

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

45th Year No. 341

London, August 1991

12 Devonshire Street, London W1

PRESIDENT'S VISIT

His Excellency President Patricio Aylwin of Chile was in England for a state visit from April 10th to April 15th accompanied by his wife and members of his cabinet. He was attended on his round of official engagements by members of his entourage and the Chilean Ambassador H.E. Sr. German Riesco.

April 10

Arrival at Heathrow Airport by Chilean Airforce plane.
Dinner given by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.

April 11

Call on Speaker of the House of Commons.
Lunch with H.M. the Queen at Windsor Castle.
Visit at Claridges by the Right Honourable Douglas Hurd and Mr. Neil Kinnock MP.
Talks with the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.
Dinner at the Mansion House given by the Lord Mayor.

April 12

Breakfast with newspaper editors.
Wreath laying ceremony at Westminster Abbey.
Vin d'Honneur at Canning House.
Call on the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords.
Reception at the Chilean Embassy to meet members of the Chilean colony.
Dinner given by the Midland Bank and City Bankers.

April 13

Visit to Cambridge University and lunch at St. Catherine's College.
Visit to Treyford, seat of the Aylwin family, and on to Amberley Castle.

April 14

Amberley Castle.

April 15

Onward flight to further engagements on the Continent.

The President's wife, Sra. Leonor de Aylwin, visited Kew Gardens among her other engagements. The Chairman, Sir David Hildyard together with the Hon. Treasurer Mr. Peter Shaw accompanied by Lady Dundonald as Chairman of the Ladies Committee, Sra. Jacqueline de Riesco, Mrs. Georgina Roberts who had been the driving force for the collection of money at the ALAF party and Mrs. Ester de Toro presented Sra. Aylwin with a cheque for £600 towards the charity Hogar de Cristo. Mr. Cannon was unable to attend because of a seminar with the Finance Minister at the London Chamber of Commerce.

On April 12th the President laid two wreaths in Westminster Abbey. Such occasions in its hallowed precincts are always moving.

The tomb of the Unknown Warrior, as its name implies, holds the remains of a soldier whose body was recovered from the battlefields of World War I, and it symbolizes the sacrifice of the countless thousands who gave their lives for their country. It is a national shrine to whom visiting dignitaries pay homage, and this act was performed by the President.

The tomb of Lord Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, was similarly honoured. One of the most outstanding naval men of his time he was born in Lanark, Scotland, on 14th December 1775 and rendered invaluable service in the cause of Chile's independence. He served in the Chilean Navy as Commander-in-Chief from 1818 to 1823.

There was a contingent of officers and men of the Chilean Navy as well as

members of the Army and Airforce and representatives of the Diplomatic Corps.

This was followed by a Vin d'Honneur at Canning House attended by the Chilean Ambassador H.E. Sr. German Riesco, Ambassadors of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela, members of the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce, members of the executive committee of The Anglo Chilean Society, Latin American Trade Advisory Group and guests.

President Aylwin made the following speech (translation):

Mr. President, Director, Ambassadors, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen:

When in 1823 British Foreign Secretary George Canning officially recognized the independence of the Spanish Colonies he took the first step that, in time, was to become a fruitful relationship between Great Britain and the Latin American nations, Spain and Portugal. It is therefore an honour for me to be received in this house, which, named in memory of George Canning and our independence heroes, has dedicated its efforts for the past fifty years in promoting this relationship.

Culture, education, economics and commerce co-exist in this stately house, making the British nation aware not only of the most profound values of our rich and varied nationalities, but also of the extent of economic and social development and the efforts made by Latin America to attain them. The Latin American countries have great natural resources which you, with imagination and initiative, have

been discovering over the years.

The relations between Chile and Great Britain have no doubt been strengthened due to the work of Canning House. It should also be recalled that our President, Viscount David Montgomery of Alamein, has and continues to have special ties with Latin America, and especially with our country. And his example has been followed by a great many British personalities who, historically, have not only established roots in our country and co-operated in its development, but have also had confidence in Chile as an appropriate place to establish and maintain investment and commercial interests.

There actually exists between Latin America and Great Britain shared values in the political scene as well as economic ties. The Latin American countries, as never before, are convinced that democracy is the best system to confront the challenges of the present and the future. We are a region that has suffered the pains of authoritarian rule, and having now recovered democracy we are determined to conserve it and fight for its consolidation.

Also, taking into account the characteristics of each of the countries, we carry forward economic and social strategies to identify ourselves in an increasingly interconnected world.

In this sense Chile shares with Great Britain a free and open economy which permits a sustained development with which to form, in liberty, a more just society.

We know that we have found in Great Britain an ally of this kind, one that has demonstrated its willingness to avoid the growth of protective measures which could obstruct our countries in the process of integration in the international economic field. We are grateful for this support.

I especially extend this gratitude in the name of the people of Chile to the institutions whose representatives are present in this room, and who



His Excellency Sr. Patricio Aylwin, President of Chile and his wife, Sra. Leonor de Aylwin with H.M. the Queen at Windsor Castle

dedicate a large part of their time to strengthening the traditional ties of friendship which unite our two countries. I refer to The Anglo Chilean Society and The British Chilean Chamber of Commerce who contribute towards our bilateral relationships in the historical, artistic and cultural fields, as well as fomenting commercial interchange and the promotion of investments. Their work merits the appreciation of the Chileans.

Ladies and gentlemen, surrounded here by symbols which reflect our history, I am glad to see reaffirmed the historic friendship between our nations, and the spirit of reciprocal collaboration which exists between ourselves, based on the common principles which inspire us.

Thank you very much.

The President began his European tour with a state visit to Spain, followed by the official visit to England, and then on to the Netherlands and Strasbourg, a state visit to Italy and an official visit to Germany.

J.N.

OBITUARIES

HAROLD BLAKEMORE

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Dr. Harold Blakemore on 20th February 1991. His funeral took place on 27th February at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, Finchley.

A memorial service was held on 26th April at the University Church of Christ the King, Gordon Square WC1. There was a large attendance including his immediate family, the Chilean Ambassador H.E. Sr. German Riesco, London University colleagues, members of The Anglo Chilean Society and his many friends.

Addresses were made by Dr. Simon Collier and Dr. Howell Daniels and two of his poems were read out by his son-in-law Nick Copeland. The choir of the University Church sang selections by Mozart and Fauré. Altogether a most impressive occasion and a fitting memorial to a distinguished scholar.

His less well known ability as a writer of poetry is revealed in the following poem in which he contemplates, in reflective mood, his assumed inadequacies:

Epitaph

*Now the game's up, I wish I could have been
One of those men whose lighter lit first time;
Who, writing verse, would always get the rhyme
Without too much reflection, What I mean*

*Is that I feel a failure, one whose pen
Always dried up when writing cheques and such;
Stood on the brink of life, expecting much,
But never falling over, failing then*

*To make the mark I know I might have made,
Like ringing 999, pulling the cord
To stop a train, save everyone on board;
Stand out like one who calls a spade a spade.*

*All policemen seemed much older, women fair
Quite inseductible, their company
Simply for me lost opportunity,
Because, of course, yours truly did not dare.*

*And after dinner, lighting a cigar,
I never had the puff to keep it lit,
And asked for matches, being so unfit
To keep such company, Well, there you are:*

*So now I go to ask the reason why,
Question the point of that futility
(If I can be so bold for once) of He
Who made me what I was: to live and die.*

The following obituary was published in The Independent newspaper on 27th February:

Harold Blakemore was for more than 20 years a key figure in the field of Latin American studies in Britain, both as founding Secretary of the Institute of Latin American Studies in London, and as a highly assiduous editor of the "Journal of Latin American Studies" from its first appearance in 1969. He retired from both jobs in 1987, when he became Emeritus Professor at London University.

Blakemore won the affection of a remarkably wide circle of friends and acquaintances, not only in the academic orbit (here and abroad) but also in the City, in the diplomatic world, in the media, in politics and, not least, in his own neighbourhood at Barnet, where his family, to whom he was deeply devoted, gave him a sheet-anchor for his active and many-sided life.

Outside England, his loss will be felt most in Chile, the country whose history was the focus of Blakemore's scholarship and where he was always a welcome and popular guest. He became a Corresponding Academician of the Chilean Academy of History in 1970, and in 1990 was awarded the Republic's Bernardo O'Higgins Order of Merit.

Harold's scholarly writings include numerous essays and articles on Chilean history and politics, a notable bibliography in the Clio Press series, published in 1988, and two admirable monographs: "British Nitrates and Chilean Politics 1886-1896; Balmaceda and the North" (1974, Spanish translation in 1977) and "From the Pacific to La Paz: the Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway Company 1888-1988" (1990). The lengthy chapter on Chile he wrote for "Latin America: Geographical Perspectives" (1971, second edition 1983) the volume he himself edited with Clifford Smith, is a good illustration of his intellectual strengths. Blakemore's short paperback "Latin America" (1966) demonstrated his permanent concern to introduce the region to a wider readership, as did his co-editorship of "The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Latin America and the Caribbean" (1985). He was working on its second edition at the time of his death.

A very friendly nature (and an almost compulsive activism) led Blakemore into a multitude of different activities. He provided many topical comments on Latin America for both radio and television. He was a leading light in both the Society for Latin American Studies and The Anglo Chilean Society, and a familiar figure at Canning House (Hispanic & Luso-Brazilian Councils). In 1982 he was elected President of the International Congress of Americanists, the success of whose Manchester conference that year owed much to his dogged hard work.

The British Academic world he served so loyally sometimes treated Harold Blakemore disappointingly, and during the last 15 years or so of his life he had to contend with periods of ill-health that would have driven a lesser man to despair. His Yorkshire common sense and unflinching good humour helped him through.

Simon Collier

There was also an appreciation in the Santiago press written by Juan Ricardo Couyoumdjian, Dean of the Faculty of History, Geography and Political Science of the Catholic University.

J.N.

JOSEPH VINCENT GALLAGHER

We regret to report the death of Joseph Vincent Gallagher, a prominent member of the business community on the West Coast, on 31st March 1991 at the age of 94 at his home in Brighton.

After serving in the Armed Forces in World War I, where he won the Military Medal, he joined Duncan Fox & Co. Ltd., in 1925 and served in Peru and Bolivia before becoming General Manager in Chile in 1938. In 1955 he was awarded the Order of Merit by the Chilean Government and in 1956 he returned to London Head Office as a Director. He finally retired in 1970 as Chairman. He was a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and a Director of the Royal Insurance, and to the end his mind was alert.

He is survived by his son David who is living in Chile.

H. Luxton

VICTOR CONTRERAS

The Society deeply regrets to record the death of Victor Contreras, for many years a well known member of the Anglo Chilean Society's General Committee in London. He was born in Barrow in Furness on 31st July 1907 at which time his father, an Engineer in the Chilean Navy, and married to an English lady Miss Agnes Mitchell, was supervising the fitting out of a naval vessel being built for the Chilean Navy.

He went out to Chile when four years old, returning at eleven to continue his education in England and joined the Anglo South American Bank for training at the age of 16, and five years later went out to Chile on contract. He met his wife, Treintje, in 1938, who was employed in the same office of the Bank of London & South America which took over the Anglo Bank in 1936, and they were married on 20th January 1940.

Victor had a successful banking career in the posts of West Coast Inspector of Branches, Manager of Valparaiso Branch, and in 1956 became General Manager of the Bank in Chile, resident in Santiago where

he was also a pillar of St. Andrew's Church as member of the Parochial Church Council, and for many years he devoted much time to serving British community organizations. He was a founder member of the British Old Peoples Home, "Commonwealth House" in Santiago.

A man of undoubted integrity, Victor was held in high esteem in banking circles, was loved and respected by his friends and all his staff, and was kindness itself towards those with problems and worries. On returning to London in 1963 he was appointed Chief Inspector of the Bank, which post he held some years, eventually retiring with 45 years service.

To the end, "Connie" as he was known to his intimate friends, maintained a delightful sense of humour in the face of adversity in recent years when his activities were hampered by Diabetes Mellitus and advancing Parkinsons Disease.

Sadly his well beloved wife, Treintje, died only recently on 27th January last. He leaves behind two daughters, Monica and Sylvia and eight grand children, to whom the Society extends deepest sympathy.

C.L.P.

TREINTJE CONTRERAS

With deep regret the Society has to record the death of Treintje Contreras on 27th January 1991 after a short illness. Her husband, Victor, was in a Nursing Home at the time, and she had recently moved into her "Granny Annex", a cosy flat which had been built for her at her daughter Monica's home in Cheam. Treintje originally joined the Society in Santiago and in recent years was an active member of the Ladies Committee of the Anglo Chilean Society in London.

She was a lady of great depth of character, kind, caring and understanding, always ready to give a helping hand in community and charity work and will be sadly missed by her many friends who had the privilege of knowing her.

C.L.P.

The Society regrets to report the deaths of the following members of the Society: Mrs. Cristina Williams, Mrs. Lilly Howard, Mr. Callum C. McLeod, and Mrs. P. Fleming. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

ANGLING FOR BUSINESS IN CHILE

An article published in The Latag Bulletin by Michael Cannon, Executive Director of the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce.

The Mission to Chile last December consisted of 11 exhibitors representing 28 British companies in the industrial fishing sector. As well as investigating the Market, the purpose of the mission was to arrange for the distribution of the products once they had been displayed.

On our arrival in Santiago we had a very useful briefing from the First Secretary Commercial at the British Embassy, John Everard, and from our local commercial officer, Peter Armstrong. They produced a very comprehensive folder of notes, addresses and local contacts for each member of the Mission. The following morning we flew down to Concepcion where we were met by Her Majesty's Honorary Consul, Dr John Pomeroy and his wife, who had arranged a very interesting day of visits to the ports of San Vicente, Talcahuano and Coronel. We visited four fishmeal plants, a canning plant, climbed over a purse seiner fishing boat, visited the Naval Dockyard, saw a freezing plant and travelled many miles in between.

Another early start saw us back at the airport for our flight to Iquique where we were to stay for five days. After registering into our ocean front hotel we went to the Duty Free Zone of Iquique (ZOFRI). The exhibition stands were well constructed with union flags and names well displayed. Most of the stands contained the crates of display material, so we set to work hoping to have time for a Sunday excursion.

Sunday saw an early return to the exhibition hall where we finished in time to take off in minibuses into the desert at the back of Iquique, once a centre of British commercial activity a century ago. Pica was our ultimate destination and we arrived to pisco sours made from the famous limes of this oasis town.

Nothing quite went right on Monday. Although the exhibition opened at 10 am nobody came for the morning session. Lunch at the hotel under a blazing sky brought back the optimism and a few visitors after the siesta. Outside the duty free zone was full of shoppers from Chile, Bolivia, Argentine and Peru. The Reception was attended by the Intendente, the Governor, the Mayor, the Press and by everybody who was anybody in the

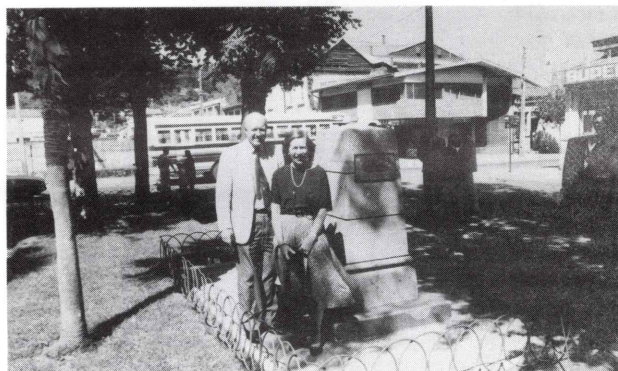
local political, piscatorial and purchasing scene. The speech of welcome was made by Sr. Juan Morales, the executive director of ZOFRI. Educated at York University, he appealed to the British to remember, and take advantage of, the historical role of Great Britain in the development of Iquique. He offered all the support and assistance that the Mission required and reminded the audience that ZOFRI and its component companies were doing about US\$2bn of business annually. The British Ambassador, Mr. Richard Neilson, made an excellent reply in Spanish as he inaugurated the Exhibition. From that point on the event was assured of success thanks to the publicity and the quality of the Reception provided by the United Distillers representative.

Tuesday and Wednesday were a rising curve of activity to the point that we were exhausted by the quantity and quality of the enquiries and by those who made them. It is always difficult to organize the forward publicity of an event such as this, but once confident that there was something worthwhile to see the very important fishing sector of Iquique (landings of fish 1,500,000 tons in 1989) made every effort to visit the Exhibition. We were also pleased with the level of interest from the local university whose fishery faculty cooperate with the large artisanal fishing fleet. They were very appreciative of our particular products and technology.

Thursday saw the group return to Santiago having spent the morning making last visits to fishing operators. We were invited to a reception held by the British Ambassador and Mrs. Neilson and they had invited the owners and managers of the important fishing and distribution companies. We were now in the last phase of the Mission and, having displayed what we had to offer and found plenty of interest it was the moment to look for potential agents and distributors. Friday was spent with fishing companies, after which the group split up and went to meetings with various distributor companies. A further visit was made to another fish plant with its own fishing boats in San Antonio.

The new week began with more presentations as well as a visit to the offices of the National Chamber of Commerce. There we were given a summary of the economic situation of Chile, as well as being offered any help to find distributors. As it happened there had been plenty of choice, but the offer is one that could be taken up at any time.

On our last day in Chile the journalists of Fishing News International and I met the Sub-Secretary of Fishing, Sr. Andres Couve, who explained the intricacies of the fishing law which he expected to be the subject of several more months of negotiation. Once on the statute book there will be an incentive to invest and rationalise, and the British industrial fishing products displayed in Chile will be there to be purchased.



Ester de Toro and Michael Cannon in Coronel at the monument of the sailors who died at the battle of Coronel in the first World War. The unveiling of the monument on 8th November 1989 was reported in Chilean News in the January 1990 issue. Members of the Society in London and Santiago contributed towards it.

1939 EARTHQUAKE

There was a devastating earthquake in the Concepcion area on 24th January, 1939 in which some 30,000 people lost their lives. HMS Exeter and HMS Ajax, later to achieve fame at the Battle of the River Plate, were visiting Chile at the time.

Ron Thomson takes up the story:

As a member of The Anglo Chilean Society and an ex-member of the Royal Navy I was interested by the announcement in the "Navy News" that the city of Concepcion is to award a medal to former crew members of HMS Exeter and HMS Ajax who assisted in the relief operation following

the earthquake of January 1939.

When I first came across a street named Crucero Exeter in Santiago (between the Mapocho and Parque Metropolitano) I had thought of the Battle of the River Plate; it wasn't until lunching at the Caleuche Club with a friend who had served in the Chilean Navy that I discovered that the street name honoured Exeter because of the assistance that the ship's crew gave following the earthquake. Is there a street named Ajax?

Exeter and Ajax had been detached from the West Indies Squadron to "show the flag" along the west coast of South America. On January 20th both ships were anchored at Coquimbo, football teams had been put ashore and the ships had been open to visitors. The ships sailed from Coquimbo on the 23rd and entered Valparaiso harbour early on the 24th: 21 gun, 17 gun and 13 gun salutes were fired by Exeter. Chilean ships Latorre, Araucan, Thompson and Simpson were also in Valparaiso that day.

Exeter's log records that at 2337 that night occurred "Violent movements of ship. Apparent earth tremors duration approx. 30 seconds". Early next day provision lighters went alongside Exeter and Ajax and in the evening Exeter sailed with Chilean Ship Serrano. Exeter's log for the 26th reads "0628 Entering Talcahuano harbour. 0711 Anchored. 1003 1-2-3-4 platoons fall in. 1120 Landed 1-2-3 platoons. 1300 Prepare for embarking refugees. 1400 Landed fresh water and stores. 1515 First refugees embarked. 1615 2nd flight of refugees embarked. 384 refugees embarked. 1700 Ajax arrived. Continued embarking refugees. 1922 Weighed anchor."

On arrival at Valparaiso on the 28th Exeter disembarked the refugees and embarked civilian officials, soldiers of the Maipu regiment and of the Coast Artillery and sailed again for Concepcion where troops were disembarked and field kitchens put ashore. On the 29th Exeter logged "0615 Embarking 567 refugees. 0753 Weighed for Valparaiso. Fog at sea. Sirens. 1505 Fog lifted. 1854 Sighted dead whale on st. bow. 2218 Anchored at Valparaiso. 2250 Moved alongside. Disembarked refugees."

Ajax did similar duties and the chairman of the Ajax Association, Mr. Eric Smith, informs me that a baby was born to one of the refugees on the voyage from Concepcion to Valparaiso.

The gratitude of the people of Chile to the British seamen who saved so many lives by "their generous and timely assistance" was expressed in messages between governments and navies in the correspondence and editorial pages of "El Mercurio". A bronze plaque was to have been presented by the Chilean Navy to Exeter and Ajax late in 1939 but war intervened and the cruisers went to their war stations never to return to Chile. In 1982 the plaque was traced by the then Chilean Ambassador to London, His Excellency Professor Miguel Schweitzer, and on August 28th was received by Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer RN, a former gunnery officer of Ajax, from Captain Sergio Cabezas of the Chilean Navy. The plaque was held by the new Ajax until that ship was decommissioned and is now held by the new Exeter.

BY BICYCLE FROM ANTOFAGASTA TO LA PAZ

Charles Zorab and Jeff Bennett undertook this feat to raise money for charity.

Charles Zorab takes up the story:

The idea was simple enough – to cycle from Antofagasta to La Paz along the route of the railway run by Ferrocarril Antofagasta a Bolivia (F.C.A.B.). We would raise money for charity as well. That was three years ago! In March this year the idea came to fruition.

As a mining analyst for a firm of stockbrokers I had been to Chile in 1986 and was captivated by the place. The scenery and the people were totally fascinating to someone who lives in West London! I had just done a cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End with my good friend Jeff Bennett. It was not long before we started talking about other trips. Thus the idea was born.

The planning for our trip was facilitated for us by the staff of FCAB and their proprietors Antofagasta Holdings PLC in London. Since charity may begin at home but does not end there we chose two charities, one in Oxford and one in Santiago. Helen House in Oxford is a hospice for children providing support, care and rest for families with degeneratively ill children. Hogar de Cristo is a well known children's hostel in Santiago which was recommended to us by Mr. John Hickman, the former Ambassador to Chile.

We set off in late February with our own bicycles, equipped with some extras to cope with the conditions which we expected. The main concession were strengthened wheels and as fat a tyre as we could fit. We

also took plenty of water carriers! We were indebted to Genesis Investment Management Ltd for their financial assistance in this respect.

Our plan was to do the trip in 14 days, a journey of about 1300 kilometres. We got to Antofagasta on February 28th and after a press conference with Tele Norte at the Antofagasta brewery of C.C.U. we set off at about 4 p.m. in (of course) blazing sun showing some very white skin and carrying about 17 kilos of gear including food, drink and camping equipment. Our first night was spent in a disused railway station at La Torre, just below the Mantos Blancos mine. We were as tired from the travelling from London as from the climb out of Antofagasta.

The next day took us to Calama along a very good tarmac road, although we had a slight incline for most of the day. We progressed smoothly to Calama in the scorching sun. Although we had smothered ourselves in Factor 15 we were still badly burned and were beginning to suffer from weak tummies. We stayed in a railway guest house and set off at 8 a.m. the next day. We soon said goodbye tarmac and hello dirt tracks and completely different riding technique. The tracks required 100% concentration on where you were going and they were like corrugated iron mixed with sand – really difficult. We made Chiu Chiu and set the river Loa valley which gave us our first sight of vegetation since starting. After getting lost in the gorge we got out into the plateau, repaired our first puncture and had lunch. The afternoon was hellish. The track, the temperature and minor bicycle problems caused by the surface really made us glad to reach our destination by 7 p.m. – a very long day. We stayed in an old school at San Pedro where FCAB had left a box of food for us – sheer bliss. The wind howled and the temperature dropped at night, but we were comfortable in our sleeping bags on the floor. The fourth day only took about 25 miles from Estacion San Pedro de Ascotan, but the road conditions were truly diabolical and it was an achievement to go at 10 mph. It also included one of the worst ascents we had to endure, very long, steep and rocky. We reached 4000 mts altitude in Ascotan, having cycled through much volcanic lava which of course gave us another puncture. We stayed in even less salubrious surroundings in this desolate post. For company we had three frontier guards, another tuck box and two dogs.

The following day gave us our first experience of the famous salt flats of Chile – again a fantastic piece of scenery and, just as important to us, the chance to ride for a while along a smooth track – quite blissful. We again encountered difficult slopes, this time going downhill. Anyone who thinks that we were going the wrong way by cycling "up" from Antofagasta to La Paz should think again. Going downhill on some of these tracks is just as difficult. After punctures and many miles of having to push our bicycles through sand drifts we reached the border post of Ollague. We were billeted in a railway guest house which eventually had hot and cold running water – a fantastic treat. On top of that was another tuck box and a soft bed – real luxury! We had to make running repairs to our bikes and mend three punctures, so we were quite busy that night. We also had bad sunburn by this stage on our hands, arms, legs, neck and shoulders and this was despite wearing thermal long johns and long sleeved tee shirts. The sun went through it all eventually.

We entered Bolivia on our sixth day, cycled well until lunch on reasonable tracks and lunched in Chiguana where we met some Bolivian soldiers. The afternoon saw us trying to cycle on the salt flats where there had obviously been a recent downpour because the going was very soft and heavy. Eventually we were forced to ride along the railway track itself. That night, outside Julaca, we pitched out tent and spent a very cosy night having had an enormous meal of pasta for supper. The following morning I successfully cured a buckle in my rear wheel before setting off for Uyuni. We continued to follow the railway track but it got more and more difficult to cycle along it as it was very pitted. The tracks in the surrounding salt flat were, however, just as bad. There was further evidence of flooding making progress slower still. The train which stopped just ahead of us about 20 miles short of Uyuni was definitely a case of Divine Intervention, which we didn't pass up!

The rest of the cycle ride in Bolivia was similar to Chile except that we encountered a lot of rain rather than sun as we were at the end of the Bolivian rainy season. We used our tent more since we had no access to FCAB property. Our bikes and bodies took the strain reasonably well, but we always had problems with punctures. Our route took us north from Uyuni to Rio Mulatos and Challapata, where we found the great Pan American Highway. This road, which goes from Mexico down to Argentina, was an enormous disappointment. We thought it would herald the end of our problems with roads. In fact it was as bad as any which we encountered, but it was wider! It was not until we reached the semi industrialised town of Oruro that we encountered tarmac again. Thereafter it was tarmac the whole way to La Paz, which we reached on our 12th day at 4 p.m., a total distance of 750 miles or 1250 kilometres according to our

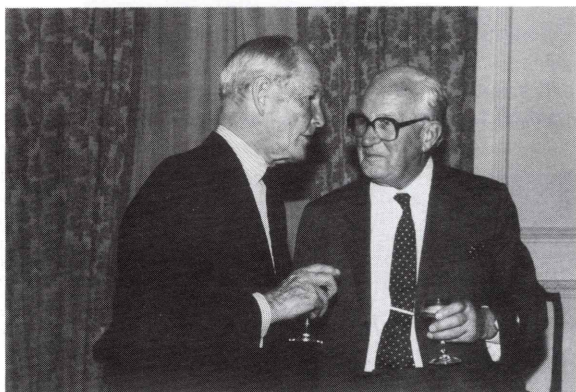
cycle "computer". We were very grateful to HM Ambassador to Bolivia, Michael Daly, for offering us a bed for the night, and even more so for the hot bath!

We have raised so far about £9,000, of which half is going to each charity, and if anyone wishes to contribute to this event we are actually £1,000 short of our target of five figures.

Contributions can be sent to: Charles Zorab, Smith New Court House, P.O. Box 293, 20 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3NH.

SOCIAL EVENTS

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY took place on 12th December, 1990, at Canning House. There was a good attendance and a pleasant evening was spent by members of the Society and their guests. The usual raffle was held.



At the Xmas Cocktail Party: The Chairman Sir David Hildyard and Mr. Leslie Pountney

Photograph by Julia Carpenter-Couchman

CHILEAN WINE TASTING AT CANNING HOUSE

A wine tasting was held at Canning House on Tuesday 19th February, 1991, attended by some fifty members of the Society and their guests.

Mr. Martin G. Ward, a member of our Society and responsible for marketing and sales of Chilean wines, showed nine different varieties of Carta Vieja. These were Cabernet Sauvignons from 1986, 1987 and 1988 vintages; Sauvignon Blanc Reserve from 1987, 1988 and 1989.

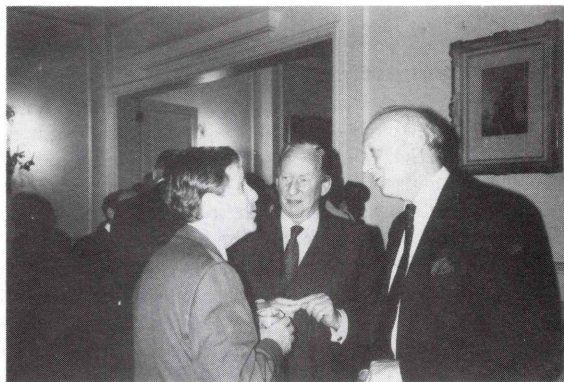
Vina Carta Vieja owns over 200 ha of vineyards in the Maule Valley, approximately 300 kms south of Santiago. The winery is owned by the Del Pedregal family who first planted their vines in 1825 and grow mainly Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc with some other varieties also.

CHILEAN NAVY DAY

This was celebrated on 21st May with the laying of a wreath on the tomb of Lord Cochrane in Westminster Abbey by H.E. Sr. German Riesco. The Canon in residence, the Rev. Paul Bates, gave an address and conducted a short service. This was followed by a most enjoyable and widely attended reception in the evening hosted by Admiral Bolelli and his wife at the Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly.

THE ANNUAL SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY took place at 29th May, 1991 in Canning House after the Annual General Meeting. Approximately seventy members and their guests, including H.E. Sr. German Riesco and his wife Sra. Jacqueline de Riesco, enjoyed a pleasant evening. The pisco sours went down well and delicious empanadas and other "bocaditos" were provided.

Attendance at these functions is flagging and the older and more established members of the Society are not coming as often as they used to. The subject of alternative venues was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on May 16th and at the Annual General Meeting. Lady Dundonald is currently investigating the possibilities of the Jerusalem Chamber in Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and the terrace of the House of Commons. This might mean increased charges, but hopefully it would serve to revitalize the situation providing it was kept within bounds.



At the Spring Cocktail Party. The Chilean Ambassador H. E. Sr. German Riesco, Mr. John Hickman and Viscount Montgomery.



Mr & Mrs Leslie Pountney and Mrs Ester de Toro



Mrs Joan Richardson and Mr. John Naylor



Sra. Maria Teresa Zegers, Viscountess St. Davids and Mrs John Hickman



*Mrs Leslie Pountney, Mrs R. Arentsen, Mrs Anne Nock, Mrs Sadie Young
Photographs by Angélica Shaw*



The host Michael Cannon and Sra. Jacqueline de Riesco

ASADO AL PALO

On Sunday 2nd June The Anglo Chilean Society Younger Members Committee (Helvecia Larsson, Maria Alejandra Zambrano, Arturo Cruzat, Cristian Faundez and Adolfo Vergara) organized for the first time a big "Asado al Palo" at the farm of Michael and Cherida Cannon in Hampshire. The initial response was disappointing, and then a sudden surge of late applications resulted in an attendance of 190.

The first guests arrived punctually at noon, and after some anxious moments when it seemed as though the helpers, along with the "empanadas", had lost their way, everything came into full swing. There were Chileans and British of all ages and something of interest for everybody to take part in.

The more sporting types organized a tennis tournament which was won by 13 year old Santiago Cabrera, son of Pablo Cabrera. The less energetic ones went for walks in the surrounding fields and played table tennis.

Following a delicious lunch with empanadas, chorizos and lamb with salad a relaxing afternoon was spent sitting on the grass around the barn, while the more ambitious types played a boisterous game of "pichanga", at which Jose Luis Balmaceda excelled.

The little ones were catered for also. They had plenty of space to run around and expend their energy, and Helvecia Larsson prepared a "piñata" for them. This is a coloured paper head full of sweets. The children are blindfolded and break it open armed with a stick.

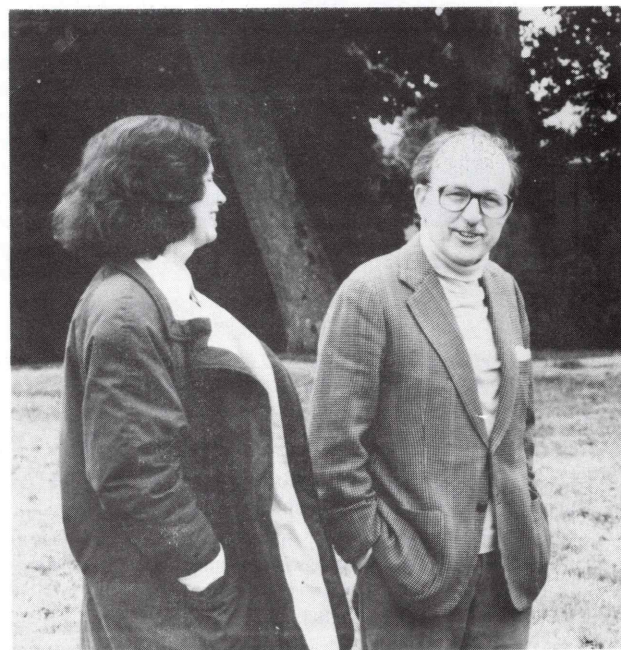
A raffle raised £155. Tickets were sold by Mary and Patricia Comrie and were for pisco, wine, fruit and tins of king crab.

At the end there was music and dancing at which the Embassy staff excelled, notably Patricia and Eliana.

There was general consensus that it was a most successful event in spite of it being unseasonably bleak for June, but at least the rain held off.

Our thanks to Cherida and Michael for providing such a beautiful setting for this event.

Ester de Toro



Sra. Ximena Pascal and Sr. Fernando Zegers



At the Asado al Palo. Sra Maria Teresa Zegers, H.E. Sr. German Riesco and Sra. M. Echevarria



The queue for the empanadas

Photographs by Julia Carpenter-Couchman

AN EXHIBITION of drawings and paintings by Chilean artist Osvaldo Rodriguez-Musso opened in Canning House on 24th June and was attended by H.E. German Riesco. The artist's talents also extend to music, and he played the guitar and sang some songs composed by himself. The evening concluded with wine being served.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 1991

11th to 18th September – Exhibition of paintings by three Chilean artists at the Ozten Zeki Gallery, 174 Walton Street.

24th September – Recital by pianist Ruby Reed de Thompson-Canning Ho.

26th September – The Dieciocho dinner at the Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly. Date has been changed from the 12th as originally planned.

15th October – The third Sir Leslie Bowes Memorial Lecture.

15th to 23rd October – Concert by Chilean harpist Sofia Asuncion Claro and Danish flautist Lars Graugaard 18.30 hrs Canning House.

7th November – An illustrated lecture on "Birds and Landscapes of Chile" by Mr & Mrs A.J. Holcombe at Canning House.

17th December – Christmas party at the Jerusalem Chamber in Westminster Abbey.

ERRATUM

Under "Essay Prize" on Page 5 of our November 1990 issue the Antarctic trip was organized with the support of the Chilean Airforce, not the Navy. We regret this error.

A CATALOGUE specializing in books on South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean is available from A. Burton-Garbett, 35 The Green, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4HJ. Telephone: 081-540 2367. Fax: 081-540 4594.

Sir Frederick Bennett Q.C., Mr James Blair and Mr Martin Wilson CBE have resigned from the General Committee.

Dr. Malcolm Troup, Mr John Meehan, Mrs Maria Clea Schneider and Mrs Ester de Toro have been elected on to the General Committee.

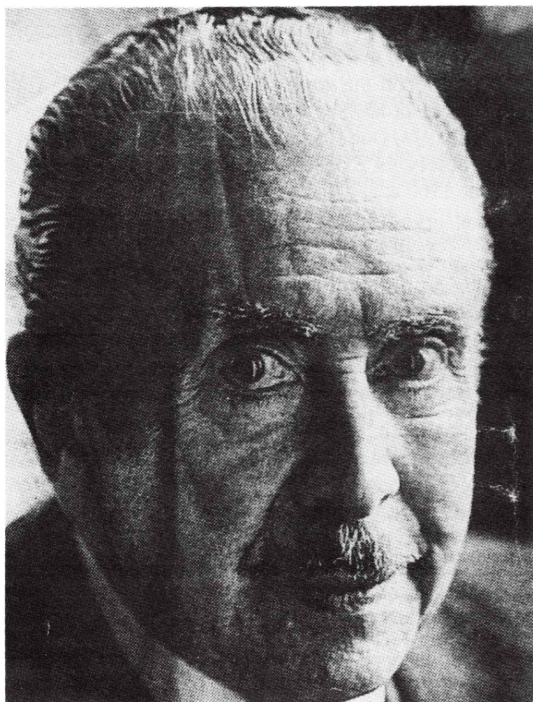
The following members of the Executive Committee have stood down:

Mr. John Heath, Mr. Raul Aguirre and Comdr. Jack Michell.

They have been replaced by Mrs. Georgina Roberts, Mrs Ester de Toro, Mrs Helvecia Larsson, Dr. Malcolm Troup, Mr. John Meehan and Lord Aldenham.

Mr. George Richardson is standing down as Vice Chairman and has been replaced by Mr. John Hickman.

CLAUDIO ARRAU



From the Obituary in The Times and other National Press, we learn with deep regret that the world famous Chilean pianist Claudio Arrau died in Austria on 9th June aged 88, and we remember with gratitude the many brilliant performances he gave over so many years in the United Kingdom, giving so much pleasure to so many thousands of music lovers in this country and all over the world, through radio and television.

The Anglo Chilean Society is proud to recall that on one of his visits to England, soon after the earthquake disaster in the south of Chile in May 1960, Claudio Arrau very generously offered to donate his fees for a Concert in the Royal Festival Hall, London, towards the Earthquake Relief Fund being sponsored by the Society. The occasion, and a wonderful performance by Arrau, received maximum public support, all tickets were sold, and at the end of a memorable evening don Claudio handed the Society a cheque for £1,000 – a considerable sum of money in those days.

C.L.P.

THE ANDEAN FIESTA

The Andean Project was established as a British charity in 1985 in order to preserve the traditional way of life of the Andean peoples. Its purpose is to relieve the distress of these people by providing assistance in health, agriculture and homecraft.

The Fiesta, in aid of the Project, was held in the beautiful surroundings of Badsell Park Farm, Kent, on Saturday 15th June and despite the poor weather conditions South Americans from all over the country attended the event which was organized by Mrs Jessica Gorst-Williams and sponsored by Blue Circle Industries.

The main attractions of the Fiesta were provided by the six countries of the Andes. Apart from Punch and Judy shows, Andean myth rubbings, juggling, fire-eating, kite-flying, Andean treasure trail etc. there was a special appearance of the South American llamas, courtesy of the Camelids Association.

On the main stage the music and dance were provided by groups from Peru, Chile and Bolivia. Delightful performances included the children of Gabriela Mistral School.

The presence of the Chilean Ambassador, H.E. Sr. German Riesco and Sra. Jacqueline de Riesco added to the success of the day and gave great moral support to the Project and its organizers.

I would like to convey my thanks to everyone who helped, especially Mrs. Judith Hill and her entire family, Peter and Angélica Shaw, Roy Schneider, Juan Pablo Gofii, Michael Roberts, Paulette Roberts and Mario Benavente of the Chilean Consulate.

Georgina Roberts



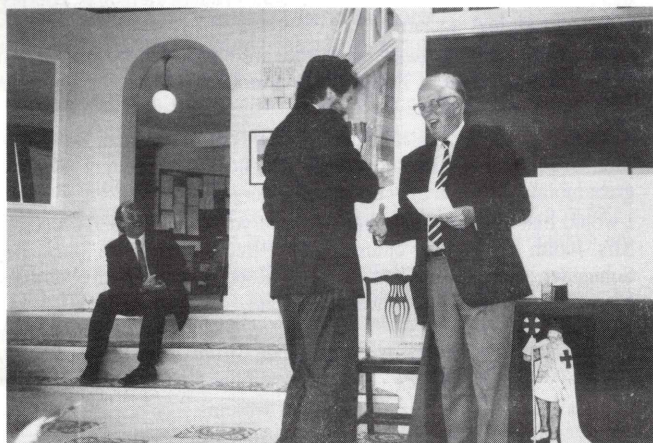
Miss Paulette Roberts, Mrs. Jessica Gorst-Williams and Mrs. Georgina Roberts at the Andean Fiesta.

Photograph courtesy of Kent and Sussex Courier

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Pascal
Mr. Peter Hendy
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Terry
Lord Cochrane of Cults
Ms. Samantha Slark
Miss Rozanne Lunt
Mr. John S. Shallcross
Capt. & Mrs. Roger Venables
Mrs. Diana Griffin-Strauss
Mr. Carlos Elsesser
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Heller
Mrs. Sonia P. Lampon
Col. & Mrs. Roberto Arancibia
Col. & Mrs. Ricardo Bermudez
Miss Linda Caller
Mr. Christian Rilling
Miss Maeve H. Colley
Mr. John Chapel
Mr. John Fox
Mr. Fernando Zegers
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Fulton
Mr. & Mrs. Peter O'Reilly
Mr. Bertram Bolton
Mrs. Gillian Mary Ede

LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES GOLF COMPETITION



Sr. Pablo Cabrera presenting David Nock with the Punta Arenas Cup

The annual golfing competition of the Latin American Societies was held at Temple Golf Club on Tuesday, June 25th 1991. There were fewer players than in former years, possibly due to the wet weather we had all month, and though it rained during the competition everyone seemed to have a good time.

The Ambassador's Cup and the Jangada Trophy and the first prize of a crystal decanter, presented by Varig, were won by Anthony Hirsch from the Anglo-Brazilian Society with 43 points off a handicap of 12. The Argentine Rose Bowl and second prize of a golf shirt were won by Hugh Carless with 38 points off a handicap of 22 and the Punta Arenas Cup and 6 golf balls were won by David Nock with 35 points off a handicap of 17. The LAN Trophy scratch prize was won by Eric Howell of the Anglo-Argentine Society with 32 points off a handicap of 11 and Richard Leach of the British Mexican Society won a golf umbrella with 36 points off 14. There were other prizes for the different handicap divisions and for the Ladies of whom unfortunately only two took part.

H.E. Sr. German Riesco generously donated two cases of delicious wine and the prizes were presented by his representative, Sr. Pablo

Cabrera the Minister Counsellor at the Embassy.

Members may be interested to know that the organization of this tournament has been taken over by David Nock of your Society. The hosts for next years's competition will be the Anglo-Argentine Society.

Anne Nock

ANTOFAGASTA RELIEF

Unprecedented floods and land slides took place in Antofagasta on June 18th, normally one of the driest areas in the world, and where rainfall records over the years scarcely register a fraction of an inch. Most of the damage was done by large mud slides caused by sudden torrential downpours which resulted in a high death toll, and the Society has organized a collection towards relief of the victims. The response to the appeal has been generous and a figure will be published in due course.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY IN SANTIAGO

We have had three lunch meetings so far this year. At the first lunch the political scientist and university professor, Guillermo Holzmann, gave a well attended and excellent talk on "The Assassination of Senator Jaime Guzman and the Problems of Violence in a Nascent Democracy".

In our last two meetings the members:

- (a) gave the go-ahead for this years's student essay competition, the title of which is "The Influence of British Sports in Chile".
- (b) discussed Princess Anne's forthcoming visit to Chile in September.
- (c) reviewed the plans to erect a monument in Valparaiso to two distinguished civil engineers, Richard Lever and Robert Murphy, who established the first heavy industrial foundry and shipyard in the late 1880's.
- (d) confirmed the final draft of the articles for the Society. Once these have been legalized the Society will, after nearly 50 years, be an autonomous and legally constituted "Corporacion".

During the month we are planning to meet with Ambassador Neilson to determine in what way we can participate during Princess Anne's visit.

At our next lunch, which will take place on 7th August, Professor Ricardo Couyoumdjian will give us a talk on the late Harold Blakemore and his reasons for having been a follower of all things Chilean.

OBITUARIES

We regret to inform of the death in February this year of Mr. Vivian Clarke Steel, former Society Hon. Treasurer (1948-1956) and a founding partner of the auditing firm Langton Clarke (representatives of Coopers & Lybrand) in Chile.

We also regret to report the death of Don Benjamin Davila Izquierdo in March at the age of 83, Son of the late Oscar Davila, Chairman of the Society until 1974, Don Benjamin was a lawyer and took an active role in the Society as Executive Committee member and Hon Treasurer in the 1960's.

Jonathan Callund

IAN MCDOWALL, President of the Lions Club in Entre Lagos, reports that 20 Oxford Duden Pictorial Spanish-English Dictionaries, sent to Chile by the Anglo Chilean Society, have been distributed to schools, colleges and some Municipal libraries in Osorno, La Union, Entre Lagos, Rio Negro, Purranque and Frutillar.