

# CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - John Naylor

50th Year No. 347

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12 Devonshire Street London W1

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

By Georgina Roberts

I wish to express my gratitude to everyone who helped make such a success of my programme "A Taste of Chile", presented to The Welcome To London International Club on 22nd March 1994:

CODELCO for the invaluable information in relation to its role within the Chilean economy and the Chilean economy itself.

Sr. Fernando Hafemann, the then Commercial Attaché of the Chilean Embassy in London, for his very generous contribution of the excellent Chilean wine served during the reception.

Sr. José Antonio Mendizábal, of SERNATUR (Servicio Nacional de Turismo) in Santiago, for his considerable donation of promotional material.

Mr. Lindsey O'Callaghan from the Andean Project.

A very special thanks to Welcome To London International for a donation presented to me for the poor schools in Chile. The money will buy writing materials which I hope to deliver personally.

## A TASTE OF CHILE

By Jackie Volpi

Welcome To London International Club members and guests were very fortunate to participate in a fabulous journey through the beautiful country of Chile. Georgina and Michael Roberts presented a very informative and enjoyable programme including videos, slides and personal accounts of this fascinating South American country. From desert to mountains, to ice land and sea, the landscape was spectacular! Listening to the video and to the Roberts' own stories of the people, towns and cities, painted a beautiful picture of the friendliness of this country.

Mrs. Sandra Carey, representing the company Codelco-Chile in the U.K., told of the socio-economic success of this country in the last 12 years. It was amazing to learn of all the natural minerals and other resources that Chile has prospered on.

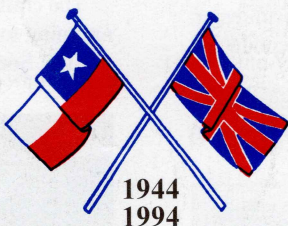
After the programme a delicious Chilean meal was served. The "empanadas", chicken and corn pie, "thousand leaf cake" and Chilean wines were all sumptuous. While dining, Rosemary Munro played Chilean music on her harp. She was beautifully dressed in a very colourful native costume. Copper, pottery and jewelry crafted in Chile were also on display. The sights, sounds colours and smells of Chile will be a lasting memory for all.

(Jackie Volpi is a member of WTLIC. The above article appeared in "The Bulletin", the monthly newsletter of the Club.)



Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mrs Sandra Carey, Miss Paulette Roberts and special guest Mrs Carmen Lynam, Consul General of Chile

## 50th ANNIVERSARY



## THE ANDEAN PROJECT.

A slide show and reception was held at Canning House on 5th May to explain the objectives of the Andean Project which are to establish a charity for the people of the Andes, the promoting of self-help, the conservation of an ancient culture and stemming the flow of the population to the cities. This last-named objective takes place in other South American countries besides Chile on a large scale,

and ends up with the construction of shanty towns surrounding the big cities with attendant unhygienic conditions and extreme poverty in which these people live. There is no work for them on the coast, and the city streets are not paved with gold. They would be far better off staying in their natural habitats in the mountains and other isolated regions.

The Chilean Ambassador H.E. Hernán Errázuriz, who has been appointed Honorary President in the UK, gave the following introductory address:

*It is an honour to be here this evening and to play an active role in support of the new project which is due to the tireless efforts of Patricia Vincent. The project was started in the north of Chile seven years ago. Its main purpose was to make a contribution for the improvement of the living conditions in the Atacama Desert. The establishment of the Andean Project in London in 1985 had as its aims and objective the broadening of skills and knowledge of the women and the elderly in the North of Chile. There are many research projects which are being carried out at the moment. Naturally all this work depends on contributions, however modest. It is my task this evening therefore to seek your goodwill and support for the Andean Project and the efforts of Patricia Vincent. I can tell you that the people of the North of my country living in the desert are really the victims of our own progress.*

*They are practically disappearing from all the neighbourhood and the llamas and alpacas which are there could disappear if an effort does not take place in that area. That is why the Government of Chile are so interested in supporting this project which was established in 1985 by a team in the Atacama desert, which as you may know is the driest desert in the world. We believe we have to do something to maintain that area and help its inhabitants. I think this gives you an idea of the kind of effort this project is carrying out and that any contribution we receive from all of you would be much appreciated. Thank you very much.*

There followed a talk by geologist Lindsey O'Callaghan with a slide show outlining the Andean Project's target area. The Andean Project's Executive Committee has sought professional advice and the development of a Development and Scientific Committee under the joint chairmanship of Professor Ghilleen Prance of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, and Professor Jeffrey Harborne of the Department of Botany at Reading University. The Project expects to start creating a nursery garden in 1994. A further project is the breeding programme of the llama and alpaca and the long term improvement of the stock.

The twelve hectares of land recently acquired close to San Pedro de Atacama will be sufficient to establish a joint research programme involving the Rowett Institute and the Andean Project. Llama, alpaca, vicuña and guanaco wools are at present commanding high prices on the international market. Sales of wool and wool-based crafts together with seed collecting and the planting and marketing



of herbs will contribute to job creation and sustainable development in the area. This will help the stability of high mountain villages and, more importantly, enable them to continue to live in their own environment and preserve their cultural identity.

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## CHILEAN NAVY DAY

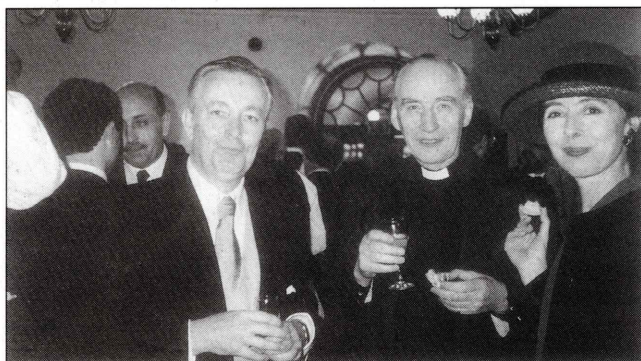
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This was celebrated on Thursday 19th May with the traditional laying of a wreath on the tomb of Lord Cochrane in Westminster Abbey by the Chilean Ambassador H.E. Sr. Hernán Errázuriz and the Chilean Naval Attaché Admiral Bruna. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Michael Mayne, gave an address and conducted a short service.

This was followed by a brilliant reception hosted Admiral Bruna and his wife in the Harvey Goodwin Suite of the Church House in Dean's Yard.



*H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz and Admiral Bruna*



*H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz, the Dean of Westminster the Very Reverend Michael Mayne & Mrs Carmen Errázuriz*



*Mr Peter Heap and Mr Kenneth Burns*

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## BOAT EXCURSION ON THE THAMES

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In what may be described as a brilliant occasion, this took place on June 9th and was attended by some 200 members and their guests.

The craft was not of the run of the mill tourist variety, but a superior catamaran type with dining tables set on two elevations.

the lower elevation the tables surrounded a spacious dance floor. The only thing that was disappointing was the weather as it was a somewhat cool evening. However this was taken care of because on boarding one was greeted by an attractive hostess bearing a tray of pisco sours which not only warmed one up but got the party going. Pre-dinner drinks were accompanied by traditional empanadas.

The tables were set with linen napery, not the usual paper napkins, and the excellent dinner was buffet style, accompanied by ample Chilean wines. Music was provided by Sergio Barrios and his musicians, and it was not long before usually staid members and their guests were letting their hair down on the dance floor.

The craft took off at 7.30 and reached as far the Thames Barrier, returning to the Charing Cross pier at 11.00.

The Society's thanks are due to Alan White for organizing the event.



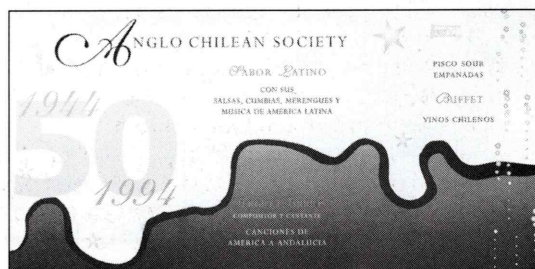
*Mr Michael Cannon and Mrs Carmen Errázuriz*



*General view of the boat excursion party on the Thames*



*Mr and Mrs Arthur Richardson and their son and Miss Judith Burns*





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## LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES GOLF COMPETITION by Anne Nock

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The annual golf competition of the Latin American Societies was held at West Surrey Golf Club on Friday, June 23rd 1994. Thirty eight members and guests took part in the competition and five more came to the lunch. It was a glorious day and a welcome change for those who have habitually got wet in previous years. West Surrey Golf Club was a new venue for us and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful course and the excellent catering. We have arranged to return there next year on Thursday, June 22 1995.

The principal winners were as follows:

The Ambassador's Cup and the Punta Arenas Cup were won by David Nock

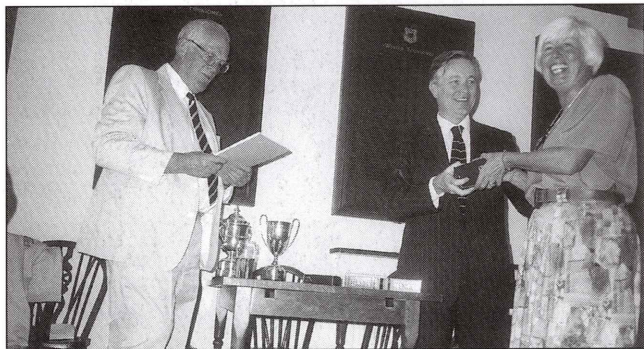
The Argentine Rose Bowl by W. R. Tregoning

The Brazilian Jangada Trophy by A. Collins

The LAN Chile Trophy by A. Dumont (Argentina)

Mrs. Christine Howell (Chile) won the prize for the highest score in the lowest handicap range.

His Excellency the Chilean Ambassador came and presented the prizes and the members are very grateful to him for coming and for donating the most enjoyable Chilean wine.



Mrs Christine Howell receiving her prize from the Chilean Ambassador and Mr David Nock

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## BERNARDO O'HIGGINS.

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An English Heritage blue plaque commemorating General Bernardo O'Higgins, the Liberator of Chile and its first President, was unveiled by the Chilean Ambassador HE Sr. Hernán Errázuriz at Clarence House in Richmond on 13th July. This was where Bernardo attended school, and the event was followed by a champagne reception.

This took place as a result of the research carried out by Brigadier Roberto Arancibia during his tenure as Military Attaché. He produced a publication entitled "Tras la Huella de Bernardo Riquelme en Inglaterra 1795-1799". At this time Bernardo was known by his mother's name of Riquelme, and it was only later that he adopted his father's name of O'Higgins. Readers are referred to an article which appeared in Chilean News No.343 of August 1992.

Undoubtedly the man of the moment was Brigadier Arancibia who flew in from Chile to attend the unveiling.

The Ambassador made the following speech:

*Your Excellency the Ambassador of Argentina, Your Excellency the Ambassador of Peru, Your Excellency the Ambassador of Venezuela, Your Excellencies accredited to the Court of St. James's, Diplomatic Representatives of Latin American countries, Military Attachés from amicable countries, Officials of the Order of Bernardo*

*O'Higgins, Representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Representatives of the Armed Forces of Chile, Representatives of Antofagasta Holdings plc, Representatives of Banco O'Higgins, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Banco Central Hispanoamericano, Representatives of the English Heritage, the Mayor and Authorities of Richmond Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

*In 1796, 198 years ago, this lovely house was a distinguished school. The headmaster at the time was Mr. Timothy Eeles.*

*As the school was Catholic, Sr. Ambrosio O'Higgins chose it as a suitable establishment to have his son, Bernardo, educated.*

*During those days Ambrosio O'Higgins, who had been born in Sligo, Ireland, was Viceroy of Peru. From an early age he worked for the Spanish King and in that capacity had become the Governor of Chile, the most southern province of the Spanish Empire in the 18th Century.*

*At the age of 17, when Bernardo became a boarder at this school, his education had been carefully monitored by his parents. He was a Roman Catholic who had studied at Chillán, his place of birth, and in Concepción. His mother belonged to the old Spanish tradition that centered in the heart of Chile as she descended from a Spanish Conqueror.*

*We do not know many details about Bernardo's early days at this school, but we do know that he lived and studied here. We also know that he never forgot his teachers and their names as, thirty years on, he was still asking after them.*

*We also know that he fell in love here. His first love, who he would naturally never forget, was the daughter of the Headmaster. During his later life in Chile and Peru he continued to inquire about her.*

*From Richmond Bernardo visited London to meet with Francisco de Miranda and José San Martín. His aptitude and intelligence told him that America as a whole should be liberated. He was convinced that it was the only path that Chile could take to enjoy independent unity.*

*Miranda, San Martín, Bolívar and O'Higgins shared the same feelings of hope, demonstrating that this was the dream of Latinamericans who had spent part of their formative years in London. They were all able to see that their dream was possible when they considered Washington as the liberator of the 13 colonies of America.*

*As soon as Bernardo returned to Chile he was immediately elected within the Chilean Parliament and was soon to become a General within the new Army.*

*He was committed to the fight against the Spaniards, but failed. In 1814 he was defeated at the battle of Rancagua and the whole Chilean army had to cross the Andes to Mendoza.*

*In Mendoza O'Higgins met his friend General San Martín. They both decided to form and organise an army, a task that took them two and a half years to achieve. Chilean and Argentinean peasants had to be trained and weapons had to be provided. But overall the army should have realised that their purpose was to liberate Chile and then America.*

*In 1817 the Chilean and Argentinean army succeeded in defeating the Spaniards at Chacabuco and Maipú on the outskirts of Santiago.*



H.E. Sr Hernán Errázuriz & Brigadier Roberto Arancibia



Consequently O'Higgins became the first Director of Chile. But that was not where it all ended. He and San Martin had to liberate Peru. They knew that General Simon Bolivar had already defeated the Empire in Colombia and Venezuela.

The liberation of Peru was now their goal. Chile provided the funds to create a navy and Lord Cochrane was recruited to command the expedition. The campaign to liberate Peru was a success so O'Higgins returned to his country as a hero.

On behalf of the Government of Chile and President Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle, I deeply thank Her Majesty's Government and the English Heritage for erecting this commemorative plaque.

Bernardo O'Higgins was indeed the Liberator of Chile and this plaque shows the world and seals the everlasting friendship of our two countries.

I am honoured to unveil it today.

## VISIT OF THE ESMERALDA

By Maria Angélica Shaw

Our first view of her was from Canary Wharf, our first stop in the quest to find South Quay. There appeared four masts gliding serenely across the waters of the dock with tugs fore and aft shepherding her to her moorings. There was no difficulty in knowing where to go, although finding the actual entrance to the dock was by no means easy. As we arrived she came slowly towards the quay, her decks lined with her crew all smartly dressed in their uniforms and with an enormous bandera at the stern. Soon they began to sing the hymn of the Escuela Naval joined by an enthusiastic, and moist eyed, group of Chileans and others on the dockside. Many were waving flags, one of which was nearly as big as the ensign on the Esmeralda itself, belonging to one who has been in Britain for a long time and who usually flies it on special Chilean days, or so he told me.

In due time we were invited on board and shortly afterwards a moving Mass was held on deck in which we all took part, singing to the sound of several guitars, one of them played by an Air Force officer. The *Esmeralda* brought on board the top cadets of the four services who, as I suspected, were the recipients of the Sword of Honour donated by the Anglo Chilean Society. Lieutenants Sueygras (Carabineros) and Ferrada (Army) got them in 1992, and Lieutenant Martinez (Air Force) and Midshipman Silva (Navy) last year.

The Commander, Capitan de Navio Eduardo Garcia Dominguez and all his officers and crew were very nice to us, providing welcome and delicious empanadas, quite the best since the *Baquedano* was in Portsmouth some two years ago, and wine after Mass, and we were all encouraged to look over the ship. There was also the opportunity of purchasing pisco and Canepa wine, the latter consisting of three bottles in a beautiful box showing the ship in full sail, specially designed to commemorate the XXXIX training voyage of the *Esmeralda*, its first visit to the Thames since 1968 when most of the present crew were not yet born.

For those interested in facts and figures

The length of the ship is 113 metres.

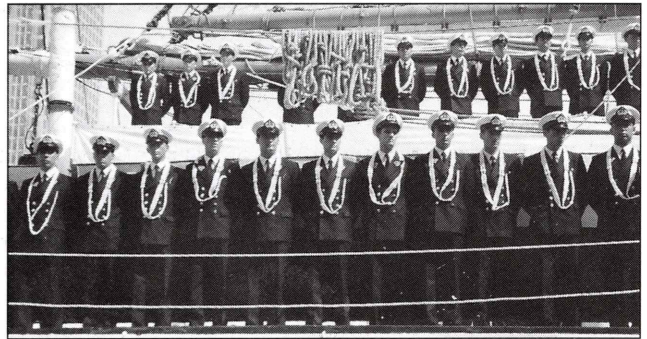
Its maximum beam of 13.11 metres.

Its mast height is 48.5 metres.

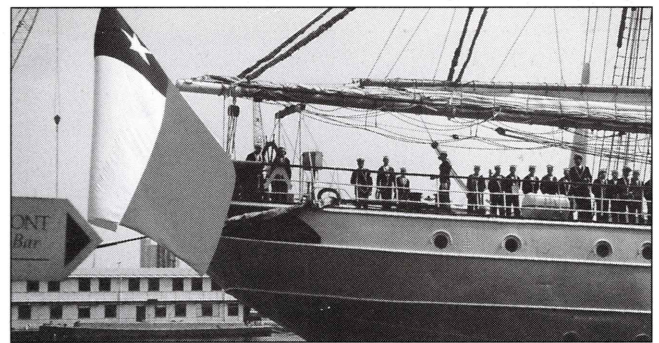
It displaces 3,673 tons

The maximum speed, using the 2,000 HP motor is 9.5 knots, whilst under sail she can achieve 17.5 knots with its impressive 2,870 sq.mts. of sail

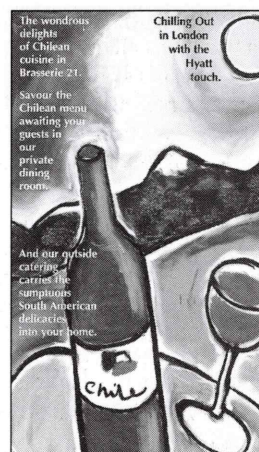
On the current voyage the ship carries 341 personnel, including no less than 16 guest officers from other South American countries. She sailed from Valparaiso on 24th April and after visiting 12 countries is due to return to her home port on 27th November, after 156 days at sea and 61 days showing the flag as Ambassador in different ports. She was built in Cadiz, Spain, and was offered to Chile for sale in 1951, being transferred to Chile on 15th June 1954. The present *Esmeralda* is the sixth ship to bear this proud name.



Chilean Naval Cadets on board the Esmeralda



General views of the Esmeralda



## WINES OF CHILE.

A private evenings sampling of Chilean wines, pisco sours and traditional Chilean food was held at the Lowndes Hotel on September 14th. Sponsored by Wines of Chile, this was part of a Chile in the City promotion aimed at increasing the awareness of the country, its wines, culture and cuisine. Starting on September 12th for three weeks the Lowndes Hotel have put on a specially designed menu complementing the wines of Chile in their restaurant, Brasserie 21.

THE AMBASSADOR and Mrs Carmen Errázuriz held a reception in their Residence on 19th September to celebrate Independence Day.



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## DIECIOCHO RECEPTION.

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This was held at the Naval and Military Club on the evening of 20th September.

The guests were received by H.E.Sr. Hernán Errázuriz and Sra. Carmen Errázuriz, and the Ambassador later proposed a toast to Chilean Independence Day.

The Club is an impressive venue, and the event was a brilliant one, attended by over 100 guests. The Society is indebted to Tom Harrington, Secretary of the Canning Club, for supervising the event and making of the pisco sours, empanadas and other edibles.

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## BOOK REVIEW BY JOHN HICKMAN

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### AN AWFUL LOT OF COPY IN BRAZIL

(from the Independent on Sunday of 7 March 1993)

### THE CAPTAIN'S WIFE

The South American Journals of Maria Graham, 1821-23

Edited by Elizabeth Mavor - Weidenfeld £18.99

GEORGE CANNING, Foreign Secretary in the 1820's, said he had "called the New world into existence to redress the balance of the Old" - an electrifying, if vainglorious, claim. In truth, it was the long arm of the Royal Navy, rather than Canning's diplomacy alone, which finally secured the independence of South America from Spain and Portugal. Maria Graham's husband was one of the naval officers involved.

In August 1821, they sailed together in his frigate, HMS *Doris*, first to Brazil and then to Chile. Thomas Graham died on the passage round Cape Horn, and Maria arrived in Valparaiso a widow. Her journals of the next two years are the record of a personal odyssey, but also vivid evidence of the Navy's role in the emergence of two new countries. They are worth more than any number of the official despatches Thomas might have sent to their Lordships at the Admiralty.

Although a warm and practical woman, Maria was always more than a captain's wife. A bluestocking from an early age, known to the Edinburgh intelligentsia as "Metaphysics in Muslin", she had already travelled to India, Italy, and South Africa, and published accounts of her journeys. Later she wrote the classic *Little Arthur's History of England* (said to have sold a million copies). But her Brazilian and Chilean journals are surely her best achievement.

Elizabeth Mavor has edited them with skill and feeling, although she must regret having had to cut so much (including all the author's original illustrations). She focuses mainly on Maria's private daily life but there is much also about politics and personalities, with sharp, lively pictures of Don Pedro, first Emperor of independent Brazil, and the liberators of Chile and Peru, Bernardo O'Higgins and Jose San Martin.

Only Lord Cochrane, the brilliant, quarrelsome Scottish admiral, escapes Maria's criticism entirely; the lonely widow describes him as her "true friend". He was, rarely for him, discreet about her, perhaps because his pretty, equally brave but rather silly wife, Kitty, accompanied him for some of the period when Maria was in South America. We shall never know if they were lovers, but there was surely love on Maria's side.

Kitty had the last word by contriving that her rival be appointed governess to the daughter of Don Pedro. Maria finally returned a year or two later to England, remarried and seems to have put South America out of her mind for ever.

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## THE POWER OF NATURE

By Geraint Smith  
From the Evening Standard  
of 19-5-94

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The sleeping giant of Chile has awoken. Belching smoke, ash and lava, the El Llaima volcano has erupted spectacularly through the clouds hanging over the Chilean Lake District, 400 miles south of the capital Santiago.

The three-quarters of a million people living in the mountain's shadow have been fearing an eruption of this magnitude for 37 years, when the volcano last erupted.

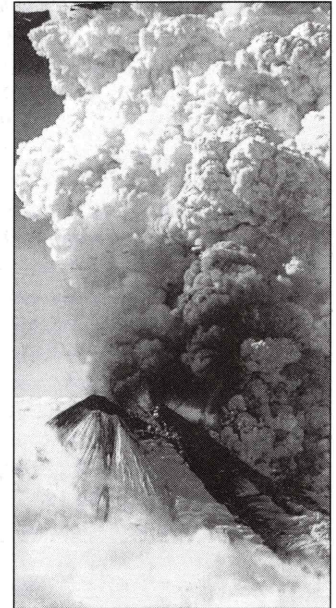
Ash is reported to have been blown as far as the Argentine city of Zapala, 120 miles away.

The vast pall of smoke from the 10,000 foot volcano, rising into the stratosphere, is likely to affect the climate across the world for a decade - as did the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helen's in Washington State.

However, most of the region's population live in the fertile trough between the Andean range and the mountains of the coast, and are not believed to be in immediate danger from the eruption. The perfect, symmetrical cone is one of a string of active volcanos ranging between 8,700 and 11,500 feet high in the Araucania range of the Southern Andes.

It is normally one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. The combination of the usually snow-covered volcanos mirrored in the blue waters of the high-altitude lakes dotted between dense temperate forests make it one of Chile's major tourist attractions.

The volcano is one of about 20 to 30 volcanoes likely to be erupting in the world at any one time, according to figures gathered by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.



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## LA ESCONDIDA

By Colin Campbell  
From the London Times of 21-6-93

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Tears do not come easily to the eyes of the world's mining giants, who are held hostage to wavering metal prices.

The only reason BHP Minerals, a division of Australia's BHP mining group, and RTZ, might weep as the world copper price falters at about 80 cents a pound is that both would prefer to see the copper price at \$1 a pound, and higher.

They are, instead, sufficiently confident about the economics of their low cost Escondida copper mine in Chile that they recently announced a \$284 million expansion plan.

The two groups are the largest shareholders in the world's second largest copper mine - the \$1 billion Escondida mine 160 kilometres south-east of the port city of Antofagasta, and situated 3,100 metres above sea level in the Atacama desert.

Both groups are sensitive, in their respective ways, to wavering metal prices, and RTZ admits, as a rough guide, that every 10 cents a pound movement in the copper price has a £53 million impact on group net profits. Every \$50 an ounce change in the gold price equates to a difference of £25 million RTZ's net profits.

Escondida, 57.5 per cent owned and managed by BHP, in which RTZ has 30 per cent is, however, a world deposit in its own class.

The reserves are sufficiently extensive at 1.77 billion tonnes grading 1.59 per cent copper to guarantee a mine life well into the 21st century, and possibly into the 22nd century as well.

Neither they, the Mitsubishi-led consortium (with 10 per cent),



nor the IFC (2.5 per cent) will disclose Escondida's operating costs, but they are probably not far short of 50 cents a pound, making Escondida one of the lowest cost operators in the world, and a guaranteed money spinner.

Because of their secrecy, the mine is appropriately named. The translation of Escondida is "the hidden one". Copper concentrate is piped in slurry form down a 164 km underground pipeline to a terminal at Coloso, 14 kms south of Antofagasta into bulk carriers that head for Europe and the Far East. The slurry takes 24 hours to reach port.

Escondida, set in austere moonscape surroundings, was found only by chance. The original exploration team that was combing the Andes had found nothing from five drill holes, and was on the point of being summoned back to base. However, their geological nose itched, and they moved their drilling equipment up the hill "for just one last chance".

The ore body, which geologically is 35 million years old, was discovered on March 14, 1981. In 1985 BHP and RTZ became principal shareholders, and the mine moved into full production ahead of schedule and below budget in December 1990.

Escondida made a £30 million net profit contribution to RTZ in 1991 and a £41 million contribution last year. The estimated contribution to BHP is AUS\$200 million. The mine, as a by-product, produced 65,280 ounces of gold last year and 2.51 million ounces of silver.

A recently announced \$284 million expansion programme that will be funded from cashflow includes a copper cathode plant at Coloso that will increase the mine's output by half and add value to the operation. Sales contracts have already been signed for what, in cathode form, will be the purest copper in the world.

Included in the mining equipment on order for the expansion plan is one single shovel that costs, with spares, \$9.5 million - but then it is one of the largest in the world with a 50 cubic yard bucket.

High cost copper mines in other parts of the world are weeping real tears while the world copper price remains low, but the owners of Escondida only have crocodile tears in their corporate eyes.

Escondida's low cost base, the determination to squeeze costs harder, plus the comfort of knowing that when world economies turn then copper prices will bounce, make "the hidden one" a deposit that was well worth finding.

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## NATIONAL PARKS IN CHILE.

By Kenneth Burns

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We all have ideas of what a national park should be. Some might expect a vast tract of land with outstanding natural features with visitor facilities for education and recreation as well as accommodation, together with a professional staff dedicated to protecting the park and helping the public.

However, few nations can afford to sustain such a high standard of development and maintenance. It is vital that visitors to the parks of South America don't take their European expectations with them. Visitors will find that what is on offer is spectacular scenery but with limited programmes and facilities.

South America's potential for park development is vast, and if the conservation lobby can win the war against exploitation, the rest of mankind will inherit an enduring and outstanding legacy.

The park system is flourishing in Chile. The first national park was established in 1926 with the creation of Parque Nacional Perez Rosales, which covers over 500 square miles of forested mountains in the Andes of the south. By 1987 Chile had set aside 34 national parks throughout the length and narrow breadth of the country totalling nearly 23 million acres.

The system is more advanced on concept than in practice. A few parks have developed visitor centres, with well-trained staff and interpretive trails. Others have been set aside legally but are little more than lines on maps.

Chile's parks and reserves are administered by the Corporacion

Nacional Forestal y de Proteccion de Recursos Naturales Renovables (CONAF) which has sophisticated plans for its land. If these can be carried out, Chile will have a magnificent network of parks in perpetuity. Its objectives include preservation of every species of flora and fauna as well as unique examples of Chilean ecosystems.

### Lake District:

Chile's lake district, between Temuco and Puerto Montt, includes eight large lakes and scores of smaller ones, nestling in Andean foothills

The eastern backdrop is densely forested Andes and a series of volcanoes, many active, that create a picture postcard atmosphere.

### Puyehue:

Puyehue is one of seven national parks that have been set up in the uplands of the lake district. It is a large park (265,000 acres), a splendid conglomeration of forests, mountains, volcanos, lakes, rivers and hot springs.

Puyehue is essentially a hiking and backpacking park. Although lower areas are dense forest, CONAF has constructed numerous trails for visitors. This is a good park in which to try to climb a volcano. Fishing is good in the rivers and lakes, and none should leave without jumping into a hot spring pool.

### Vicente Perez Rosales:

Chile's oldest park was expanded in 1950 to its present 620,000 acres. Like Puyehue, U shaped valleys and deep mountain lakes were left behind when the glaciers retreated. Then Osorno Volcano appeared and changed the face of the region.

Osorno is the most prominent volcano, but several others dominate the skyline. The highest, Tronador, is shared with Argentina.

The mountains are covered with Valdivian forests, but there are extensive meadows and marshes on the deltas of the many rivers that flow into Lago Todos los Santos, which is surrounded by the park.

### Torres del Paine:

If you had a single opportunity to visit just one park in Latin America, this would be it. It has every feature that the most demanding visitor can expect.

It includes a portion of the southern Andean ice cap; massive, yet accessible glaciers; and mountains that range from gently forested slopes to spires of sheer stone that give the park its name.

It also has a network of lakes and ponds connected by waterways ranging from meadow streams to flowing rivers with waterfalls and cascades.

Torres del Paine is one of the few parks in the world in which visitors have a chance - but a slim one - of seeing a mountain lion. It is also the best place in South America in which to see guanacos and rheas.

The well-known Hotel Pehoe, on a tiny island on Lago Pehoe and connected to the shore by a footbridge, has stunning views over the lake facing the Cuernos and Paine Grande.

### Los Paraguas and Conguillio;

Forest Chile, which includes the lake district, begins at Temuco, and the parks of Los Paraguas and Conguillio lie to the east. Both parks are dominated by Llaima volcano, snowcapped with double craters and permanently smoking fumaroles. (See THE POWER OF NATURE in this issue.)

The parks feature extensive groves of araucaria trees, known locally as Pehuen, which we call monkey puzzle trees. Paragua takes its name from the curious umbrella shape of the araucaria. Apart from these groves, the slopes are covered with a beech forest.

These two parks are also the ancestral home of the Araucarian or Mapuche Indians, who were the only indigenous peoples in South America that could not be subjugated by military might.

### Fray Jorge:

Not far from La Serena, in the semi-desert south of the Atacama, local conditions allow a small temperate rain forest to flourish at the



edge of the sea. This in itself is the principal attraction of Fray Jorge, a pocket-sized forest limited to 38 square miles.

The cliffs are high, the sea rough and gales blow inland constantly, carving the shrubbery into bizarre shapes.

For much of each day huge but ragged patches of fog swirl inland from the sea, draping the landscape and everything in it with droplets of moisture, creating the special conditions which enable the forest to exist. The fog, which creates a constantly changing light, is caused by the warm water of the Rio Limari meeting the cold Pacific at the river mouth nearby.

The best time to visit is in the spring, when forest and desert are a riot of bloom.

Lauca:

Lauca's attraction has to be the journey to get there. In the far north, it is a fine example of the altiplano, with abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery. From sea level at Arica visitors travel through a range of regions; desert seashore, coastal foothills, interior desert, precordillera and then altiplano.

The park is large and contains cinder cones, volcanic calderas, lava fields, hot springs and fumaroles. It is an excellent place to see wildlife such as huemuls, vicunas, viscachas and flamingos.

Travellers arriving from Arica will climb 15,000 feet in about 4 hours and may experience soroche or altitude sickness. Those who suffer would be wise to spend a night at Putre before entering the park.

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## THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

Ester de Toro

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*"That unspeakable horror ..... an hour and half's torture.... two centuries of agony."*

Nineteenth century description of the Channel crossing.

The history of the Channel Tunnel has always been a mirror of European history and particularly of the changing relations between France and Britain. There have been numerous projects to link the two countries. In 1802 Albert Mathieu presented Napoleon I with a plan for the tunnel. It was a vaulted underground passage for horse-drawn transport, lit by oil lamps and ventilated by a number of iron chimneys protruding above the waves.

Later in the 19th century, Joseph Aime Taome de Gamond, a brilliant scholar whom "this communication between England and the continent fascinated him more than any other scheme", began the technical and geological studies which were to occupy him for over forty years. He developed different plans, one a Channel bridge resting on granite piles with arches, but the cost was immense. His chief encouragement came from Sir Marc Brunel's work on the tunnel under the Thames, between Rotherhithe and Wapping. In 1857 he submitted his conclusions to Napoleon III in "Etude pour l'avant project d'un Tunnell sous-marin entre l'Angleterre et la France" which is a work of vision and genius. When Lord Palmerston was asked about his opinion he replied: "What, you pretend to ask us to contribute to a work the object of which is to shorten a distance which we find already too short?"

At the "Exposition Universelle" in 1867 Taome de Gamond met the Welsh mining engineer William Low, who was also developing a plan. People involved in these projects soon realized that for such a vast engineering project the two countries had to work together and in 1871 the Channel Tunnel Company Ltd. was incorporated and registered in London with the objective: "to construct an underground tunnel beneath the Straits of Dover, between England and France."

Between 1874 and 1875 there was a flurry of correspondence between the 2 countries, but at the end of 1875 the company had serious financial problems and Queen Victoria suddenly grew alarmed. She wrote to Disraeli expressing the hope the "the Government will do nothing to encourage the proposed Tunnel which we

think very objectionable."

This is a brief preamble to the long ongoing saga of a tunnel to unite England and France, whose final inauguration in the end took place on the 6th May 1994, with the attendance of both Queen Elizabeth and President Mitterand.

So it is easy to imagine the impression I got, when I was invited on a train trip from London to Paris and return.

The new, purpose-built, spectacular Waterloo International station, built by the architect Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners. makes you feel like in an airport. The roof is constructed with glass and stainless steel sheeting. The facilities are extraordinary, a magnificent concourse, lounges, restaurants, shops, banking services, and so on.

The trains, - the Eurostar - could not be more comfortable and you expect to hear the voice of the driver saying: "Please fasten your seat belts." There is no noise, no vibration, thanks to the development of track technology and modern continuous welded rail. The staff, caterers and drivers, make an excellent impression in their Eurostar colours in blue and yellow uniforms designed by Pierre Balmain. Everybody speaks French and English; on board all the signs and the information is given in the two languages.

The departure was punctual at 10am from Waterloo, and as we approached the tunnel, the excitement was growing in the carriage. We passed Ashford station- not yet finished- which will be an important intermediate station, and then - into the tunnel! The crossing lasted exactly 20 minutes and we surfaced at the Coquille terminal near Calais. You feel as if you were in the underground so it is perhaps the story of the Channel Tunnel which makes it so special.

From there on it was fast travelling through French country-side at 300km per hour, and after 3 hours we entered Gare du Nord in Paris. This station has also been refurbished. Hostesses welcomed us and gave everybody a pocket map of Paris. We had 4 marvellous hours in Paris, walking through the elegant boulevards, crossing Place Vendome, enjoying the Tuilerie Gardens, observing the glass pyramid in the Louvre, having coffee in the Quartier Latin and attending an organ concert in Notre Dame. Then- after a 3 hours return trip - we were safely in Waterloo again.

While I am not in any way involved with Eurostar or the EuroTunnel, I can only recommend this very memorable journey, made possible through the advances in technology and the enterprising spirit of all the people involved with it.

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## OBITUARIES

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### EVERLYN SHENTON - 1912 to 1994

She was the second of nine children born to Alfred Cooper and Rosa Gubbins, both from very large Anglo-Chilean families who had gone to South America in the late 19th Century.

After working for Duncan Fox & Co. in Concepción she married the late John Shenton of Shell Petroleum, and travelled with him throughout Central and South America. In retirement in England she supported him as Assistant Secretary of the Anglo Chilean Society for several years, and was also on the Ladies' Committee. She was happiest when surrounded by family and Anglo Chilean friends.

The Society expresses their sympathy to her family in their bereavement.

### IAN JOSEPH MONTEITH

The Society regrets to record his death which occurred on 10th September, and extend their sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

A full obituary will appear in the next issue of Chilean News.



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## CHANGES

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In April this year the Society elected a new secretary to take on its day to day management and organise events. Michael Cannon, who has held the post for the last eight years, remains on the Executive Committee to give friendly advice to the new incumbent, Kenneth Burns, who now runs the Society's affairs from the offices kindly provided by the Embassy of Chile, a relationship which goes back to the earliest days.

Kenneth is a Scot, born in Edinburgh and brought up in London. His mother's family, named Jara, came originally from Valparaiso.

He went to school at Fettes in Edinburgh and the British School in Florence. After reading History and History of Art in London University Kenneth worked for Coutts & Co., the bankers in The Strand and Lombard Street.

While in London he served with the Westminster Dragoons, headquarters squadron of the Royal Yeomanry, volunteer reserve armoured corps.

In the 80's he set up his own marketing consultancy in Brighton where he now lives. For the last two years he has worked on joint initiatives with the British Chamber of Commerce and visited Chile with the annual trade missions. He is now working on European Union programmes for Chile.

In his spare time Kenneth is Chairman of his local branch of the Conservative Party and Honorary Local Secretary of The British Field Sports Society for East Sussex. He is also a member of the Royal Institute of Navigation and a keen sailor.

Peter Shaw, who held the post of Treasurer, and who did sterling work over a number of years, has been replaced by Peter Heap. He remains on the Executive Committee.

Peter Heap has been connected with insurance broking for some thirty two years. Since 1982 he has been Financial and Servicing Director for the South East region of Sedgwick UK. He has in the past been involved with Latin America for some 20 years.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

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The annual Christmas party will be held at Canning House on the 14th December.

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## NEW MEMBERS

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Miss Jacqueline Tichauer  
Colonel Juan Carlos Salgado  
Mr Homero Sotomayor  
Miss Ingrid Watson  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Turner  
Sir Humphrey and Lady Maud  
Captain and Mrs. Carlos Rodriguez  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Somner  
Mr. & Mrs. Patricio Valenzuela  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Fulton  
Mr. Jorge Tagle Canelo  
Mr. & Mrs. Javier Barria  
Mr. & Mrs. William Laing  
Mr. Richard Laing

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## NEWS FROM SANTIAGO.

By Jonathan Callund

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### Membership:

*The Executive members of the Society are:*

President	Almirante Carlos Chubretovic
Vice Presidents	Peter Oats Gonzalo Serrano Lyon
Treasurer	Frank Goddard
Secretary	Jonathan Callund

Of a total of 64 enrolled members there are around 20 who have taken part in the events of this year. There have been no deaths.

There have been four new members this year, including Mr. Philip Somervell who came out here in 1993 to manage Dunn & Bradstreet's Santiago office, and the former Ambassador to London Sr. German Riesco.

### Monthly Lunches:

So far this year we have had four lunches which have been held in the Round Room of the Club de la Unión. We have been fortunate with speakers, who include:

Vice Admiral Jorge Arrancibia, jefe de Estado Mayor Defensa Nacional, who gave a brilliant talk on the increasing complexity of defence policy since the fall of the Berlin wall.

Carlos I. Kuschel S, Diputado, who gave a lively account of his journey, with a party of three other members of Congress and the British Embassy, to the Falkland Islands late last year.

In April we held a private lunch for Michael Cochrane, who was in Chile for the second time. This was organised together with Admiral Luis de los Rios, at the Naval Club in Santiago. The Society made Mr. Cochrane a small gift as a token of his ties with Chile.

### Essay Competition:

We have decided not to hold a competition this year. However the winner of last year's competition, Sta. Gabriela Vega, will be travelling to London later this month courtesy of British Airways.

### Swords:

We expect to have the presentation ceremony on, or around, 22nd. December, and again trust that the Ambassador will host the event at the Residence as has now been the practice for the last four years.

### Open Arms:

The Society's affiliation with the Open Arms Society, the non-profit organisation which brings together Chileans with under and post graduate studies in the UK, has meant we have participated in three excellent conferences held at the British Council.

Development of Trade in the EU, a talk given by Mr. David Turner and Sr. Carlos Caceres, on the importance of the "Old Continent" in Chilean commerce.

Health Care in Chile and the UK, a talk given by Dr. Brian Abel-Smith and Professor Richard Peacham.