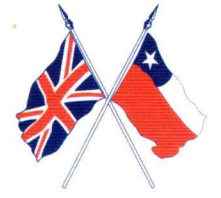


CHILEAN NEWS



Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

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63rd Year No. 370

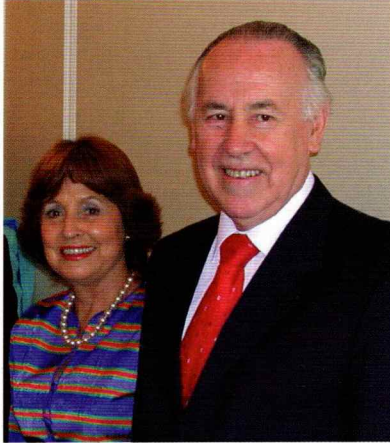
London, March 2007

12 Devonshire Street London W1

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

At the Residence

A reception was offered by H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Sra. de Moreno on 18th September 2006 on the occasion of Chile's National Day.



H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Sra. de Moreno greeting their guests.



Colonel Bosco Pesse in the company of Mr. & Mrs. Trond Beravale.



From left to right: Mr. Eduardo Carmona, Mrs. Valentina Carmona and Mr. George Silva-Rozzi.



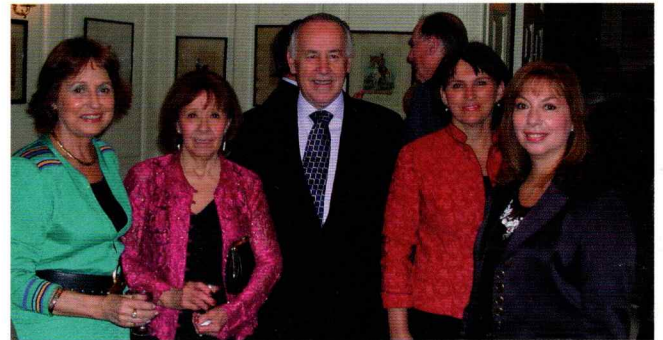
Mr. Cristián León, Ms. Luz Méndez, Colonel Zeljko Samardzija, Defence Attaché to the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia, and Group Captain Christian Gómez.

The Dieciocho Reception

The Anglo-Chilean Society, in association with the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce, hosted a reception on 19th September at Buck's Club in Mayfair.



Mr. Richard Wilkinson and the guest speaker, Mrs. Valerie Mitchell, OBE.



From left to right: Sra. Gloria de Moreno, Mrs. Georgina Roberts, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Mrs. Vania Gómez and Mrs. Carmen-Gloria Heap.



Ms. Maureen van der Wyck, Mr. Alasdair Grant, Ms. Charlotte Howard-Jones and Mr. Peter de Bruyne.



From left to right: Mr. Peter Heap, Mrs. Claire Cook, Mr. Jonathan Cook and Mr. David Pearson.



From left to right: Mr. Alan Douglas, Mrs. Joanna Douglas, Mrs. Magdalena Jones and Mr. Brian Jones.

Toasts were proposed to the Queen by the Chilean Ambassador and to the President of Chile by the Chairman of the Society who introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Valerie Mitchell, OBE, Director-General of the English Speaking Union.

The Society thanks Antofagasta plc, ProChile and Viña La Rosa for sponsoring the event.

At the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly

With the music of Los Cuatro Cuartos playing in the background and in the presence of H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno plus distinguished guests, a reception was hosted on 21st September by the Chilean Military Attaché, Colonel Bosco Pesse, to celebrate the Chilean Army Day.

In his speech Colonel Pesse welcomed the guests and paid honour to such patriots as O'Higgins and Carrera who fought for independence on the battlefields of Rancagua, Cancha Rayada, Chacabuco and Maipú. He explained that in 1915, the then President of Chile, Ramón Barros Luco, enacted a law declaring each 19th September as Chilean Army Day. The significance of the date, immediately after Independence Day, is that the Chilean Army was there to protect the new republic from the first day of independence.



From left to right: Colonel Jaime Salas, Lieutenant-Colonel Rodrigo Caro and the Chilean Military Attaché, Colonel Bosco Pesse.



Ms. Andrea Concha, Mrs Gloria Moreno, Mr. Cristián Santa María and Mr. Cristián León.



From left to right: Mr. Isauro Torres, Ms. Odette Magnet, Colonel Bosco Pesse and H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno.



From left to right: Mr. Claudio Sepúlveda, Ms. Viviana Opazo, Captain Carlos Salgado and Mr. Hernán Bascuñán.



From left to right: Colonel Bosco Pesse, Mrs. Patricia Pesse, Mr. Patricio Damm, Mrs. Vicky Le May and Captain Charles Le May.

INAUGURATION OF A CHILEAN INDUSTRIAL PLANT IN GERMANY

On 19th October 2006, President Michelle Bachelet inaugurated the only Chilean industrial plant in Germany, in Bitteferld, a city situated 30 kilometres north of Leipzig. CM Chemiemetall GmbH is part of Molibdenos y Metales S.A., a world leader in the processing of molybdenum, with subsidiaries in Chile, Mexico and Belgium.

The plant, situated in the heart of Germany, specialises in the production of metallic molybdenum for a variety of industries, including electronics, medical, automotive, aerospace and lighting technology.

The ceremony was attended by senior Chilean government officials, including the Foreign Minister, Sr. Alejandro Foxley, members of the Chilean parliament, the Chilean Ambassador in Germany, Marigen Hornkohl, as well as industrialists, shareholders and company staff. The German government was represented by the Finance Minister for the State of Lower Saxony, Jens Bullerjahn, the Mayor of Bitteferld, Doctor Werner Paubell, and other senior functionaries.

Founded in 1993, CM Chemiemetall GmbH was acquired by Molibdenos y Metales S.A. in 2001 in order to have production facilities closer to their European market. A programme of modernisation has resulted in a factory issuing a high quality product.

Molibdenos y Metales S.A. also has a subsidiary company in the United Kingdom, Molymet Services Ltd., located in Guildford. The Managing Director is Marcelo Gutiérrez, once Vice-President of sales of Molymet Chile.



President Michelle Bachelet at the inauguration of the Chilean industrial plant.



From left to right: Executives of CM Chemiemetall GMBH; Marcelo Gutiérrez - Managing Director Molymet UK, Jorge Correa - General Manager, George Anastassiou - Vice-President of the Board of Molibdenos y Metales SA, John Graell - Executive President of Molibdenos y Metales SA. and Guido Provost - General Manager Sadaci NV.

THE SIR LESLIE BOWES LECTURE

The Sir Leslie Bowes Lecture took place on Monday, 30th October at Canning House in the presence of H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno.

The illustrated talk was on the subject "Rainforest Concern and the Conservation of the Araucaria Forests of Southern Chile"

Rainforest Concern described the event as follows:—

"We were delighted that Professor Antonio Lara was invited to give the Sir Leslie Bowes Lecture last year on Conservation of the Araucaria Forests of Southern Chile. Professor Antonio Lara, from the University of Valdivia, and Dr. Martin Gardner, from the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, a world expert on conifers and advisor to the project, gave a lecture at Canning House in London, highlighting Rainforest Concern's work in collaboration with the Chilean conservation organisation AIFBN.

The talk was introduced by Peter Bennett, Director of Rainforest Concern, an organisation that has been working closely with AIFBN and with the University of Valdivia for the past four years to conserve the monkey puzzle (araucaria) forests in the Chilean Andes. In particular, the project has focussed on securing the Nasampulli Reserve, which lies at the northern end of Lake Caburga. This reserve now comprises almost 1,000 hectares of continuous areas of pristine Araucaria forests, a rare habitat which is home to endangered species such as the puma, the pudu deer and the giant Magellanic woodpecker.

(See back page for a photograph of the Nasampulli Reserve.)

The Anglo Chilean Society was proud to be able to make a donation of £1,000 towards this important conservation project. If any of our members wish to have further information about supporting this project to protect the Araucaria forests, you may contact Rainforest Concern on 020 7229 2093."

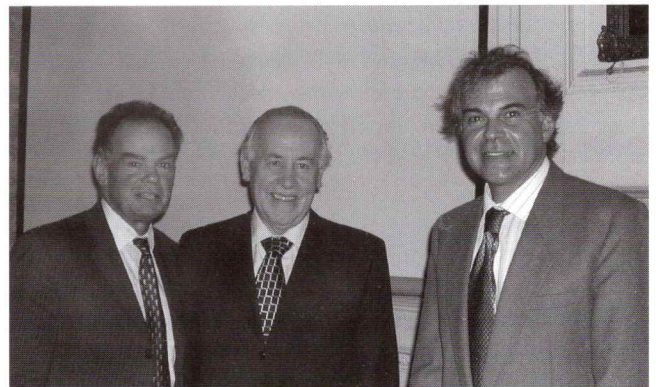
Among those present was Paulina Hechenleitner, the first Chilean horticultural scholarship student at Edinburgh, who we met at the Sir Leslie Bowes Lecture of 2001 on the subject "Threatened Chilean Plants — The Scottish Connection.

A wine and snack reception followed.

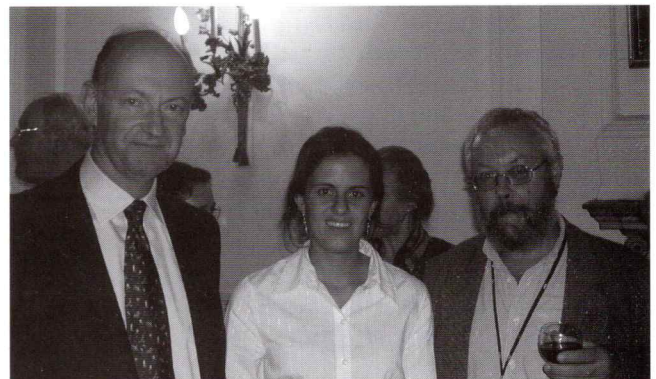
The members of the Executive Committee later attended a dinner hosted by Mr. Alan Macdonald at the Caledonian Club, in honour of the speakers.



From left to right: Professor Antonio Lara and Dr. Martin Gardner.



From left to right: Mr. Richard Wilkinson, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Professor Antonio Lara.



From left to right: Mr. Peter Bennett, Ms. Paulina Hechenleitner and Mr. Aljos Farjon (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew).



At the Caledonian Club Dinner in honour of the speakers: Mr. Alastair MacColl in the company of Mrs. Carmen Pearson and Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux.

THE ANDEAN PROJECT ANNUAL LECTURE

On 27th November 2006 the Andean Project held its annual lecture at Canning House in the presence of the Honorary President, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Baroness Hooper, Vice-President of Canning House, and the Project's Chairman, Mrs. Patricia Vincent.

The chairman opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone, particularly the Mayor of Arica, Sr. Carlos Valcarce, Sra. de Valcarce and Councillor José Ulloa. The combined efforts of the Town Council of Arica and the Andean Project instigated the Desert Botanic Garden in Arica to preserve and promote the botanical plants of the Atacama desert from sea level to the high Andes, with centres in Arica, Putre (at 3,500 metres) and Pocollo (at 4,500 metres).

H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno expressed his personal interest in the project, being an agriculturist by education. He introduced Baroness Hooper who praised Mrs. Vincent for her untiring work covering a vast area with a very small budget.

The curator-designate of the Desert Dome at the Eden Project in Cornwall, Ian Martin, explained the origins of the Eden Project as a whole, and his particular interest, the proposed Desert Dome. Showing slides of deserts from all over the world, Mr. Martin explained how people are trying to live in these inhospitable lands, and how projects like the Andean Project are important for their historical significance and the benefits they could offer mankind.

Finally, the Mayor of Arica, Sr. Carlos Valcarce, in a very well received speech, spoke of the aspirations of the area comprising the north of Chile, the south of Perú and the south-west corner of Bolivia.

The evening ended with a wine reception.

Details of the Andean Project can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. John Barker, 59 Osterley Views, West Park Road, Southall, Middx. UR2 1AF, or telephone 020-8571-0737.

INVESTITURE AT THE RESIDENCE

On Tuesday, 5th December 2006, four distinguished British citizens were honoured by the Chilean government for their contribution to strengthening the bilateral relations in various fields. Mr. Robert Blizzard, Labour MP, received the award of Gran Oficial de la Orden de Bernardo O'Higgins, while Mr. Anthony Westnedge, OBE, Mr. Desmond O'Connor and Mr. David Fox were honoured with the medal of Comendador de la Orden de Bernardo O'Higgins.



From left to right: Mr. Anthony Westnedge, OBE, Mr. Desmond O'Connor, Mr. David Fox, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Mr. Robert Blizzard MP.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

This took place on Tuesday, 12 December 2006 at Canning House. The evening started with a pisco and wine reception served with empanaditas. This was followed by a buffet dinner of "pastel de choclo" and salads, torta Mil Hojas and mince pies.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Richard Wilkinson, Baroness Hooper gave the welcoming speech to those present and thanked the organisers headed by Carmen Pearson. There was also a special mention of Mr. James Maunsell-Thomas of Community Telecom for sponsoring the event.

The Society thanks Julio Bouchon for providing the excellent wines, the Comité de Paltas Haas de Chile for the delicious avocados and Peter de Bruyne for the donation of 9 bottles of pisco to prepare, as he proudly says, "Our Chilean pisco sour, one of the world's great drinks".

As always, the raffle was the highlight of the evening. The top prize of two nights at the Meliá White House Hotel, London NW1, was won by Mrs. Carolina Somner.

Another lucky winner was Mr. Héctor Cerda with two successive draws: the ambassador's case of wine and our chairman's Luis Roederer Brut Premier champagne. "Ghost Train Through the Andes" by Michael Jacobs had to make its way to Portugal to find Mr. David Jackson, and the two bottles of Macul Vintage Cabernet Sauvignon were personally delivered by our Secretary to Mr. R. M. Middleton in New Malden, Surrey, who exclaimed that the last time he had won anything was in the 60s!

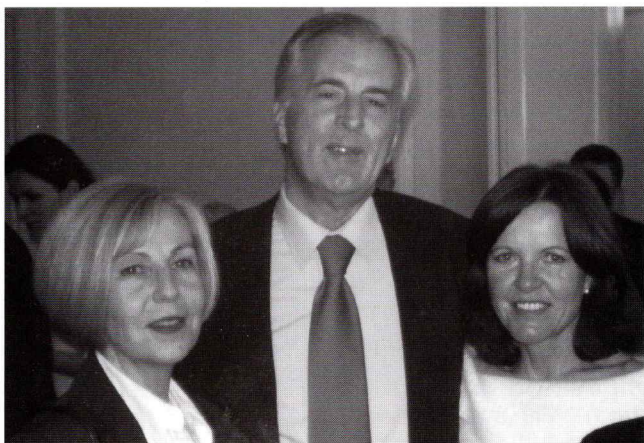
But the night belonged to H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno. He won the knowledge of something he thought he was never going to be able to understand...the rules of cricket! Thanks to David Pearson, our ambassador will be able now to understand that most English of sports.



H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Sra. de Moreno and Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux.



Ms. Susannah Grant, Ms. Claudia Munro Kerr, Mrs. Rowena Nason, Ms. Charlotte Howard-Jones, Ms. Marika Brennan and Mr. Alisdair Grant.



From left to right: Mrs. Angela Moon, Mr. Brian Moon and Mrs. Magdalena Jones.



Miss Carolina Arriagada, Miss Michelle Pearson and Mr. Alan Macdonald.

LATIN AMERICA 2015: A SHARED VISION?

The following are extracts from a speech given by Lord Triesman on 19th December 2007 at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Institute of International Studies. Lord Triesman of Tottenham is a Labour Peer and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with

responsibility for, amongst other regions, Latin America.

“Yesterday I held the first High Level Political Talks between Britain and Chile with Foreign Minister Foxley and Deputy Foreign Minister van Klaveren. During the talks we discussed some of today’s common international challenges, challenges that know no borders. That is what characterises these issues - their global nature. Conflict, poverty, crime, climate change whether in Latin America, Europe, Africa or the Middle East affect us all. We either work together, even more closely, or we will fail to tackle them successfully. We hope to continue these talks at regular intervals in the coming years.

Tackling poverty, as the first step towards sustainable growth and development, remains the number one priority for many Latin American governments. Some have already made major progress. Chile, as I have mentioned, is a remarkable example.

We will step up our counter-narcotics co-operation through sharing information, supporting law enforcement agencies and providing equipment to police and customs. And we will collaborate further on fighting the trade in arms and people and offering support for improvements in governance and respect for human rights. The best way for the UK to build on existing co-operation with Latin America is through working with friends in the region who share our values and interests. We have close ties with many countries in Latin America, but I want to emphasise the closeness of our ties with Chile.

I have been told that Chileans on the whole dislike public recognition for their successes. However I want to say something about what has been achieved in this country. I think it is worth risking offending you both because what you have done is so striking, and also because Chile today has much of what we hope the whole continent will have by 2015.

Over the past sixteen years Chile has made remarkable progress as a stable democracy and as a successful liberal market economy.

In 2006 Chile has emerged in numerous global indexes and reports leading Latin America on economic freedom, competitiveness, quality of life, information technology, e-government.

Transparency International’s 2006 corruption index ranks Chile at number 20 out of 163 countries, tied with the US and Belgium. Public debt has shrunk to about 30 percent. Inflation remains low. Chile’s poverty rate has dropped from 38.5 percent in 1990 to 18.8 percent in 2004. Of the 26 applicants for membership of the OECD Chile is among the closest to meeting the membership criteria. And let me add, as I said to Government Ministers yesterday, I am personally strongly committed and will argue fiercely for the early entry of Chile to OECD. The place has been earned; it is an entitlement.

Chile is increasingly active on the international stage. Through membership of the G20 and Cairns Group Chile is playing a key role in international trade negotiations. In 2004 and 2005 Chilean troops were involved in peace keeping operations in Haiti and Liberia.

The Chilean Army has made a valuable contribution to the UK-led mission in Bosnia. Chilean soldiers are held in high regard because of their commitment and professionalism.

Chile is also playing an active part in international security and development initiatives, including at the UN. We value particularly Chile's support for the resolution adopted two weeks ago, to launch discussions on an International Arms Trade Treaty which the UK has long campaigned for.

For Chile, like the UK, trade is our life blood. Chile has an extensive network of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements stretching from Asia across the Americas to the EU. Trade between our two nations continues to grow and we are the fourth largest overseas investor in Chile behind the US, Spain and Canada."

"ALMIRANTE COCHRANE" ENTERS SERVICE WITH THE CHILEAN NAVY

The Handover and Commissioning Ceremony of the former HMS Norfolk, renamed FF05 Almirante Cochrane, took place on the 22nd November 2006 at H.M. Royal Naval Base in Portsmouth.

The first of three Type 23 frigates to be purchased by the Chilean Navy was formally accepted by the then head of the Chilean Naval Mission in London, Captain Charles Le May, in the presence of an audience that included H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Navy, Admiral Rodolfo Codina, Major-General Malcolm Wood, DG LOG SC, and Captain Julio Leiva, who took command of the new frigate.

A marquee, specially erected on the quayside, welcomed the numerous guests to a superb reception which ended with the presentation of souvenirs commemorating the occasion.

A day to remember for the impeccable organisation and consummate professionalism.



FF05 Almirante Cochrane.



At the reception, from left to right: Group Captain Christian Gómez, the Earl of Dundonald, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Mr. John McDermont, MoD.



Mr. Alan Garwood, MoD, Major-General Malcolm Wood, DC LOG SC, Vice-Admiral Juan Eduardo Illanes and Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent.



From left to right: Mrs. Alejandra Novoa, Captain Carlos Novoa, Mrs. Vicky Le May and Mrs Gloria Moreno.



Mr. J. Antonio Dotor, Captain José Miguel Romero, the new head of the Chilean Naval Mission in London, and Captain Charles Le May.

NEW NAVAL & DEFENCE ATTACHÉ TO THE EMBASSY OF CHILE

Captain José M. Romero is the new head of the Chilean Naval Mission in London.

He was born in Valparaíso on 12th March 1957 and attended the "SS.CC. Padres Franceses" Schools in Valparaíso and Santiago. Captain Romero entered the Chilean Naval Academy "Arturo Prat" as a cadet in February 1972, graduating as Ensign on 1st January 1977.



Captain José M. Romero.

During his naval career, he has served for more than

14 years on board the following combat and auxiliary ships: TS "Esmeralda", LM "Uribe", AO "Araucano", DLH "Blanco Encalada", LM "Casma" and AP "Aguiles". The main positions held have been: Operations Officer of AO "Araucano" and DLH "Blanco", Executive Officer of the Fleet Station (COMIS) and DLH "Blanco" and Commanding Officer of LM "Casma", AP "Aguiles" and BE "Esmeralda".

He has also served as Staff Officer and is a specialist in Naval Aviation, a qualified Military Professor training graduates, a Weapons Engineer specialising in Naval Aviation and holds a degree in Naval and Maritime Sciences.

Throughout his career as Naval Aviator, he has undertaken flying duties for 12 years, mainly on board the Maritime-Air Surveillance Squadron VP-1 (ESCAEROEXUNO) holding different positions, among them those of both Deputy Commanding Officer and Commanding Officer. He is a flying instructor on the P-3 Orion and P-111 aircraft.

The main courses he has taken are Specialisation in Naval Aviation in 1981, Helicopters in 1982, PWO of the Fleet in 1989, General Staff Course in 1992, P-3 Orion Course with the Royal Netherlands Navy in 1993 and Regular Staff Course in 1997.

Captain Romero has been awarded the following decorations: the Star for the Military Merit, the Cross for Service on Board, Mission Accomplished Medal, Minerva Medal, Minerva Goddess Medal, the Navy Education Directorate Medal and Commander-in-Chief Chilean Navy Service Medal.

Captain Romero is married to M. Angélica De la Barrera and they have six children.

PIANO RECITAL AT THE RESIDENCE

A concert by the outstanding Chilean pianist María Paz Santibáñez was held on Wednesday, 31st January 2007.

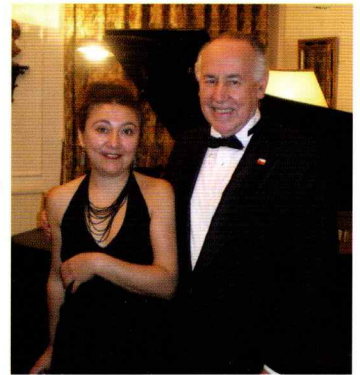
She started her career in Chile and a scholarship allowed her to study at the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris. While in France she also trained with renowned artists famous for their dedication and contribution to contemporary music. This influence was very much in evidence in a programme that included Latin American composers with some of their pieces premièred in London and delivered by María Paz with tremendous energy and panache.

A more sedate repertoire, including Albéniz and Debussy, followed after the interval and an emotional encore of variations on Violeta Parra's "Gracias a la Vida" brought the recital to a close.

Pisco sour and canapés were served during the interval and traditional Chilean delicacies were served after the recital.

The event, organised by the Embassy of Chile, the Anglo-Chilean Society and the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce, was sponsored by the international law firm Howard Kennedy and Lan Chile.

The proceeds are in aid of the Fundación de Orquestas Juveniles and Infantiles de Chile.



Ms. María Paz Santibáñez with H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno.



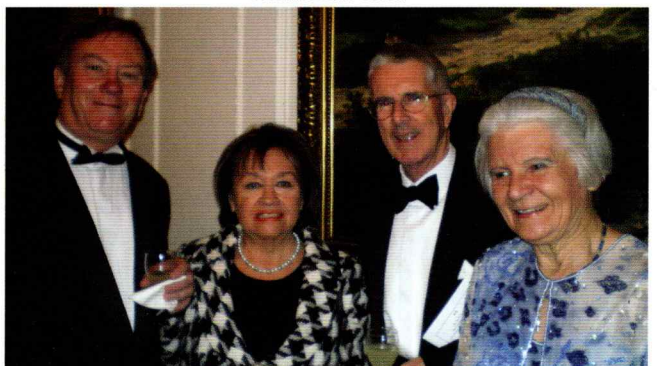
The Howard Kennedy sponsors from left to right: Mr. Philip Leacock, Mr. Martin Davies, Ms. Susana Miranda, Mr. Alan Banes, Mr. Michael Chapelow and Mr. Steven Morris.



From left to right: Mr. Richard Wilkinson, Professor Malcolm Troup, Mrs. Carmen Troup and H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno.



From left to right: The Mayor of Richmond, Mr. Bill Treble, Mrs. Patricia Pesse and Colonel Bosco Pesse.



Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lothian, Mr. Robert Hart and Mrs Judith Hart.

THE SEARCH FOR THE WAGER

Colonel John Blashford-Snell and his team of explorers from the Scientific Exploration Society (SES) believe they have found the remains of the wreck of HMS Wager in the south of Chile.

HMS Wager was 28-gun fleet supply ship, part of Commodore Anson's squadron of British warships sent to the west coast of South America in 1741 to confront the Spanish in the "War of Jenkins Ear" (so called, as the prime Cassus Belli was the slicing off of Captain Robert Jenkins' ear by the Spanish Coast Guard in 1731). The Wager struck the rocks close to a remote island off Chilean Patagonia, and almost 100 of her crew reached the island, now called Isla Wager.

Following a dispute over the jurisdiction of the captain — the soldiers claimed he had no rights to give them orders as they were Army and not Navy, while his own sailors, as was the custom at the time, ceased to be on the naval payroll following the sinking of their ship — the survivors split into two groups. The larger, some 80 men, sailed south around Cape Horn in ship's boats, while the smaller group led by the captain (including a midshipman Byron, grandfather of the poet Lord Byron) headed north, eventually being captured by the Spaniards and taken to Santiago. As a footnote to this story, the Navy rules were altered to confirm the authority of a captain over all survivors, and the soldiers on ships were replaced by a new service, now called the Royal Marines.

The Scientific Exploration Society first went to Chile in 1984, setting up Operation Raleigh, now Raleigh International, and it was in 1986 that the suggestion of searching for the wreck of the Wager was first put forward by the late Admiral Charles Le May (father of the former Naval Attaché in London, Captain Charles Le May) and British businessman, the late Michael Sheppard.

In November 2006, the expedition's divers led by Major Chris Holt, a retired Royal Engineer, and involving the Chilean Navy, British Army, together with scientists sailed to Wager Island to commence their search. After diving in severe weather conditions, the expedition found wreckage, not in the water, but on dry land! One explanation is that the coast line may have risen by up to 7m as a result of several earthquakes over the centuries. A 5 metre square section of an 18th century ship is now being studied to see if it could be the Wager.

However, the expedition was not restricted to just finding the wreck. Scientific data was collected on the local glaciers, which found that the Steffen and Jorge Montt glaciers have retreated up to 1km in 5 years. Flora and fauna were also studied, resulting in the finding of moths and butterflies in areas where none were thought to exist.

Finally, in keeping with the spirit of Raleigh International, several charitable works were carried out, including the installation of a new sewage system in the town of Tortel, funded by the British charity, Just a Drop. Materials for the local school and clinic were donated by several individuals, including the Alan Rivers Foundation, while an inflatable craft was donated to CONAF to assist in their work in the area.

The success of the venture was largely due to the support

of the Chilean Navy.

The Chilean News is indebted to SES for most of the information in this article. Members interested in the outcome of the investigation should consult the SES website.

DONATIONS

The environmentally friendly Anglo-Chilean Society has donated £1000 to Rainforest Concern for the purchase of forest land in Chile. The donation will be used to buy around 4 hectares of land in the Nasampulli Reserve, in southern Chile, part of a larger purchase of 266 hectares designed to provide a protected corridor between the existing Villarrica National Park and the reserve being created by Rainforest Concern. The aim of the project in creating the reserve and corridor is to preserve the forests of Araucaria trees, under threat from logging, roadbuilding and urbanisation. The donation was inspired by this year's Sir Leslie Bowes Lecture, which was given by, amongst others, Peter Bennett, Director of the NGO, Rainforest Concern. (See article "The Sir Leslie Bowes Lecture" in this issue.)

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London started this year's charitable work by donating a £700 industrial cooker to the Dr. Jorge Duclós Home situated in a hamlet on the outskirts of Viña del Mar. Here 23 deaf children between the ages of 4 and 14 are well taken care of. The Home is part of the work carried out by the Instituto de la Sordera de Valparaíso (the Valparaíso Institute of Deafness). These handicapped children either do not have the economic means, have been abandoned by their families or have been placed in the Home by the Social Services.



Mrs. Mónica Ojeda with a group of the deaf children of the Dr. Jorge Duclós Home that benefitted from the donation of the Group of Chilean Ladies in London.

MAILBAG

The Goa File

We have received mail from an Anglo-Argentine correspondent which may be of interest to our members. Mr. James Skinner, the Honorary British Consul in Vigo, Spain, has written a historical novel about Argentina covering the period 1945 to 1981 (from Perón through the 'Dirty War' and the build up to the invasion of the Falklands). The novel, called "The Goa File", is available from the internet through www.cyberwit.net and centres on Commander Alfredo Di

an intelligence officer in the Argentine Navy, who investigates the murder of a US oil company executive in Buenos Aires, supposedly committed by terrorists. As Di Martino pursues the clues, a more sinister plot begins to unravel that implicates the Presidency of the Argentine Republic and in particular its Director of Communications, Colonel David Jones, who is of Welsh origin. The storyline traces the early background and military careers of both characters and ends in an unexpected climax as both meet at the height of the planning of the Falkland Islands' invasion by the Argentine military in 1982. The novel is dedicated to all those Europeans, especially British, Italians and Spaniards who, since the XIX century, emigrated to Argentina and helped to build the emerging South American country. They are the real characters of the story.

A two-chapter taster of the novel can be obtained by going to www.google.com and searching for "The Goa File".

Valparaíso 25th January 2007

The Valparaíso Institute of Deafness, on behalf of their members and the children they take care of at the Home for the Deaf, "Dr. Jorge Duclós", thank the generous contribution of an industrial cooker and a set of crockery that will help to improve the living conditions of the 24 hearing-impaired youngsters.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Mónica Ojeda for visiting the Home and subsequently presenting the donation on behalf of the Group of Chilean Ladies in London.

Yours sincerely
Mario Navia Salinas
President — Valparaíso Institute of Deafness.

Following on from the article "Baroque Opera in Chile" which appeared in the October 2006 issue of the Chilean News, we were very pleased to have received an appreciative letter from Mr. Jack Edwards on 16th November 2006. An extract from his letter reads:

"Because of your article on me, I was delighted to have a meeting with the ambassador in London. We discussed the possibility of my returning to Chile with one of my recital programmes. This would be "If Music and sweet Poetry agree" — a recital of the sonnets of Shakespeare coupled with lute music from John Dowland and his contemporaries, in which I work with the renowned Dutch Lute player Fred Jacobs. We have toured this programme during the past two years, both in England and also Holland. His Excellency was most interested in this 'show' and saw no reason why we should not pursue it. It's a delightful programme, either performed as a one hour recital, or expanded to a show in two parts. Maybe the Anglo-Chilean Society would be interested for a performance here in London?"

FOOD AND DRINK

J. Bouchon Wines

Those attending the Christmas Party 2006 were treated to the excellent Chilean wines from the winery of J. Bouchon.

The Bouchon vineyards are family owned and situated in the Maule Valley, Chile's largest wine-growing region 250 km south of Santiago. The founder, G. Bouchon, came to Chile from his native Bordeaux, France, in the 19th century and put down roots, preparing the way for future generations. Today Julio Bouchon is the owner of the vineyards so ideally located for viniculture. The plantations, totalling 370 hectares, yield Carbernet Sauvignon, Camenère, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, Malbec and Chardonnay grapes.

J. Bouchon is represented in the UK by H&H Bancroft Wines, the established London wine merchant (www.bancroftwines.com), who features the Bouchon wines in the 2006/07 catalogue.

The Chilean Haas

An abundance of Haas avocados has been seen in the supermarkets throughout the country and appeared in more than one salad during this year's Christmas party, courtesy of the Comité de Palta Haas de Chile. The avocados are native to Latin America and have been cultivated since 8,000 BC. The word is derived from the Aztec "ahuacati" and is sometimes referred to as "nature's butter" because of its creamy and smooth texture. In ancient times American Indians called it "the fruit of the Gods" and worshipped its ability to increase vitality and general wellbeing.

Avocado plantations in Chile extend from La Serena in the north to Peumo in the south and cover an area of over 26,000 hectares, the equivalent to about 29,000 full-sized football pitches.

When one talks about the biggest consumers of avocado in the world, the honour goes to the Mexicans, followed by the Israelis and the Chileans.

Avocados contain healthy monounsaturated fats and one serving of half a medium-sized avocado provides just 133 calories. Did you know that the Guinness Book of Records claims avocados are "the most nutritious of all fruits that are commonly eaten raw?"

Palta Reina (6 people)

3 large ripe avocados
1 good-sized boneless chicken breast
slice of onion, slice of carrot and a sprig of parsley or tarragon
2 egg yolks
1 cup of vegetable oil
salt, freshly ground white pepper
lemon juice

Put sufficient water in a casserole to cover the chicken. Bring to the boil and add the onion, carrot, parsley or tarragon,

salt and freshly ground white pepper. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes or until the chicken is tender. Discard the vegetables and, once it is cold, shred the chicken.

Peel, halve lengthways and discard the stones of the avocados. Sprinkle with lemon juice to prevent darkening of the fruit. Make a mayonnaise with the 2 egg yolks and the cup of oil and, when ready, add salt, lemon and white pepper to taste. (See recipe below).

Mix the shredded chicken with 1 tablespoon of mayonnaise. Fill the avocado cavities with the chicken and cover with the rest of the mayonnaise. Sprinkle with a little chopped parsley and serve on a bed of lettuce or chicory

Mayonnaise

It is important that all the ingredients are at room temperature. Put the two egg yolks in a bowl and stir slowly and continuously with a fork, always in the same direction. Start adding the vegetable oil drop by drop until the mixture thickens. Season with lemon juice, salt and freshly ground white pepper. To save time and effort, a food-processor can be used.

Avocado Cream Soup (4 people)

4 medium-sized ripe avocados
4 cups vegetable or chicken stock
2-3 teaspoons cornflour
½ cup double cream
Salt and freshly ground white pepper

Purée the avocados sprinkling lemon juice to prevent darkening of the fruit. Bring the stock to the boil and then reduce the heat before adding the puréed avocado. Add salt and pepper to taste. Dissolve the cornflower in a little cold water and pour it into the preparation. Stir and let it simmer for a few minutes until the soup has thickened. Add the cream before serving.

Garnish with croûtons or swirl a little cream across the top.

Chilean Mussels at Sainsbury's

You will find plastic containers of 250g of ready-cooked, plump, shelled mussels in the chilled section of the supermarket. At £1.99, it is an offer you cannot refuse! (Beware: there are containers of Pacific Ocean Mussels which look similar — look for the name "Chilean Mussels".)

Mussels in Green Sauce

For a great starter combine finely chopped onion and curly parsley in a bowl. Add oil, salt, freshly ground pepper and plenty of lemon juice. Drain the mussels before adding to the mixture. Cover with cling film, and keep in the refrigerator until needed.

Serve on a bed of lettuce.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Classic Guitar Concert by José Antonio Escobar on 12th April in the Purcell Room, South Bank.

Raleigh International Paintings Exhibition at the Embassy of Chile, 12 Devonshire Street, London W1. Date to be confirmed.

Flamenco Guitarist, Jorge Bravo performing with Lucinda Broadbridge and Caroline Makepeace on 12th May at St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon. Tickets £25 (concessions £15) includes light supper. For details contact Alice Fooks on 020 8788 7584.

Wine Event, including a talk and tasting on 15th May at Canning House. Details to be circulated prior to the event.

A Classic Guitar Concert by Carlos Pérez on 1st June in the Purcell Room, South Bank.

Guitar Concert by Luis Orlandini in July. Location and date to be confirmed.

A Classic Guitar Concert by Oscar Ohlsen. Location and date to be confirmed.

Dieciocho Dinner, possibly on 19th or 20th September. Details to be confirmed

A Classic Guitar Concert by Romilio Orellana in September. Location and date to be confirmed.

Mapuche Food Tasting & Photographic Exhibition on 18th October at Canning House.

MUSIC AND POETRY

Those of you who appreciate the poetry of Pablo Neruda may be interested in a recent recording on Nonesuch Records.

The American composer, Peter Lieberson, chose five of the love poems Neruda wrote to his third wife, Matilde Urrutia, and set them to music as love songs to his own wife, the mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, who died in 2006.

When the songs were first performed by Lorraine in 2005, they were greeted with universal praise and her recording of the songs immediately went to number 2 on US Billboard's classical chart.

The songs are sung in Spanish, and available on Nonesuch Records 79954.

NEW MEMBERS

Community Telecom (Corporate Member)

Ms. Carolina Arriagada

Mrs. Barbara Davies

Ms. Marion Khamis

Mr. & Mrs. Keith McNeill

Mr. & Mrs. Vincente McNeill

Mr. & Mrs. John Wilkinson

Mr. Suryan Wirya & Ms. María Fernanda Sepúlveda

SPANISH: CHILEAN-STYLE

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

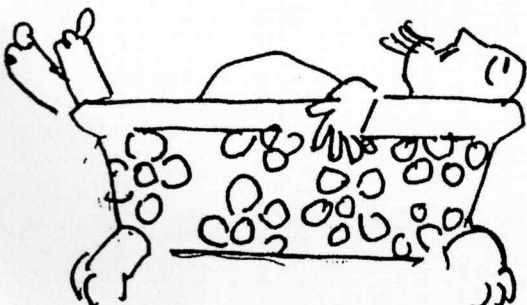
De un cuanto hay	-	A wide variety.
De un viaje	-	All in one go. To do something right away and from beginning to end without pause.
Decir piropos	-	To sweet talk, to flatter.
Dejar la crema	-	To make a mess out of things.
Dejar plantado	-	To stand someone up. To have someone waiting.
Del uno	-	Excellent, really good.
Descueve	-	Excellent, really good.
Despelote	-	Disastrous, disorganised.
Desubicado	-	Clueless. Person who does not understand or follow social conventions. Lost, as in to be out of place.
Dije	-	Charming or sweet (refers to a person).

THE PAINTER AS POET

Edmund Swinglehurst, a member of the Society who died in 2005 (Obituary Chilean News October 2005) was an enthusiastic painter. But he was also an author and a poet. Here we offer an example of his humour, together with his almost Thurberesque illustration.

Bathtime

Oh let me in this perfumed bath expire
And let the waters douse my earthly fires;
In this warm steamy fog I'd end my days
And disappear into the yellow haze.
For lying in this deep enamelled box
I know the truth is that my body mocks
The failure of the dreams within.
'You're looking well and full of vim
And vigour', yet the mirror shows
An old Apollo in a Roman pose.
Mens sana in corpore sano, you assume
But in this flesh there is the smell of doom.
How nice if I could just stay here
And pull the plug; and when the bath is clear
Vanish forever in the scented air.
And when one enters they would swear
That they were certain someone had been there.



ENGADIN CROSS-COUNTRY SKI MARATHON

On the 12th March 2006, the Society's Vice-Chairman, Claudia Munro Kerr, undertook the gruelling Engadin Cross-Country Ski Marathon in Switzerland on behalf of the Canning House Library and Cultural Centre. She raised the magnificent sum of £6,000, competing in conditions more akin to an Antarctic expedition than the Alps, as she explains:-

"I woke just before 6.00am on the morning of the Marathon and peered out at an alarmingly hostile and wind-swept scene from the warmth of my cosy Pontrasina Hotel room. It was my first attempt at the Engadin Cross-Country Ski Marathon and even though I had trained hard for this day, I had no idea what was in store for me.

Once I was up and about, I piled on layer upon layer of clothing before heading downstairs for a hearty breakfast of porridge, bananas and anything energy boosting I could lay my hands on. I stuffed my bum-bag with energy and glucose bars, and filled my water bottle with isotonic liquid before departing the hotel with my fellow skiers. The minute I stepped out of the hotel, I could feel that we were in for a hard day as the icy chill that welcomed us on the steps as we clambered down with skis and poles bit hard on my cheeks.

In true Swiss style, the Swiss Army was there to welcome us at the Start line of the race where we were instructed to strip off all our outer layers down to our thin lycra racing trousers and wind-proof jackets, and hand over our race bags (containing all our spare belongings) to the soldiers in the trucks who would drive them over to the Finish line, some 42 km. down the road.

The race is managed efficiently with separate start pens for the two disciplines (free-style or classic) and the two sexes. I was in the female free-style pen which was due to set out at 9.30am. As we stretched and jumped about to generate warmth, we were delighted to be given bin-bags, from which we cut out head- and arm-holes and wore them over our race kit to keep warm. Once our race was called, we headed down to the Start line, bent over to shield our faces from the biting, gusty wind coming right at us. The swirls of snow in the on-coming wind were catching on our eyebrows and clothes, and it was difficult to see where to go without goggles. A bizarre recital of 80's disco music greeted us at the Start line where we again bounced around to encourage circulation. Then, once our skis were on, the horn was sounded, and the race commenced.

A trail of figures, ant-like against the gargantuan and forbidding size of the surrounding mountains, pushed off to achieve their personal best. But, as I skied out over frozen lakes and up and down kilometer after kilometer of snowy paths and hills, I had no idea that I was competing in the worst weather conditions in the 38-year history of the race. We were skiing in air temperatures of -15°C and into a 60 kmph head-wind yielding a -30°C wind-chill factor. Old timers who had competed up to 30 times told us they had seen bad weather before, but never anything like this. I had never been colder. The winning time was 1hr 55m 51s, compared to the usual 1hr 30m or so. Times for most skiers were over one hour longer than the previous year. My time was 4hr 57m which, under normal conditions, would have been around the 3hr 45m mark. I felt very proud! 12,000 people started the race and only 9,000 finished...there were broken limbs, and even one

death at the finish line... really quite alarming. I went with 6 friends, two of whom suffered snow blindness. There was a lot of frostbite on ears and cheeks, but especially fingers. About four or five days after the race, the tips of my index fingers peeled off like blisters.

If you look up the word 'marathon' in the dictionary it says "a test of endurance ...displaying powers of endurance and stamina". Well, I have no doubt that I gave it my all, and I feel proud to have raised nearly £6,000 for Canning House with the support of my friends and colleagues, all of whom I would like to heartily thank as they kept me going every step of the way."



Ms. Claudia Munro Kerr, on the left, and fellow skiers.

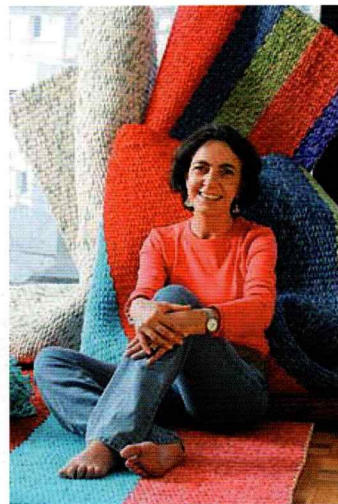


The fundraiser after the event.

100% DESIGN

Britain's contemporary design exhibition took place last September at Earl's Court with the participation of more than 450 exhibitors, among them Luz Méndez, a Chilean textile designer who has earned a reputation for producing high quality carpets and tapestries. Her work adorns "in" places such as the Hotel Explorador Patagonia in Torres del Paine and residences of Chilean VIPs.

In 1997 she was awarded the first prize in the national exhibition "Espacios y Ambientes". This was followed by another top design award in 2002. Luz Méndez is in the vanguard of a group of artists devoted to interior design in Chile today.



The designer Luz Méndez with examples of her work.



The Nasampulli Reserve, southern Chile.

Readers who wish to purchase any of the photographs appearing in this issue should contact the Editor, Chilean News, telephone 020-8398-9448. Prices start at £1.50 for a standard 6 in. by 4 in. print.

