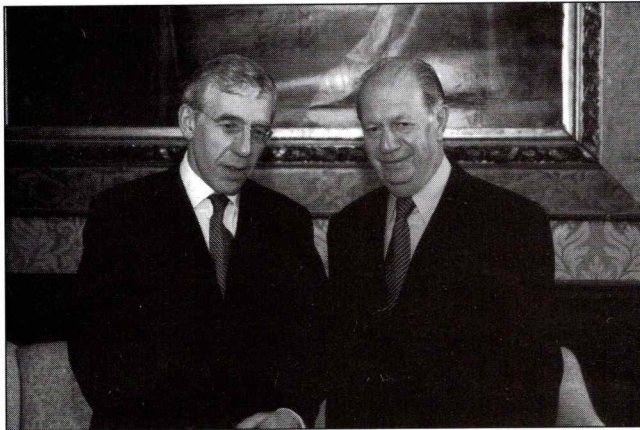
Although the visit had taken place the same day of the terrible events that had occurred in New York and Washington, the President's agenda was maintained as planned and he left at 8 p.m. on 12th of September from Heathrow to Brussels, where he was expected to complete another one day official working visit.



Outside No 10 Downing Street: The Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair with H. E. President Ricardo Lagos. In the background, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Sr. Heraldo Muñoz



From left to right, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Sr. Heraldo Muñoz, H.E. President Ricardo Lagos, H.E. Ambassador Cristián Barros. Behind, Ms. Joanna Samuels-Watson, Liaison Officer, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw and H.E. President Ricardo Lagos

THE UNKNOWN ALTIPLANO

El Mercurio, 12 August, 2001

Chiu Chiu

“Attention! Attention! Telephone for Anastasio Mamani!” The voice of Jenny, the telephone operator of Chiu Chiu is heard throughout the village thanks to a loudspeaker system that ensures that every “Chiuiguano” can hear her announcements. This is not difficult as one can walk from one end of Chiu Chiu to the other in just ten minutes.

Situated at only 35km north-east of Calama along paved road, Chiu Chiu is a village of around 500 inhabitants where the silence is only broken by Jenny’s voice. “A retreat is being built here (Murtra Santa María del Silencio) for people who wish to have solitude and silence”, says Lourdes Flaviá, an anthropologist from Catalonia who has lived in Chile for ten years and is now staying in Chiu Chiu while working on this project.

The snow-capped San Pedro and San Pablo volcanoes plus the Paniri mountain watch over the tranquillity of Chiu Chiu with its 116-year-old school in Esmeralda Street; the square; the historical San Francisco Church, (one of the oldest in the country and a national monument); Tujina, the only hotel, Muley, the newly opened restaurant and the unique Café Tambo run by its owner Raquel Chrepish, the only “chiuiguana” who cannot hear Jenny’s voice because she is deaf-mute.

The Tujina Hotel is opposite Café Tambo. It has simple rooms both with or without private bathroom. In any case the most comfortable that can be found around here. Delia is the administrator who serves her customers as if in her own home. In a spacious room she offers breakfast and television to watch

soap operas and the news.

Café Tambo is only open on weekends. In order to go on weekdays one has to ask at the house next door, N° 682, where Christina Chrepish, Raquel’s sister-in-law, lives. Café Tambo does not have windows facing the street and to enter it one has to go down some steps. The interior has five tables with coloured tablecloths and hundreds of ornaments on the adobe ceiling and wall.

“I have “cazuela” (chicken stew) and grilled beef or chicken” Raquel indicates by signs. When she means “beef” she pinches the fleshy part of her left arm with her right hand and when she means “chicken” she flutters imitating the fowl. When she wants to know if wine is required she pretends as if she was about to faint. Her “cazuela” is very tasty and the grilled sirloin so tender it could be cut with a fork and so big that it could be the whole back of the animal.

It is an enterprising town. Together with PRODUMU (Promotion & Development of Women), they are building hairdressing workshops and this year the women are finishing their basic education so they can continue onto secondary in 2002.

Agriculturally, the crops are carrots, spring onions and beetroot which they cultivate out in the open. Residents such as the Gómez Chambe family have been able to grow in greenhouses. They have 4000 square metres under plastic where they cultivate different types of lettuce, coriander, beet, parsley and spinach that they sell in the markets of Calama and Antofagasta. The Gómez Chambe, of Aymara Indian descent, participated in the Rural World Fair in Santiago, as pioneers in the growing of vegetables under plastic.

Another aspect is tourism. Having been warned of the problem of San Pedro de Atacama, where outsiders are exploiting the touristic resources, the Atacamenians of Chiu Chiu have organised themselves to run the local attractions such as the church, lagoon, “pukarás” (pre-Colombian fortresses) and archaeological sites as well as the convergence of the Loa and Salado rivers.

Two excursions are considered a must: the pukará of Lasana and the lagoon of Chiu Chiu. The Pukará of Lasana is a 12th century fortress that was depopulated by the Spaniards. It has old streets and some 110 edifices.

The lagoon is situated only a few kilometres from Chiu Chiu, along the same road that goes to Caspana, Ayquina and Toconce, and is the source of endless local legends. It is said to be a bottomless pool where some corpses of the Caravan of Death were thrown. It is rumoured to contain Manta Rays. Some say that anyone who swims in the lagoon will drown because the centre is like a vortex. Others talk of it being the hole left by a meteorite. The fact is that the lagoon is a round and deep source of water where people swim and wild ducks have their nests. It was once a sacred place for the Atacamenian people.

Ayquina, Ghost Town

Ayquina, with its 30 inhabitants, is located 38km from Chiu Chiu, towards the mountains. Once a year on the day of the celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Toconce, 18km to the east, there is hardly a soul around. It is traditional for the inhabitants of Ayquina to leave very early in the morning for Toconce, carrying the Virgin on their shoulders.

Ayquina looks like a rebuilt Pukará where time has stopped. The houses are barely a couple of square meters each and built of stone with roofs of clay and straw. The one modern touch is the school satellite aerial, the same one that all the altiplano villages that depend on Calama have. It allows children to watch Discovery Channel and adults to view the

news and football matches.

In contrast with the size of the houses, the local church is a five storey tower made of clay and a spacious patio with large paving stones with a couple of enormous pepper trees as well as pine trees. From here there is an impressive view of the canyon of the Salado river, seen every 7th and 8th of September by hundreds of worshippers from Calama, Antofagasta and Chuquicamata who flood into Ayquina to celebrate the Virgen de Guadalupe, patron saint of Ayquina.

For the rest of the year, Ayquina returns to normal with her deserted streets, locked doors, etc. There is no store or restaurant because the villagers go down to Calama every week to do their shopping. Even the drinking water is brought from Calama in a tanker.

Caspana

Caspana is situated 3,260 metres above sea level. It is one of those places where the small stone houses look as if they are still waiting the arrival of the Spaniards. The intricate alleyways are so labyrinthine that only the locals know how to navigate them. Like many altiplano villages, if it were not for the road sign on the outskirts of the town, it would be very difficult to guess it is there, behind the mass of rock. But Caspana does suddenly appear, sunk in a wide valley, crossed by a small river and adorned with thousands of peach, apple and pear trees.

Caspana is formed of a new town, perched up on the hills of the valley, and the old town where the ancient church of San Lucas, built in 1641, is situated. It has been a National Monument since 1951.

It could be said that the general store and the Residents Association form the centre of Caspana. There is also a stone bridge over the river, a stone square and a museum that is the pride and joy of Caspana. A hostel for tourists is being built since they do not have any alternative at present but to stay in the big room with 20 bunk beds owned by Justino Colomar, the storekeeper. It is clean but too cold at night unless it is full of backpackers generating heat. Justino Colomar sells handicraft made of cactus as well as textiles, groceries, prickly pears, bananas, avocados and tomatoes.

Toconce

Toconce, situated at 3,300 metres above sea level with 100 inhabitants, is a quiet place but for a few days each year it celebrates a "Boda" and the population doubles or even triples.

A "Boda" is part of a festival in Northern Chile where the chief dignitary of the town offers a reception for the whole town and to any visitor who comes to ask a favour of the Virgin or of the saint being fêted.

In Toconce, for the "Boda" of the Virgen of Guadalupe of Ayquina, the head of the village offers wine and food to everybody. The whole town gathers in the Residents Association. Those who cannot get in wait outside for their food, while seven groups of dancers take turns to perform.

Inside, the head of the village and his family plus the town authorities, the off-duty policemen, children, and the young and old sit at an enormous table that fills the adobe room. There are huge quantities of popcorn and "pan amasado" or country-style bread roll. There is a bottle of red wine for every two or three people and the banquet starts with a beef stew.

Those who are waiting outside enjoy the spectacular view of the snow-capped mountains Toconce, El León and Paniri, all over 5000 meters in height, while they keep receiving food and more food from the kitchen. A "cazuela" is followed by the "pataske", a typical dish of the area. It is prepared with potatoes, pumpkin, corn and llama meat.

ASADO AL PALO

On a lovely summer day in June, Bonhams Farm in Hampshire was, once again, the setting for our traditional Asado al Palo by courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cannon. For many, it was a pleasure to enjoy the peace and beauty of the English countryside since the county had not been affected by foot and mouth restrictions.

By 1p.m. the aroma of barbecued chorizos, chicken and Argentinian sirloin steaks filled the air while the empanadas were being warmed up for the moment to start the feast.

In the entertainment department there was something for everybody. The sporty ones could engage in a game of tennis or football, the little people were eager to participate in the race competitions and their seniors could dance to the contagious rhythm of a superb Salsa band.

The raffle sold well and the proceeds will go in aid of the good work of the Society.

As usual, the team responsible for preparing the food and manning the bar did an excellent job. Our thanks to Mr. Christopher Hopewell, Mr. Ted Davey, Mrs. Peggy Hart, Mrs. Eileen Hay, Mrs. Betty Blair, Mr. Sandy Hay, Mr. Alan Macdonald, Mrs. Valeska Crisóstomo, Mr. John Long and Mrs. Olwen E. Long.



Friends of the Society. From left to right: Mrs. Ana Glazier, Mrs. Carmen Robinson, Mr. Alex Robinson, Mr. David Glazier.



From USA, Sean Austin Stanek, the youngest participant in the races, receiving a prize from Mrs. Valeska Crisóstomo.



Having fun. From left to right: Mrs. Ime Steinberg, Mrs. Alicia Rickus, Mr. Sergio González, a guest, Mrs. Marta González, Miss Sandra Steinberg.



Alexander Reid with blindfold, hitting the "piñata" under the watchful eye of his mother Jacqueline.

FOOD AND DRINK

In La Ligua, Petorca and Quillota: La Palta Reina

By Ximena Torres Cautivo

El Mercurio Saturday, 5th February, 2001

The avocado sandwich or "pan con palta" is an image that many Chileans associate with the tea-time of their childhood and the snack of the school break. But then it was made with Chilean avocado, a small fruit of glossy black skin and shredded pulp.

In 1884, Benjamín Vicuña MacKenna recorded in "Al Galope", his travel notes, the presence of these avocado trees when passing Quillota and Peumo which he thought was an indigenous species;. Now we know that don Benjamín was wrong, they are typical of Mexico, the home of "aguacate" or "palta" and of "guacamole" (avocado sauce).

However, today such an avocado cannot be found except in some areas of the V Region, giving shade to orchards and streets in towns like La Cruz, Limache, Olmué and Quillota, the traditional avocado region. What is seen and eaten in Chile today is the Hass variety, of dark rough dull skin that, because of its clean pulp and small stone, is the type grown everywhere in the world.

The Hass avocado was introduced in Chile in 1943 by Roger Maghal. His descendants have kept and improved the species in their orchard "California" in Quillota where the oldest Chilean Hass avocado trees are located.

In the last 15 years, this variety has altered the landscape of the V Region. This year the national production is expected to be 40,000 tons, most of them from this area;. More that 60% is for export and the rest for national consumption. Irrigation schemes, modern improvements in fertilisation, pruning, etc., have allowed the Hass to become the principal agricultural product of this zone. Quillota does not have the supremacy any more; it has been surpassed by La Ligua and Petorca.

Juan Ruiz-Tagle Irrarázabal, president of the Palta Committee, is an engineer fond of aeroplanes and proud of being a pioneer. He changed a countryside that in the past was rated only as a beautiful view.

He invites us to fly over the region in his brand new Cessna. From above, the lushness of the La Ligua valley is impressive. There, Juan Ruiz-Tagle has his orchards of avocado trees and grapefruits, species that coexist in perfect harmony in a land that nobody had considered fertile.

Over a snack of pink grapefruit juice with avocado and

ham sandwiches, Ruiz-Tagle explains: "Big fruit and small stone are the key to the business and this is the Hass avocado characteristic. Another element is the technology of the orchards that allows growing fruit of the highest quality. Thirdly, the weather in this region is ideal with 340 sunny days a year and no frost. In the USA, a 200g avocado costs US\$2 which indicates how profitable the market is. And mind you the Americans are not among the biggest consumers of avocado in the world. That honour goes to the Mexicans who eat 40 kilos per person per year. They are followed by the Israelis with only 5 kilos and the Chileans with 3 kilos a head. Then comes the South Africans with 1.5 kilos per person and the French and English with 870g and 400g respectively."

Hans Wenke Mengers was a pilot from Hamburg who fought in the First World War. His aeroplane was shot down and he was imprisoned in Scotland. In 1922 he travelled to Chile where he married Senta Williams Herbst and devoted himself to farming. In 1941, Hans bought El Ingenio, a farm in Petorca where he started the first Californian avocado tree plantation in the area. Jorge Wenke and Rodrigo Miquel, like most farmers of the region, continue the work started by their visionary forbear. "Grandfather Hans planted 10 hectares for the local market. Presently we have 150 hectares which go for export," they explain.

Francisco Gardiazábal, Professor of Agronomy of the Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, says that in the beginning the growing of the Chilean avocado tree (the one that Vicuña MacKenna thought was indigenous) was very much linked to witchcraft and superstition.

The elderly used to tell that grafting was only possible when there was a quarter-moon, though the widespread custom was to reproduce it by burying stones in the soil.

Gardiazábal, an expert in the subject, helps us follow the trail of one of the many products that America gave to the world gastronomy. When Hernán Cortés arrived in Mexico, a reporter described this curious food that the indians called "ahuacalt" as follows: "There is a stone in the centre that looks like a peeled chestnut. Between this and the skin you find an edible tasty part of soft consistency like butter." As a matter of curiosity "ahuacalt" also means testicle, a clear reference to the shape of the fruit. But the avocado existed in Mexico long before the arrival of the Conquistadors. There are archaeological proofs that its inhabitants ate it around 10,000 B.C. Meanwhile, traces in Perú go back to 4000 B.C. Francisco Gardiazábal believes that the Incas probably introduced it into Chile and that the word known as "palta" in Chile, Argentina and Uruguay was the name of a town in Perú. In Quillota, the seeds found the right soil to sprout and thrive in orchards and gardens. The agronomist says that during the Colonial period the green avocados were considered to be for human consumption and the black ones for the pigs. Nowadays everybody knows that the dark-skinned avocados are the best.

The Hass variety is a very recent production. It was developed by accident. At the end of the 1920s, the American postman Rudolf Hass decided to produce avocados of the Lyon type in a piece of land in California. After a while, his sons showed a clear preference for the fruit of three specific trees. In 1935 Hass registered this new variety with his name and started producing it though in those days the Fuerte variety of avocado was the most popular on the market. Nowadays, every Chilean housewife is familiar with the name of the postman who became a farmer and gave his name to his favourite avocados.

And in La Ligua, Petorca and Quillota, the hills continue to produce a fruit whose taste many compare with butter and

others with the taste of walnuts. The advantage is that the avocado oil is monosaturated and so perfectly healthy. The oil is also used by the cosmetic industry since it has the same benefits as lanolin when used in the manufacture of beauty creams and soaps.

According to the filling, the avocado may be called Palta Reina, Palta York, Palta Cardenal, etc. For a first course, peel and rub the avocado with lemon juice, cut in half lengthwise and remove the stone. Fill the cavities with chicken and mayonnaise, or ham, or pâté de foie gras and serve on a bed of lettuce or chicory.

LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES GOLF TOURNAMENT 2001

The Anglo-Argentine Society was the host of this year's tournament that took place on 14th June, at the West Surrey Golf Club, Eton, Surrey.

The results of the competition were as follows:

1. The Ambassador's Cup for the overall winner was won by Mr. Colum Sharkey of the Anglo-Uruguayan Society.
2. The Rosebowl for the best score by a member of the Anglo-Argentine Society was won by Mr. John Lear.
3. The Punta Arenas Cup for the best score by a member of the Anglo-Chilean Society was won by Mr. Andrew Feary who just beat his father Allen Feary.
4. The Lan Chile trophy for the best score by members of others Societies was won by Mrs. Susan McArthur, a member of the Anglo-Peruvian Society.

Mr. Ian Peters, who could not be there this year, wishes to thank Mr. Allen Feary of the Anglo-Chilean Society for having run the event so well in his absence.



From left to right: Mr. Andrew Feary, Mr. Allen Feary, Argentinian Cultural Attaché Mr. Marcos Bednarski.



From left to right: Mr. Victor Manuel Rodriguez, Mr. John Rickus, Chilean Air Attaché Col. Victor H. Rodriguez.

BIRTH

Oh Boy!

On 11th May, 2001, to Mr. Martin Pickett and Mrs. Macarena Pickett, a son, Sebastián Douglas Eugenio. A grandchild for Mr. Eugenio Parada, Chilean Consul General, and Mrs. Valentina Parada.

WEDDING

The wedding took place on Saturday, 1st September, 2001, of Mr. Jonathan Cook, member of the Executive Committee of the Society, to Miss Claire Cummings. Their honeymoon was spent in Italy.

OBITUARY

Mr. Hernán Cubillos died in Santiago on 12th April, 2001, after a short illness. Mr. Clifford M. King, a personal friend of the deceased, has written the following obituary:

With the death in April of Hernán Cubillos, Chile lost an outstanding former Foreign Minister and Britain, a true friend.

Born in Valparaíso in 1936, Hernán was sent to a boarding preparatory school in the south of England when his father was posted to Britain as Chilean Naval Attaché in the mid-1940s. Here he acquired his fluent English and love and understanding of England.

On returning to Chile he attended the Escuela Naval and was commissioned into the Chilean Navy. One of his appointments was as liaison officer on board a Royal Navy warship in the Antarctic, where they spent the winter icebound. He liked to recount how during all this time the customs and traditions of the wardroom were punctiliously observed.

His talent demanded a wider field than a service career and he left the Navy to enter business.

At the early age of 34 he was appointed to head the Mercurio group of newspapers, then leading the opposition to the Popular Front Government, a most difficult and demanding post. When arrested on a trumped-up charge, he refused special treatment and was confined to a common jail, where he was promptly elected 'block representative' by the inmates.

Characteristically, he never displayed any bitterness or personal animosity towards his political opponents.

In 1978, at a time when Chile was isolated internationally and faced the menace of war with Argentina over disputed Chilean territory, Hernán Cubillos was appointed foreign Minister. Here again he showed his great ability, energy and charm.

Argentina had rejected the award of agreed international arbitrators and let it be known that referral to The Hague International Court would be considered a *casus belli*. Hernán Cubillos tirelessly pursued a peaceful solution to the dispute, attending innumerable meetings with the Argentines in Uruguay and, against all protocol, going to Buenos Aires.

He had taken particular care to visit the Vatican to brief Pope John Paul I, and later, John Paul II. As the situation reached crisis point, the Pope offered mediation (distinct from arbitration) and so, at the eleventh hour, war was averted.

In 1980, following the fiasco of General Pinochet's visit to the Philippines, undertaken against his advice, he was forced to resign. Hernán Cubillos never returned to public life. After following his business interests he retired to the remoteness of

Chiloé where he built a house and small harbour for his yacht.

A highly cultivated, civilised and sensitive man, he brought style to whatever he did; widely read in both English and Spanish, an accomplished ocean racer, a gracious host, a loyal friend and, in every respect, a gentleman.

He was buried in Santiago with full naval honours.



Mr. Hernán Cubillos (RIP).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

“The Honourable Soldier” - Talk by Mr. Tom Hudson, author of the biography of General William Miller (1795-1861) on Thursday, 11th October, at Canning House.

The Sir Leslie Bowes Memorial Lecture “Threatened Chilean Plants - the Scottish Connection” by Martin Gardner of the World Botanic Garden, Edinburgh will be held at Canning House on Monday, 29th October, at 6:30 p.m.

The Christmas Party on Wednesday, 12th December, at Canning House.

NEW MEMBERS

Madame Una P. Cochrane
Ms. Consuelo Fernández Andía
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Ford
Mrs. Loreto Hermann
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Motion
Mr. Samuel Pérez-Goldveig
Ms. Kay Pysden

SPANISH - CHILEAN STYLE!

Achoclonado	-	Packed like sardines, crowded together.
Achuntar	-	To guess correctly, to hit the target.
Agarrarse a coscachos-		To have a fist fight with someone.
Al pelo	-	By a hair's breadth.
Al tiro	-	Right away, immediately.
Al vuelo	-	To immediately understand something.
Andar a pata	-	Not to have a car at a particular moment, and thus to rely on friends or public transportation to get somewhere.
Andar churrete	-	To have diarrhoea.
Andar al tres y al cuatro	-	To have little money.
Andar con el diente largo	-	To be very hungry.
Andar con las hilachas - colgando	-	To be poorly dressed.
Aparecer hasta en la sopa	-	To see something or someone everywhere one goes.
Apechugar	-	To grin and bear it.

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