

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

55th Year No. 357

London, October 1999

12 Devonshire Street London W1

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

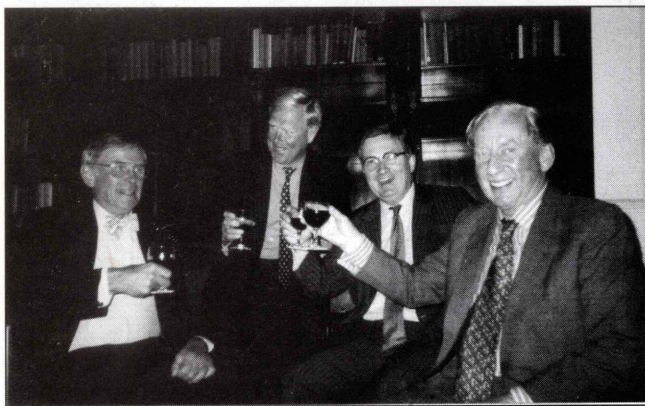
The AGM was held at Canning House on 4 May in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador, Sr. Mario Artaza.

The minutes of the last AGM were approved as well as the Chairman's report and the Honorary Treasurer's statement of accounts for the year ending 31 December 1998.

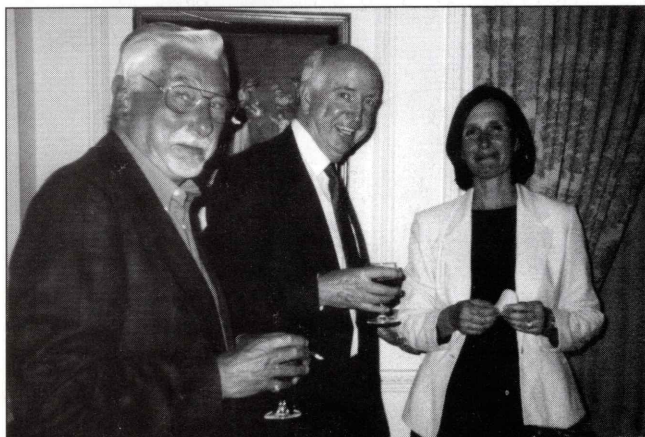
The Chairman, Professor John Fisher, most warmly thanked Mrs María Luisa Echeñique, Lady María E. Maud and Mr. Alasdair Grant for having served 3 years as members of the Executive Committee.

The election of Mr. John Hickman as a new member of the Committee had just been enthusiastically received, when the surprise arrival of the past chairman, Mr. Roger Venables, brought the meeting to a standstill. As members may remember, last year Mr. Venables suffered a major stroke that had confined him to a wheelchair, and required him undergoing intensive therapy treatment. He came into the room unaided and was received with a rousing ovation. There was a genuine feeling of admiration for him.

At the conclusion of the meeting, wine and snacks were served.



From left to right: Mr. Roger Venables, Mr. Alan MacDonald, Mr. Peter de Bruyne and Mr. John Hickman



Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis, Mr. Harry Clements and Mrs. María L. Echeñique

The report of the Chairman for the period May 1998-April 1999 is as follows:

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE PERIOD
MAY 1998 - APRIL 1999.

Before writing my report I thought that it might be prudent for me to check what the Constitution says about my duties. Much to my relief, I discovered that they seem to be confined to acting as Chairman of the meetings of the Executive Committee - which is required to hold at least two meetings a year - and to chairing this Annual General Meeting. This, of course, is a minimalist definition of one's duties. I also believe that it is incumbent upon an efficient Chairman to work on the assumption that the principal responsibilities within any Executive Committee reside with the Secretary and the Treasurer, and, more importantly still, to ensure that the formal business of the AGM is conducted expeditiously, thereby leaving time for the more valuable informal exchanges over good Chilean wine that follow the meeting.

The Executive Committee has met on 7 occasions during my first year as Chairman, including the brief meeting held immediately before this AGM. I was able to be present at all but one of those meetings, and on the one occasion when I was abroad (in Perú rather than Chile, I regret to say) the Vice-Chairman, María Luisa Echeñique kindly did the honours, as, indeed, she did at the most recent event organized by the Society: the lecture given here at Canning House by Hallam Murray in March 1999. I should like to record my sincere thanks to María Luisa and all other members of the Committee for the support that they have given me during my first year, and, more generally, for their commitment to the well-being of the Society.

The other highlights of the Society's programme were the excellent lecture given in October by Alex Hurst on Thomas Sommerscales - unfortunately enjoyed by a rather small audience -, the Boat Trip on the Thames in June, the splendid 'Dieciocho' cocktail party on the Esmeralda in October, and the Christmas Party held here on 17 December. The last of these is faithfully recorded in issue no. 356 of Chilean News, which gives me an opportunity to draw attention to what I said on that occasion about the Society's debt of gratitude to the outgoing editor John Naylor, and to express our appreciation to Georgina Roberts for, first, taking over the editorship and, second, getting her first issue out on time. For those who might not have yet had the opportunity to read it, I think I can say that it contains material that will appeal to all tastes.

Turning to slightly more mundane matters, the Secretary now has a computer complete with software to enable her to get an accurate picture of active membership. The most recent figures that I have seen show a total of 334, which undoubtedly will rise as the calendar year progresses; this may be somewhat smaller than had been thought, but it is at least accurate and up-to-date. In terms of physical location, the Society functions now from the second floor of the embassy, in cosy intimacy with the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce.

To some extent, the desired interaction between the Society's officers and the embassy - and, indeed, the activities of the Society as a whole - have been overshadowed by the most unfortunate, and continuing, difficulties over the detention and requested extradition of Senator Pinochet. I made some remarks about this matter at the Christmas Party - they are reproduced in Chilean News. I know that some members of the Society - perhaps some present here tonight - think that I, as Chairman, should have taken certain steps (for example, writing to El Mercurio and/or The Times). I have not done so for several reasons, all of which have been discussed in some detail at meetings of the Executive Committee (notably that held on 7 January). The first is that the Society's charitable status might be vulnerable if any action taken in its name seemed to be outside its rather narrowly defined objects, as stated in its constitution; the second is that any communication that sought to convey a message within this constraint would seem too anodyne for some members of the Society and, yet, perhaps too strong for others. After a long discussion at the January meeting the Committee decided, therefore, that I should not send to the newspapers mentioned above the letters that I had drafted for its consideration. Each of us will have his personal views on how this matter should have been resolved - and I shall be happy to express mine to any member of the Society who wishes to hear them over a glass of wine - but I wish to stress that Committee's silence does not reflect lack of interest, or concern, or awareness of the damage that has been and is still being done to Anglo-Chilean relations.



H.E. Sr Artaza, Sra. Artaza, Mrs. Helga Schilling and Captain Juan Schilling, Head of the Chilean Naval Mission

This Society has a long history and a proud record of fulfilling the objections identified in its constitution. I shall do my best to ensure with the Executive Committee that it is able to look beyond present difficulties to maintain its traditions. It will do so, of course, in a rapidly changing environment, which sees many more British citizens from all walks of life visiting Chile and liking what they see, and within a thriving Latin American cultural scene in Britain. When the Society was founded, in 1944, interest in and awareness of Chile in Britain was probably confined to a relatively small number of diplomats, bankers, businessmen, and spouses, and the number of Chilean citizens resident in Britain was in its hundreds. As an excellent recent publication "Latin Americans in London" shows, the 1951 census of England and Wales recorded that less than 4,000 of Greater London's residents had been born in Latin America, with Chile's figure being 543. By 1991, this figure had increased nearly fivefold to 17,500, of whom nearly 4,000 were from Chile. I suppose that some of them would have little interest in the Society - or the Society in them - but there may be a pool here of untapped talent and activity that the Society should think about exploiting.



Mrs. Helga Schilling, Captain Juan Schilling and Lady Dundonald

CHILEAN NAVY DAY

The traditional wreath laying ceremony on the tomb of Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane took place on 21 May in Westminster Abbey. It was placed by H.E. the Ambassador Sr. Mario Artaza and Captain Juan Schilling, Head of the Chilean Naval Mission.

The usual excellent reception was hosted by Captain and Mrs. Schilling at One Great George Street Conference Centre, Westminster.



From left to right: Mrs. Georgina Roberts, Mrs. Carmen G. Heap, Mrs. Valerie Buxton, Mrs. M. Rita Phillips and Mrs. Cecilia Wilkinson at the reception



At the reception: The Chilean Military Attaché, Colonel Tulio Hermosilla, Mrs. M. Rita Phillips, Mr. David Pearson, Mrs. Tati Hermosilla and Mr. Douglas Cochrane

THE ANDEAN PROJECT

An illustrated talk and reception took place at Canning House in the presence of the Chilean Ambassador, H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza, on Thursday, 20 May 1999.

The evening started with the showing of a video on the European Southern Observatory VLT (Very Large Telescope) array in the Atacama Desert. The video detailed the production and shipping to the remote mountain site of the huge reflector mirror for one of the telescopes.

This was followed by a presentation with slides given by Dr. Elías Muñoz, a veterinary and specialist in camelid breeding in the high Andes, who demonstrated how the inhabitants of the Altiplano (High Plain) raise herds of llama and alpaca.

The presenters of both the video and slide show were here on a visit from Chile.

Mrs. Patricia Vincent, the Chairman of the Andean Project, gave an update of the work of the Project, explaining that it aims to help the indigenous people of the Andes by creating sustainable development projects. The Project has acquired 11.4 hectares of land near San Pedro de Atacama, and plans to set up a Botanical/Physic garden as well as an animal research project. Mrs. Vincent is seeking new members to the Andean Project committee, with fresh ideas on how to fund and maintain a garden of mountain plants in one of the driest and most inhospitable deserts in the world. Regrettably, she will be standing down as Chairman in the near future for health reasons.

If any member of the Society would like to join the Andean Project please contact Mr. John Barker, The Andean Project, 10 Osterley Lodge, Church Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TS7 4PQ; telephone 0181-560-8057.



Dr. Elías Muñoz, Miss Kattia Knight and Mrs. Patricia Vincent, Chairman of the Andean Project



Mr. Tim Woods, Mr. Hallam Murray and Miss Jean Carey-Harris

ASADO AL PALO.

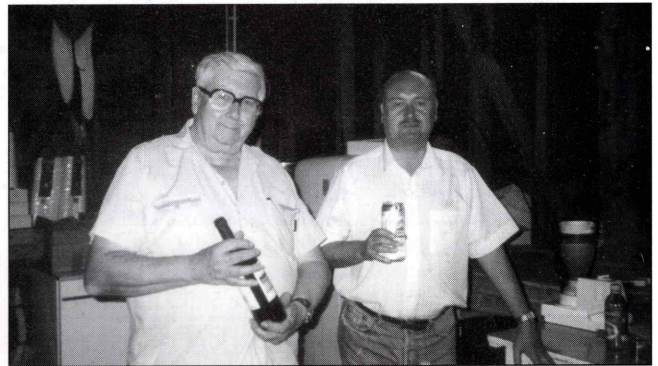
The Asado took place on Sunday, 27 June at Bonhams Farm in Hampshire, courtesy of Michael and Cherida Cannon.

Once again the 19th century barn proved to be invaluable against the vagaries of the weather. Everybody was delighted by the recent addition – a brand new wooden dance floor, where the more energetic guests danced to the infectious Latin rhythms of a lively Salsa band.

Thanks to the organisational skills of Michael Ogilvie-Davies, there was an abundance of delicious food, while the bar was well stocked with Chilean wines.

As usual, there was entertainment for the younger children. The weather cleared up by mid-afternoon allowing the customary egg-and-spoon races, wheelbarrow races and musical chairs, with prizes for both the winners and the losers. Later on, the children were scrabbling all over the floor picking up the sweets showering down from the broken “piñata”.

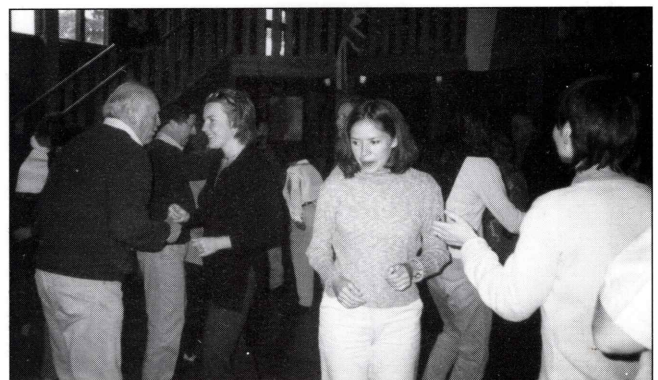
The raffle and a stall selling Chilean handicraft sold well and any profits will go towards the work of the Society.



Ted Davey and Christopher Hopewell serving at the bar



Laura Bateman Subercaseaux looks like a sure winner in the egg-and-spoon race



Michael Cannon and daughter Emily enjoying the Salsa band

CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

A ceremony took place in Santiago in June of this year to mark the inauguration of an additional facility in the Luis Calvo MacKenna Hospital. The new building was named "Ena Craig de Luksic" in recognition of the Luksic family's generosity.

This year, besides this recently completed construction, AMICAM (Corporación de Amigos del Hospital Luis Calvo MacKenna) is committed to modernising the oncology facilities. This will allow the hospital to start bone marrow transplants with the technical support of St Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee. Widely used abroad in cancer treatment, mainly in the treatment of leukemia, this will be the first time a public hospital in Chile has used this form of medical therapy.

The Anglo-Chilean Society contributed with a cheque for US\$2,500 to help towards this worthy cause.



A party of distinguished Chileans, including President Eduardo Frei (third from left), listening to the speech of Dr. Federico Puga, President of AMICAM

INVESTITURE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF CHILE

The government of President Rafael Caldera of Venezuela bestowed the Order of the Grand Cross "Francisco de Miranda" on the Ambassador of Chile, H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza Rouxel, in recognition of his work in strengthening the ties between Venezuela and Chile.

The ceremony took place on Wednesday, 21 July at the Bolivar Hall, and was conducted by the Venezuelan Ambassador to the Court of St. James, H.E. Sr. Roy Chaderton Matos.

In his acceptance speech, H.E. Sr. Artaza highlighted the encounter, and ensuing friendship, between the young student Bernardo O'Higgins and General Francisco de Miranda, a founding father of Latin-American independence, while both were living in London.

Distinguished guests and representatives of both embassies attended the ceremony.



From left to right: H.E. Sr. Roy Chaderton Matos, Sra. Artaza, H.E. Mario Artaza and H.E. Ambassador of Uruguay, Dr. Agustín Espinosa Lloveras

AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

A reception was held on 19 August at the residence of H.E. The Ambassador of Chile and Sra. Artaza on the occasion of their farewell.

H. E. Sr. Artaza left London at the beginning of September to take up his appointment as Chilean Ambassador in Washington D.C.

The Society thanks him for all his support and wishes them every success in their new posting.



Mr. David Pearson, Mrs. Anita Artaza, Mr. Peter Shaw, Mrs. Henny Subercaseaux and Mrs. Carmen Pearson



From left to right: Mr. Robert Hart, Mr. Guillermo Echeverría and Mr. Alan MacDonald



Miss Tessie Espindola, Mrs. Ann Fisher, Mr. John Fisher, Mrs. Sandra Carey and Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis



From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalo Cuadra and Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Reid

O'HIGGINS IN RICHMOND

Richmond, Surrey, one of London's most beautiful boroughs, has, once again, paid honor to the Liberator of Chile, Bernardo O'Higgins.

The first instance was the placing of an English Heritage plaque in 1994 at what is now known as Clarence House, a lovely Georgian mansion with roses and ivy climbing up its walls. The house is situated in Michel's Place, between St. Elizabeth of Portugal Catholic Church and Patten Alley. This was the distinguished school where O'Higgins came as a boarder at the age of 17 before embarking on his fight for the cause of liberty and freedom.

Then, in 1998, Richmond paid tribute to O'Higgins with the unveiling of a bust. This is located in a pretty terrace, with beautiful foliage and steps leading down to the river which flows under the stone arches of the elegant Richmond Bridge which, in the past, has served as an inspiration to the artist Turner.

Finally, on 20 August of this year, the Ambassador of Chile, H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza, accompanied by the Mayoress of Richmond, unveiled a sign, officially naming the pleasant promenade "O'Higgins Square".



Clarence House, Richmond, Surrey

FAREWELL TO ANITA

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London met on 24 August to say goodbye to Mrs. Anita Artaza prior to her departure from England.

A farewell gift was presented to her in appreciation of her tremendous support for the group's charitable work.



From left to right: Mrs. Amalia Gilkes, Mrs. María Isabel Román, Mrs. Denise Ortega, Mrs. M. Rita Phillips, Mrs. Anita Artaza, Mrs. Georgina Roberts, Mrs. Carmen G. Heap and Mrs. Henny Subercaseaux

THE DIECIOCHO DINNER-DANCE

The historic Armoury House, home to the Honourable Artillery Company in the City of London, was the venue for the celebration of Chile's Independence Day on Saturday, 18 September. It was hosted by the Society in association with the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce, the proceeds going in aid of the Fundación Hogar de Cristo, the charity that cares for the homeless and abandoned children in Santiago.

The splendid candlelit oak-panelled dining-room was the setting for 130 guests, who enjoyed a superb dinner with excellent wines.

Toasts to the Queen and the President of Chile were proposed by the Ambassador of Chile, H.E. Sr. Pablo Cabrera and the Chairman of the Society, Professor John Fisher, respectively.

Professor Fisher introduced the Guest of Honour, the new Ambassador of Chile to the Court of St James, H. E. Sr. Pablo Cabrera. He thanked the Ambassador and his wife for being there despite the extremely short notice, occasioned by the transfer to Washington D.C. of his predecessor, Sr. Mario Artaza.

Before inviting the Ambassador to speak, Professor Fisher referred to the matter which continues to cloud relationships between Britain and Chile, that of the judicial proceedings which are still being taken against Senator Pinochet, in Spain and Great Britain. He added that the Society is a non-political organisation and, as a registered charity, its specific objects are to foster British awareness of Chile and its people, and to help people in Chile who are experiencing hardship. Professor Fisher pointed out that many of the Society's members have close ties with Chile and share the distress felt there as a consequence of recent developments and the tragic revival of old conflicts. Professor Fisher stated that the Anglo-Chilean Society in London is determined to do all it can to rebuild the warm and co-operative friendship which has existed between Britain and Chile.

The Chairman then invited the Guest of Honour, H.E. Sr. Pablo Cabrera to address the assembly. His speech was as follows:

"La Anglo Chilean Society ha tenido a bien invitarme en mi calidad de Embajador de Chile ante la Corte de Saint James como "Huésped de Honor", cuando la institución conmemora y celebra los 189 años de la República de Chile como estado independiente.

"Por cierto que esto constituye un privilegio que el gobierno de Chile aprecia en toda su dimensión.

"No resulta fácil para quien comienza una misión de esta envergadura, dirigirse a una audiencia tan distinguida, además de partícipe y conocedora de nuestro desarrollo como nación.

"Qué podría agregar yo hoy que ya no se haya dicho en lo que a Chile y Gran Bretaña se refiere. Dos países amigos de larga data y con vínculos estrechos en los diferentes campos del quehacer de cada uno y que han permitido proyectar, por más de un siglo, lazos de cooperación y entendimiento.

"En mi caso personal, las experiencias acumuladas y los sentimientos adquiridos en una previa estancia en este país, me motivan a trabajar como si estuviera en mi propia casa. De ahí

que haya reflexionado mucho sobre el sentido de la misión que estoy iniciando cuando vivimos un nuevo milenio, con los desafíos que conlleva para el tipo de sociedad que emerge, impactando, en forma especial, el tradicional concepto de la diplomacia.

“En la actualidad no son sólo los gobiernos lo que interaccionan y promueven iniciativas de interés recíproco, sino que son también los privados los que, crecientemente, están generando una nueva dinámica a las relaciones entre las naciones. El hombre común, los empresarios, los intelectuales, los académicos y otros tantos actores de la vida nacional de cada país cumplen su rol, estableciendo más libremente vínculos y alianzas que fortalecen el conocimiento y la cooperación entre los pueblos. Por ello, entiendo que el sello que cada persona le imprima a su accionar resulta clave para permear, adecuadamente, hacia sus contrapartes los principios e interés que inspiran una relación particular como la existente entre nuestros países.

“Ello, en todo caso y desde mi perspectiva, no debe únicamente remitirse a declaraciones respecto del valor que los vínculos políticos, sociales, estratégicos, económicos y culturales de Chile y Gran Bretaña hayan tenido a lo largo de la historia, sino que deben incluir, asimismo, acciones y gestos que permitan allanar el camino de solución a cualquier problema que surja y que impida una fluidéz en su desarrollo.

“Resalto esto porque al momento enfrentamos específicamente una dificultad para todos conocida, que está entabando el enorme potencial institucional de la vinculación chileno-británica. Resulta imperativo resolver este caso, considerando que el común devenir histórico de nuestras naciones se sustenta en una plataforma compartida e inspirada en el ejercicio democrático y el respeto a los Derechos Humanos y cuyo desarrollo se ha dado en un clima de amistad, solidaridad y respeto mutuo, de todo lo cual las nuevas generaciones deberán seguir beneficiándose.

“Así, la distancia geográfica que separa a los dos países, las fortalezas dispares de las economías, la dimensión de los territorios, el volúmen de las aspiraciones de cada uno, etc... a la luz de la globalización en marcha son meros referentes para abordar acciones comunes. Chile y Gran Bretaña tienen similitudes que acentúan y multiplican los eventuales beneficios de una participación conjunta en la Agenda Internacional y que merecen una atención prioritaria y rigurosa por parte de sus respectivas sociedades y Gobiernos.

“En otro orden de ideas, debo señalar, también, que celebramos hoy el X aniversario de la Cámara de Comercio Británica-Chilena. Han sido 10 años de labor fructífera de las empresas que contribuyeron a su formación y que en la actualidad, junto a otras que se han sumado, no sólo han consolidado esta institución como un motor al desarrollo de la relación comercial entre nuestros dos países, sino que proyectan hacia un horizonte que se avizora lleno de posibilidades.

“Hoy como Presidente Honorario de la Cámara de Comercio Británica-Chilena, expreso mi decisión de contribuir a su permanente desarrollo.

“En un día de festejos y de reflexión como el que nos congrega, podría haber mencionado tantos nombres que han fortalecido y endilgado la vinculación histórica entre chilenos y británicos y podría también haber relatado hechos de todo tipo y cifras de intercambio que la engrandecen, pero ustedes ya las conocen y las mantienen en permanente visión.

Permítanme, entonces, únicamente agregar a estas palabras esa dosis de nostalgia que siempre carga el ambiente de las celebraciones patrias. Parodiando a nuestro premio Nóbel Pablo Neruda, recuerdo un pasaje de su obra que reza mas o menos así...Aún lejos de ti hay Patria...Mitad tierra tuya y hombre tuyo he continuado siendo... Ello refleja un poco el sentimiento que nos une a todos en esta ocasión

“Hago votos para que esta larga, histórica y rica relación de encuentros en variadas áreas y temas en que han participado y participan actores e instituciones diversas - dentro de los que destaco por supuesto a la Anglo Chilean Society y a la Cámara de Comercio Binacional - inspiren el accionar que inicio en tierras británicas en el ya nuevo milenio. Apelo a vuestro respaldo, reconociendo que la tarea que estáis realizando tiene un profundo apego a Chile y a su gente.”

The Ambassador then proposed the toast to the Anglo-Chilean Society, and the Toast List ended with the response by Mr. Frank Wheeler, CMG, Chairman of the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wheeler, on behalf of the organisers, expressed gratitude to Antofagasta Holdings PLC, British American Tobacco PLC and CMPC Europe Ltd. for their generous sponsorship of the event.



Mrs. Sandra Carey, H.E. Sr Pablo Cabrera and Baroness Hooper



Mrs. Cecilia Cabrera, Professor John Fisher and Mrs. Sandra Carey



Mrs. Valentina Parada, Mr. Eugenio Parada, Chilean Consul General, Miss Marcela Holtheuer and Mr. Martin Pickett



From left to right: Mr. Robert Willans, Mrs. Cristina Willans, Mrs. Jane Morales and Mr. Pedro Morales

A POSITIVE OUTCOME TO A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY

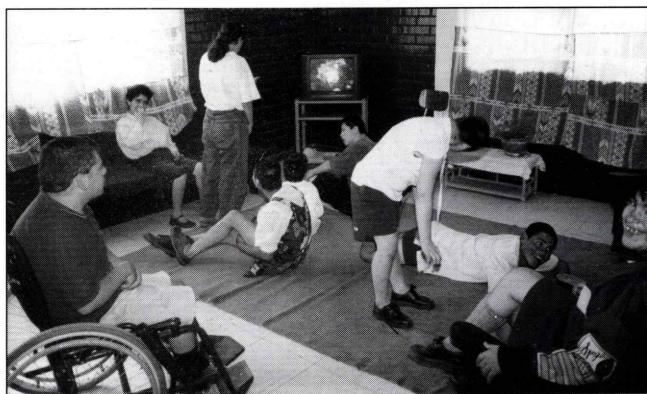
The huge success of the Dieciocho Party on board the Esmeralda last year made it possible for the Society to donate £1000 worth of domestic appliances to the Centre "Los Ceibos" of COANIL.

Los Ceibos (the silk-cotton trees) is one of sixteen children's homes that COANIL (Corporación de Ayuda al Niño Limitado) has throughout Chile. The Centre, which provides accommodation and assistance for mentally deficient and handicapped children, was severely damaged in 1997 by a fire that cost the lives of 31 youngsters.

The Society's donation was used to purchase appliances that included television sets, radios, sewing-machines, clothes dryers and floor polishers.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto de la Fuente who organised the purchases in Santiago and visited the Centre on behalf of the Society.

A letter of acknowledgement has been received from Miss Leonor Cubillos Lisperguier, Director of the Centre Los Ceibos of COANIL.



The recreation room shows children relaxing after their chores.



It is lunchtime and helpers are always at hand

ALAMEDA 2000

By Albina Sabater

(Published in El Mercurio, 22 May 1999)

The main artery of Santiago has always been the subject of debate, as well as a symbol of modern projects. As long ago as 1982 there was talk of how the Alameda should look in the next century. The following article appeared in El Mercurio on 19 September 1982.

A pleasant inviting avenue for the people of the capital? A street to be shown with pride to tourists, provincials and offspring? A vivid testimony to the history and culture of the country?

Dreams? Possibly not.

The municipality of Santiago has a definite aim: to restore the Alameda to those harmonious, dignified and stately characteristics that made it the principal street in Chile.

How to achieve it?

Firstly, by having a public competition in order to generate ideas and proposals for improvement. That competition has just been officially announced. Architects, town planners and landscape painters will be able to let their imagination run free.

It may be that only some of the buildings should be restored. Maybe new construction should abide by strict rules. Perhaps it will be necessary to create squares, or move the monuments. "The City Hall is open to suggestions" continued the Mayor, Carlos Bombal. "The main thing is to restore the essential cultural values of the Alameda".

He added: "The Alameda is part of our history and it is also the first impression of Chile for those who arrive at Pudahuel. Even more, it is the backbone of the city and it belongs to all of us."

Bombal knows that it will be a hard job. The Alameda has unfortunately deteriorated. Many old buildings arouse more compassion than respect. Gaudy signs cover up facades that were admired in the past. In many sectors commerce has spilled onto the pavement in such confusion as to offend anyone with the minimum aesthetic sense. New, unauthorised buildings have grown up from the rubble of others that were evidence of our historical development, with no thought for harmony,

The outlook is not encouraging, but the Mayor does not seem willing to bow before the difficulties. Even when he is warned that the recession is not the best time to start ambitious projects, he explains: "Intelligence and creativity are not in recession! We cannot waste time. If we decide now what to do, we will have made some headway."

Even then, there is a problem. Whichever the winning project, it might be necessary to enact special by-laws in order to put it into practice.

"Exactly! By-laws may originate from this contest. A limit to the indiscriminate use of certain urban spaces is urgently needed. For example, if the building height near Cerro Santa Lucía is not restricted, we will soon not be able to see the hilltop. It is essential to be aware of these dangers and this contest will help towards this awareness."

Clearly, City Hall will not be able to do everything. It will require the co-operation of other public and private institutions. Some of them, such as the College of Architects, the Ministries of Housing and Public Works and the universities will be represented on the panel of judges to choose the best projects. The traders of the Alameda will also have to co-operate by cleaning the signs in the front of the buildings. The west end of the area is the worst.

It is a difficult job for everybody, requiring not only to change the face of the Alameda, but also the attitude of both the ordinary man's and the authorities' to urbanism, and the conservation of buildings and areas of historic and architectural value.

The Alameda Plan may mark the beginning of a new concept of the city in Chile, with the emphasis on preserving instead of demolishing.

The architect Hernán Manríquez, Director of the Area of Special Urban Projects of City Hall, viewed the Alameda as a possible tourist attraction. He said: "There are at least 100 buildings that should be kept, even if they are currently in a poor state of repair. It is a question of preserving those buildings that are testimony to the past. One has to look at them in perspective, imagining them restored and without the signs. But there are problems with the undeveloped sites such as can be seen at the corners of Santa Rosa, Carmen, and beside the Entel telecommunications tower".

Juan Downey Alvarado, Chilean architect and sculptor who has lived in the USA for 20 years, teaches architecture at the prestigious Pratts Institute in New York. On a recent visit to Santiago, he closely studied the Alameda. He is convinced that the problem has a solution.

Firstly, he suggests to change it back to "La Alameda de las Delicias", with the central division given over to the pedestrian, with a wide ample walkway. "Obviously, we would have to reclaim space from the cars, but alternative routes are already being built."

Secondly, to stop demolition of any kind. "The eclectic nature of the Alameda, the juxtaposition of different epochs and styles reflects our very nature. It gives it a very Chilean character. Of course, the signs that spoil the aesthetic view of the avenue have to be removed".

Thirdly, to indicate what goes on behind the facades of the Alameda. "By using signs, or with kiosks, it could be shown that the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art is this way or that the Cousiño Palace is that way.

As Mayor Bombal said, ideas are not in recession. And undoubtedly many other ideas will come up as a result of the Alameda competition.



Cerro Santa Lucía - Fuente Neptuno

With this important project, Chilean cities in the new millennium can learn to live happily with the present and be proud of the past.



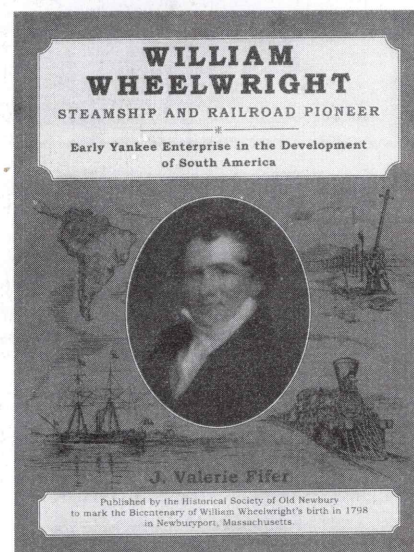
The Old Santiago

CELEBRATING WILLIAM WHEELWRIGHT

Valerie Fifer's book on William Wheelwright, entitled "William Wheelwright: Steamship and Railroad Pioneer. Early Yankee Enterprise in the Development of South America", has been warmly welcomed on both sides of the Atlantic. The book was published in the United States in 1998 to mark the bicentenary of Wheelwright's birth in Massachusetts, and includes a fascinating account of Wheelwright's background, his founding of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and his construction of Chile's first railroads, telegraph, and much urban modernization.

Among many other favourable reviews, that published by the Vice Dean of Chile's Consular Corps in Boston, Massachusetts praises "the perceptive and clear study of this remarkable man, whose ambition and enterprise embodied the ethos of hard work and good deeds, and who still retains a special place in the affections and admiration of Chileans today. I hope the book will have a wide currency."

Dr. Fifer received many enquiries from Society members about how to obtain the book after an article on it was published in the November 1998 issue of the Chilean News. Any further requests for information should now be sent to her by post c/o Devonshire Street, where they will be forwarded by the Society Secretary.



A CHILEAN FOREST IN SCOTLAND

Five acres of Chilean woodland are being planted on cleared forest ground with material provided by the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh as part of their Conifer Conservation Programme. The aim is to protect the genetic pool of trees which are endangered in the wild. Conifers are a unique group of cone-bearing trees that include pines, firs, spruces, yews, larches and even monkey puzzle and cypress trees. The loss of a forest means the removal of a life-support system for the people and creatures that live there. In global terms coniferous forests are of equal importance to tropical rain forests.

Originally conceived as a millennium project, the Chilean woodland is being planted on the Isle of Mull in Scotland at Torosay Castle, Craignure. Torosay is principally known for the Victorian "Scottish Baronial" country house and gardens that form one of Mull's main tourist attractions, receiving about 40,000 visitors per year.



Torosay Castle

Chilean vegetation was chosen because of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh's links with Chile and because of the variety of endangered material. The prevailing westerly winds match those at the comparable latitude in Chile. Many of the species concerned were first introduced to Britain during the 19th century, just when the "policy" woodlands at Torosay were first planted. (The Scots word "policy" covers parkland and woodlands that form the setting of a "big" house).

The Torosay Chilean woodland is on a north-east-facing slope with an altitude of between 100 and 200 feet. It has been fenced against the intrusion of deer and mounded to prepare for planting. A protective strip of native trees (birch and ash) has been planted on the top edge. Several Chilean species are now planted, while others, including 250 monkey puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*) are eagerly awaited.



Araucaria araucana growing at the Younger Botanic Garden, Benmore, Argyll

There are other sites in Scotland where similar woods are being created but Torosay is the only private sector involvement creating a wood on anything like this scale.

There has already been an investment of several thousand pounds in fencing, land preparation and planting. This is an expensive project and in need of sponsors. If any members of the Society would be interested in being associated with the Chilean Woodland Project, Mr. Christopher James would like to hear from them. The address is:

Torosay Castle
Craignure,
Isle of Mull
Argyle PA65 6AY

(Note: A set of brochures on "Torosay Castle & Gardens" and "A Quest for Chilean Plants" is available, and can be borrowed from the Secretary).

TELEVISION NACIONAL DE CHILE NOW IN BRITAIN

Sr. Ernesto Lombardi Fiora del Fabro, Commercial Director of Televisión Nacional de Chile, informs us that TV Chile is now broadcasting to Europe via satellite.

Reception of the broadcasts will require a Satellite antenna and Digital receiver. The transmission is encoded, so a decoder will also be required. Members wishing more information on costs, channels, etc., should contact ConNova, in Malmö, Sweden on 0046-141-203915 or Sr. Carlos Aguirre of ADETO on 0046-11 180008 (Fax 0046-11 180007). ADETO also has an e-mail address at adeto@telia.com.

CHILE – LAND OF EXTREMES

Mr Crispin Sadler has donated four 1-hour tapes of Chilean natural history programmes to the Society. There are both English and Spanish versions.

Under the general title "Chile – Land of Extremes", they deal with:

1. The Riddle of Atacama (El Enigma de Atacama).
2. Forests of Defiance (El Desafío de los Bosques).
3. Castaway Islands (Las Islas de los Náufragos)
4. To the End of the World (Hacia el Fin del Mundo).

Mr. Sadler is no stranger to the Society. In the past he has shown highlights of these films that he has made of Chile's wildlife. They are a co-production between New Zealand Television, Televisión Nacional de Chile and The Discovery Channel.

The tapes are not to be used for any financial purposes (other than fund raising by the Society) or made available to other broadcasters, but are otherwise available to members of the Society who might wish to borrow them. Those interested should contact the Secretary.

ON DEAF EARS

By *Magdalena Murita*

(Published in *Qué Pasa*, 6 February 1999)

The building of an international route in the region of San Pedro de Atacama has caused archaeological damage that, according to the experts, had been forecast in a report prepared two years ago.

In November 1996, the archaeologist Javier Tamblay presented a report to the engineering company Martínez Cuevas on the environmental impact that would be caused by the building of a by-pass around San Pedro de Atacama. The project was the construction of a road between Calama and Argentina, to include a custom office and a petrol station.

The archaeologist considered the proposed route to be non-viable because it would destroy four important archaeological sites: Sequitor, Beter, Tchasquir and Solor. "This was unacceptable because of the destruction it would cause to our national heritage. I recommended a route via Quito that only affected two less important indigenous areas" explains Tamblay.

Two years later, the municipality of San Pedro claimed the northern oasis was suffering the consequences predicted by the archaeologist. According to the Municipality, the most seriously affected site is Chasqui, situated in the Sequitor area. The damage has occurred along a half kilometre stretch of the road, where there used to be an indigenous settlement. It is an area of land densely covered with remains of pre-Hispanic cultures that date between 1200 b.c. and 400 a.d. "Each square meter contains up to 200 pieces of ceramics" declared Tamblay. For the moment, work around the archaeological site has been suspended, but continues along the rest of the route.

San Pedro de Atacama, located in the desert in the II Region, is a tourist attraction, and it is estimated that there are about 60 indigenous cemeteries in the area, with a total of six thousand graves from different pre-Hispanic cultures. The report of the damage has outraged the local population, numbering 900 inhabitants according to the 1992 census, although it is believed that this number has doubled in recent years.

The damage is irreparable, according to the archaeologist Ana María Barón, ex-Mayoress of the town. "The by-pass is necessary, but the route should be altered by 300 meters in order not to pass through the archaeological sites". The Tamblay report was not the only one to criticise the project. In 1994 the Company "Ingeniería Cuatro" advised of the possible consequences, and in 1997 the archaeologist Francisco Telley proposed an alternative route that was ignored.

Ana María Barón recognises that part of the blame lies with the local authorities. "The problem was that the initial route passed to the north of the town and went through the house of a town councillor. It was then that the San Pedro authorities decided on this current route".

Ana María Barón explained that when the construction company visited the area, she accompanied the project manager to show him the sites that were in danger. "As the plan couldn't be changed, I personally suggested diversions from the planned route in order to avoid the four areas containing archaeological remains. The company passed this information to the Highway Administration. Nevertheless, they were told to go ahead with the work" stated Barón.

The by-pass is not the first time that the economic and archaeological interests of the region have come into conflict. In April 1998 the Fe Grande enterprise, while building the Atacama Gas Pipeline, destroyed a petroglyph (rock carving) 15 kilometres north-west of the oasis. Though the damages are incalculable, Juan Pereira, the municipal administrator, maintains that there is a team working to recover part of this lost national heritage.

Another lesser cause of resentment was the building of the five-star, 50 bedroom Explora Hotel, situated only one kilometre from the town church. Between 1993 and 1997 Explora, part of the Corpora Group, bought 18 hectares of land in the outskirts of town. The purchase included the Puritama hot springs as well as the archaeological sites of El Larache and Ayaye. Explora equipped the hot springs with baths and locker rooms. "The idea was that the hot springs would be run by the Town Council and that the entrance fees collected could be used to benefit San Pedro de Atacama" explained Jaime Droppelmann, Explora's General Manager.

The financial advantage of the Explora Hotel is not in dispute. It employs 76 people from the town and promotes upmarket tourism (US\$1,700.00 for 4 nights double room with full board and excursions included). As Droppelmann pointed out, different from the usual back-packers who spend very little and seldom respect the rules of conservation and cleanliness of the place. What caused the resentment is the location of the hotel: 300 meters from Gentilar de Larache, an indigenous cemetery dating back between 500 and 1000 a.d. This cemetery belongs to the Tiahuanaco civilisation that had its centre in what is now Bolivia and stretched out through vast territories of the continent. The exact size of the cemetery is unknown but important findings have been discovered in the area. In 1961, Father Le Paige found 55 mummies, ten of which with valuable gold ornaments. Later, in 1998, Tamblay and Barón found eight more gold ornaments, at present in the Museum of Father Le Paige in San Pedro.

When construction commenced, local residents protested about the possible damage to the national heritage, even employing two experts, who could find no objections to the continuation of the project. Despite this, rumours of architectural finds in the worksite continued in San Pedro. "We couldn't understand these rumours. All we can say is that nothing was found during construction" explained Droppelmann.

What is certain is that the owners of the hotel sought advice from Lautaro Nuñez, President of the National Archaeological Association, who submitted a report stating that it was impossible that there would be any archaeological remains for two reasons: any remains would have been washed away by the many floods, and, furthermore, the area had been farmed for over 200 years.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr Julian Amey, who has been Director General of Canning House since 1996, will be leaving to pursue his other outside interests. He has agreed to continue as an External Consultant until the end of February 2000, during which time he will be readily available for consultation.

He has been succeeded by Mr. Philip McLean.

LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES' GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by the Anglo-Brazilian Society, the tournament was held at the West Surrey Golf Club on Saturday, 17 June 1999. The forty-two entrants enjoyed a great day with near-perfect weather.

The winners of the various trophies and prizes were as follows:

The Ambassador's Cup – Paul Truitt (Anglo-Argentine Society) with 40 points. (His handicap will be adjusted next year!)

The Argentine Rose Bowl – Ian Peters. (Not a popular victory, as Ian was the organiser!)

The Jangada Trophy – Neri Infante with 29 points.

The Punta Arenas Cup – Andrew Feary with 38 points. (He beat his father, Alan, on a countback.)

The Lan Chile Trophy – Ken Forsythe (Guyana) with 24 points. (And on his first appearance in the tournament!)

Guest Prize – Michael McKendrick with 40 points.

Ladies Prize – Christine Truitt with 33 points. (Didn't the Pruitts do well!)

Longest Drive (Gents) – David Bouch.

Longest Drive (Ladies) – Gillian Feary.

The host for the first tournament of the new millennium will be the Anglo-Chilean Society. The organisers of the tournament would gladly welcome additional entrants next year.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Robert (Bob) Smithson, who died in Santiago on 4 April 1999, aged 94 years.

He was born in Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire and spent his working life of 50 years in banking: in London, Lima, and principally in Chile, when, in 1930, he was posted to Banco Anglo-Sudamericano Ltda. (later the Bank of London and South America) in Iquique. In 1933 he was transferred to the office in Coquimbo and later on to Punta Arenas.

In 1961, he was again transferred to Punta Arenas and remained there until 1965, by which time he was the Branch Manager of BOLSA and also representative of the Anglo-Chilean Society.

He finally retired in 1971 and became Secretary of the Anglo-Chilean Society in London, filling this post until 1986, when he returned to live in Santiago.

Bob had a very active social life in Chile. He was President of the English Club and of the British Academy of the British Council in Iquique. He was founder of the British

School and President of the Boy Scouts of Punta Arenas.

In 1988 the Chilean Government decorated him with the Order of Merit, Bernardo O'Higgins, Grado de Comendador, in gratitude for his patient and disinterested work in the cause of Anglo-Chilean friendship.

Bob is survived by his wife Lina María, his daughters Lina and Patricia and son Edward.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined the Society:

Mr. David Houlton Mizen.
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hayes.
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh J. R. Beveridge.
Miss Elnor Allhusen.
Miss Falastin Shakhtur.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wine Tasting: A tasting of Chilean wines at Canning House is planned for Wednesday, 27 October 1999.

The Sir Leslie Bowes Memorial Lecture: The lecture will take place at Canning House on Monday, 22 November 1999 at 6:30 p.m. This illustrated lecture "Santiago, Quo Vadis?" will be presented by Professor Marcial Echeñique.

Christmas Party: This will be held at Canning House on Thursday, 16 December 1999.

SITUATION VACANT!

Our present Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Peter Heap, will not be standing for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting in May 2000.

So, if you think you have what it takes to fill this post, please contact the Society.

SPANISH – CHILEAN STYLE!

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| A todo trapo: | - | In a big way. |
| | - | In the best style. |
| | - | To spend lots of money to do something with class. |
| A todo cachete: | - | In the best style. |
| | - | Very fast. |
| Al lote | - | Low key. |
| | - | Casual in dress and attitude. |
| | - | Something done carelessly. |
| Al tiro | - | Right away, immediately. |

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