

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - John Naylor

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50th ANNIVERSARY

THE ANGLO-CHILEAN SOCIETY

By Joan Richardson

The idea of forming the Society was conceived during a conversation between don Manuel Bianchi and Arthur Loveday during the course of the Second World War. Don Manuel was Chilean Ambassador in London with a very prominent Diplomatic and social position and a great Anglophile. Arthur Loveday was a friend and admirer of Chile where he had spent twenty of the best years of his life and where all his children were born.

The discussions bore fruit and thanks to don Manuel's enthusiasm the Society was founded on the 19th January 1944. All this took place at a luncheon party at the Chilean Embassy at 3 Hamilton Place, W1. The Ambassador had invited a number of distinguished guests who had interests in or sympathies with Chile. After the lunch it was unanimously decided to form the Anglo-Chilean Society and that those present should form its first General Committee. Officers and an Executive Committee were thereupon elected and don Manuel Bianchi became President and the Earl of Dundonald Chairman. No more suitable appointment could have been made than the representative of Chile and the descendant of the great Admiral Lord Cochrane, the first Admiral of the Chilean Navy, who assisted Chile to her independence by his naval victories over the Spaniards. At the same time Viscount Davidson consented to become Vice-Chairman.

The first General Committee contained representatives of Diplomacy, the British Council, the Ministry of Information, the BBC, as well as important representatives of Banking, Commerce, Shipping and Insurance. This, of course, included The Rt.Hon. Baron Aldenham.

On January 26th the first meeting of the Executive Committee took place when the foundations of the Society were laid down. Mr. Arthur Loveday OBE was elected Honorary General Secretary. During the first months don Gaston Wilson, First Secretary of the Chilean Embassy, acted as Hon. Vice Secretary and on his departure from London was succeeded by don Alvaro Muñoz Arlegui.

The Sub-Committee drafted the rules of the Society, which are those still in force.

Subsequently Lord Davidson was elected Vice-Chairman of the Society and Mr. H. Burns and Santiago Rogers elected Treasurer.

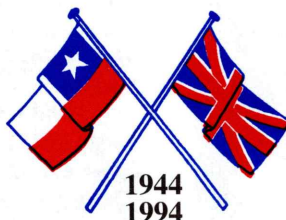
From the very beginning of the Society a pamphlet called "Chilean News" was published under the joint control of the Chilean Embassy and the Society as the official organ of the Anglo-Chilean Society. It was first published fortnightly and subsequently once a month under the direction of don Santiago Rogers. After the acquisition of members in Chile an edition in Spanish was also published.

During the first year (1944) of the life of the Society the activities were, of necessity, restricted as the World War continued. However the following activities took place:

Chilean Navy Day 21 May celebrated at the Embassy.

The first Dieciocho luncheon at the Dorchester Hotel with 150 people present.

An exhibition of books and pictures and a musical recital of Chilean music arranged by Señora Paz Larrain de Subercaseaux in



conjunction with the British Council.

An offer to the Chilean Naval School of a yearly prize of a naval sword of the Chilean pattern made by Wilkinson Sword Company to be called the "Premio Cochrane" and with an inscription saying "Obsequio de la Anglo Chilean Society, Londres", now known as the Sword of Honour to be presented to the best cadet of the year.

In 1945 the Executive Committee decided that, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the war,

the Society would send the Hon. General Secretary on a mission to Chile with the object of recruiting members and obtaining adequate support and co-operation from Chilean businesses and the Chilean Government.

The Hon. General Secretary left England in September 1945 and returned in March 1946. He had considerable success due to support and encouragement from both Chilean and British people. The most outstanding was don Jorge Vidal of the Nitrate Corporation of Chile who supplied the Secretary with both office and secretary.

The Society was very fortunate in obtaining many important and prominent representatives and much encouragement from all quarters in Chile, proving how deep are the traditional bonds of Anglo-Chilean friendship.

Starting with zero membership in 1944 the membership increased to 2,000 by 1959.

During the fifty years of interesting and prominent activities and personalities it would be impossible to single out any one, but speaking for myself, the wonderful evening when members were given the opportunity of visiting the beautiful training ship "Esmeralda" organized by the then Ambassador Victor Santa Cruz in 1968 remains a treasured memory.

So many prominent people, both British and Chilean, contributed to the on going success of the Anglo Chilean Society. It would be impossible to name them all but with the recent death of Leslie Pountney we are reminded of the many years of devoted service and wisdom he gave to the Society.

DIECIOCHO DINNER

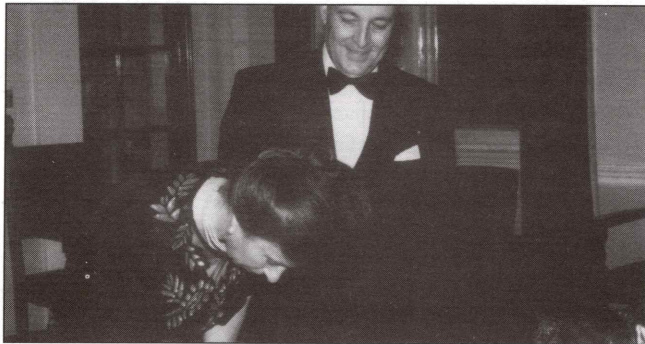
This was held at the Naval and Military Club on 28th September and was attended by no less than 201 members and their guests. Graced by HRH The Princess Royal as guest of honour it was one of our most successful events.

The Princess was received by the Chilean Ambassador H.E. Sr.

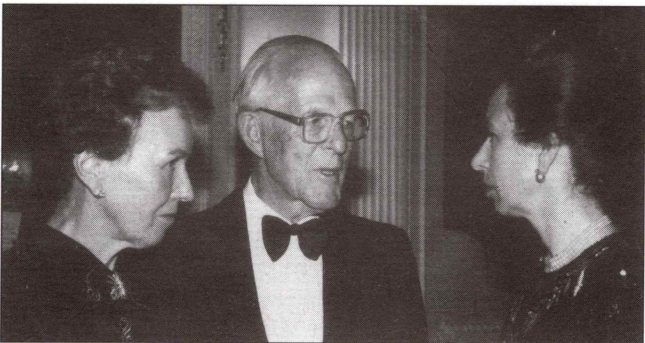


HRH The Princess Royal being received at the Naval and Military Club by H.E. Sr. Hernán Errázuriz & Sra. Carmen Errázuriz

Hernán Errázuriz and Sra. Carmen Errázuriz, the Chairman of the Society Mr. John Hickman and Mrs. Hickman and Honorary Vice-President the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. The Chairman then introduced her to the members of the Executive Committee and their wives during pre-dinner drinks. Toasts were proposed to the Queen by H.E. Sr. Hernán Errázuriz and to the President of Chile by the Chairman, who then gave the following address:



HRH signing the visitor's book with H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz



Mr & Mrs David Nock with HRH

Your Royal Highness, Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. This is a great occasion for the Anglo Chilean Society. First and foremost of course we have the enormous pleasure of welcoming Her Royal Highness as our Guest of Honour. On behalf of the Committee and all our members here tonight, and I might also say on behalf of all friends of Chile, we thank you very much indeed for being here.

It is especially appropriate that this evening coincides almost exactly with the second anniversary of your visit to Chile in September, 1991. We did try and persuade you to attend this time last year, but it did not prove possible, but this year is perhaps even better because it is our half centennial, the 50th time our Society has come together to celebrate Chile's independence and the long and happy friendship between the Chilean and British people.

Strictly speaking Independence Day in Chile is the 18th September, Dieciocho, but my recollection, and I am sure many of you have the same experience, that the party could last several days, and it usually did, so we are not too late tonight. The Dieciocho dinner is the climax of our year in the Society, and your presence Your Royal Highness here tonight makes this the most notable Dieciocho in our history.

The Ambassador will, I believe, be talking to us about the state of the Anglo-Chilean relations in general. I will simply say that the Anglo Chilean Society, which has been a very important part of that relationship, was founded in January 1944 under the presidency of the then Chilean Ambassador don Manuel Bianchi. The list of founders contains many other well known Chilean/British names, some of which are still represented among us - Cooper, Cochrane, Richardson, Subercaseaux and Jenkins, one of the guests here tonight whose father was a founder member.

Our object then and now is quite simply to cement and foment friendly relations between Chilean and British people and to bring

into contact with each other all people having a common interest in connection with the two countries. There is no better cause than friendship between nations, and we celebrate ours well and truly tonight.

The Princess Royal, accomplished speaker that she is, then gave an account of her impressions during her recent visit to Chile. She began by apologizing for not accepting the Society's invitation last year, and then proceeded as follows:

There are a lot of happy memories to my visit to Chile and in fact I don't think I have every been better briefed for a visit to any country, and there is no doubt that I have grown up with the echoes of the satisfaction of my parent's visit to Chile and our subsequent visit.

Members of society in Chile who had an enormous enthusiasm for Chile, the country and the people, took great care to make sure that I knew the right sort of things and what to expect. So it was a rare occurrence for me to arrive in a country quite so well briefed as I was. In some respects I don't look for these things when I go abroad, but rather like to feel countries with an open mind without it being coloured in for me by other people's experiences. The reception I received and the people I met and the interest of all the places I went to could not have been more exciting and more true. It was a very enjoyable visit in every conceivable way and very impressive.

I don't know why it is that the British have always felt so comfortable in Chile, but there is no doubt that they do. The names of course will give you a clue and the historical buildup of the interest in industry were evident wherever I went, and not least in Concepción in the dockyards. The individuals I met in the dockyards, of English background, were apprentices who had gone out to work on a specific job and have been there ever since. And the story is the same up and down the country of British people who went to Chile for a particular job and stayed, and have been made to feel very much part of the country and part of the nation. And it really shows just how happy they are to be there. And for a guest it is one of the easiest places in the world to live in.

I visited quite a considerable amount of the country. I went to the north to Putre. I was fascinated by the country and the lifestyle of the people, and also had the quite extraordinary experience of walking in the valley of the moon. But there was so much there that was fascinating. As far south as I got was Concepción, a different timescale and a different sort of background. But I believe that gave me some idea of the traditions and strengths of the country and the geography and the climate, and it was a fascinating experience. What is important is, as I said, the British feel so comfortable going to Chile and the Chileans feel so comfortable having them in their own country. This friendship has been carried on and this is where the Anglo Chilean Society has played such an important part. There are many people who take part in the Society's function and who have done so in connection with having been there in the past.

This is a small contribution to say thank you to my hosts for such an enjoyable visit and I hope that those of you who have volunteered to come and live in this country for various reasons have felt as comfortable here as the British who have moved to Chile have been. To the Anglo Chilean Society may I say thank you for maintaining this atmosphere. That is quite an achievement.

It is my great pleasure to propose a toast to the Anglo Chilean Society.

The Chilean Ambassador then rose and made the following address:

Your Royal Highness, Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is indeed a pleasure, and an honour, to warmly welcome you all this evening to our annual dinner.

May I thank Your Royal Highness for joining us on this, our 50th Anniversary, and for kindly addressing the members and

guests of the Anglo- Chilean Community.

During the last stages of the war a distinguished group of British and Chilean companies created the Anglo Chilean Society. Their aim was to promote and facilitate trade and understanding between our two countries during those difficult years.

This was not because relations were weak and in need of renewal. It was because the war had severely damaged and disrupted the previously established links within the commercial framework, which had originally permitted both countries to enjoy a very significant relation.

Chile and the United Kingdom had been long standing allies during the war. Furthermore, we Chileans had been subsidising the price of copper which, as you all know, is our main export. The 1945 victory of our allies was also our victory, and we were anxious to participate in the restructuring of the "New Order" which was to be created.

Our active involvement in the establishing of the U.N. Treaty in San Francisco in 1945, and our participation at Bretton Woods the previous year, confirmed our dedication to world peace and our commitment toward healthy trade and foreign investment relations.

This commitment is deeply rooted in the souls of the people of my country and we wanted to share these feelings in times when peace and trade had been terribly affected and threatened.

Fifty years on, tonight, I wanted to stress that these feelings have not changed and that our commitment to peace and freedom continues and is as strong as ever.

The old friendship between Chile and Britain goes back to the beginning of our Independence. It was here, in London, that the Liberator of Chile met with many other Latin American patriots and dreamt of, for the first time, the emancipation of the American Spanish Colonies.

Admiral Cochrane, who became the First Sea Lord of the newly born Chilean Navy, contributed enormously to the establishment and development of Chile as an independent modern nation.

Chile and the United Kingdom have walked together along the path of freedom and democracy, and now that we have emphasized our historic dedication to political plurality, these links have been further strengthened and have reached ever higher levels.

The official visit of His Excellency President Aylwin to Britain in April of 1991, followed by Your Royal Highness's visit to Chile the same year, are the best indications of the new peak that has been reached in our long standing and strengthening bond.

The every increasing flow of Chilean ministers visiting Britain, and the recent visit of The Right Honourable Mr. Michael Portillo, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to our country last month, have considerably and importantly contributed to the present level of close bilateral contacts, increased trade and investment.

Furthermore, as a result of these visits, I am happy to say that I foresee a new spirit working towards commercial interaction between British and Chilean companies and especially dealing with programmes in the Mining Industry and the infrastructural plans for the future.

I hope that in the next few months I will be in a position to announce the specific projects that are now in progress or in final stages of completion, and in which I am sure British participation and technology will play an important role.

Last May, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State, emphasized that "there has been a revolution in Latin America". This is true.

In Chile, European entrepreneurial skills have married well with the tenacity and energy of the original inhabitants. Religion and common origin unit us rather than divide us. This is not only among Chileans but also among many other Latin American countries. That is why our relations with our neighbours are also going through a transitional period, and why all potential points of conflict have already found a suitable solution.

We have today a better relationship with our neighbours than ever before.

With Argentina we are looking to interrelate our infrastruc-

ture. We are already strong investors in their energy systems and we are striving to bridge the gap by joining our roads and building a new pipeline which will traverse the Andes.

In only a brief period of time we have become important investors in the Pension Fund System of Peru and we have plans to establish new business in other countries.

At the same time we are participating in the United Nation's peace keeping operations and we are active members of all International Forums.

Chile is a country facing the Pacific, the most important Ocean in the world. We have the ports and facilities which enable Argentina and Brazil to export their produce to China, Korea, Japan and Singapore.

We are no longer at the end of the world. We are the pathway to that vast Ocean, and the way to reach its markets. At the same time, since we have a stable political system and an experienced team managing the economy, we have become the port for many Japanese companies which want to expand into South America.

But, to continue growing, we need the involvement of the European Community and, more specifically, we need the knowledge and co-operation of the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom is not only our most important partner in the European Economy. It is, above all, our oldest friend.

It is for this reason that, once again, the futures of Chile and the U.K. are united.



Mrs Heather Midgley, her father Mr Alan White, Mrs María Angélica Shaw and Mr Peter Shaw



Mrs John Hickman and Miss Morven Hutchison, MBE



Capitán de Navío Salvador Basté & Mrs Cristina Willans with HRH

SIR LESLIE BOWES MEMORIAL LECTURE

This was delivered on 19th October at Canning House by Professor John Fisher, Director, Institute of Latin American Studies at Liverpool University, and was entitled "British Travellers in South America Since Independence".

He began by saying what a pleasure and honour it was to be invited to deliver the lecture in 1993 which marked the centenary of Sir Leslie's birth. It also marked the 25th anniversary of his return from his first visit to South America which ended by a sea voyage from Buenos Aires to Southampton on the Royal Mail ship "Arlanza", thereby providing him with an extremely tenuous link with Sir Leslie who was Chairman and Managing Director of Royal Mail Lines from 1960 to 1965. That visit involved three months in Peru and a shorter stay in Buenos Aires, and the return voyage, with his wife and son, lasted 23 days and cost £229-18-00. It also taught him a great deal about South America, and that Buenos Aires and the highlands of Peru were not just different countries but different worlds.

He encountered difficulties in obtaining access to documents in the archive of the Ministry of Finance and Trade in Lima, arising not from any ill-will on the part of the Director, but from the archive's location in the basement of the Palace of Justice to which access was provided by a narrow staircase which also led to the prison where inmates languished for years before being brought to trial. In the provinces life was more relaxed, but the state of the archives was even more primitive. In Huancavelica for instance the Mayor had found the room in which the archives were located and he was invited to read any documents seated in the town square. In Cuzco copying facilities of a sort were available in that the investigators were allowed to take documents out of the archives in order to catch a bus to the centre of the city to have photocopies made.

He was conscious of the enormous privilege that he enjoyed in being able to undertake extended periods of research in Peru, first in 1968 and subsequently on six further occasions and more recently in Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile and Colombia. These visits were made possible by the expansion of academic activity from the late 1960's which drew attention to the growing importance of Latin America in the world political scene, and of the need for Britain to seek to re-establish the influence in the region that it enjoyed until the early 20th century. Old ties with England, together with the attitude of Great Britain towards Latin American independence and the part played by individual Englishmen, Scotsmen and Irishmen in the wars of independence are well remembered, and many aspects of English life, notably education, are regarded with respect and even with admiration.

These advantages of goodwill and respect were largely outweighed by the prevailing ignorance of Latin American affairs in Great Britain, an ignorance manifested by linguistic incompetence and the survival of a wholly out-of-date nineteenth-century image of Latin America which the desultory and sometimes inexpert coverage of Latin American affairs in much of the press does little to correct. If British contact with Latin America is to be closer and more fruitful it is a matter of urgency that the prevailing prejudice and ignorance should be dispelled and the appearance of indifference corrected.

Insofar as British attitudes are concerned a brief scrutiny of the travel literature of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries bears out the justice of this observation concerning the aloofness of the British business community in South America.

In 1908 for example Reginald Enock, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, who had travelled widely in Peru, succeeded in combining in his account of his experiences the prejudices of his Victorian predecessors about the country's Spanish, Catholic past, with the belief of his contemporaries in the importance of economic growth and modernisation on the Anglo-Saxon model. "The Republic of Peru", he wrote, "had endured its baptism of sword and priestcraft. But the Peruvian is losing some

of the evil conditions which were grafted upon his country by his progenitors. The three main causes which have dominated the community to their hurt have been political methods, militarism and clericalism; but these are now giving way to the principles of fair government which the inexorable march of civilisation demands."

John Brown, who sailed to Peru in the late 1940's, probably takes the prize for bad taste when, among other contemptuous observations, he considered the Indians of Peru, with their vacant looks and brutishness, about as intelligent as alpacas.

Frank McShane talks of the amused superiority displayed by many British travellers and residents since the period of independence. Christopher Isherwood wrote of expatriates in Ecuador in "The Condor and the Cows", a work based upon his travels through South America in the late 1940's:

"The worst of it is, the foreigner cannot help being bossy, or at best benevolently schoolmasterish. He has his own ideas of efficiency, his own method of doing things; it is hard for him to accept another tempo, another approach. Deep down in his heart he is apt to have a slight sense of grievance. He has come to this country - it isn't his home and he is sometimes lonely and uncomfortable - and he feels in his wistful, less reasonable moments, that he has made a sacrifice. He would like just a little gratitude. Now and again he gets it. More often his thanks are only of the polite official sort. He is chilled and discouraged".

This sense of failure and disillusion, coupled with a distaste for local customs, shows clearly through much of the literature of the first half of the 19th century, and even that of the second half when many Britons resided in South America as merchants and representatives of the banks and insurance and public utility companies which by that period dominated the local economic infrastructure. For example Edward Temple, who travelled widely in Peru and Bolivia for the Potosí, La Paz and Peruvian Mining Association before its collapse in 1826 published a jaundiced account of his experiences in 1830, blaming irresponsible and greedy Peruvian politicians. Gilbert Mathison, who visited Brazil, Chile and Peru in the early 1820's was similarly unimpressed as was Francis Head, a former officer of the Royal Engineers and who managed the Río de la Plata Mining Association from 1825 to 1826.

Temple, Mathison and Head were typical of many such British visitors to Latin America in the 1820's, and their jaundiced accounts tended to bring a new realism to British attitudes towards South America in the late 1820's.

A similar function was served by the published works of the first wave of British diplomats, despatched by Canning in 1824 to prepare the ground for formal recognition of the new republics. Their accounts provide very detailed pictures of the local political and economic conditions in the 1820's; they also confirm prevalent British attitudes towards Catholicism and Spanish colonialism. For example, John Hamilton, who served as the first British commissioner in Colombia, and whose account of his travels was published in London in 1827 attributed those aspects of Colombian life which displeased him to the influence of Spanish colonialism and especially the power of the Catholic Church.

"It is not easy," he wrote, "to eradicate immediately from the minds of the people their former prejudices and bad habits, which had been encouraged and fostered by the cunning and artifice for which the Spanish priesthood have always been notorious, experience showing that these prejudices habituate the minds of the people to contribute largely to the temporal comforts of the monks and priests."

The remarkable upsurge in British travellers accounts of South America in the 1820's contrasts with the paucity of such literature for the period prior to the British invasion of Río de La Plata in 1806. British interest in the new world had been strong of course from the 16th century onwards, but was satisfied primarily not by first hand accounts of British travellers, but by translations into English of Spanish and Portuguese books. In the 16th century Spanish and Portuguese translations were published in England to stimulate journeys to South America. However narratives of the

Conquest provided a somewhat dated impression of Spanish America, brought up to date only by the occasional accounts of pirates attacking Spanish settlements and shipwrecked sailors who fell into the hands of the Inquisition. One 17th century English work was Thomas Gage's "The English American", first published in 1648. He had travelled widely in Mexico in the 1620's and 1630's as a member of the Dominican Order.

In the 18th century Spain's Bourbon kings opened up their empire to a growing number of scientists and explorers. These were Germans and Scandinavians who were brought in as technical advisers, the most famous being Alexander von Humboldt. Throughout this period the only British subjects welcomed in Spanish America were traders who produced little by way of travel accounts, or Irish and Scottish Catholics serving in the Spanish Army.

John Byron, grandfather of the poet, was imprisoned first in Chiloé and later in Santiago following the wreck of his ship "Wager" during the 1740 Anson expedition to the Pacific. He provided a charming account of the city of Santiago. There were superficial accounts from the new breed of Pacific explorers such as George Anson who occasionally attacked isolated Spanish settlements, but otherwise did not penetrate the mainland.

Other authors and publishers were sometimes less than frank with the public about the nature of the products being offered to them. For example Joseph Skinner's "The Present State of Peru" gave the impression of being based upon direct observation, but were in fact direct translations of articles published in the Lima "Mercurio Peruano" in the 1790's. The same can be said of works by John Davie on Paraguay and Thomas Lindley on Brazil.

Politicians, naval commanders and merchants began to take more seriously the oft-repeated insistence of the veteran Venezuelan revolutionary Francisco de Miranda that the Spanish colonies of the new world would welcome with open arms British attempts to free them from Spain.

The immediate consequence of these commercial and strategic ambitions was the 1806 British invasion of Buenos Aires which came to an end in 1807 when General John Whitelock surrendered his army of 9000 men to the "porteños". This provided his officers with an opportunity to view South American society from the inside during their relatively comfortable captivity, first in the viceregal capital and subsequently in the interior. When these men returned to England several of them published accounts of their experiences, and thus initiated a wave of travel literature.

A decade later, in 1818, the account of his experiences as a prisoner-of-war in the Río de la Plata written by Alexander Gillespie, a former major in the Royal Marines, came onto the market as public interest in military matters in South America reached a high pitch following the departure for Venezuela in 1817 of the five regiments of volunteers which comprised the British Legion.

Another valuable source on Chile, as on Brazil, is Maria Graham, the only woman who wrote of her travels in this early period. Undaunted by the death of her first husband, Captain Thomas Graham, off Cape Horn in 1822 Maria continued alone to Chile where she met San Martin, O'Higgins and Cochrane. She returned to England via Brazil where she remained until October 1823 as tutor to Doña Maria, the daughter of Emperor Pedro I. Her view of Brazilian society as a somewhat patrician one, but provides a fascinating account of the political rivalries of the time.

The outstanding work by naval officers is the narrative published in 1836 by William Smyth and Frederick Lowe who led an expedition to the interior of Peru to investigate the possibility of navigable communication to the Atlantic by means of the Pachita, Ucayali and Amazon rivers. Its principle value lies in the very detailed account they provide of their visit in 1834 to the mining centre of Cerro de Pasco, which was slowly beginning to recover from the virtual collapse of silver production during the final stages of the struggle for Peruvian independence.

Colonel Francis Hall who, having gone to Venezuela in 1817 as a member of the Irish Legion, remained in Colombia after independence as a government hydrographer and wrote "Colombia - its

Present State" in 1824.

The outstanding military memoir of the period is "The Memoirs of General William Miller", published in 1828 by his brother John from his journals and recollections. William Miller had fought with the Royal Artillery in Spain during the Peninsular War, and his illustrious career in South America included action in Chile and the command of the Marines on Cochrane's flagship, and the patriot cavalry at the battle of Ayacucho. He praised the valor, constancy and natural benevolence of the Peruvian, Chilean and Argentine peasantry and soldiery.

A further important category embraces merchants, whose outstanding representatives as narrators were the Scottish brothers John and William Parish Robertson, authors of "Letters on Paraguay" in 1838-39 and "Letters on South America" in 1843. Despite the popularity of their works and, indeed, a considerable British influence in Paraguay, other visitors to the country emphasized British ignorance rather than Paraguayan isolation. For example Sir Richard Burton, who visited the country in 1868 and 1869, during the last stages of the Paraguayan War, while resident for four years in Brazil, remarked in 1870 when he returned to Britain:

"I found blankness of face whenever the word Paraguay was named, and a general confession of utter ignorance and hopeless lack of interest. It speaks little for popular geography when we read year after year such headings as "Hostilities on the River Plate", whereas the campaign was never fought within 300 miles of the Río de la Plata. Many indeed were uncertain whether it formed part of North or South America, and it is, I need hardly say, impossible to take any interest about the fortunes of a race whose habitat is unknown".

Of the missionaries the most influential was Allen Gardiner who visited Valparaiso in 1822 as a young naval officer. His 1840 book, "A Visit to the Indians on the Frontier of Chile", was designed mainly to interest an apathetic British public in spreading the word of God to "our perishing brother", the Patagonian Indian. His second book, published in 1847, "A Voice from South America" followed his foundation of the Patagonian Missionary Society in 1844.

One of Gardiner's backers was Robert Fitzroy, editor of an 1839 narrative of surveying voyages along the coasts of South America between 1826 and 1836. He is particularly well known of course as the captain of HMS Beagle, which carried Charles Darwin around the sub-continent between 1832 and 1836. Darwin himself published accounts of the zoology of the voyage in 1840 to 1843, and of his geological observations in 1846. George Gardner published an account of his botanical investigations in Brazil, and Charles Waterton's 1825 report was of his researches as a naturalist in Venezuela.

The golden age of the British scientific traveller in South America was undoubtedly the second half of the nineteenth century when, for example, the geographer Sir Clements Markham produced works of great distinction on Peru, and the botanists Henry Walter Bates, Richard Spruce and Henry Russell Wallace undertook extensive expeditions in the vast Amazon basin. Their tradition was continued in the twentieth century by scholars such as Christopher Sandeman who travelled widely in Peru in the 1930's and 1940's collecting specimens of plant life for the Herbaria of Kew Gardens and Oxford University, and whose 1948 book "A Wanderer In Inca Land" provides a sympathetic account not only of the country's flora and fauna but also of its people.

Traveller's accounts are sometimes the only substantial sources available for the study of not only economic and social conditions in South America, but also of the region's political history, notwithstanding the attitude of "amused superiority". In fact travel literature produced by British visitors to the different states, if analyzed carefully, is one of the most revealing mirrors of British attitudes towards religion, race, politics and social organization in the nineteenth century.

EXHIBITION OF CHILEAN TAPESTRIES

By Georgina Roberts

An exhibition of embroidery painting took place in November at Canning House, organised by the Chilean Naval Mission in London.

Five years ago a group of talented ladies from Viña del Mar led by their tutor, Mrs. Vicenta Salas, started developing an original and unique embroidery technique by performing the art of painting with a needle and thread. From a distance one has the impression of being in front of an oil painting, and it is only when one gets up close that the very fine stitching can be seen.

The emphasis of the exhibition was to recreate the masterpieces of famous Chilean painters. Among the exhibitors was Pamela Gallegos, wife of the Assistant Naval Attaché, Captain Alex Waghorn. Captain Waghorn opened the exhibition which was followed by a reception attended by H. E. the Chilean Ambassador and Señora Errázuriz, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, executives of Chile Copper (Codelco) and special guests.



The artist Pamela Gallegos with some of her exhibits

CHRISTMAS REUNION

By Georgina Roberts

The Chilean Ladies in London got together on 10th December for a Christmas celebration offered by Mrs. Luz-Patricia Berardi, wife of the then Chilean Naval Attaché, Admiral Berardi. It was the most brilliant and best attended function of the year, with everyone having great fun and marvelling at the layout of mouth-watering preparations.

There was an exchange of presents, with Monica Seeman playing the part of Santa Claus.

On a sadder note, it was also an occasion to say farewell to our hostess, as well as Pamela Waghorn, Alicia Cofré and Gladys Basté, all returning back to Chile.

The gathering had, as special guest, Sra. Ella de Parra, wife of the Chilean Ambassador in Sweden.

THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY

By Ester de Toro

For the first time in the history of the Anglo Chilean Society it was decided to eliminate the annual Christmas party in December and hold a New Year's party instead on 13th January. There was some objection on the grounds that the turnout would be low, but actually 100 people attended, and it was a good party.

The flower arrangements were made by Peggy Hart and Henny Subercaseaux and our special thanks go to them for a stunning display which included the traditional Chilean mimosa.

Petronella once again produced her excellent pisco sour and with the empanadas and other "bocaditos" the material well being of the guests was well cared for.

The Raffle took place at 8pm and the tickets were drawn by Mrs. Carmen Errázuriz. The first prize went to John Naylor, our

editor, who could not come forward to receive it as he was vacationing in Australia. The second prize went to Craig Biss, who also was not present and the third prize was won by Sydney Jones. Prizes were also won by J. M. Cole, P. Halsey, J. Davies, J. S. Young, C. R. Lloyd, Michael Heller, S. Dequin, C. H. Hirst, J. D. Huntley and G. Baker.

A special feature of the party was the presence of a group of young students from the St. John's School of Concepcion who were accompanied by their teacher Jorge Lillo. Their presence lent a special sparkle to the party.



Teacher Jorge Lillo & pupils from St. John's School in Concepcion with Mr Michael Cannon, Mrs Carmen Errázuriz & Mr John Hickman



Mr Michael Cannon, Mr John Hickman, Miss Morven Hutchinson MBE & Mrs Carmen Errázuriz

BOOK REVIEW BY JOHN HICKMAN

UNEXPECTED BEAUTY IN THE WILDERNESS
(from The Daily Telegraph of 15th January, 1994)

TRAVELS IN A THIN COUNTRY: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHILE

By Sara Wheeler

Little, Brown, £18.99

Chileans are wonderfully hospitable and Sara Wheeler fell on her feet when she decided to write about them. As she frankly acknowledges, she had a lot of help from many people there, not only Chileans but also a variety of resident and transient gringos. *TRAVELS IN A THIN COUNTRY* is the lively and sympathetic record of her six months' peregrination.

The Chilean Air Force and the Police took her to Antarctica and to the extreme south of Tierra del Fuego. Bolivian truckers brought her down from the 15,000 foot heights, the Altiplano, where Chile, Peru, and Bolivia meet. In and around Santiago she fell in more often with the wealthy but also took care to visit the "poblaciones" (shanty towns) of the capital where the poorest live in primitive conditions which still exist within the spectacularly successful Chilean economy.

Sara Wheeler is at her best when she gets away from the conventional gringo trail and trusts her own good sense rather than the recycled opinions of others. She catches the elusive character

of Chileans and the unexpected beauty of those remote places which travel books seldom reach.

For example, the wilderness of the XI Region, south of the 45th parallel; the 1,000 miles of desert, north of the 30th; the weird folklore and magnificent wooden churches; the islands of Juan Fernandez where pirates took their rest and Alexander Selkirk was marooned.

Away from the polluted and over-developed Santiago, the central valley of Chile is gloriously underpopulated. Evidently Wheeler was not so attracted by this agricultural heartland originally settled by the conquistadors where much of the country's wealth still originates and the old Chilean way of life flourishes. But she covered most of the ground and this is a perceptive, notably well-written introduction to the country.

The occasional excursions into Chile's recent history and its contorted politics are the least convincing parts of the book, but there are interesting comments on the positions of the Roman Catholic and other churches, and much else.

Travel books should above all be personal. Whenever she speaks from her own knowledge, Sara Wheeler is very well worth reading.

SPREADING A LITTLE HAPPINESS

By Georgina Roberts

As 1993 came to an end I travelled to Chile for the holiday season. At the same time I took with me the fruits of a year of hard work by people who gave their time and money to help those less fortunate.

An invitation by the Hermanas Dominicis Misioneras Sagrada Familia de Chile set me on my way to San Esteban, a rural community in the Province of Los Andes, where there is a project to create an old people's home for those who are destitute and abandoned.

After a hearty lunch of cazuela de ave and pastel de choclo, Mother Puri (short for Purification) jumped behind the steering wheel of her pick-up and drove us through the winding dusty roads and beautiful scenery to Campos de Ahumada, located 1,700 metres above sea level. There lives Humberto Muñoz Ramirez, Doctor in Theology, and now a retired secular priest, who dreams of another Pomaire. His idea of creating a workshop to use the abundance of clay in the area and the talent of the locals got off to a fine start, but foundered because of lack of funds.

My trip to San Esteban ended with a visit to the rehabilitation centre for alcoholics and drug addicts, hoping that one day I will be able to return with help for such worthy causes.

I had only a couple of hours to make my way down to Valparaíso for an interview with Monsignor Jorge Bosagna, Director General of the Refugio de Cristo. This organization shelters 820 children in eight different homes in Valparaíso, Viña del Mar, Quilpué, Limache, Quillota and Calera. Last year Refugio de Cristo celebrated its 40th anniversary. Since its foundation it has helped 21,000 children in need. I was able to give Monsignor Bosagna the good news that he would shortly be receiving 7000 Swiss Francs (£3300), most generously donated by Mrs. Gaby Gadelius on behalf of the Chilean Ladies in London.

Not even the beauty of Viña del Mar at the peak of the season could make me prolong my stay, since there was still much to be done.

I left, by bus, for La Serena with a heavy load of writing materials for rural schools in the Elqui Valley. My target was Monte Grande, birthplace of the poetess Gabriela Mistral, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945.

The valley awaited me with its vineyards and its wheat and maize fields refreshed by the Elqui river. The scent of the eucalyptus filled the air.

I entered the picturesque town of Vicuña anxious to learn the whereabouts of a good friend from University with whom I had lost all contact. Her brother, who now runs both of the local pharmacies, told me of her new life in Venezuela and how I had just missed

her by three days!

We left Vicuña behind to start the steep climb to Monte Grande. With some trepidation we crossed the rickety Gabriela Mistral bridge and soon found ourselves descending the Quinto pass flanked by vineyards and poplar trees, before arriving in Monte Grande in the full heat of the day.

The spirit of Gabriela was everywhere. Her tomb, on top of a hill, looks down on the Elqui valley. The school where she taught, a room with two rows of four benches and bare walls, is still there and is now part of the National Heritage.

In honour of Gabriela's devotion to children and brilliant literary career, it gave me enormous pleasure to leave some of my cargo in the school of Monte Grande which is named after her.

A short break in La Serena was necessary before setting out to find Altovalsol, a rural village of adobe houses and unpaved streets where the beneficiary of the rest of my cargo was the Escuela General Básica.

I left La Serena, heading north, in the dark and still of the night to wake up the following morning in the region of the deserts where the scorching sun reigns supreme and the different shades of brown and ochre have a breathtaking beauty. I was returning to Antofagasta after an absence of 15 years to present a cheque for US\$700.00 to the Hermanas Misioneras de la Caridad and the fifty elderly people in their care, on behalf of the Chilean Ladies in London.

It was an uplifting experience to see all those well-worn faces smiling and to hear their applause of gratitude. The money will be used to buy bed linen and blankets as well as curtains, since they are badly needed.

On my return to Santiago I still had one more delivery of writing materials to make. It went to Escuela Hogar San Miguel in Colina.

I came back to England with my mission accomplished, and hoping to be able to repeat it in the future.

OBITUARIES

LIEUT.COMMANDER J. F. MICHELL RN.

His death was reported in our last issue.

The son of Sir Robert Michell, British Ambassador to Chile in the 1930's and Lady Margarita Michell (Nee Gana Edwards), Jack Michell was a member and supporter of the Anglo-Chilean Society all his adult life. He served with distinction in the Royal Navy throughout the Second World War, seeing action in the submarine campaigns in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. He rose to command his own submarine. After the war he left the Navy and entered commercial life, working for ICI and CIL in the Caribbean, Central and South America. His funeral took place at the Brompton Oratory on 21st April. He leaves his wife Mary, his three sons and daughter and nine grandchildren.

The Society regrets to report the death, on August 28th, of Guy M. Watson, formerly of the Bank of England and a Life Member.

C. L. POUNTNEY

The Society regrets to report the death of Leslie Pountney which occurred on December 31st at the age of 93.

Born in Worcester, the eldest of five children, he joined the Royal Flying Corps towards the end of the 1914-18 war. His family moved to Shropshire and his first post-war job was with Barclays Bank in Much Wenlock.

He married Nesta Tutton of Shrewsbury in 1925, and their early married life was in Argentina where he spent 11 years in a bank in Buenos Aires. They moved to Chile in 1936 where he helped to merge two British banks at the time of deep recession there. For the next 24 years, and until his retirement, Leslie managed the Bank of London and South America in both Valparaiso and then Concepcion.

During the Second World War he organized fund raising for British expatriates and those arriving from occupied countries. He was co-founder of a British girls school, St. Margaret's, named

after his daughter, Margaret Ann.

For the last 10 years Leslie was Honorary British Consul and continued to promote trade and cultural ties between Chile and the UK. In recognition of this he was awarded the OBE in 1959, before retiring to Surrey.

On returning to England he was invited to become Secretary of the Anglo-Chilean Society in London. During 1960 to 1970 he helped to organise such important functions as the State visit of the Chilean President in 1967, and likewise the reciprocal visit of the Queen to Chile in the following year. Through the Society Leslie's prime aim was to promote Chile in the UK through links both economic and cultural. This met with great success and he was decorated with the Order of Merit by the Chilean Government.

His wife died in 1968 and in 1970 he moved to Worthing, continuing both his close links with the Society and also becoming Chairman of the Worthing branch of the Children's Society, to which both he and his second wife, Chris, gave continuous active support.

He also found time to be a Friend of the Connaught Theatre and gave practical fund raising support to the local Conservative Party. For many years he was a member of the Shropshire Society and the Shrewsbury Flower Show, and attended until recently.

With Leslie's lively, active mind he loved to converse, be it on politics, gardening, the arts or his beloved Chile. He had 93 active years, and he will be sadly missed not only by family and friends but also by the Society.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

26th April - Annual General Meeting at Canning House.

9th June - A riverboat trip on the Thames with dinner and dancing to celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary.

23rd June - Annual Anglo Latin American Golf Tournament at West Surrey Golf Club, Enton Green, Godalming, hosted by our Society.

21st September - Cocktail party to celebrate the "Dieciocho", venue to be announced later.

19th October - Sir Leslie Bowes Memorial Lecture.

NEWS OF OLD FRIENDS

I visited Canberra during my recent trip to Australia and had the great pleasure of having lunch with H.E. Sr Ambassador Fernando Zegers and his wife at their Residence. They had just returned from Chile where they had accompanied the President following his official visit to Australia. They sent warmest regards to their friends in the Society.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. George Adams and Mrs. Ana Cristana Cortés

Mr. Hussein Barma

Admiral and Mrs. Hugo Bruna

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chapman

Mr. Patricio E. Díaz

Mr. Guillermo Echeverría

Ms. Emma Jane Edwards

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Edwardes

Dr. Valerie Fifer

Mr. Richard J. Gribbin

Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Hafemann

Dr. John Heckmatt and Mrs. Gloria Navarrete

Mr. and Mrs. David J. F. Noble

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Neilson

Mr. Lindsey John O'Callaghan

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Graham Payne

Mr. Peter J. Shallcross

Mr. Hugo Vits

NEWS FROM SANTIAGO

A report was received from Jonathan Callund on the annual presentation of the Swords of Honour to the outstanding cadets. They were presented by:

Ambassador Frank Wheeler for the Army cadet

Carlos Chubretovich for the Navy cadet

Gonzalo Serrano for the Air Force cadet

Monica La May for the Carabineros cadet.



At the sword presentation ceremony Sub. Lieut Eduardo Sueyras, Alférez Humberto Fernández, The British Ambassador Frank Wheeler & Midshipman Raúl Silva

The swords as usual were much appreciated.

The ceremony took place at the Ambassador's residence and refreshments were served. In addition to the four cadets and their parents, there was a good turnout of some 25 members and their wives and special guests.

Nothing of note happened during the summer break. There was a good turnout at the last lunch on 4th January during which the English essay prize winners received their prizes. Bob Kay, the General Manager of British Airways was there to present the first prize - a return ticket to London. The second prize was a hard-back copy of "The Works of Shakespeare" which was donated by the Society in London.

The title of the essay competition last year was "The Beatles and their impact on popular culture on the 60's", and the winner was Gabriella Vega Julia of The International School in La Serena. The runner up was Annie Gutierrez of St. Pauls's School in Vina del Mar.

Dr. MALCOLM TROUP

The Catholic University was the scene of an exhibition of the works of the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. It was also the occasion for a concert in which the noted pianist Dr. Malcolm Troup, a member of our Society, performed works by Messiaen, Satie, Poulenc and Stravinsky, all contemporaries of Picasso. Dr. Malcolm Troup was warmly applauded by the assembled audience for his masterful interpretation of these composers.



Dr. Malcolm Troup during his piano recital