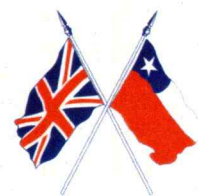


# CHILEAN NEWS



Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

www.anglochileansociety.org

67th Year No. 379

London, October 2011

37-41 Old Queen Street London SW1H

## CHILEAN AIR FORCE CELEBRATION

This was held on 23rd March 2011 at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1.

In his welcoming speech, the Air Attaché to the Chilean Embassy Group Captain Claudio Ibacache, thanked all for joining him and his colleagues in the celebration of the eighty-first anniversary of the foundation of the Chilean Air Force (FACH).

Acknowledging the presence of H.E. the Chilean Ambassador Señor Tomás Müller and the Air Chief Marshall of the RAF Sir Stephen Dalton, the Group Captain went on to explain that this occasion was a special day for FACH as it offered the opportunity to look back on its heritage, the responsibilities that leadership faces today and to the tasks that lie ahead.

He said: "We who serve in the Chilean Air Force will move into the future with a clear purpose and focused resolve in the knowledge that our destiny will include many challenges and hard work, but it will also include many opportunities for new directions."

A toast was proposed to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in the Chilean Air Force.



From left to right: The Mexican Assistant Military & Air Attaché Col. Sergio Martínez, the Chilean Military Attaché Col. Ramiro Reyes, the Brazilian Air Attaché Sr. Eduardo Dittrich, and the Argentine Defence Attaché Group Captain Ignacio Favolaro.



Wives of Foreign Attachés: Sra. Ana de Favolaro (Argentina), Sra. Inmaculada de Sánchez (Spain), Sra. Marcela de Reyes (Chile), Sra. Elizabeth de García Martínez (Mexico) and Sra. Elizabete de Dittrich (Brazil).



Sergeant José Aguilar, Wing Commander Juan Ilharreguy, Mrs Janery Ibacache & Group Captain Claudio Ibacache.



Mr Cristián López, Mr Juan Luis Palma, Ms Mariella Michaelides and Mr Rodrigo Espinosa.



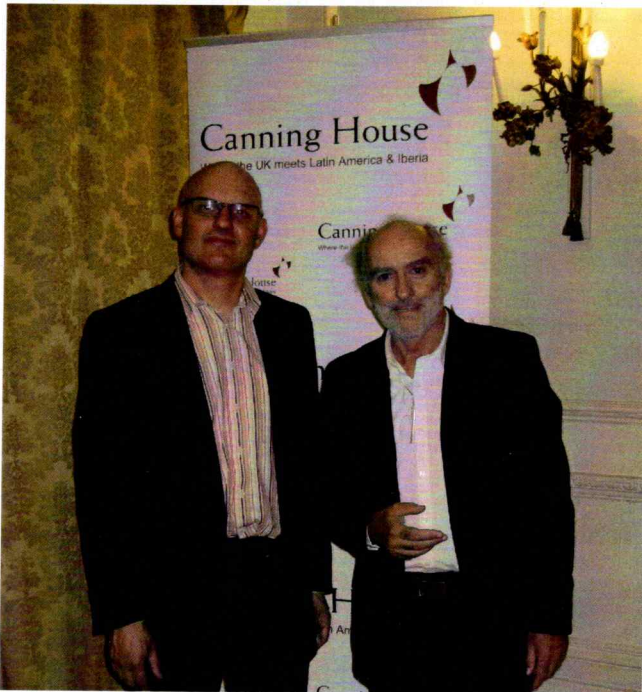
Group Captain Claudio Ibacache, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton, KCB, and H.E. The Ambassador Señor Tomás Müller.

## IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING SERVICES

The Executive Committee of the Society gathered for lunch in the Brooklands Room of the RAC Club on 11th of April to say thank you to Richard Wilkinson, CVO, and Jonathan Cook, who are stepping down from the Committee.

## FOUR GARDENS BY JUAN GRIMM

A talk by this internationally acclaimed Chilean landscape architect was held on 19th April at Canning House.



*From left to right: Mr John Wyer and Mr Juan Grimm.*

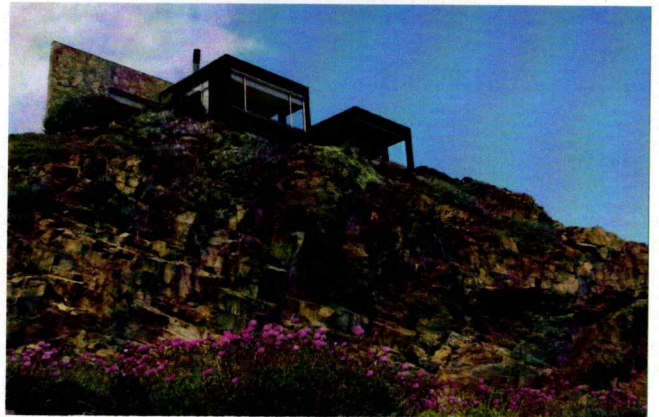
It was the attraction of nature that influenced Mr Grimm in his choice of career, although his professional training was in architecture.

The strong necessity he felt to create places of natural beauty resulted in the making of many extensive private gardens that reflected the beauty of their respective surroundings.

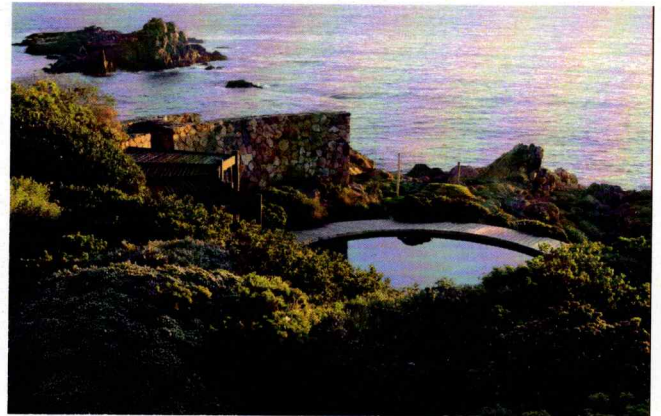
Of the four gardens chosen to represent four different landscapes, the subject of his talk, three were in Chile and one at the foothills of the Andes, in the Argentine Patagonia.

The first one, Bahía Azul, is located on the coast north of Santiago, and was designed by the speaker as his own residence. A landscape with a rich topography of hills and cliffs in front of an immense blue ocean was a perfect place for his glass-faced house.

The approach to the house is from the landward side, via an ascending and curved path past the caretaker's house, the parking area and up to the main entrance. All along this path are views overlooking a slope of native vegetation and natural rock formations. The rocks and the house protect the lush woodlands of exotic vegetation from the salty ocean air. On entering the house one gets the full impact of the beautiful views overlooking the Pacific Ocean through the glass wall that forms the sea-facing side of the building. The main hall, which forms the backbone of the house, extends to the south onto a patio, with steps and a path leading to the swimming pool area, whose stone retaining walls protect it against the prevailing southerly winds. In contrast to the sheltered rear of the house, the front area contains varieties of succulents, bromeliads and native cacti which cover the slopes and cliff down to the sea.



*The house at Bahía Azul.*



*The swimming pool area at Bahía Azul.*

The second garden described is El Alto, set on a citrus and avocado farm in Central Chile, near Santiago. The low house, designed by Christian de Groot, sits in a horse-shoe valley, facing to the west. The low rainfall of 350mm per annum and warm climate produce the characteristic landscape of abundant evergreen vegetation on the southern slopes of the hills, while the northern slopes consist of mainly dry scrub. The master bedroom faces north and there is a patio area to the east of the building. The main public areas are those facing westwards, with exceptional views down the valley across a lawn platform. This has been enhanced by a framework of large trees that culminate in series of lagoons on five levels forming mirrors of water. These lagoons are designed to store the water that runs down from the surrounding hills in the rainy season. The view is further enhanced by Jacaranda trees, white flower laurels and various varieties of hebes and myrtle. The master bedroom looks out onto an enclosed lawn which then rises in stages with various kinds of ground covers, shrubs, etc., finally blending into the native vegetation on the hillsides. The various vistas are enriched by planting Chilean palm trees, bougainvillea and other shrubs.



*The house at El Alto.*



*The lagoons at El Alto.*

El Roble, the last of the Chilean gardens to be presented, is near Concepción, 500 kms south of Santiago. The challenge here was to design a park over an area of 5 hectares (12 acres) containing small patches of native forest and hills with both exotic pines and vineyards. The owners had converted a set of old buildings, barns and warehouses into a vacation home, as well as building two new houses and a chapel. Given the diverse nature of the park, the solution was to create spaces with unique identities, connected by walkways. The spaces are nominated the Main House, the Araucaria Trail, the Montes House Garden, the Lagoon and the Chapel Garden. The Main House has an elevated rear garden with views to distant pastures. The Araucaria Trail is so named from a huge specimen of Brazilian Araucaria and is one of the lookout areas of the park. The best area for viewing the rest of the park and distant landscape is the Montes House Garden, being the highest point of the property. The Lagoon is at the lowest point from where important perspectives open towards the hills and is landscaped to resemble the natural lagoons with lush vegetation found in the south of Chile. Finally, the Chapel Garden is distant from other buildings in an existing Acacia forest. A small stream with mosses and ferns to establish an undergrowth under the trees create a temperate forest landscape, similar to the original heart of El Roble.



*The lagoon at El Roble.*

For his fourth and final example, Juan Grimm crossed the Andes to the Argentine Patagonia, near to San Martín de los Andes. Morita is a farm of 300 hectares where the owners have built their summer house. The house is in an open area facing the Chimehuín River, with bright yellow willows growing naturally along its banks. In designing the gardens, the idea was to repair the damage caused by the construction of the house by producing a balance between the buildings and untouched landscape. The heart of the garden is the large space in front of the main house, which is landscaped

with lawns curving around those trees left after construction, Maitenes, Radales and Cypresses, and leading down to the river. Plants have been chosen to integrate with the landscape, turning red in the autumn as the native plants do. There is a grassy walkway along the river connecting the garden with the surrounding fields, and the Secret Garden. Juan Grimm is not a landscape architect in the European mould, with the British style of a riot of colour or the continental love of formal layouts, so, when the owner of Morita expressed a desire to have a rose garden, Juan, feeling this would not fit into the natural landscape which he was attempting to do, created the secret rose garden by sinking it below the surrounding level and concealing it with a curtain of trees.



*View to the Chimehuín River from the house at Morita.*

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## A WINE TASTING WITH A DIFFERENCE

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This was held on Thursday, 9th June 2011 at the Bacchanalia Wine Club in the heart of the City of London.

It was a wine tasting with a difference in that the guests were invited to compare wines from Spain and Chile accompanied by tapas produced from private Spanish Estates. The programme was presented by Dave Green, the manager of the Bacchanalia Wine Club, and our own Alasdair Grant.

Even before the proceedings commenced, guests were commenting most favourably on the location. A large room situated on the first floor of a riverside building, with views over the Thames and the Millennium Bridge, illuminated by the setting sun. All were welcomed with a glass of Mas de Monistrol Premium Reserve Cava 2006 and, while everyone sipped this excellent Cava, Dave Green explained the events of the evening, giving a lucid and thorough explanation of both the Chilean and Spanish wine producing industries, and also a quick description of the tapas. Then followed the tasting with two Chilean white wines: Medalla Real Chardonnay, Rapel Valley 2006 and Montes Reserva Sauvignon Blanc, Casablanca Valley 2010. The two reds were Maray Limarí Carmenère, Limarí Valley 2009 and Montes Alpha Merlot Cholchagua Valley 2009.

The Spanish white wines consisted of Vega de la Reina Verdejo 2009 DO Rueda and Albarino Castro Celta Rias Baixas 2009. The red wines were Lagunilla Casa del Comendador Rioja Reserva 2006, DO Rioja and Durius Natural Reserve Syrah 2005 Arribes del Duero.

The delicious tapas were from the Bacchanalia Wine Club's own estates in Spain and included jamón ibérico de bellota, the highest of the four grades of jamón ibérico, chorizo ibérico bellota and salchichón. There were also some excellent Spanish cheeses.

Everyone left having had a most entertaining and informative evening in a unique location.



*From left to right: Mr David Grant, Mr Dan Werchola, Mr John Nisbet and Mr Alasdair Grant.*



*From left to right: Mr William Hockfield, Mrs Brenda Crosland and Sr. Alfonso Gutiérrez, Director of Haciendas de España.*



*From left to right: Anita Eiben, Mr David Kohegyi and Ms Carolina Arriagada.*



*From left to right: Mr Gonzalo Cuadra, Mrs Isabel Cuadra, Mrs Encarnación Ruiz-Cano and Mr José Ruiz-Cano.*

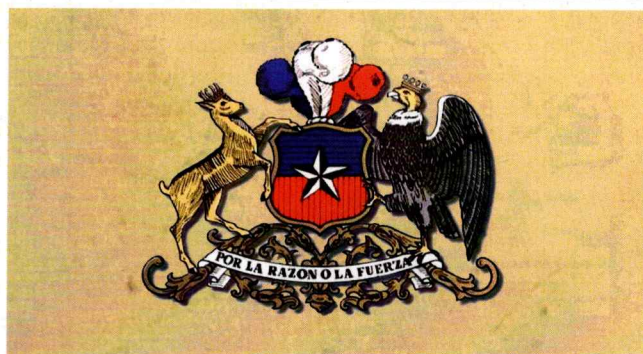


*Mr Robert Hart, Mrs Judith Hart and Mr John Rickus.*



*From left to right: Mrs Mónica Volpin, Mrs Julieta Brown and Mrs. Magdalena Jones with The Thames in the background.*

## IN HONOUR OF CHARLES WOOD



How many Friends of Chile, indeed, how many Chileans, are aware that the Chilean Coat of Arms, shown at the top of this article, was designed by a Liverpoolian named Charles Chatworthy Wood?

On 24th June, H.E. The Ambassador Señor Tomás Müller and other embassy officials, members of the Anglo-Chilean Society, descendants of Charles Wood and the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery gathered to honour a remarkable man with a commemorative plaque on his gravestone.

In his speech, the Ambassador pointed out the importance that Britain had in the formation of the Chilean nation. Although Lord Thomas Cochrane is probably the best known, there were many others less well known, although their legacy is no less great. One such person was Charles Chatworthy Wood, a highly accomplished artist, engineer, adventurous sailor and courageous soldier.

He was born in Liverpool in 1792. From a very early age, he showed a talent as a painter. His first job was painting ceramics in Staffordshire. When he was in his early twenties

he went to America, starting a career as an artist in Boston. After two years, in 1818, the American government employed him as part of a scientific expedition on board the ship *Macedonia*, to draw (amongst other things) the coastline of South America. His first encounter with Chile happened after 80 days of navigation when he arrived at the port of Valparaíso. He did not seem very impressed by what he saw. He described the place as “very poor in aspect” and as for its citizens, he found them “rather poor and not very clean looking”.



*Contemporary print of Charles Wood.*

Despite this first unfortunate impression, he undoubtedly formed a connection with the country, because one year later, he accepted a job as engineer for the fledgling Chilean Army, by that time helping Perú gain independence from Spain. According to military accounts, he was a brave and intrepid soldier. In a couple of occasions, he risked his life infiltrating enemy lines, for which he was rapidly promoted to captain and finally to colonel.

As an engineer he drew the plans for several important public buildings, including the design of various ports like San Antonio and Coquimbo. In 1845 he mapped the route for the first railway ever to be built in Chile, from Caldera to Copiapó (built by another Englishman, William Wheelwright).

As an artist, he was also the first (together with the German Mauricio Rugendas), to portray the country at the beginning of its republican life. He has had a long lasting influence on Chilean painting, teaching a whole generation of future artists.

In 1825 he married the Chilean, doña Dolores Ramírez de Arellano y Chacón, from San Fernando, and the couple moved to Santiago.

But it is for one job that he is particularly remembered. He was the designer of the coat of arms of the new republic, the one adopted on 26th June 1834 and that still remains as the symbol of the country today. Its design incorporates the national colours: red, blue and white, and two of the most significant creatures representative of the nation: the condor, the biggest bird of prey of the Andes, and the huemul, the rarest mammal in Chilean territory.

In 1865, suffering from heart trouble, he travelled to London to stay with his daughter, Dolores Wood, where he died. He was interred in the Kensal Green Cemetery.

The Ambassador concluded: “I am very pleased to unveil today the plaque in honour of this man who left us Chileans with a long lasting legacy. Through this simple plaque I wish to express our admiration for the figure of Charles Wood and my gratitude to all those British people who have contributed to the formation and development of our country.”



*The Chilean flag draped over the gravestone of Charles Wood.*



*Military Attaché Colonel Ramiro Reyes, H.E. The Chilean Ambassador Señor Tomás Müller, Mr Thomas Bill and Mrs Dolores Bill (descendant of Charles Wood), Mr Cristián León and Mrs Deborah Rooney (descendant of Charles Wood).*



*Mr Henry Vivian-Neal (Head Guide & Secretary of the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery) presenting H.E. The Chilean Ambassador Señor Tomás Müller with the history of the Cemetery.*



*Mrs Signe Hoffos explaining the history of Charles Wood.*



*Mr John Rooney with Mr Michael Leveridge.*

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## COPPER LANDSCAPES

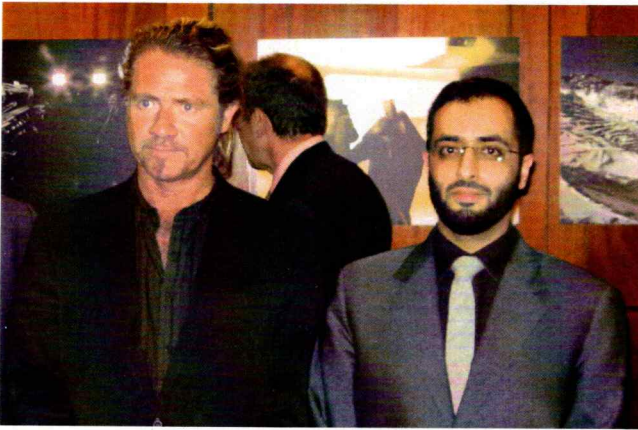
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Thirty images showing the singular beauty of the Atacama desert in Northern Chile were exhibited by the talented Chilean photographer Luis Hernán Herreros on Tuesday, 28th June at the Embassy of Chile.

The photographer began his career in Paris in 1983, after studying at the Mónica Herrera School of Communication, nowadays Universidad Bolivariana. He is now a freelance photographer, working on major advertising campaigns in Chile and abroad, as well as putting on exhibitions of his work.

The changing colours of the mineral-rich soil with the passage of the sun, converted Herreros into a great admirer of the mining environment, especially that of copper.

The exhibition was sponsored by the Cultural Department of the Embassy of Chile, Anglo-American and ProChile.



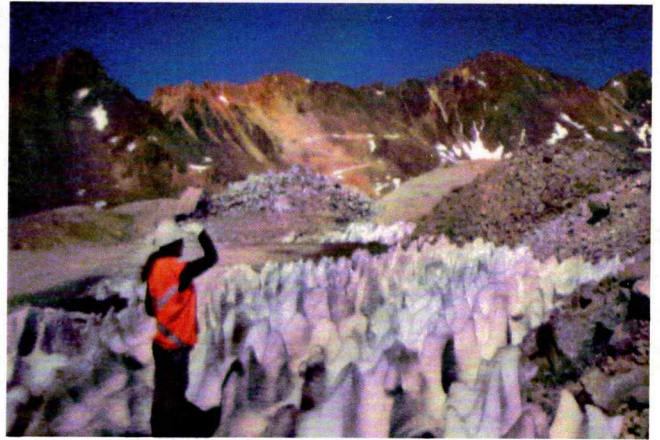
*From left to right: Mr Luis Hernán Herreros with Sheik Mohammed Bin Maktoum Bin Rashed Al Maktoum, First Secretary of the UAE Embassy in London.*



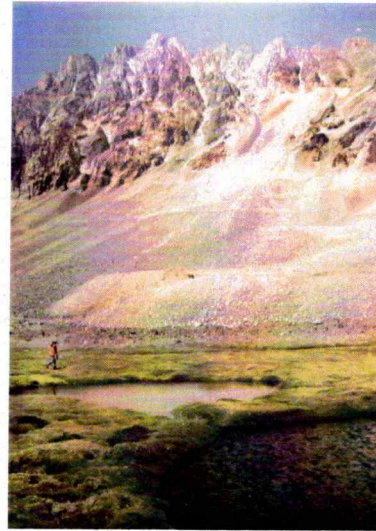
*Mr Cristián León, Ms Adji Hunter and Mr Rodrigo Espinosa.*



*From left to right: Mr Harry Haralampopoulos, Miss Eva Loyola, Miss Kayleigh Kowalowski and Mr Joao da Costa.*



*Penitentes, Los Andes Mountain Range, Los Bronces mine.*



*Wetlands, Los Bronces mine.*

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## PROMINENT CHILEAN AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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### Señor Felipe Larraín Bascuñán, Chilean Minister of Finance.

In his introduction to the lecture “Chile’s path to development” on Wednesday, 29th June the chairman Dr. Francisco Panizza stated that it would take too long to recite Señor Larraín’s academic and professional achievements, and, reviewing his CV, it is indeed a formidable record. Since receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Universidad Católica in Chile in 1981, he has been an adviser to virtually every country in the American continent, as well as the UN, the World Bank and the IMF. He has written more than 10 books and 120 professional articles, published in Latin America, U.S.A., Europe and Asia. Apart from his current political position as Minister of Finance, he is also Professor of Economics at Universidad Católica in Santiago, a position he has held since 1996.

Sr. Larraín explained that he was in the UK as part of a delegation of 200 Chilean businessmen, which included a Senator and four Congressmen, to hold a “Chile Day”, promoting Chile to the world. He had met the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

In starting his talk, he noted that Chile is a country of 17.5 million inhabitants with a GDP of US\$203 billion, giving a

per capita income of around US\$12,000. The population had a literacy rate of 98.6% and a life expectancy of 78.8 years. Despite the world-wide recession of 2009 and the devastating earthquake of February 2010, Chile had maintained a strong growth rate since 1998, and almost 500,000 jobs had been created in the last year alone.

The country is considered financially as very low risk. Last year's deficit was only 0.47% and the debt to GDP ratio is 8% (compared with Greece at 150% and Japan at 180%). Foreign assets exceed Public Liability making it a creditor country. Chilean bank reliability and soundness places it in fifth position in the world out of a total of 139 countries.

Chile's main exports are copper, molybdenum, fruit, fish and forestry products, with the first two accounting for almost 60%. In contrast with 20 years ago when Chile's main trading partners were the US and the European Community, now fully 25% of exports go to China, with a further 25% to other Asian countries, while the EU only imports 19% and the US even less, at 10%.

With an economy mainly based on natural resources, it is necessary to consider how to move to the next stage and diversify the export base. Foreign direct investment was very strong with almost US\$13 billion being invested in 2009.

Sr. Larraín outlined the two big challenges for the future. One is to reduce the number of people below the poverty line. In the last two decades this has reduced from 45% of the population to 13.5% in 2006. The final aim is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2014. The second challenge is a more equitable distribution of income. Latin America has the worst record in the world for Income Distribution and Chile is only slightly above the average for the area. Methods such as tax relief to small and medium businesses who reinvested their profits, and the reduction of stamp tax on loans, mortgages, etc. from 1.2% to 0.6% have been implemented.

Finally, he noted that last year Chile joined the OECD, only one of two Latin American countries in that organisation, the other being Mexico. It is the government's desire to achieve "Developed Country" status by 2018, defined as a per capita income of US\$20,000, and to reach this goal a growth of 6% per annum is needed. The significance of 2018 is that it will be the bicentenary of Chile complete independence (although governmental independence was won in 1810, the country still owed allegiance to the Spanish king).



From left to right: Señor Felipe Larraín Bascuñán and Dr. Francisco Panizza.

## ASADO IN SURREY

This year's traditional Asado took place on Sunday, 31st July at the impressive cricket pavilion of Epsom College.

On a glorious summer day more than one hundred members and friends of the Society passed through the gates of the imposing seat of learning founded in 1853 with Royal patronage granted by H.M. Queen Victoria.

The path leading to the pavilion skirted the majestic buildings representative of an important period of reconstruction, where small Chilean flags tied to trees showed the way to the cricket field.

It was good to see old familiar faces that we had not seen for a long time, like David and Anne Nock, local residents, well remembered for their enthusiastic support of the Latin American Societies Golf Tournament.

The highlight of the lunch was the Raffle which made Mrs Alexandra White a very happy lady winning three of the prizes.



From left to right: Miss Elizabeth Robson, Mr Omar Miranda, Mr Guillermo Echeverría, Mr Cristóbal Miranda and Mrs Sussanah Miranda.



Mr John Rickus delivering two tins of Jamaican coffee won by Michael Roberts.



Mr David Nock and Mrs Anne Nock with friends and relations.



*Mrs María Garcés, Mr Laurent Samson, Mrs Catalina Samson, Mrs Mónica Volpin, Mrs Sandra Gracia, Miss Florencia Gracia and Mr Mike Volpin.*



*Mr David Pearson, Mr Roy Schneider, Mrs Carmen Pearson, Mr Alasdair Grant, Miss Michelle Pearson and Mrs María Clea Schneider.*



*Our ever reliable barman, Mr Christopher Hopewell with his new assistant, Miss Jane Pritchard.*

## DIECIOCHO CELEBRATIONS

### Chile's National Day Concert.

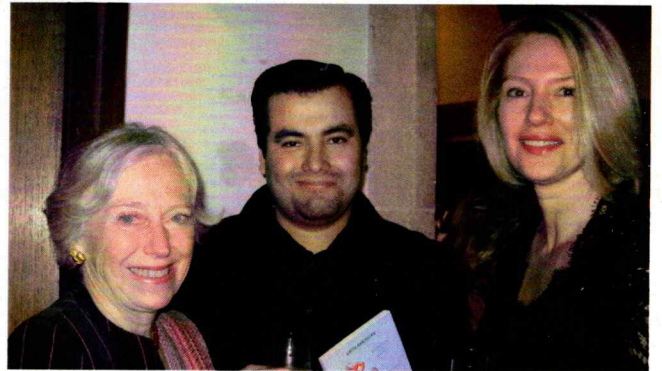
On the occasion of the anniversary of Chile's Independence Day and the celebration of the Chilean Army's Day, a musical recital was held on 15th of September at St. James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1.

The stars of the evening were the mezzo-soprano Isabel Vera and the baritone Javier Arrey, two Chilean operatic singers who have taken part in several prestigious singing competitions, including both being finalists in the Cardiff Singer of the World. They were accompanied by the renowned pianist, Simon Lepper, himself the winner of several awards, and an official accompanist at the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.

A carefully chosen programme, divided into two parts, had something for everyone. It started with well known arias ranging from the energetic opening "Largo al Factotum" from Rossini's "Il Barbiere de Siviglia" to the sensual "Habanera" from Bizet's "Carmen". Their rendition of popular Chilean songs followed. Needless to say, they were received with rapturous applause by the Chilean nationals.



*From left to right: H.E. Señor Tomás Müller with the Ambassador of El Salvador Señor Werner Matías Romero and the Ambassador of Panama Señor Gilberto Arias.*



*From left to right: Baroness Hooper, Mr Javier Arrey and Sra. Claudia Bobadilla.*



*Miss Isabel Vera with Mr Cristián León.*

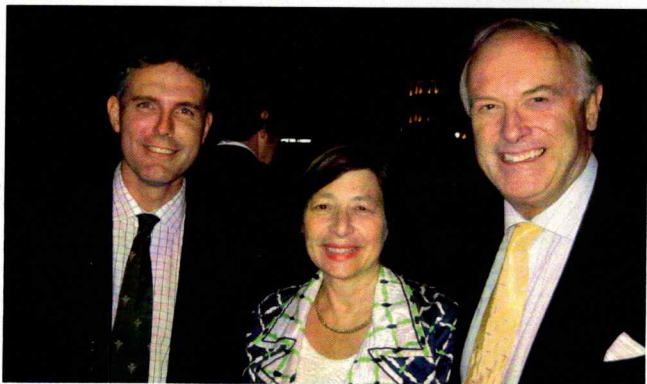


*From left to right: Mrs Carmen Gloria Heap, Mrs Carolina McIntyre and Mrs Isabel Boyle.*



*From left to right: Mr Jaime Aguilera, former Mayoress of Richmond-upon-Thames Ms Celia Hodges and Mr Ignacio Llanos.*





*From left to right: Mr Alasdair Grant, Mrs Victoria Amey and Mr Julian Amey.*

### **The Society Dieciocho Reception.**

A capacity crowd attended the Royal Automobile Club, 89 Pall Mall, London W1, on Thursday, 22nd September to hear the prestigious broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby, whose latest television series, "A South American Journey", had just been aired on BBC2.

He had first travelled to Chile as a young reporter. Those were unnerving times and he found the people very scared to speak their minds. On going back he was amazed to find a complete change in such a historically short space of time. The people were openly discussing politics, criticising the government and enjoying all the pleasures of an open democratic society, which he found enormously encouraging.

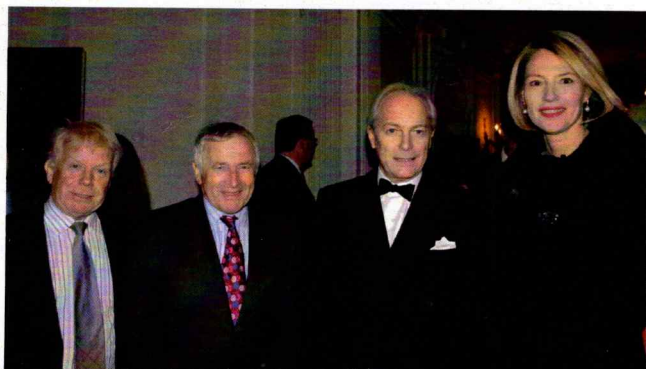
With a disarming sense of humour, he explained that one reason for the timing of his visit to Chile was to see the famous rodeo at Rancagua, south of Santiago, where he thoroughly enjoyed the event, meeting many courteous and amazingly friendly people. A keen horseman himself, he relished the opportunity to learn how to control the horse to pin a cow against a wall – the essence of the rodeo. He was privileged to be taught by the first female rodeo rider, quite unique in a very male-dominated sport.

His trip to Chile also included crossing the Atacama desert on a train carrying copper to the coast over a railway built by the British in the 1920s for the extraction of nitrate from the desert.

Speaking of his trip to South America in general, he was surprised to find a continent with such energy and drive. There tends to be a patronising attitude where it is seen as a place where people just sit out in the sun and let the world go by, when exactly the opposite is true.

In finishing, Mr Dimbleby said what a privilege it was to have a chance to talk to the Society.

Our thanks to Antofagasta plc for sponsoring the event.



*Mr John Rickus, Mr Jonathan Dimbleby, H.E. Sr Tomás Müller and Mrs Claudia Bobadilla.*



*Mr Julian Amey, Mr Peter Loveday, Mrs Sarah Loveday and Mr Richard Wilkinson, CVO.*



*From left to right: Mr Rodrigo Espinosa, Miss Massu and Mr Ricardo Massu.*



*Mr Sebastián Buzeta, Mrs Claudia Buzeta, Mrs Mónica Volpin and Mrs Claudia Dempster.*



*Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mr Jonathan Dimbleby and Mr Michael Roberts.*



*Mr Alasdair Grant, Mr William Mosseri-Marlio and Mr Thomas Kelly.*

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## WELCOME AND FAREWELL

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### Mr Patricio Díaz

Mr Patricio Díaz is the new Consul to the Embassy of Chile in London, replacing the outgoing Consul, Mr Alejandro Gibbons.



A lawyer and career diplomat, he attended The Grange School and graduated from Universidad Gabriela Mistral in Santiago, Chile. He also took a post-graduate degree at Cambridge University.

He has held various diplomatic positions: in Germany, where he was responsible for the transferring of the Chilean Embassy from Bonn to Berlin in 2000, two years at the United Nations where he assisted on the Security Council, then Argentina and, finally as First Secretary to the Chilean Embassy in Paraguay, before taking up his present post.

We welcome the new Consul and look forward to a long and happy relationship.

### Mr Alejandro Gibbons

His time with the Chilean diplomatic corps in London was short, but more than sufficient to gain the appreciation and admiration of those who had the good fortune to share work and leisure time in his company.



Alejandro Gibbons, a career diplomat, has left London to take a post as Chief of the Consular Director General's Cabinet in Santiago, Chile.

Alejandro won the appreciation and gratitude of all who knew him for his qualities as a gentleman and a friend. With his outgoing personality he was always the ideal person to ask to help, whether it was to make up the numbers in a game of volleyball or act as master of ceremony at a Charity Ladies Tea Party!

His arrival in London coincided with the move of the embassy to a new building. His office on the 7th floor had the advantage of a beautiful view over St. James's Park, but it was his excellent taste that made it the most admired office in the building.

The Anglo-Chilean Society will miss his great support, his presence in all the social events, for instance, but most important his idea that the Chilean News should reach the Chancellery in Santiago so that they could be kept informed of the work of the Society. To this end he ordered 30 copies of the bulletin to send to Chile.

We wish him every success in his new position.

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## DONATIONS

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In March, a donation of £1000 was given to The Chilean-Out Theatre Company to put on a Chilean play based on Marlowe's "Edward II" at the Rose Theatre in London.

In April the Society donated £1000 to Project Trust to help with the expenses of two students who will spend a gap year in Chile teaching in poor schools.

A provisional donation of £1000 has been agreed for Echo Art Film which is producing a film on Maria Graham (a contemporary of Lord Cochrane) who lived in Chile for a short period. The donation is to be used to promote the film in the United Kingdom.

Finally, the sum of £750 was approved for CASA Latin American Theatre Festival to assist in bringing a Chilean Theatre show to London.

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London sent £400 worth of medicines to the Hogar San Ricardo in Batuco, Chile, to help the mentally handicapped children against the rigours of the winter.

£600 worth of disposable nappies were given to the Old People's Home in Los Niches, Curicó (VI Region). The donation was sent in memory of don Ernesto de la Fuente, a long time resident of the area and great supporter of the work of the Group of Chilean Ladies.

A "Bipedestador" (a form of walking frame) was given to the Centro de Rehabilitación de Niños in Ancud (X Region) by the Chilean Ladies. It will be used for the therapy of physically handicapped children aged 4 to 12 years.



*A Bipedestador.*

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## BOOK REVIEW

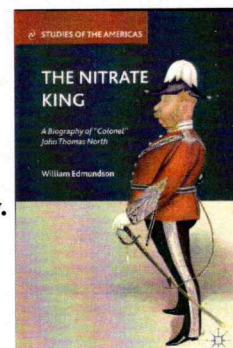
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### THE NITRATE KING

by William Edmundson  
*Palgrave Macmillan,*  
*New York, 2011*  
ISBN: 978-0-230-11280-3

#### Review by Viscount Montgomery.

This book forms part of a series of books under the general title of "Studies of the Americas" edited by Maxine Molyneux for the Institute for the study of the Americas at London University. It is a detailed Biography of "Colonel" John Thomas North by William Edmundson, an academic historian. There are extensive appendices with details of his family and their descendants, plus a short Epilogue to accompany it from the Sidcup Times of May 1896.



North was born in Leeds in 1842 into a middle class family. He left school at 15 to be apprenticed as a trainee engineer.

After serving his term of 8 years, at the age of 23, he joined John Fowler & Co, steam locomotive manufacturers, and felt able to marry his childhood sweetheart. His early life is, in fact, very vague as he was inclined to rewrite his own history, as is catalogued by the late Harold Blakemore, an important academic historian, also from London University, whose authoritative books on Chile are frequently quoted by Edmundson. What is more certain is that in 1867, aged 25, he was sent by John Fowler & Co to Chile to deliver some equipment on a long journey via the Magellan Straits and Punta Arenas, and this was the beginning of his climb to fame and fortune.

In 1871, aged 29, we find him in Iquique, having left Fowler & Co. At that time Iquique, in the Province of Tarapaca, was a major Peruvian port, and an outlet for the growing nitrate industry. He started work in one of the nitrate processing plants (oficinas), which gave him insight into the working of the industry. He also quickly appreciated the need for water, a scarce resource in the whole region, and in 1875 bought a boat to bring water from Arica.

The nitrate fields (salitras) cover a large area extending from Tarapaca (Peru) into the province of Antofagasta (then part of Bolivia). British and Chilean interests dominated the entire industry. It was this and the imposition of taxes by Bolivia that gave rise to the War of the Pacific in 1879, which was won by Chile, with new boundaries set out in 1884 in the ensuing peace treaty. The whole episode was ignored by North and his various partners, the most important being Robert Harvey, and in the years between 1875 and 1882 he floated numerous London based companies, which included the water company and various nitrate salitreras and railway companies.

In 1882 North returned to London, already a wealthy man, and the following year took out a ten-year lease on Avery Hill House in Eltham, a large mansion and estate, which he subsequently bought, and now forms part of Greenwich University. His partner Robert Harvey went to London at the same time but returned to Iquique in 1883 to continue the developments.

In 1885 North was appointed Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Tower Hamlets Engineers Volunteer Corps and from then on was called Colonel John T. North. These years saw the formation of numerous additional Nitrate Companies, plus the acquisition of the concession of the Arauca Coal & Railway Company to exploit the Coronel and Lota coalfields south of Concepción. This required the construction of a bridge over the river Bio-Bio; a massive engineering project, built and managed by British engineers and completed in 1889.

By 1887 North was living the grand life, giving balls at Marlborough House, and the Metropole Hotel, celebrating the 20th birthday of his eldest son Harry. The following year he bought Kirkstall Abbey and grounds and presented them to the City of Leeds, and later that year the Bank of London and Tarapaca was founded. This ultimately became the Bank of London and South America (Bolsa), until it was bought by Lloyds Bank.

1889 was an eventful year for North who sailed to Chile on 6 February and arrived on 16 March. On 25 March he met President Balmaceda in Viña del Mar and again in Santiago on 29 March and 20 April. This resulted in the legal recognition of the Bank of Tarapaca and London, so North left for Iquique on 1 May where he stayed until 2 June when he left via Lima, Panama and New York, returning to England at the end of July to see his greyhound winning the Waterloo coursing challenge.

Between 1880 and 1888 many salitreras/oficinas were acquired from London flotations in various partnerships. 1891 saw the start of Chilean Civil war with revolutionary forces seizing the province of Tarapaca, the defeat of Balmaceda's army in two battles and his subsequent suicide, which ushered in a parliamentary system lasting until 1924. In 1894 North formed gold and silver mining companies in Australia and Tasmania. In 1895 he campaigned unsuccessfully against Gladstone in a bye-election for West Leeds. He died in May 1896 of a heart attack, aged 54, in his City Office in Gracechurch St. In July of that year the Avery Hill Estate was put up for auction.

This is a splendid story of a man with great charm, who was adventurer, buccaneer and speculator and who, in a short and eventful life, rose from a very modest beginning to acquire both fame and fortune. This enabled him to enjoy himself, become a philanthropist and generally lead the sort of high life that frequently accompanies great wealth. Not for nothing was he dubbed the Nitrate King. This book will make good reading for those interested in a comprehensive story of the nitrate industry, which declined rapidly during the 1914/18 war with the development of synthetic nitrate fertilisers.

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## BIRTHS

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On 4th August 2011, at the University College Hospital, London, to Mr & Mrs Laurent Samson, a daughter, Amélie. Congratulations to Laurent and Catalina.

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## OBITUARIES

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### Patricia Vincent - Life President, The Andean Project.

by John Barker

Patricia Vincent was born in Letchworth, the world's first 'Garden City' on 22 October 1925. Her father, William Annesley Mayne, was a Civil Engineer, based in Buenos Aires, where she was brought up, and she dated her interest in desert gardens from the time, aged four, when she was presented with a small plot of desert land. She married a British diplomat, Ivor Francis Sutherland Vincent, and they had four daughters:



Frances (deceased), Katie, Nicola, and Sarah. Ivor was HM Ambassador to Nicaragua from 1970 to 1973 and his final posting was as Consul-General in Melbourne.

On retirement in 1976 they travelled back to the UK via South America and there met Padre Le Paige, a Jesuit Priest and founder of a Pre-Columbian Museum in San Pedro de Atacama, who persuaded them that the Aymara ethnic population in the area would benefit from their support. As a result of this encounter, the Andean Project was set up in 1985, having as its stated aims: 'To advance education and to promote any other purpose which is charitable by English law for the benefit of the people of the Andes mountains', with Patricia as Chairman and Ivor as Secretary.

In 1990, they gave up their spacious apartment in 101 Barkston Gardens and moved to Chile. However, determining the best way to help the indigenous population turned out to be problematic. Various setbacks were encountered, the heaviest blow being the death of Ivor in 1994. Patricia nevertheless

soldiered on, focusing in due course on the idea of promoting the establishment of a municipal botanic garden in Arica, a town at sea-level in the far north of Chile just 19 kms from the Peruvian border. This was to be complemented by two other gardens, at altitudes up to 4300m, to enable research to be carried out into the ability of the plants of the Atacama Desert to thrive at different altitudes, and to develop their medicinal and nutritional potential.

Three specialists from the Eden Project visited Arica and plans for the proposed garden were prepared. The Mayor of Arica came over to London in 2006 to attend an Andean Project reception at Canning House and also visited Kew and the Eden Project. In 2007 Patricia attended the World Botanical Gardens Congress in Wuhan, China, where she made a speech about the initiative.

Alas, it was not to be! Local politics got in the way and no further progress turned out to be possible. Shortly after, she contracted cancer, an affliction which had already claimed the lives of two other leading members of the Andean Project, Lindsey O'Callaghan and Hugh Beveridge, who had served ably in the roles, respectively, of Secretary and Vice-Chairman. She returned to the UK for treatment late in 2009 and, reluctantly, asked for the Project to be closed down in the UK. In January 2010 the Government of Chile conferred on her the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins in the grade of Knight Commander (Comendador) for the valuable contribution she had made to the development and preservation of the flora and fauna of the Chilean Andean region. This award was presented to her, at her bedside, by His Excellency Rafael Moreno, the Chilean Ambassador to London, in the presence of a group of her friends.

Patricia was an indomitable character. She could be domineering and at times infuriating and yet capable of great kindness and selflessness. Her spirit was evident right to the end when, in December she resolved, against all advice, to return to Chile. She arranged for a discharge from her Care Home and for a doctor's certificate permitting her to travel. A friend, reluctantly in view of her condition, agreed to travel with her with Iberia as far as Madrid and there see her through to be checked-in for an onward flight to Santiago, where she would be met. The plane was about to take-off from Heathrow when news came of an Air Traffic Control strike in Spain. Everyone, including Patricia and 60 kg of her luggage, had to leave the plane. An offer of hotel accommodation was refused resulting in a night spent in an almost deserted Terminal 3. Two days later, with the original routing via Spain still uncertain, she booked a BA flight for herself and the friend through to Sao Paulo and from there to Santiago where a Chilean friend was waiting to escort her on to Arica.

Not long before leaving the UK for the last time she appeared early one Saturday morning to meet friends at a gathering of the Serpentine Swimming Club. Swimming with the Club when in London had long been one of her passions (in winter and in summer). The race held each August for the Andean Project Cup (presented by her) will continue to feature in the Club's programme.

She died on May 23rd, 2011 in her own bed in her own flat in Arica, in the country in which she wanted to end her days. Numerous touching tributes have been paid to her by residents in the area. She was a remarkable lady. It would be a lasting tribute to her memory if the means could be found for the Botanical Garden to be created in Arica as she envisaged.

May she rest in peace.

### Andrew Hurst

The Society regrets to inform of the death of Andrew Hurst on 14th March 2011 at the age of 76.



Andy, as we all called him, was born in Cairo and came with his family to England in 1939. His mother, Marguerite, was descended from Sophia, who was the daughter of Marc Brunel and sister of the famous engineer Isombarb Kingdom Brunel. The family settled in the Thames Valley and his father, Dr. Harold Hurst, the physicist and hydrologist, returned to Egypt for the duration of the War.

Andy was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, and Abbotsholme, Staffordshire, followed by National Service in the Royal Navy, where he played rugby for RN Portsmouth and the Home Fleet.

He read Law at Oxford, completing his legal training with the Solicitors McKenna and Co. in Whitehall, London. However, sport was his passion, playing rugby for the University team, although failing to obtain a blue, missing the vital Cambridge match. During the vacation he played for the London Wasps.

What must have been the highlight of his rugby career was to play for England against Scotland in 1962. He was also a member of the Barbarians RFC and rose to be captain of the Wasps first XV during the sixties. Andy also enjoyed playing cricket.

He was married in Chile in 1969 and had a son and a daughter. In 1971, he founded the firm of ACB Hurst & Co., Solicitors in Henley-on-Thames, where he became well known not only as a solicitor but also as a keen sportsman.

The Society remembers him as friendly and congenial, always attending the social events with enthusiasm. According to those who knew him well, he was an honourable, hospitable, if rather eccentric man, well known for cycling everywhere.

He died at the Royal Berkshire Hospital of a pulmonary embolism, the result of a four hour operation on his right elbow some years previously.

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### NEW MEMBERS

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- Mr & Mrs Malcolm Brown
- Mr & Mrs Stephen Drew
- Mr Andrew Drysdale
- Mr César Guerra-Reyes
- Mr & Mrs Thomas Kelly
- Mr & Mrs Laurent Samson
- Mr Brian Semmens
- Mr & Mrs Vine
- Mr & Mrs David Wiens
- Mr & Mrs Alan Wilkinson