

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

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“STONES AND MEMORY”

A Journey of Images and Poetry from Santiago to Tierra del Fuego

A capacity crowd filled the library of Canning House on Wednesday 1st March for an illustrated lecture by Paul Harris, an award winner freelance photographer who was so inspired by the work of Pablo Neruda that he felt he had to go to Chile to find the images of his celebrated poems.

The audience was treated to an impressive slide show, showing beautifully-photographed scenes of the Chilean landscape, together with extracts from the celebrated poet's work.

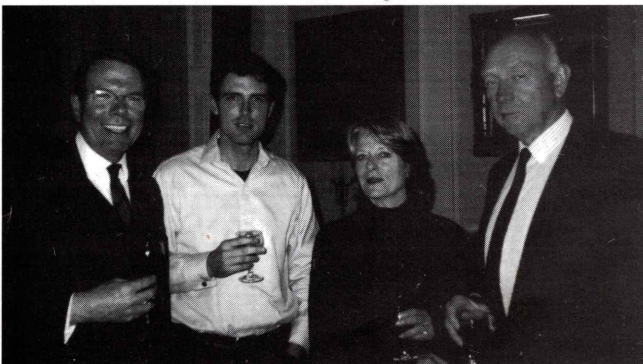
Wine and snacks were served after the presentation.



From left to right: Mr. Robin Holland-Martin, Mrs. María Teresa Lamarca and Mr. Paul Harris



From left to right: Mr. Wilfred Hockfield, Mrs. Georgina Roberts and Mr. Rolando Ortega.



From left to right: Mr. David Grant, Mr. Alisdair Grant, Mrs. Betty Makin and Mr. Rodney Makin

HAIL AND FAREWELL

A lunch, offered by the Group of Chilean Ladies in London, took place on Wednesday 15th March at the Hurlingham Club in London to greet Mrs. María Angélica Arancibia who was accompanying her husband, Rear Admiral Jorge Arancibia Clavel, on a short visit to London.



From left to right: Mrs. Helga Schilling, Mrs. María Angélica Arancibia, Mrs. Carmen Pearson, Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux, Mrs. Carmen Gloria Heap, Mrs. Marika Brennan, Mrs. Rita Phillips, Mrs. Carmen Troup, Mrs. Georgina Roberts and Mrs. Amalia Gilkes

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London had a lunch party to say goodbye to Mrs. Cecilia Cabrera prior to her departure from England.

A farewell gift of fine bone china was presented to her in recognition of all her support to the group's charitable work.



From left to right: Mrs. María Paz Zuleta, Mrs. Carmen Pearson, Mrs. Carmen Troup, Mrs. Cecilia Cabrera and Mrs. Marta Hill. Standing from left to right: Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux and Mrs. Carmen Gloria Heap.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The first AGM of the new millennium was held at Canning House on Tuesday 2nd May in the presence of H. E. the Ambassador Sr. Pablo Cabrera.

The minutes of the last AGM were unanimously approved as well as the Treasurer's report and accounts.

The Chairman, Professor John Fisher, thanked Mr. Peter

Heap for his seven years' stewardship as Treasurer and also Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux, Mrs. Betty Makin and Mr. Nicholas Hopton, members of the Executive Committee who were standing down after serving a maximum 3-year term of office.

Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis was elected Chairman in place of Professor Fisher who had decided, with some regret, to stand down as Chairman of the Society in May 2000 rather than in 2001, since he needed to spend more time with his family. In addition, Mrs Claudia Munro-Kerr was elected Vice-Chairman and Mr. Robert Hart was appointed Honorary Treasurer.

Mr. Alasdair Grant, Mr. David Gill, Mr. Peter de Bruyne and Mr. Jonathan Cook became new members of the Executive Committee while Mr. John Hickman, Mr. Alan Macdonald, Mrs. Georgina Roberts and Mrs. Angélica Shaw were re-elected.

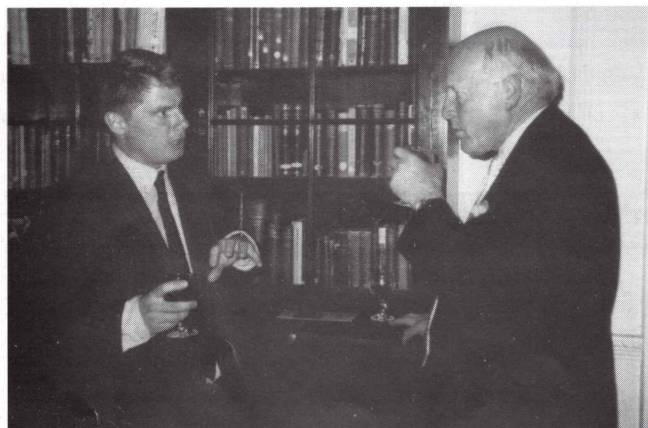
The AGM was followed by a slide presentation by Mr. Jonathan Cook, Project Director of Raleigh International, and a wine reception.



The incoming Chairman, Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis, H.E. Sr. Pablo Cabrera and the outgoing Chairman, Professor John Fisher



From left to right: Mrs. Bárbara Santa Cruz, Mrs. Clarissa Hallings-Pott, Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux and Mr. Guillermo Echeverría.



Deep in conversation: Mr. Jonathan Cook and Mr. Michael Cannon.

MICHAEL OGILVIE-DAVIS

Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis took over from Professor John Fisher as Chairman of the Society at the AGM held on 2nd May 2000.

Mr. Ogilvie-Davis was born in Viña del Mar, Chile, and educated at The Grange in Santiago, and Downside School in England.

He completed 2 years' National Service, as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Parachute Regiment, and finishing as Assistant Adjutant at their headquarters in Aldershot.

Following National Service, he studied Hotel Management in Toronto, Canada and completed a Post Graduate course at Cornell University, USA. Mr. Ogilvie-Davis then worked for Owens Illinois Glass Company in Toledo, Ohio, and later for Libbey Glass as Assistant Sales Manager outside the continental USA.

Mr. Ogilvie-Davis ran his own business in California for 28 years, project managing the building of hotels and restaurants in USA and Mexico. Among his achievements are the project management of four 5-star hotels, 28 restaurants and 4 marinas.

He later moved to Chicago to assist a group in establishing independent cable TV to high-rise residential buildings. Here he met his wife, Linda, and they decided to move to England to live.

In England Mr. Ogilvie-Davis set up a business importing artificial and natural trees and plants from the Far East. After selling this business, he returned to consulting with a group that trained senior managers in the good management and outplacement techniques.

Mr. Ogilvie-Davis is now retired and living in London. He and his wife have been members of the Anglo-Chilean Society since 1992.

THE ANDEAN PROJECT RECEPTION

A reception took place at Canning House on Tuesday 16th May, preceded by a presentation on the activities of the Project.

The Guest Speaker was Baroness Hooper, President of Canning House. Other guests included Sr. Juan Pablo Crisóstomo, Counsellor of the Chilean Embassy representing H. E. Sr. Pablo Cabrera, and Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis, the new Chairman of the Anglo-Chilean Society.

Illustrated presentations were given by Mrs. Patricia Vincent, Chairman of the Andean Project in Chile, and acting Chairman of the Project in the UK, and by Mr. Hugh Beveridge, the UK Vice-Chairman. A film of the northern Chilean region was shown, followed by a question and answer session.

The Project was set up to create sustainable development projects for the peoples of the High Andes. Following in-depth studies by Gerald Wickens of Kew Gardens and Hugh Williams of the Royal Veterinary College, a pilot project has started in the north of Chile.

The feasibility of setting up a Physic Garden on land

acquired in San Pedro de Atacama is currently being examined. A contract for future collaboration with the University of Tarapacá has recently been signed with the Rector, Sr. Luis Adolpho Tapia Iturrieta, an associate Professor of the Faculty of Agronomy, with a view to working with the University on the identification of plants with medicinal properties. The collating of plants for reference and study is of enormous importance if a significant contribution is to be made to sustainable development and the survival of the peoples of the Andes.

Investigating the production of medicinal plants for sale in commercial quantities will be a primary objective.

Volunteers are urgently sought for the committee, particularly in the area of fund-raising. Any member of the Anglo-Chilean Society interested in joining the Andean Project is invited to contact John Barker, The Andean Project, 10 Osterley Lodge, Church Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 4PQ, telephone 020-8560-8057.



Mrs. Patricia Vincent and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Beveridge



From left to right: Miss Lesley Raymond, Miss Jane Walker, Miss Louise Cavanagh and Miss Sarah Colman

THE AMBASSADORIAL BALL

The Anglo-Latin American Foundation (ALAF) held an Ambassadorial Ball on 17th May at the Hurlingham Club in London in aid of the children of Latin America.

It was a splendid social occasion that gathered members of the Diplomatic Corps, representative of companies with interests in Latin America and members of the Anglo-Latin American Societies.



The Duchess of St. Albans, Mr. Andrew Lawson, Baroness Hooper and Mr. Gordon Newberry



*Sitting from left to right: Mrs. Georgina Roberts and Miss Meriel Larkin
Standing from left to right: Mrs. Jean Pateras and Mrs. Luz Burnett*



Miss Morven Hutchinson, Countess Dundonald, Mrs. Rosemary Drysdale and Mr. Martin Blaiklock

CHILEAN NAVY DAY

The annual ceremony at the tomb of Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane took place at Westminster Abbey on 18th May.

The guests were greeted by the head of the Chilean Naval Mission, Captain Juan Schilling and Mrs. Schilling.

It was followed by the traditional splendid reception held at One George Street Conference Centre, Westminster.



Outside the Abbey: Captain Juan Schilling, Mrs. Helga Schilling, H.E. the Ambassador of Chile and Sra. Cabrera



At the reception from left to right: Mrs. Carmen Pearson, Cultural Attaché, Mr. Pedro Montt, Mrs. Rita Phillips, Consul General, Mr. Eugenio Parada, and Mrs. Georgina Roberts.



From left to right: Mrs. María Isabel Montero, Commander Carlos Rojas, Mrs. Marcela Rojas, Mrs. María Isabel Román, Captain Eduardo Román, and Mrs. Carmen Pearson.

DECORATION AT THE CHILEAN NAVAL MISSION

At a ceremony held on 19 May 2000 at the Chilean Naval Mission in London, H. E. Sr. Pablo Cabrera bestowed the decoration "Al Gran Mérito Militar" on Captain Juan Schilling, head of the Naval Mission, in recognition of 30 years' service.



Captain Juan Schilling receiving the decoration "Al Gran Mérito Militar" from the then Ambassador H.E.Sr. Pablo Cabrera, assisted by Captain Guillermo Díaz. In the background: The Military Attaché, Colonel Tulio Hermosilla.

BOOKS ON WHEELS

By María Angélica Venegas

From *El Mercurio*, Santiago, 2nd February 2000.

A mobile library (called the "bibliobús") goes through La Araucanía (IX Region) taking culture to the inhabitants who live far from the urban centres.

Filomena, a woman who lives in a little house almost hidden in the fields of Pillán-Lelbún, a town located 35 kilometres from Temuco (capital of the IX Region), now hobnobs shamelessly with writers of the calibre of Isabel Allende, Francisco Coloane and Pablo Neruda. Amid her daily chores of looking after the pigs, cows and her beloved laying-hens, she takes time to practice the forgotten art of reading.

She confesses it has not been easy as she cannot write, but she has improved her reading at a pace that fills her with pride. She tells enthusiastically that, since a van full of books with the name of bibliobús arrived in town, a new world unfolded for her. She admits to being initially sceptical when it was explained to her that the bibliobús lent the books free of charge; that she did not have to do anything in return except to take care of them, read them, and give them back at the proper time.

She started by glancing through some magazines. Then she moved on to cookery and manual craft books. Now she is in the major league: she reads novels, asks for new ones and even tells the driver off for arriving late.

This is one experience among the hundreds that are told in the rural areas of Lautaro, Temuco, Vilcún, Padre las Casas and Freire in La Araucanía region since August 1999, when the "Project for Itinerant Reading" started, promoted by the Universidad de La Frontera de Temuco with the support of the public library service of the IX Region.

Since then, the people of 19 towns look forward to the fortnightly visit of the bibliobús. Fresia Catrilaf, the person in charge, admits that despite the success, it was necessary to adapt the project to the needs of a modest adult population, with little or almost no education who live in isolation in the countryside.

She says that the most difficult thing has been to overcome the lack of trust. Children, especially, needed convincing. "In some places the children ran away because they thought we had come to vaccinate them. In one sector we were even confronted by a disapproving catholic priest who thought that we were from the Evangelist community selling Bibles".

Demanding Public

The idea of creating mobile libraries is to bring culture to sectors that are far away from the cities. It is aimed primarily at adults, especially housewives, who do not have access to a library because these simply do not exist where they live.

The mobile library of the Universidad de La Frontera is only one example; there are others. In Nueva Toltén "travelling boxes" or shelves with books are left in fixed locations so that the readers can browse for books that interest them. "The experience has been good, but it has been the mobile library which has been best received. The possibility of interacting with the librarians, asking for suggestion or proposing interesting subjects is what people like best. It creates a friendly relationship with the books; of expectation of the day the van comes, and of curiosity to see what is new" says Millaray Concha Arcil, co-ordinator of the Public Library Service of La Araucanía.

Being kind-hearted country folks, many of the borrowers bring the librarians presents: melons, apples, "pan amasado", fresh eggs, plants and even cuddly toys.

Yet there were also failures. In Niágara, a town in Padre Las Casas, the mobile library passed unnoticed. When nobody

came to see it, the enquiries revealed that the Mapuches of that area could hardly speak any Spanish, only Mapudungún, so had no interest in borrowing books. Therefore, the next challenge will be to include a bilingual audio library.

From Knitting to Isabel Allende

The type of requests is mixed but mainly centres around daily needs such as knitting, embroidery, cooking, first aid and pottery. This material is the first contact that the "campesinas" have with the books. The men ask for material that deals with carpentry, crops or construction. The DIY magazine is very popular.

"Our challenge is to satisfy those needs. We keep a stock of 700 books, but we are attentive to the public's demands. For instance, somebody asked for a book on plumbing, but we have not been able to get it yet" explains Pamela Soto, the assistant librarian who also drives the van.

The arrival of the mobile library is quite an event. In some areas it is organised with the travelling health service doing its round.

The conversation around the mobile library can be surprising. For instance, an unassuming housewife can be heard discussing with others the novel "The House of Spirits" by Isabel Allende. Children want all kinds of books, from magazines to tales and adventure stories and take them away by the armful.

Library Cycle

For the past 5 months a unique yellow tricycle has been going through the streets of Freire, a town 30 kilometres south of Temuco. It is called "the yellow library cycle" and people recognise it from the distance not only because of its bright colour, but also because of its powerful signal, like a car alarm, which announces its usual Tuesday run. Its clients are mainly housewives, pensioners and the sick. It is a novel example of the co-ordination of the public library service of La Araucanía and the municipality of Freire to take literary culture to a segment without traditional libraries.

The librarian, Sigisfredo Vega, who cycles up to 8 kilometres, says that the borrowers are avid readers. They ask for several titles at a time, and they have already progressed from magazines to books. "Now they ask for books about sexuality, novels, myths and legends. They also order poems of Pablo Neruda and Gabriela Mistral". Most of the women admit that if it wasn't for the "bibliocycle" they would never have any contact with reading material. The children, the husband and the house don't leave time to go to the municipal library. Now the books, on request, are delivered right to their doors. And, as a footnote, Sigisfredo Vega was very pleased when, a few days ago, he made an inventory of the 500 books, and every single one was accounted for.

HIGH TIME ON THE LINE

by Alan Macdonald

Charles II wanted to reduce losses at sea by giving sailors venturing to the Americas more accurate charts of the moon and stars. So he asked Sir Christopher Wren to design an observatory on the highest point in royal Greenwich.

Thus armed, navigators could easily find their latitude, but they needed a second co-ordinate. In 1714, the Longitude Act named a reward of £20,000 for anyone who could calculate longitude to an accuracy of half a degree. The prize was eventually won, thanks to the intervention of George III, not by an astronomer but by a clockmaker, John Harrison, whose magnificent timekeepers are housed in the Royal Observatory.

Since 1884, a line passing through the courtyard has been the prime meridian of the world from which all time and longitude is measured.

Captain Juan Schilling, head of the Chilean Naval Mission, and Commander the Hon. Michael Cochrane from the Ministry of Defence were among members of the Society and their guests who crossed the line to celebrate the midpoint of the millennial year on the evening of 30th June.

Pieter Van de Merve, distinguished maritime historian and member of the National Maritime Museum directorate, was their guide to this historic setting and the treasures within. Having filed through the apartment of John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, they climbed up to the Octagon Room, lit by tall windows designed by Wren to accommodate the original telescopes.

Awaiting them was a special display of paintings by British artists of Chilean scenes assembled from the vaults - all with resonance for Anglo-Chilean relations.

Conrad Martens left London for India in 1832. Going ashore in Montevideo, the direction of his life was changed at the end of 1833 when he was invited by Charles Darwin to replace the ailing Augustus Earle as artist on board the *Beagle*. "An excellent landscape drawer...a pleasant person, and like all birds of that class, full up to the neck with enthusiasm" observed Darwin.

His watercolours of the *Beagle* Channel reveal his debt to Turner and Cox. One of his subjects, the 6,800 foot Mount Sarmiento was described by Darwin as a "noble and even sublime spectacle", when a 'vale of mist lifted' from its 'vast piles of snow'.

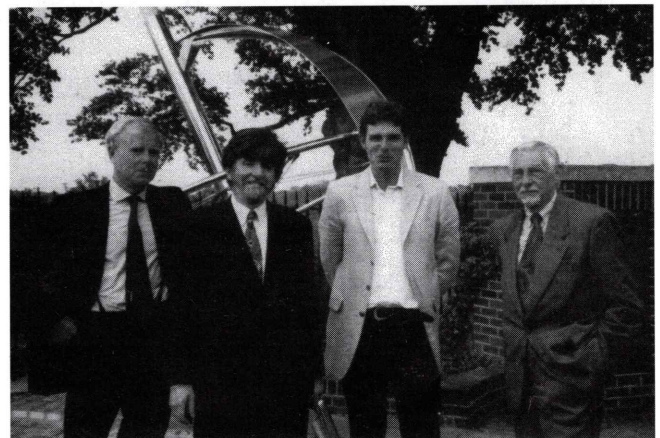
Martens never reached India. Dropped off a year later in Sydney, he stayed put, establishing a great watercolour tradition in Australia, while doubling up as parliamentary librarian.

A watercolour on a grander scale painted by Captain Charles C. Wood in 1882 depicts the most renowned event in Chile's history - the cutting out of the Spanish frigate *Esmeralda* from under the forts of Callao by boats of the Chile Squadron commanded by Admiral Lord Cochrane on 5th November 1821.

Thomas Somerscales, the son of a Hull shipmaster, joined the Royal Navy as a schoolmaster in 1863 and served for seven years. Landing with a fever in Valparaiso, he painted, taught and married there. He finally made it home in 1892, but was drawn back to Chile four times before his death in 1927. His oil on canvas of a four-masted barque running before a gale is one of many commemorating the British nitrate trade.

Mr. Van de Merve also previewed the museum's blockbuster exhibition, 'South - the race to the Pole'. He highlighted Chile's unsung contribution to Ernest Shackleton's second expedition. (See separate article.)

Making sorties into the Camera Obscura and the Time Gallery, members then gathered on the terrace for a reception of Chilean wine and British food against a hazy backdrop of maritime Greenwich, taking in views of the Dome and across the river to London beyond.



From left to right: Mr. Alan Macdonald, Mr. Pieter Van de Merve, Mr. Alisdair Grant and Mr. Michael Ogilvie-Davis.



From left to right: Mrs. Jennifer Hickman, Mrs. Sheila Bell, Mrs. Ana-María Yrarrázabal and Mrs. Ann Buckland.



From left to right: Mrs. Rose Vleck, Mrs. Herriette Subercaseaux, Mr. E. Vleck and Mrs. Caren Saville-Smeath.

AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

A reception was held on 11th July to bid farewell to H.E. the Ambassador of Chile and Sra. Cabrera. It was a glittering occasion that brought together members of the Diplomatic Corps and prominent figures from the worlds of politics and industry.

H.E. Sr. Pablo Cabrera left London in August to take up his appointment as Chilean Ambassador in Russia.



H.E. the Ambassador of Chile and Sra. Cabrera with Mr. Alisdair Grant.



Mr. Marcial Echeñique, Mr. Cristopher Green and Lord Lamont.



From left to right: Lord Pakenham, Mrs. Cecilia Cabrera, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Langer.

PIANO RECITAL

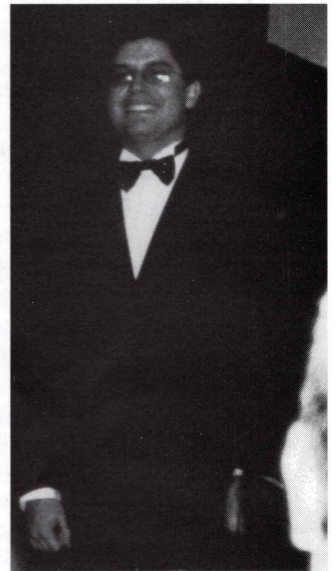
Felipe Browne played to a capacity crowd at Leighton House, London, on 18th July. He put together a programme that included Beethoven, Debussy and Chopin, which was well received by his audience.

Felipe Browne was born in Chile where he began piano lessons at the age of eight. In 1988 he was warmly praised by Claudio Arrau during a Master Class given at the Teatro Municipal in Santiago. That same year, after graduating as a concert pianist from the Catholic University, Santiago, he was invited by Arie Vardi to study with him for one year in Israel. Following Professor Vardi's advice, he moved to London to continue with Peter Feutchwanger.

In 1997 Felipe Browne took part in a tour sponsored by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs including concerts in Moscow and Uruguay. The following year this tour included concerts in Bucharest, Tunis, Madrid, Rome, Florence, Lisbon, London and Buenos Aires. He has also performed in Beijing, Warsaw and Washington.

Felipe Browne is sponsored by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue his career in Britain and Europe.

Wine was served during the interval, courtesy of Viña Errázuriz.



Mr. Felipe Browne in concert at Leighton House.



During the interval: Mrs. Carmen Troup, Professor Malcolm Troup, Mrs. Isabel Cuadra and Mr. Gonzalo Cuadra.

FROM THE SOUTH TO SANTIAGO

or the importance of being Sir Ernest

by Alan Macdonald

The mailboat Orita arrived from Port Stanley at Punta Arenas in the southern winter of 1916. On board were the sturdy, square-set figure of the explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and two fellow expeditionaries. Their mission was to rescue 22 castaways from the desolate and windswept Elephant Island.

Shackleton, born in Ireland in 1874, was a merchant navy master and Royal Navy Reserve officer. He had sailed with Captain Robert Scott in *Discovery* in 1901 and mounted his own triumphal expedition to the Polar Plateau in 1907.

Return seemed inevitable: "the south was calling," he explained. In 1914, despite the outbreak of war three days before, he had been ordered to proceed with his second expedition. His third would come in 1922, when he died of a heart attack and was buried on St. Georgia.

Crushed in the ice.

His daring plan to cross Antarctica on foot was frustrated when *Endurance* was imprisoned and, after nine months, crushed in the ice of the Wedell Sea. Dragging three whalers much of the 200 miles, the full party of 28 reached Elephant Island off the tip of Graham Land.

From there, he took five men on a 16-day voyage in an open boat across 850 miles to South Georgia to seek help. Crossing the lofty interior to the whaling station on the other side was an equally exceptional feat.

In Punta Arenas the British Association of Magellanes "took us to their hearts," wrote Shackleton. Allan MacDonald was especially prominent in his untiring efforts to assist in the rescue. Working day and night, he raised £1,500 to charter and equip the old oak schooner *Emma*. The Chilean Government lent the little steamer *Yelcho* to tow the schooner part of the way, but her steel hull could not be risked in the ice.

They set out on 12th July. The tow rope broke in a gale. *Yelcho* returned before she ran out of coal. *Emma* sailed on, "tossed like a cork in the swell". Just 100 miles from their goal, a line of ice blocked the way south as far as he could see.

The impatient Shackleton would not wait six or seven weeks in Port Stanley for *Discovery* to arrive from England, so he returned to Punta Arenas.

Soup of the day.

On 25th August he started south in *Yelcho*. On the fourth attempt the ice opened and she slipped through. They approached in a thick fog. Glaciers were calving like gunfire. On the morning of 30th August the mist lifted to reveal the steep cliffs of Elephant Island.

The castaways had been abandoned for four months and six days, surviving on a diet of seals, seabirds and seaweed to eke out their diminishing rations, which had just four days to go. They were down to the last of the Bovril.

The soup - a bubbling mass of seal's backbone, limpets and seaweed - was particularly good on the day when they saw the "little ship with the Chilean flag" rounding the point. The pot was kicked over in the rush.

Best speed to Río Seco.

As Shackleton landed with the Chilean sailors, his faithful second-in-command reported "we are all well, Boss" and led the men in three cheers. A change of wind might bring the ice back at any time, so he hurried them aboard. Within an hour they were "steaming north at best speed".

"I have done it," he wrote. "Not a life lost and we have been through hell."

Labouring heavily, *Yelcho* entered the Straits of Magellan on 3rd September. The resourceful leader landed at Río Seco, found a telephone and rang the Governor to say they were on their way.

Two hours later the 28 were at Punta Arenas, "where we were given a welcome none of us is likely to forget". The police spread the word and rang the fire alarm. "The whole populace appeared to be in the streets. It was a great reception, and with the strain of long, anxious months lifted at last, we were in a mood to enjoy it."

Flags and anthems.

The Chilean Government lent him *Yelcho* for the voyage north. They reached Valparaíso on 27th September.

"Everything that could swim in the way of a boat was out to meet us." The crews of Chilean warships were lined up. At least 30,000 thronged the streets.

In Santiago, he lectured for the British Red Cross and a Chilean Naval charity. The Chilean flag and Union Jack were draped together. The band thumped out the national anthems and even struck up the Marseillaise. The Foreign Minister spoke from the platform and pinned an order on the intrepid Englishman's coat.

He thanked the President for his help, which included £34,000 spent on coal alone. "The Chilean Government were directly responsible for the rescue of my comrades," he later wrote. "The Southern Republic was unwearied in its efforts." He singled out Admiral Muñoz Hurtado, head of the Navy, and Captain Luis Pardo, who commanded *Yelcho*.

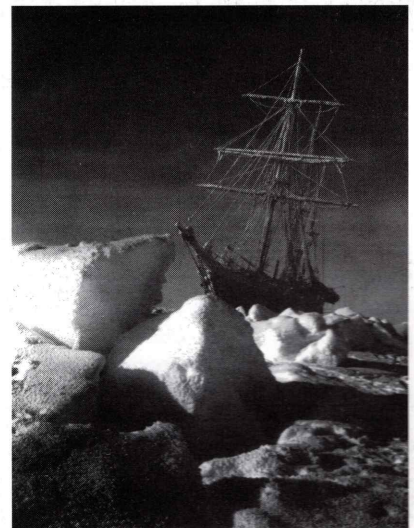
In reply, the President recalled the part that British sailors had taken in the making of the Chilean Navy.

Then the British party crossed the Andes to Montevideo in a train provided specially by the Chilean Railway

Department. From there, the indefatigable Shackleton headed for New Zealand to rescue his Ross Sea party stranded on the other side of Antarctica.

His extraordinary achievements would not be recognised by his compatriots as they had been by the Chileans when he eventually reached Britain in May 1917.

South - the Race to the Pole, focusing on the epic struggles of Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton, is at the National Maritime Museum from 14th September 2000 to 30th September 2001 from 10.00 to 5.00 seven days a week. Entry is included in the price of admission to the main museum - £7.50 for adults, £6 for students and concessions and free for OAPs and under-16s. There is a related Shackleton exhibition at Dulwich College.



Endurance in ice

© Scott Polar Research Institute
University of Cambridge

JOSE CLARO, THE BENEFACTOR

by Elizabeth Simonsen

from *Qué Pasa*, Santiago, 21st May 2000.

This is the first time that José Claro, the anonymous benefactor of AIDS in Chile, speaks openly about the distribution of medicines that he organised as a way of helping

HIV carriers and landed him in court.

For some 150 AIDS victims luck ran out on December 1998. They used to come to a house in Américo Vespucio Norte not only to discuss their illness, but also to buy the latest medicines at half price. The owner of the house, José Claro González, spent a large amount of his time travelling abroad to buy medicines at cheaper prices, storing them and even taking the patients to the doctors. They called him "the benefactor" and they jealously protected his identity. On 11 December 1998, Claro's house was raided, he was detained, and the medicines confiscated by the Drug Squad.

For his patients, it meant finding a new source of medicines and for José Claro, the start of a long judicial process. He is accused of "illegally practising as a pharmacist".

José Claro, the grandson of ex-President Gabriel González Videla and son and brother of prominent businessmen, has been in contact with powerful people since an early age. It was only a few years ago that he came to know the other side of life.

What started by chance as community work, has changed the life of this 44-year old man, separated from his wife, and father of two teenagers. So much so that he has just rented out his house in Vitacura to go to live near Ventanas from where he intends to continue helping AIDS sufferers. It was this decision that caused him to make a public appearance after avoiding the media for two years.

The following interview tells the story of the AIDS benefactor in Chile.

How did you get involved in the world of AIDS victims?

I lived several years in the US from 1987 during which time I collected so many tickets for traffic violations that I was sentenced to do 50 hours community work. Thanks to a Chilean who worked for an organisation dedicated to AIDS, I enrolled in a programme which would send a person to care for a HIV patient until he died.

After I did my 50 hours community work, I maintained contact with the organisation. When I was working with LADECO airlines as cargo manager, I received a call from a friend who knew someone who had contracted AIDS and needed medicines that they did not have in Chile. That was the time of AZT, an antiviral drug used in the treatment of AIDS. Later, another person contacted me and he eventually told his doctor who passed the information to a third patient. Soon the number of people grew to 15.

- Did you only buy on request?

They would deposit or send me the money and I would personally send the drug or ask somebody to take it. Of those first clients there can't be any still alive. The early treatments were very inefficient and if nowadays the subject is taboo, it was worse then. I would send the medicines to houses where the rest of the family were not aware of the situation.

- How long did it last?

Four or five years, but I was sending medicines that could not be bought in Chile. By the time I returned to the country almost all of them were here so I stopped selling for a year. But soon I realised that the price of medicines was very high, and so I started doing the same but this time from Chile and always on request. I used to make a phone call to a man I knew in a pharmacy in the US and placed the orders which I paid with my credit card. An American friend would send them with other persons or with the airlines' crew.

- When did you start selling?

I was going through Mexico, on my way to Miami, when I noticed that medicines were much cheaper there than in the US. On my arrival in Miami I heard that the pharmacy I dealt with had gone bankrupt. In the meantime, the group of people buying from

me had grown to 50-60. It was when I went back to Mexico, in June 1998, that I invested money buying a stock of medicines. Afterwards I would sell them making a little profit.

- Who were your clients?

They were people with an income, but not enough to afford treatment at Ch\$4000,000 a month. National Health treatment is available to the poorest, and the richest can afford private clinics. My clients were caught in between. There is also a social issue. AIDS is still discriminated against in Chile. My clients were diplomats, academics, bank tellers, etc. who were not poor people but were looking for confidentiality.

- How much was the profit?

I would buy a triassociate therapy (three drugs used simultaneously) for Ch\$210,000 and sell it for Ch\$280,000, at a time that it cost Ch\$450,000 in Chile. I started a fund with the difference and the fares and stay in Mexico were paid with the fund's profit. I must explain that I never invested my own money apart from the initial stock. While the fund was growing, I would gradually withdraw that initial amount. The rest of the money belonged to the buyers. It was like a club. When I was detained and searched, half of the seizure was not mine but of the buyers. There was US\$25,000 worth of medicines. There was also around Ch\$2,000,000 (approximately US\$4,000) in cheques.

- How many medicines did you sell?

The total is on my computer, but it was confiscated. I would say I sold medicines to 200 people though I never had this amount of clients at one time. When I was detained there were between 140 and 150, plus those patients of Foundation Laura Rodríguez.

- Were you known by the doctors?

Yes. Furthermore, I would run into the doctors at conferences. I think they trusted me because I didn't try to hide anything and nobody was in any danger with my medicines.

- Did you ever think that you were committing a crime?

I never felt guilty. It would be like speeding at 150 kph along the Alameda because you are carrying someone who is bleeding to death. Nobody should accuse you of speeding. On the contrary, they should make way for you. You are transgressing a law, but for a noble cause. The law should allow for more than a literal interpretation, especially when it affects the health of a person.

- Did you suspect that you could be detained?

Three months before the detention I was visited by the Institute for Public Health because a laboratory had filed charges against me. On that occasion I denied any selling. I was aware that I could get into trouble, but how could I possibly stop and abandon the sufferers?

- Did you try to formalise your activities?

Yes. One attempt was with Joaquín Lavín, in the Municipalidad de Las Condes. The idea was to offer 15 triassociate therapies a year, about US\$200,000, but this proved too ambitious. Another idea was that, due to the fact that CONASIDA (National Body against AIDS) had limited resources, I would buy through the State at the same price CONASIDA paid the laboratories. However, there was a legal problem because an individual cannot buy through the State and, also, because the laboratories have set a limit on availability at that price.

- Did your lawyers try to recover the medicines from the Institute for Public Health?

Yes, so they could be donated to the clinic of the Universidad Católica.

- What was the answer of the Institute of Public Health?

They said there was no way of knowing how the drugs had been stored, nor where they came from. I knew that the

Institute had prepared a report that established the origin of the drugs from the serial numbers and none of them were out-of-date when they were confiscated.

- In what condition were they when you had them?

When I handed them over to OS-7 (the Drug Squad), I told them that the medicines had to be kept refrigerated and I used an electronic thermometer to indicate the temperature. I even put a gel pack in the cooler. Afterwards, when I saw them on television, my cooler was opened with the medicines on display.

-How do you help the AIDS sufferers now?

For 6 months we have been financing REOSS (Red de Orientación en Salud). The idea was to build up a drug bank, but we do not achieve anything by paying Chilean prices, we have to buy abroad.

- You wanted to create a foundation. What is the situation now?

The idea was to create an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) with special tax concessions that, apart from being a drug bank, could make statistical studies of AIDS in Chile.

- Do you see any positive balance?

I used to keep the identity of people strictly confidential. However, none of them refused to testify during the trial, not even the doctors. I would do it all over again.

- Any regrets?

None. I think that eventually the State or somebody will have to do something similar.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE

deep blue skies
and golden sun,
rust red mountains
and shady green parks,
towering apartment blocks
and worn colonial buildings,
crowded downtown streets
and peaceful treelined avenidas,
hundreds of yellow micros
and as many maniac drivers,
mobile phones and suits
and swarms of noisy street sellers,
elegant cypress trees
and bright pink oleander,
pisco sour and palta
and Santa Emiliana wine,
the dull roar of traffic
and the sound of laughter,
the background for
rapid, musical Spanish,
hot concrete, dry and dusty,
and occasional refreshing breezes,
welcoming, helpful words
and smiling, friendly faces.
Santiago de Chile:
a thousand miles away,
a thousand memories close.

By Katherine Dixon, a GAP volunteer, who spent some months in 1998 working as a Language Assistant at Mayflower School in Santiago. She is presently studying Languages at Edinburgh University.

LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES GOLF TOURNAMENT 2000

The Anglo-Chilean Society was the host of the first golf

tournament of the new millennium.

It took place at the West Surrey Golf Club, Eton, Surrey, on Thursday 15th June.

Ian Peters of the Anglo-Argentine Society reports that "the day was a great success, especially the lunch which was enhanced by the excellent lubrication properties of a liberal supply of Concha y Toro!"

The major prize, the Ambassadors' Cup, was won this year by Mr. Colum Sharkey of the Anglo-Uruguayan Society.

The Jangada Cup for the winning Brazilian player was won by Mr. John Armstrong.

The Argentine Rosebowl for the winning member of the Anglo-Argentine Society was won by Mr. Hugh Carless.

The Punta Arenas Cup for the winning Chilean player was won by Mr. Alan Feary. Since his son won the same trophy last year, narrowly beating his father, it will be necessary to adjust their handicaps next year!

The winner of the Lan Chile trophy, which this year, for the first time, was awarded to the winner of "the other" societies, was Mr. Duncan McArthur of the Anglo-Peruvian Society.

The prizes were presented by Sr. Juan Pablo Crisóstomo, Counsellor of the Chilean Embassy, in the absence of the then Ambassador Sr. Pablo Cabrera, who was abroad.

FOOD AND DRINK

El Cebiche

by César Fredes. From El Mercurio, Santiago.

Cebiche, originally from Perú, is basically very fresh raw fish with lemon juice, onion, pepper and chilli. In Santiago "El Otro Sitio", located in Antonia López de Bello 53 and "Mare nostrum" in La Concepción 281, are strongly recommended.

The dish has its origin in the Peruvian capital alone, there must be 200-300 "cebicherías" that, strangely enough, only open at midday. In Lima, for reasons unknown, cebiche is not eaten at night. Perhaps this has something to do with not overloading the stomach with the acidity of the lemon, the pungency of the raw onion or the hot ricoto chillies before going to bed.

In Chile, cebiche first became popular about 20 years ago, but has enjoyed something of a boom in the last 10 years since "El Otro Sitio" brought the flavourful Peruvian cooking to the Chilean capital.

Nevertheless, it is surprising that cebiche has not been more common in Chile. There is as much seafood and fish as in Perú, among them "la reineta", very suitable for this dish, as well as inexpensive.

Cebiche is basically finely cut strips of raw fish, or sometimes ground, with lemon, onions, pepper and chillies. There are variations depending on the origin, personal tastes of the diners or moods of the cook. Some add finely chopped fresh coriander (the way Chileans like it) while others prefer

to prepare it the day before.

It is a very healthy way of eating, being light and nutritious and, the most important thing nowadays, it is not fattening and provides the "good" cholesterol, that is to say, those lipoproteins of high density so good for our cardiovascular system.

In Santiago and surrounding towns, cebiche is prepared Peruvian style, that is to say, pieces of fish with finely sliced onions separated into rings and ricoto chillies. It is hotter than The Chilean cebiche. As in Lima, it is accompanied by pieces of warm sweet potatoes and fresh corn.

Cebiche, Chilean style, is usually prepared with ground fish and finely sliced onions marinated in plenty of lemon, almost like a paste. This is the way it is served in "El Caballito de Mar" (the Little Sea-horse), located in the municipal market of Arica and one of the shrines to cebiche in Chile.

Isabel Alvarez, the great Peruvian cook and sociologist, is the author of an excellent book on Peruvian cuisine and owner of the famous restaurant "El Señorío de Sulco" (The Manor of Sulco). She says that cebiche should always be freshly prepared, cutting the fish (preferably sea bass) into pieces 1 cm thick by 4 cm long. Then, combine chopped onions with half a clove of garlic, finely chopped chillies, fresh coriander and, most important, freshly squeezed small green lemons (such as come from Pica). By using the tips of your fingers, mix the fish with the rest of the ingredients for 3 minutes and your cebiche is ready. This is, according to the respected author, the orthodox way to perfection.

Of course, it is imperative that the fish is absolutely fresh. Otherwise, don't even try it!

Star Red

Extracts from articles by Jane MacQuitty
The Times of 24 June and 16 September.

If you've only got a fiver to spend on a jolly autumn wine, it's got to be Chile every time.

Goodness me, how the British are lapping up these Chileans reds. Last year we drank five million Chilean cases, a third more than the previous year, giving Chilean producers an impressive almost 6 per cent share of the wines we drink.

1999 Los Robles Carmenère, Curicó Valley, Chile.

Carmenère is an obscure red variety, originally from Bordeaux. It is now almost extinct there but was transported to Chile in the late 19th century when the destructive phylloxera aphid wiped out almost all of Bordeaux's best vineyards. Chile has recently re-discovered the merits of the carmenère whose best examples, such as this one, deliver stunning violet-scented and raspberry-stashed fruit with plenty of inky backbone and punchy delivery.

Enjoy this bold, spicy, herby red with an equally long spicy finish with blackened barbecue food for a spectacular summer treat. Unlike many other Chilean wine concerns, Vinos Los Robles was not founded until 1939 by a group of vineyard owners who grew grapes in the Curicó valley about 200 kilometres south of Santiago, the capital of Chile.

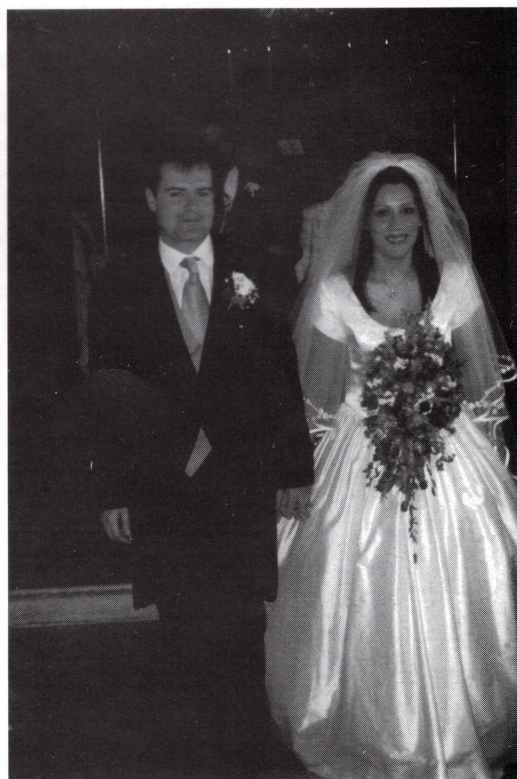
TRAVEL BAG

John Naylor has written to us from Australia where he has joined his daughter, Angela, for an extended stay. From the inner suburbs of London to the land of sunshine, with a good view of Sidney Harbour to top it all! Isn't life grand?

Mrs. B. Forstall-Comber would like to hear from anyone with information about life in Iquique in the days of the Nitrate business from the point of view of the British families there. Her address is: Juan Pablos 8A, 41013 Seville, Spain.

WEDDING

The wedding took place on April 29th at The Brompton Oratory in London between Mr. Martin Pickett and Miss Macarena Parada, daughter of the Chilean Consul General Mr. Eugenio Parada and Mrs. Valentina Parada.



OBITUARIES

Mr. Sidney B. E. Jones

Mr. Sidney Jones died peacefully but unexpectedly on 4th October 1999.

He was born in Corrientes, Argentina, in 1914 and spent his childhood years in Buenos Aires where he was educated at St. George's College.

His family moved to Chile when he was 16 years old where, six months later, his father died and he left school to start work.

For a time he worked at Deloitte Plender where his great mathematical skills were put to good use. In 1951 he started his own import/export business.

Mr. Jones was an excellent sportsman. As a youngster he

joined the Prince of Wales Country Club in Santiago where he played hockey, cricket and rugby. He became captain of Chile at both cricket and rugby.

In his early 30s, he took up refereeing and coached the Country Club's junior team. He continued playing cricket into his early 50s.

He was a director of the Prince of Wales Country Club for many years and was instrumental in the laying out of the playing fields of the new club.

During the war, unable to join up, he devoted his spare time to raising funds for the war effort.

Mr. Jones was a long standing member of the Society, first in Santiago and later in London.

His wife, Sylda, died in 1983 and he is survived by his children, Olwen, Glenys and Rhys.



Mr. Sidney B.E. Jones

Mr. J. H. Campbell Jenkins

As announced in the March issue of the Chilean News, Mr. John Henry Campbell Jenkins passed away on 8th February 2000.

Mr. Campbell was born in 1927 in Iquique, Northern Chile, where his father was General Manager of the Nitrate Railway Company, a British Company pioneering in South America.

After leaving boarding school in Chile at 17, he took a ship back to England to join the British Army. He saw service in the Welsh Guards in Germany, Egypt and Palestine.

Back in Britain, the booming business in the 40's and 50's was the motor industry, so he trained as a service representative with the Rootes Motor Company. Being fluent in Spanish, he was soon on his way back to Chile. He returned

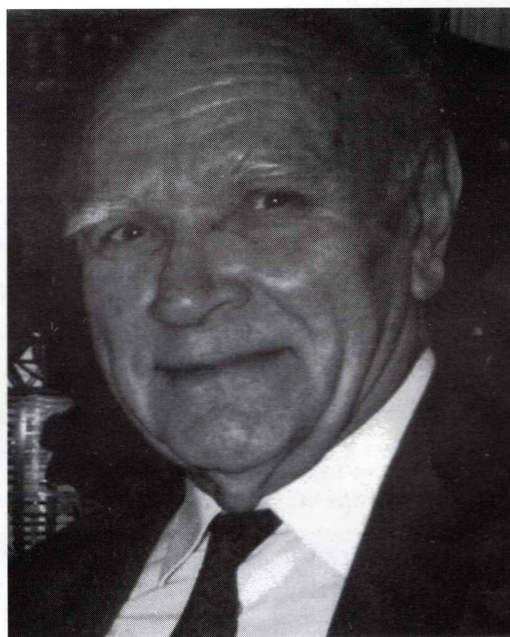
to England to join the Austin Motor Company and was posted to Singapore. His talents were quickly recognised and he was promoted to manager of the Austin local branch in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

It was in Kuala Lumpur that he met and married Deryth Vine. The couple returned to England, set up home and had five children between 1958 and 1964.

Mr. Campbell continued his career in the motor trade, first as Assistant General Manager of the Black Horse Garage in Richmond and, in 1972, as General Manager to ES Motors in Ashford.

In the early 80's, he made a career change, joining Save & Prosper as a financial consultant, retiring in the mid-90s to devote more time to his many interests and hobbies - especially his garden.

His love of meeting new people made him an enthusiastic and regular attendee at the social functions of the Society.



Mr. J.H. Campbell Jenkins.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined the Society:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ely
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Evans
Mr. & Mrs Andrew Robshaw
Mr. James Schuby
Mrs. Ana-María Yrarrázabal
Kleinwort Benson Limited (corporate)

SPANISH - CHILEAN STYLE!

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Agarrarse del moño | - | To argue heatedly with someone. |
| Agarrar papa | - | To become overly involved with or overly enthusiastic about something. |
| Agarrar para el fideo | - | To pull one's leg. |
| | - | To play a trick or joke on someone. |
| Agüita | - | Herbal tea. |
| Al hilo | - | One after the other. |
| | - | One thing following directly after another. |
| A la suerte de la olla | - | An informal meal, usually a last minute invitation. |
| Amononar | - | To improve the appearance of. |
| Amurrarse | - | To pout. |
| | - | To sulk. |
| Andar con la caña | - | To feel very bad because one had too much alcohol the night or day before. |
| Andar con la mona | - | Hung over. |
| Andar con los monos | - | To wake up feeling irascible or foul-tempered. |
| Andar de farrar or Andar de parranda | - | To be partying. Generally a party with alcohol, or men and women. |
| Arregalar el pastel | - | To patch things up. To correct, to make amends. |

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