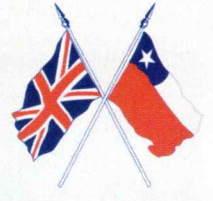


CHILEAN NEWS



Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

www.anglochileansociety.org

66th Year No. 376

London, April 2010

37-41 Old Queen Street London SW1H

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

At the Residence

A reception was offered by H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno on Friday, 18th September on the occasion of Chile's national day. (Continued on page 2, column 1.)



Welcoming the guests: H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Sra. de Moreno, Mr Rodrigo Espinosa, Admiral Jorge Chandía, Coronel Werther Araya and Group Captain Eduardo Peña.



From left to right: Mr Alan Macdonald, Mr George Silva-Rozzi, Mrs Karina Gibbons and Mr Alejandro Gibbons.



From left to right: Mr Michael Cox, Mr Cristián León and Mr Michael Druitt.



From right to left: The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Duncan Sandys, Mrs Natalia Cutting and Mr Mark Cutting.

The Anglo Chilean Society Reception

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, a vice-president, was host at a reception for the Society held in the House of Lords on 23rd September.

Among the guests were H.E. the Ambassador of Chile, HM Ambassador in Santiago, Mr Howard Drake, Baroness Hooper and Mr Richard Wilkinson, chairman of the Society. (Continued on page 2, column 2.)



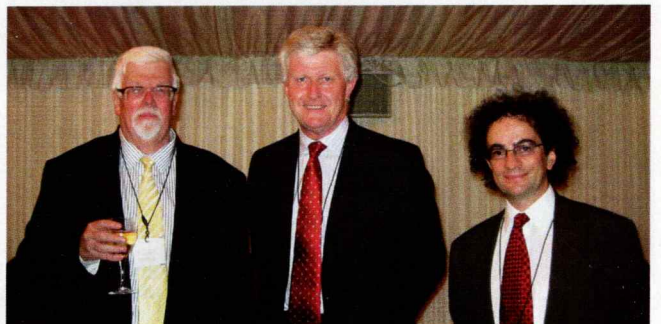
From left to right: Mrs Angela Wilkinson, Mr Richard Wilkinson, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Mrs Georgina Gubbins and Mrs Georgina Roberts.



From left to right: Assistant Naval Attaché Captain Oscar Vargas, Mrs Marcela Vargas, Mrs Mónica Volpin, Mr Michael Volpin, Mr George Silva-Rozzi and Mrs Luise Silva-Rozzi.



From left to right: Mr Alasdair Grant, Ms Georgie Grandy, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Mr Richard Wilkinson.



From left to right: Mr Hamish Buchan, the former British Ambassador to Chile, Mr Howard Drake, and the present Ambassador, Mr Jonathan Benjamin.

At the Residence
continued from page 1



Prof. and Mme. Beravale in the company of Admiral Jorge Chandía.



From left to right: Mrs Luz María Reyes, Mr Enrique Reyes and Mrs Camen-Gloria Heap.



From left to right: Mrs Patricia Rojo, Mrs Silvia Araya, Mrs María Angélica Chandía and Mrs Ana María Peña.



From left to right: Colonel Werther Araya, Ms Angélica Valladares and Group Captain Eduardo Peña.

The Anglo Chilean Society Reception
continued from page 1



H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno between Mr Brian Murtagh and Mr Donald Filshill of the 14 Compañía de Bomberos in Santiago.



Mrs Silvia Moreno, Colonel and Mrs Werther Araya and Señora Gloria de Moreno.



From left to right: Mrs Judith Hart, Mr Robert Hart and Mrs Peggy Hart.

Other Celebrations

Casa Chilena celebrated Chile's national day on Friday, 16th September at "Las Palmeras", a tapas and wine bar in Stockwell, London SW9. As is traditional, some of the guests wore national costumes and danced the night away.

The Latin Palace in Vauxhall repeated the great success of last year in offering a very lively "fiesta nacional" with lots of singing and dancing, plus the participation of the dance ensemble of Claudio Vera.



Traditional dances at the Latin Palace.



Cristina Matus with Juan Campos wearing a magnificent "poncho".



Claudio Vera and his dancing partner showing off their talent.

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London celebrated "el mes de la patria" with a very Chilean lunch of "empanadas", "pastel de choclo" and "torta mil hojas". Even the location could not have been more appropriate, near Richmond, Surrey, the stamping ground of the young Bernardo O'Higgins, the Liberator.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A ceremony was held by H.E. Señor Rafael Moreno on the occasion of the inauguration of the imposing new premises of the Embassy of Chile in Old Queen Street, London SW1 on Wednesday, 14th October 2009.



H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and former Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Sr. Mariano Fernández, cutting the ribbon.



From left to right: Mr Richard Wilkinson, Mr Desmond O'Connor and Mr Jacques Arnold.



Lord and Lady Naseby, Mr Michael Cox and Mr Cristián López.



Lt-Commander Javier Mardones with H.E. the former Ambassador of El Salvador, Sr. Ricardo Avila and Sra. de Avila.



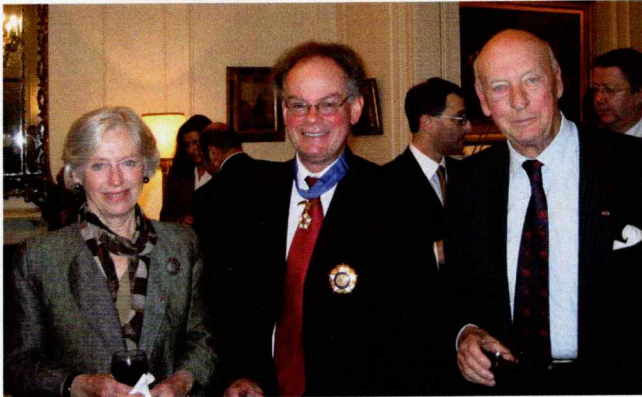
From left to right: Mr Marcelo Awad, Mrs Georgina Roberts and Mr Gonzalo Cuadra.

PRESENTATION OF DECORATIONS BY H.E. SR RAFAEL MORENO

The medal of Grand Officer of the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins for his involvement in fostering British-Chilean relations was bestowed on Mr Richard Wilkinson CVO, British Ambassador to Chile from 2003 to 2005, and current chairman of the Anglo Chilean Society.



From left to right: Sra. de Moreno, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Mr Richard Wilkinson and Mrs Angela Wilkinson.



From left to right: Baroness Hooper, Mr Richard Wilkinson and Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.



From left to right: Mr Wilf Wilkinson, Mrs Angela Wilkinson, Mr Richard Wilkinson and Mr John Wilkinson.

The medal "Orden de Bernardo O'Higgins" in the degree of Knight Commander was presented to Mrs Patricia Vincent on January 22nd at the Forrester Court Care Home in central London.

Mrs Vincent was the chairman of the Andean Project in Chile and acting chairman of the Project in the UK, which was an Anglo-Chilean initiative to create sustainable developments to alleviate poverty among the indigenous peoples of the Andes.



Mrs Patricia Vincent holding the scroll, with her decoration.

CHILEAN BRITISH INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

On 25th November 2009, in one of the first events to be held in the ground-floor meeting room of the new embassy, the Chilean British Institute of Santiago (Instituto Chileno-Británico) launched the book celebrating its 70 years of existence. The launch was graced by the presence of His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex KG KCVO, who is Patron of the Chilean British University, the higher education arm of the Institute.

After a brief introduction by Mr Pedro Pfeffer, chairman of the Institute, the guests were welcomed by H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, who said that the Chilean British Institute was very

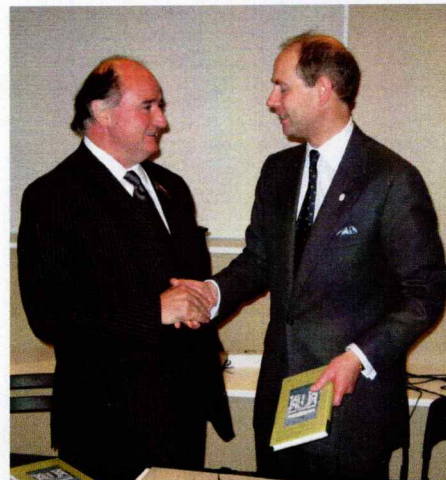
important to many Chileans and demonstrated the excellent relationship between Chile and the United Kingdom.

Mr Anthony Adams, a veteran of 45 years service with the Institute and currently head of International Relations at the University, gave a concise and precise history of the seat of learning from its foundation in 1938 with 200 students to the current 19,000 students and the creation of the University. The aim of the Institute has been the fostering of cultural relations between Chile and Great Britain. The three major areas of success were in setting up a library and information service, which now numbers some 18,000 items in English, the largest collection in Chile; cultural activities and events which have brought such famous names to Chile as Sir John Gielgud, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, while fostering Chilean talent such as Nicanor Parra, who was commissioned to translate "King Lear" into Spanish, which has since become the definitive version of the tragedy in Chile; and most importantly, the teaching of English and training of teachers in the English language. This includes the largest Teacher Training College for English teachers in Chile. With the granting of a Charter for the Chilean British University in 2006, the Institute is now able to train graduates in English as a foreign language and as teachers in English. In closing, Mr Adams acknowledged the connection of the British Royal Family, which included visits from HM The Queen, Princess Anne and Prince Edward, culminating with Prince Edward being named as Royal Patron to the new University.

Finally, HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, thanked the Institute for the invitation to attend the book launch. He explained that the reasons he had agreed to be the Patron of the University were twofold. First was its position at the leading edge of education, and secondly his support of all that maintained the excellent relationships between Chile and the United Kingdom.



From left to right: H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Mr Pedro Pfeffer and Chilean student Nicolás Donoso.



Mr Pfeffer giving HRH The Earl of Wessex a copy of the book.



From left to right: The British Ambassador in Santiago, Mr Howard Drake, Mrs Gill Drake and Dr John Knagg.



From left to right: Admiral Enrique Larrañaga, Mrs Karina Gibbons, Consul Alejandro Gibbons and Admiral Jorge Chandía.



From left to right: Mr Guillermo Echeverría, Mrs Isabel Cuadra and Mr Gonzalo Cuadra.

SIR LESLIE BOWES LECTURE

The 2009 Sir Leslie Bowes Lecture was held on 26th November at the Chilean Embassy. On this occasion the subject, "Impressions of Chile", was delivered by Mr Howard Drake, British Ambassador to Chile since 2005. He also served as second secretary to the British Embassy in Santiago from 1985-1988, during which time he met his wife.

He started the lecture by explaining that, although he had left Chile, he was still Her Majesty's Ambassador until his successor, Mr John Benjamin, presented his credentials with the appropriate letter of recall. Therefore, he felt the need to choose his words carefully as, apart from his diplomatic status, he was also a guest in the Chilean Embassy. To quote Harold Macmillan: "diplomats are forever poised between a cliché and an indiscretion"!

His second posting to Chile was to a very different country from the first occasion. Then it was a dictatorship, while on his return in 2005 he found a fully functioning democracy, a truly remarkable and successful transition of government. He had left Chile in 1988 prior to the plebiscite of that year and one thing that struck him in 2005 was how much less polarised was the political scene. He was also surprised to note that the armed forces and carabineros were still held in high esteem.

Other changes were the notable attempts at modernising the government, such as more transparency and availability of information. Also, in business, there were fundamental structural changes in the economy. Evidence of the new wealth was apparent in the Santiago skyline, dubbed Sanhattan, but the exchequer was careful not to squander the income generated by the country's natural resources. The new democracy had been wise enough not to ditch all the policies of the previous dictatorship. Also noticeable was the huge decrease in the proportion of people living below the poverty line, from 48% to 15% by 2009. Alongside this was the growth in education, showing the government's resolve to develop its human capital by dramatically increasing the number of graduates.

As ambassador, he witnessed the increase in bilateral cooperation between Chile and Great Britain. Perhaps foremost of these was the great friendship between the two navies, a long-standing relationship since Chilean independence, but there were also examples such as the visit of HRH Prince Charles to discuss global warming and that of Gordon Brown, the first official visit by a serving British Prime Minister.

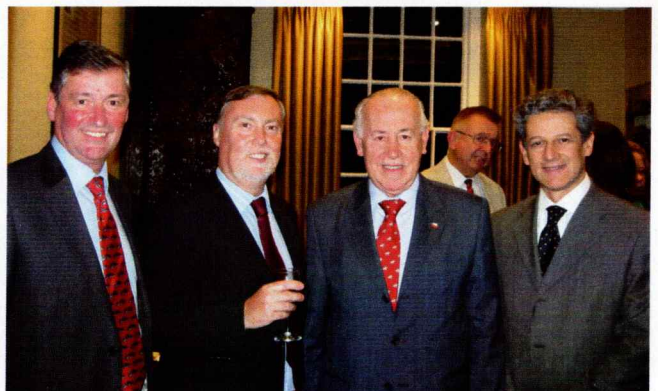
Mr Drake opined that his successor was arriving at an interesting period as both countries were due to hold elections within the next six months, which could see two centre-left governments replaced by two centre-right ones.

However, some things had not changed in the twenty years. First was the warmth of the Chilean people, although he also noticed that every shop still insisted on issuing a "boleto" (receipt) before you could leave, and they retained the "remarkable clarity" of the language, together with the skill and determination of the Chilean driver! On a more serious note, he was also struck by the fact that so many of the same names cropped up on the political scene as on his previous stay.

The lecture finished with wine and snacks.



From left to right: Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Mr Richard Wilkinson, Mrs Gill Drake and H.E. the British Ambassador to Chile, Mr Howard Drake.



From left to right: Mr Brian Jones, Mr George Silva-Rozzi, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Mr Gonzalo Cuadra.



From left to right: Mr Cristián León, Mr Pedro Pfeffer and Mr Roy Schneider.

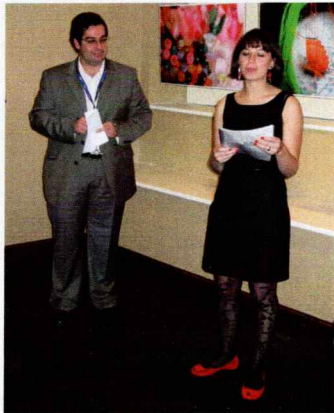
CHILEAN CRAFT EXHIBITION

An exhibition of a handicraft unique to Chile, the art of producing beautiful costume jewellery by the weaving of horsehair, had its première in the United Kingdom on 27th November 2009.

It all started in Rari, an Andean town situated 22 km from Linares, originally a small area inhabited by the Putagane Indians.

The town of Rari came to fame as the only centre in Chile, and possibly in the world, for miniature basket weaving using horsehair.

For 200 years local women had devoted themselves to developing the technique and imagination to produce the splendid designs of today. Originally making the baskets with traditional vegetal fibre, the women started to use horsehair around 80 years ago, although the reason for the change is unknown.



Mr Rodrigo Rojo, the Chilean Commercial Attaché, and Ms Cecilia Bravo of Chilean Makers.



The artisan Ms Varignia Montalbetti.



A display of the costume jewellery.

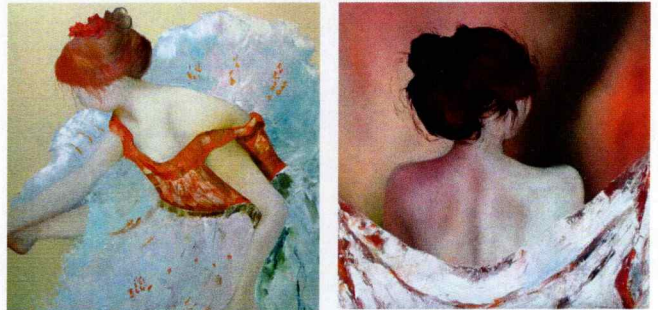
PREVIEW OF VALENTINA'S ENIGMAS

The first art exhibition of the Chilean artist Valentina Corral in the United Kingdom was held on Monday, 30th November 2009 at Canning House.

Born in southern Chile, a landscape of natural beauty, it is no surprise that she showed an interest and talent for all subjects related to the plastic arts. At the end of her secondary school studies she moved to Santiago where she studied Graphic Design.

In 1985 she continued her career at the academy of Leonor de Amesty, specialising in portraits, principally oils and pastels. She served her apprenticeship for the next five years with the well-known Chilean painter, Sergio Stichken, resulting in a long period of realism and still life in oil on canvas, with a special emphasis on working with light and shadow to create a balanced composition.

In 1995 she moved to Mexico and joined the academy of the Argentine painter Pablo Symulewicz, specialising on the human form. That same year she was invited to participate in the exhibition "Sensibilidad y Formas". Her success opened the way to becoming a permanent exhibitor at art galleries in Mexico City.



Some of the paintings in the exhibition.



From left to right: H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Valentina Corral, Sra. de Moreno and Mr Eduardo Carmona.



From left to right: Mrs Karina Gibbons, Miss Melissa Gibbons, Mr Alejandro Gibbons and Mrs Ingrid Lydon.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

This took place on Tuesday, 1st December at Canning House. This time the party had an added attraction, an invitation to visit the world of colour, movement and form of "Enigmas", the first exhibition of Valentina Corral in the United Kingdom.

A pisco and wine reception was followed by an excellent “ceviche” and tasty “charquicán”. The ever so popular “torta mil hojas” accompanied the coffee and made way for the raffle, as always the highlight of the evening, with the top prize, Tea for Two with Lady Brennan at the House of Lords, going to Mr Jonathan Cook. Mrs Magdalena Jones won the second prize of two nights at the Masa de la Serra Complex in Spain, courtesy of Mr Alasdair Grant, while the traditional ambassador’s case of wine was won by Mrs E. Young.



From left to right: Mr Michael Gubbins, Mrs Melissa Gubbins, Mrs Magdalena Jones, Ms Valentina Corral and Mr Cristián León.



From left to right: Mr Alan Douglas, Mrs Joanna Douglas and Mr David Bouche.



Dr Heather Angus-Leppan, Mrs Angela Wilkinson, Mr Richard Wilkinson, Mr Charles Priestley and Dr Robert Guiloff.



Three former military attachés in London accompanied by their wives: From left to right: General Werther Araya, Mrs Silvia Araya, General Bosco Pesse, Mrs Patricia Pesse, Mrs Adriana Salas and General Jorge Salas.

CHILEAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

On Sunday, 19th January 2010, Sr. Sebastián Piñera, the candidate of the Coalition for Change, won the second round of the presidential election, bringing an end to twenty years in office of the centre-left.

With a degree in Economics from Universidad Católica of Chile, followed by a Master’s and Doctorate from Harvard, where he studied between 1973 and 1976, Sr. Piñera felt the need to work for the construction of a better Chile.

Back in the country in 1976, he started working on a project against poverty in Latin America. In the 1980’s, with Chile in economic crisis, he applied his knowledge and expertise to creating enterprises that would generate both wealth and employment. It was during this period that he built his fortune, introducing the credit card system to the country.

With the return of democracy following the plebiscite of 1988, he was elected to the Senate in 1990, being honoured by his peers as one of the two best senators of that period.

The presidential inauguration was a painful reminder of the immediate problem facing his administration, being interrupted by an aftershock of 7.3 on the Richter scale, a result of the enormously destructive earthquake of 27th February of this year.

The Anglo Chilean Society wishes all success to the new administration and to the effective reconstruction and continued prosperity of Chile.

INAUGURATION OF SALON ARTURO PRAT

On a very cold, very blustery morning in February, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and staff of the Chilean Embassy, together with representatives of the three military missions to the United Kingdom and other organisations housed in the new building, gathered on the roof to witness the raising of the national flag on the new flagpole.

The group then descended to the first floor, where the ambassador and the head of the Naval Mission formally opened the Salón Arturo Prat with the traditional cutting of the ribbon. This magnificent room has been fitted out courtesy of the Chilean Naval High Command and includes several paintings by Chilean artists on marine themes, as well as a bust of Capitán Prat, and a model of the “Esmeralda”.

The final act of the morning was the unveiling of a plaque in the entrance hall of the embassy, declaring: “Este edificio fue adquirido por el Gobierno de la República de Chile en el Bicentenario de su Independencia durante la Presidencia de S.E. Michelle Bachelet J. por el Embajador de Chile en

MILITARY PROMOTION

During a ceremony held at the Escuela Militar in Santiago on 7th December 2009, the former Military Attaché to the Embassy of Chile in London, Colonel Werther Araya, was promoted to the rank of General in the presence of his family and high-ranking army officers.

General Werther Araya received the traditional sword, a replica of that used by Bernardo O’Higgins, from the Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Army, General Oscar Izurieta.

The Anglo Chilean Society offers its warmest congratulations to General Araya and his family.



From left to right: Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Army, General Oscar Izurieta and General Werther Araya.

Londres Sr. Rafael Moreno R. - Julio 2009" (This building was acquired for the Government of the Republic of Chile on the Bicentenary of its independence during the presidency of H.E. Michelle Bachelet J. by the Ambassador of Chile in London, Sr. Rafael Moreno R. - July 2009)



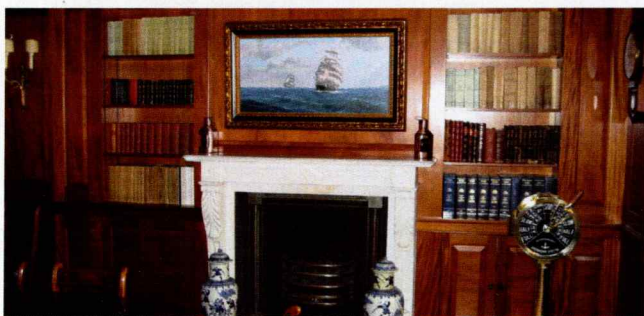
H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno cutting the ribbon of "Salón Arturo Prat", in the presence of the head of the Naval Mission, Admiral Jorge Chandía.



From left to right: Assistant Naval Attaché, Captain Oscar Vargas, Military Attaché, Colonel Ramiro Reyes, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Naval Attaché, Admiral Jorge Chandía and Air Force Attaché, Group Captain Claudio Ibacache.



"The Sinking of the Esmeralda" by Garetti above a bust of Arturo Prat.



"Returning to Port" over the fireplace of the Salón Arturo Prat.

IN HONOUR OF H.E. SR. RAFAEL MORENO AND SRA. DE MORENO

The Executive Committee of the Anglo-Chilean Society offered a farewell lunch to the departing ambassador and his wife in appreciation for all their support. It was hosted by Mr Alasdair Grant on 18th February at his residence in Pimlico, London SW1.

Speeches were given by Mr Richard Wilkinson CVO, chairman of the Society, the guest of honour, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, and Mr Gonzalo Cuadra, representing the now defunct British Chilean Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Rodrigo Espinosa, the Minister Counsellor, who will deputise until the new ambassador arrives, was a special guest.

As a parting gift, H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno was presented with an antique print of "A Chart shewing the SEA COAST of England & Wales, with ye Fortifications, Royal Docks, Harbours, Sands &C".



From left to right: Standing: Mr Alan Macdonald, Mr Cristián León, Mr John Rickus, Mr Gonzalo Cuadra, the host, Mr Alasdair Grant, Mr Robert Hart and Mr Michael Roberts. Seated: Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mr Rodrigo Espinosa, Mrs Henriette Subercaseaux, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno, Sra. de Moreno and Mr Richard Wilkinson.

AT THE RESIDENCE

A reception was offered by H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno and Sra. de Moreno on Friday, 26th February on the occasion of their return to Chile at the end of his term as ambassador to the Court of St. James.



From left to right: Sra. Gloria de Moreno, Baroness Hooper, H.E. Sr. Rafael Moreno and Ms Felicity Ann Croft.



From left to right: Mr Michael Cox, Mr David Grant and Mr Anthony Westmedge OBE.



From left to right: Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Ben Khosa, Mr Osvaldo Ahumada and former Mayor of Richmond, Mr Bill Treble.



From left to right: Mr Desmond O'Conor, Mr Marcial Echeñique, Mrs Teresa Cánepa, Mr Alejandro Gibbons, Mrs María Luisa Echeñique and Mr Gonzalo Cuadra.



From left to right: Mrs Marcela Vargas, Mrs Patricia Rojo, Mrs Janery Ibacache and Mrs Marcela Reyes.

NEW AIR FORCE ATTACHÉ TO THE EMBASSY OF CHILE

Group Captain Eduardo Peña has returned to Chile and, in his place, we welcome Group Captain Claudio Ibacache.

Group Captain Ibacache, who was born in Santiago, entered the Chilean Air force as a cadet and was commissioned in 1982. He is qualified as a Fighter Pilot, with over 2,625 hours of flying experience in a wide variety of fast-jet aircraft on operational duties.



Group Captain Claudio Ibacache.

His non-flying achievements include qualification as an Instrumental Procedures Instructor at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy of the USAF in 1994, completion of the Staff Officer Course in 1997, graduation from the Chilean Air Force Staff College and graduating as an engineer in Aeronautical Systems from the Air War Academy. He also gained an MA in Human Resources Administration from the Gabriela Mistral University in Santiago. In 2000 he was posted to Israel as a UN Observer.

Following a posting as Officer Commanding No. 8 Squadron, he was appointed Chief of Staff to the under-secretary of the Air Force in 2007.

As with his predecessors, the Group Captain's responsibilities include Air Attaché Concurrent to the Kingdom of Sweden and The Royal Netherlands, as well as the Embassy's Attaché in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

He is accompanied by his wife, Janery, and their two sons, Claudio and Alejandro. During his stay in London he will no doubt have ample opportunity to enjoy two of his sporting interests, tennis and football.

A CRAFT WITH A DIFFERENCE

An exhibition of work by Chilean women using rags embroidered on large pieces of cloth to create images of the trials and tribulations of daily life was held on Monday, 8th March at the Embassy of Chile.

The three-dimensional appliqué textiles called "arpilleras", or tapestry on hessian, derived its name from the Spanish for hessian – arpillera, and reached a peak during the government of General Pinochet and his repressive regime.

When the curator of the exhibition, Roberta Bacic, was assembling the exhibits, she found that arpilleras were not exclusive to Chile, and there were examples from Perú, Ecuador and Northern Ireland also on view.



"Harmony Between Life and Enviroment makes us Happy" (Chile)



"Prices are Sky High" (Perú, 1980s) – Women queue for meagre essential due to the very high prices (shown at the top of the "arpillera" as sugar, rice and flour floating above the clouds).



"Dancing Cueca Alone" (Chile) – because their partners had disappeared.



"Escuela de Otavalo" (Ecuador) showing the primary school of Otavalo with a teacher and pupils.

NEW MILITARY ATTACHÉ TO THE EMBASSY OF CHILE

Following the promotion of Colonel Werther Araya to General, we welcome his replacement, Colonel Ramiro Reyes, as Military Attaché to the Embassy in London.

Santiago-born Colonel Reyes graduated from the Military Academy in 1979 as Second Lieutenant in the Infantry.



Colonel Ramiro Reyes

As a Staff Officer, he is a military lecturer in "Tactics and Operations" and "Mountaineering Tactics". He has also taught at both the Military Academy and the Army War Academy, and has an MA in both Military Sciences and Military Management Sciences.

The Colonel has an impressive list of commissions, including the Military Academy, the School of Infantry, the Mountaineering School, the Army War Academy, Military Institutes Command and Army Staff Headquarters.

With courses in Mountaineering, First Aid Rescue and Avalanche Control, Combat Mountaineering, Mountain Guide and specialised Combat Skiing, one must assume that he is something of an "Alpinista"!

He is accompanied by his wife, Marcela. Their two children, Jose Martín and Cristina Andrea are studying at University in Santiago.

CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

An earthquake of magnitude 8.8 on the Richter scale devastated central Chile on Saturday, 27th of February at 3:34 a.m. local time.

The epicentre was located off the coast near Curanipe and Cobquecura, the latter situated 150 km north-west of Concepción and 63 km south-west of Cauquenes, at a depth of 47.4 km below the earth's surface. Even in Santiago, around 500km north of the epicentre, the ground shook for almost 3 minutes. The worst affected zones are Valparaíso, Santiago, O'Higgins, Maule, Bío-Bío and La Araucanía, where 80% of Chile's population live.

This earthquake was stronger than that of 1985 (8 on the Richter scale) which also hit central Chile, and has only been exceeded by the terrible 1960 disaster which devastated the area around Concepción. That event was the most powerful seismic shock ever recorded. The 27th February earthquake was followed by a tsunami which wreaked havoc with towns and villages along the coast, as well as the offshore Juan Fernández Islands.

Estimates of the cost of repairing the damage are as high as thirteen billion US dollars.

In order to help with the relief operations, the Government of Chile is making an international appeal for assistance. In this respect, and following the instructions of former President Michelle Bachelet, the Embassy of Chile in the United Kingdom has set up a bank account for the sole purpose of receiving donations. The details of which are the following:

Bank Name: BBVA, Account Number: 01010982, IBAN: GB46BBVA23473601010982, Client Number: 264077, Sort Code: 23-47-36.

Bank Address: BBVA, 142 Brompton Road, London, SW3 1HY

Donations can be made by cheque or bank transfer to the above account. Cheques should be made payable to "Chilean Earthquake Appeal"

However, members of the Anglo-Chilean Society who pay tax in the UK may prefer to send their donations via the Society so that they can be treated as Gift Aid, enabling the Society to claim back tax of 25p per £1 to pass on to the "Chilean Earthquake Appeal". Such donations should be sent to our address by cheque payable to the "The Anglo Chilean Society" and marked "Chilean Relief Fund". Donations may also be made by bank transfer to the Anglo Chilean Society at LLOYDS TSB, Pall Mall St. James's Branch, Account No. 03017127, Sort Code 30-00-08, giving reference "EA and donor's name". The donations and the recovered tax will then be transferred to the embassy's fund.

BOOK REVIEW

A HISTORY OF THE BRITISH PRESENCE IN CHILE

by William Edmundson

Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2009

ISBN: 978-0-230-61849-7

Eddie Edmundson was Director of the Chilean-British Cultural Institute in Concepcion when I was Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Santiago (1986-1990). Remembering from then his enthusiasm for British-Chilean history,

I am not surprised that he has written such an excellent book which ought to appeal to anyone with an interest in Chile. Well-researched and concise, it is an appetite-warming guide for further reading and should be recommended to newcomers planning to spend much time in the country.

Most Anglo-Chilean Society members will have some idea of the heyday of British influence in Chile from Independence to the early 20th Century, which is inevitably the core of this book. But it ranges from Tudor times, giving fresh insights into the activities of British privateers and buccaneers and the explorers and scientists who followed them, leading to a very interesting chapter on Darwin and his contemporaries. It shows how not only Cochrane but numerous other British naval officers and seamen, unemployed following the end of the Napoleonic Wars, made a vital contribution to the independence struggle and laid the foundations of the enduring relationship between the Chilean and Royal Navies.

Covering adequately the breadth of 19th Century British involvement in Chile is a tough challenge which the book manages well. Instead of taking a straightforward chronological approach to the burgeoning commercial relationship between the two countries it offers chapters on distinct aspects – early agricultural settlement, import and export trade, banking, mining and railways - as well as on the schools, sporting and social clubs, charities and religious institutions generated by the growing British community. British travellers and artists of the period are also included. Not surprisingly, the cross-threading between these elements involves some repetition and certain aspects get more coverage than others. Nevertheless, the overall result is a coherent narrative which sets the scene for Britain's waning influence through the First and Second World Wars, and the intervening 1930s Depression, where it ends.

The book's analysis of the structure of British financial and commercial interests is good. It charts British involvement in the growth of Chilean industry. Predictably the chapter on mining focuses on the Northern nitrates and the dominant figure of the controversial Colonel North, on whom the author plans to write his next book. But it also covers the significant but less well-known British role in coal extraction. The chapter on railways demonstrates what a bewildering patchwork of independent lines developed, mostly stimulated by the growth in mining, and with much British involvement.

Along the way fascinating nuggets of British-Chilean history are unearthed: who knew that Bloody Mary was endowed with title Queen of Chile through her ill-fated marriage to Philip II of Spain or that the Chilean Coat of Arms is modelled on a design by a 19th Century British-born artist and engineer? There are reminders, too, of the part played by the Chilean Government and the British community in Chile in rescuing Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition in 1916 and the largely-forgotten role of the British Crown in arbitrating border disputes between Chile and Argentina.

I am glad, too, that this broad-brush approach to what might be better-defined as British connection than presence enabled the author to include a chapter on the Battle of Coronel between British and German cruisers off the Chilean coast in 1914, an interest which he and I share. Although it was somewhat tangential to Chile at the time, he and I well-remember the

generous and moving support which the Chilean Navy gave to the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of that battle in 1989.

The Introduction opens with a quotation from Benjamín Vicuña Mackenna about a mysterious sympathy between Britain and Chile, a theme to which the author returns at the end. It is an intriguing description with which many of us will tend to agree but which cannot be fully explained by the close historical links between the two countries which the book describes. The author suggests that it may be due to a shared sense of insularity and it can be argued that Britons and Chileans have shared fundamental values and traits of character in the past. To what extent that is still so in the 21st Century is something which Society members might like to debate in future editions of this newsletter.

GORDON BAKER

WINE TASTING

An organic wine tasting was organised by the Anglo Chilean Society on Wednesday, 24th March at Canning House in aid of the victims of the Chilean Earthquake.

It was presented by Adolfo Hurtado, an agronomic engineer and oenologist who joined the wine company Cono Sur in 1997 and is now the Chief Winemaker of what is one of the largest wineries in Chile. In 2007 he was named Chile Wine Personality of the Year at the UK Wine of Chile Awards.

Mr Hurtado commenced by explaining what is meant by organic wine making, and the various problems encountered in producing the wine. These include not using chemical insecticides, nor adding artificial fertilisers. As an example of the former, one of the pests is a half-inch long insect called a "burrito". This spends the winter under the soil and emerges with the onset of spring to climb the vines and eat the leaves. Cono Sur's solution to this problem is to wrap a cloth soaked in gum and wax, heavily impregnated with garlic, around the stems of the vines. The burrito doesn't like the smell of the garlic and finds the sticky and slippery cloth difficult to climb over, so it returns back down the stem. A large flock of geese kept in the vineyards then feast on them! To replace the nitrogen in the soil, they produce a compost of the remains of previous pressings, which is treated organically to produce a nitrogen-rich fertiliser.

The audience, who had listened intently to the presentation, was then treated to a tasting of six different wines, two of which were organic. These were an Organic 2007 Chardonnay, a 2008 Reserva Riesling, a Limited Edition 2007 Pinot Noir, an Organic 2008 Cabernet Carmenère, a 2008 Reserva Carmenère and, finally, a Limited Edition 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon. Mr Hurtado explained the production of each of these wines, and their salient points, with each glass.

The evening closed with sandwiches and wine, during which two cases of wine donated by Cono Sur were raffled. Mr Charles Jenkins and Mr David Pearson were the lucky winners.

The Society wishes to thank Adolfo Hurtado and his



From left to right: Mr Alejandro Gibbons, representing the embassy, Mr Adolfo Hurtado and Mr Alasdair Grant.

assistants for donating their time and the wines tasted, and also Canning House for waiving the fee for hiring the room.

Thanks must also go to those members and guests who turned up at such short notice and enthusiastically contributed to the raffle which resulted in over £1000 being raised for the Chilean Earthquake Appeal.



From left to right: Mrs Carmen Pearson, Mr Justin O'Brien, Ms Michelle Pearson, Mrs Henriette Subercaseaux, Mr David Pearson, Mrs Georgina Roberts, Ms Paulette Roberts and Mr David McInnes.



Mr John Rickus, Mrs María Merrihue, Mrs Alicia Rickus and Mrs Glenda Fellows.



Mrs Karina Gibbons, Mr Ignacio Llanos, Mr Alejandro Gibbons, Mrs Iberia Torres-West and Mr Peter West.

EMILY AND CHRISTINE'S YEAR IN CHILE

Two more Project Trust volunteers, Emily Blackman and Christine Amour, have been in touch with the Society since they were sponsored to teach English in Chile for a year.

Their first impression of Santiago was that of an exciting and extremely modern city. Christine even cited seeing the capital from the top of a skyscraper as something not to be missed.

The initial challenge was the language, even for Emily with A-level Spanish, who found Chilean Spanish very different and, "to top it off, delivered at breakneck speed and peppered with words unique to Chile".

Christine is working alongside five other English teachers in a school in Maipú, Santiago. She assists them in classes, taking small conversation groups, preparing and leading activities during lessons and helping to prepare work. The school of around 1,500 pupils aged 4 to 18 is partly funded by the government and partly by a charitable organisation which has seven other schools in poor areas all over Santiago.

While in Chile, Emily worked in a school in San José de Maipo, and also with the Chilean Ministry of Education on a public speaking competition. Her eighth grade students (13 and 14 year olds) prepared short speeches (around 3 minutes) on William Shakespeare and Fiji.

During summer school holidays the Project Trust volunteers travelled to the north and south of the country. Emily managed to fit in Bolivia, Perú and Argentina, while Christine is planning to visit them in 2010.



Christine and pupils at work.

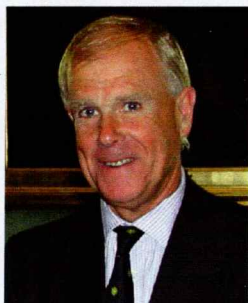


Emily and friends on top of volcán Villarrica.

OBITUARY

Alan Macdonald, a long standing member of the Anglo-Chilean Society, died of a heart attack on 25th February 2010 at the age of 61.

Alan was born in 1948 on the island of Malta, the second son of Vice-Admiral Sir Roderick Macdonald. He attended Hazelwood and Cranleigh in Surrey before going up to University College, Oxford where he studied Law. Despite coming from a naval family stretching back many generations, Alan chose to enter the banking world, joining the First National City Bank in London.



The late Mr Alan Macdonald.

While Manager, Press and External Affairs at the Midland Bank, Alan helped to organise "The Great Japan Exhibition: Art of the Edo Period 1600-1868", which was staged in two parts at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, between 1981 and 1982. This had been a dream of the Academy for many years and Midland Bank International was the leading sponsor. Alan, as usual, worked very hard to ensure the success of the exhibition, which was critically acclaimed. He worked with the Japan Information Centre to arrange publicity for a programme of Japanese related cultural events taking place at the same time. Before retiring at the early age of 48, he had risen to the position of Head of Public Relations with the Midland Bank, before its amalgamation with HSBC.

Alan, fluent in Spanish, put this to good use by frequent trips to Spain in his teens and twenties, immersing himself in the local culture. Following his retirement, he travelled to Chile in 1995 as staff volunteer with Raleigh International, based at Coyhaique, Temuco and Santiago. Alan's specific job was to coordinate the PR, making sure Raleigh maximised coverage in the local media.

On his return to the United Kingdom in 1996, he joined the Anglo-Chilean Society, becoming a member of the Executive Committee shortly afterwards, and served on it until his death.

Alan was something of an enigma: although very gregarious, he revealed very little of himself to friends and

acquaintances. In a very moving and personal address at his funeral, his younger brother, John, referred to Alan as "a private man in a public world". He certainly enjoyed the public world; he could always be relied upon to identify personages and provide biographical details. It was, therefore, a surprise to learn that, when young, he spent much of his time on his own. Even his University report noted "Had few friends".

Sociable, polite, courteous and always immaculately turned out, Alan had a passionate interest in the arts and literature. He was a keen follower of auctions at such famous houses as Christie's and Sotheby's, supplying information about Chilean artists for the benefit of readers of the Chilean News, as well as writing several appraisals of books for the bulletin.

In accordance with the wishes of the Macdonald family, that donations be made to the Chilean earthquake victims in lieu of flowers, the Society donated £500 to the Fundación Chol-Chol in Temuco, Chile, of which Alan was a keen supporter.

We are indebted to John Macdonald for providing much of the information of Alan's early life. Our condolences to him and their elderly and frail mother, Joan, who was among the congregation bidding Alan farewell for the last time.

NEW MEMBERS

- Mr & Mrs William Allan.
- Dr Juan Antipán-Lara.
- Mr & Mrs Claudio Durán.
- Ms Cristel Guajardo.
- Mr & Mrs David Kingsley.
- Mr & Mrs Peter Lydon.
- Mr & Mrs Andrew Mack.
- Mr & Mrs G Peters-Venzano.
- Mr & Mrs Eric Robinson.
- Mrs Victoria Schemda.
- Mr & Mrs Roy Schneider.
- Mr Charles Stuart-Hunt.
- Mr & Mrs Mark Waterfield.
- Mr & Mrs Roger Weston.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Association of Cultural Attachés of Latin America, Spain and Portugal (ACALASP) has organised a concert for the victims of the Chilean earthquake at Bolívar Hall, 54 Grafton Way, London W1T 5DL. Tickets are £25 per person, obtainable from Mr Cristián León at the Chilean Embassy, 37-41 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JA. Cheques should be made payable to ACALASP.

A pisco mixing and tasting will take place on 8th June at the Ambassador's Residence, 92 Eaton Place, London SW1.

An Asado will be held on 17th July in the grounds of Ascott House, at Wing near Leighton Buzzard, Bucks.

The Dieciocho Dinner will take place at the Vintner's Hall, London, on 21st September 2010 in the presence of HRH The Earl of Wessex.

This year's Sir Leslie Bowes lecture will be given by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein on 18th October 2010 at Canning House. The subject is "Chile in the 1950s and 1960s".

The annual Christmas Party will be held in Canning House on 13th December 2010.