

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

44th Year No. 340

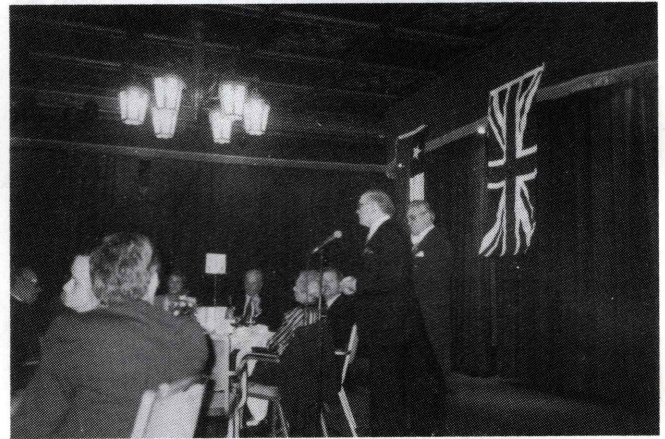
London, November 1990

12 Devonshire Street, London W1

ANGLO-CHILEAN LUNCHEON IN CELEBRATION OF CHILEAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, 21st SEPTEMBER 1990



The Ambassador greeting the guests. In the photograph is H.E. Sr. German Riesco, Sra. Cabrera, Sra. Poklepovic, the Chairman Sir David Hildyard, and Sr. Miguel Poklepovic.



Lord Chalfont proposing the toast to the Anglo-Chilean Society.

THE ANGLO CHILEAN LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER

The Chairman welcomed the 100 members and their guests to the "Dieciocho" Luncheon at the Elizabethan Suite at Barrington House. He said that it was the highpoint of the year for the Society, with a reunion of friends of Chile who all shared many happy and important memories of that country. He welcomed the arrival of the Ambassador and Sra. Riesco, and wished them every success for their stay in the United Kingdom. The Chairman also referred to the sad news of the death of Victor Santa Cruz, Vice President of the Society, and an eminent diplomat to the Court of St. James. The Chairman welcomed the guests of the Society, Mr. Adrian Beamish, Assistant Under Secretary at the F.C.O., Mr. Leyster Coltman, the Head of the Latin American department at the F.C.O., and finally the principal guest the Lord Chalfont. This distinguished guest, soldier, politician and businessman, had visited Chile with H.M. the Queen in 1969, and since then had maintained close contacts with Latin America. He has been President of Canning House and was still a Vice President.

Lord Chalfont began by saying how sad he was to hear of the death of Victor Santa Cruz. He went on to say that the theme of his speech was the Future Role of Chile. He began with a quote from John Joliffe, that "like Norfolk and Cornwall, Chile was not on the way to anywhere - unless you are a North American passing through on your way to the South Pole". This fact was, however, compensated by the fact that Chilean society had been mainly formed by European immigration and was therefore very cosmopolitan. O'Higgins, the Irishman, Lord Cochrane, the Scot, and now President Aylwin, the Welshman, were testimony to the contribution that Britain had made to this cosmopolitan development of Chile. As a fellow Welshman, Lord Chalfont promised to find out where the Aylwins came from so that Sr. Aylwin would have the pleasure of visiting his ancestral roots when he came on his expected visit to the United Kingdom

This remoteness combined with cosmopolitanism would have two effects in the future. Chile would re-establish ties with its neighbours in Latin America, and it would develop stronger ties with countries outside Latin America. As a small but growing economy, it had become an example to other developing nations. There was a significant inflow of foreign capital and its location on the expanding Pacific Rim was of vital importance to its future. The Pacific was becoming the geopolitical centre of the world and that could only be beneficial for Chile.

The current economic model had produced good growth since 1982, and this will continue. Relations with the creditor nations would be improved by the return to full parliamentary democracy. This return had been notable for the impeccable way in which the recent elections had been carried out. There was now a new Chile with consensus, and with the subordination of the Armed Services to the political order. There was an absence of political interference in the internal affairs of the Army.

The challenge ahead was to capitalise on the good will of other democracies as there should be no inhibitions. It was important for Chile to have good relations with all nations. Its relationship with the United Kingdom was very good, and it was up to the British to realise the potential of this relationship. There were thousands of our fellow countrymen in Chile. He recalled that at a naval parade in Valparaíso, he had suddenly imagined that he was at Devonport.

There should be a vigorous policy of trade missions and a sustained and systematic attempt to upgrade commercial relations. There should be a strengthening of high grade political and commercial visits. He had welcomed the visit of Sr Foxley. He understood that there were several billion pounds of potential projects, so there were good grounds for optimism.

The Anglo-Chilean Society was a very important part of the relationship between the two countries and he wished it well for the future. He finally wished the Ambassador great success in the U.K. and then proposed the toast to the

Anglo-Chilean Society.

The Ambassador replied on behalf of the Anglo-Chilean Society. He began by saying that all over the world there were celebrations for the Independence of Chile which was instituted exactly 180 years ago. It was a time of healing of the wounds of the past and a chance for this young country to look to the future. There had been a peaceful transfer of power in Chile, and this had helped the process of reconciliation. As far as the Embassy was concerned, there had been a celebration at the Embassy for the Dieciocho, with guests who had not been inside the building for seventeen years, mixed in with people who had been coming every year.

As regards Chile, there was a general wish to keep the economy growing, opening up even more the market economy. This economic success had however to be compatible with political freedom, and vice versa. The third factor in this equation was social equity, and they should all be kept compatible with each other. It was the view of the Government of Chile that all sectors of Society should enjoy the fruits of economic success.

Chile had suffered the consequences of allowing the State to look after growth. Being conscious of the mistakes that were made, and by bringing civilians and the military together to work for a better Chile, "we are showing the world, as you have done in the United Kingdom, that civic cooperation works. We would like to thank you for your example.

We would like you to share in our future. Great Britain is the most important European investor in Chile. We would like you to bring to us new technologies, more trade and more investment. We have learned our democratic lessons from you, but we still want to learn how to keep it for ever. We need your influence, your help and your cooperation. Our Welsh President has brought in an Englishman and a Scotsman into his cabinet, and we are proud of our connection with you that has made that possible. We will keep this U.K./Chilean relationship in a very special place, and use it to be an example to the rest of the world." M.C.

EDITORIAL NOTE

This issue of *Chilean News* comes somewhat later than usual to members of the Society, and the editors beg their indulgence. The delay is partly owing to changes in editorship; partly due to a number of events taking place in the summer and early autumn which we felt should be recorded not too late after they had taken place (e.g. the Fiesta, the 2nd Bowes Lectures, etc.), and, not least the confirmation of dates for your diary in 1991. We have, to some extent, reorganized the format, to bring greater coherence to the publication, and we hope that members of the Society will not hesitate to (a) tell the editors where they think improvements could be made and (b) please inform them of any news they think might be included in future issues. 'Official' Society events, lectures or lunches, will, of course, be recorded. What may escape our notice, but should be noted, are items of news in Anglo-Chilean relations which may be of interest to the membership as a whole (e.g. particular projects, studies, visits, etc., news of members' activities in the field, whatever, in short, the editors might consider but under the accepted rubric that their decision is final!). **Please address any such material to:** Dr. Harold Blakemore, 43 Fitzjohn Avenue, Barnet, Herts., EN5 2HN.

NOTA EDITORIAL

Los editores piden disculpas a los miembros de la sociedad por el desacostumbrado atraso de esta edición de *Chilean News*. Ello no sólo se ha debido a cambios en los cargos de editores, sino también a una serie de eventos que han tenido

lugar en el verano y a principios de otoño, los cuales creemos deberían ser publicados al poco tiempo de ocurridos (por ejemplo, la Fiesta, la segunda charla Bows, etc.) al igual que la confirmación de fechas para su agenda de 1991. Hemos, hasta cierto punto, reorganizado el formato para dar mayor coherencia a la publicación, y confiamos en que los miembros de la sociedad no vacilarán en: a) informar a los editores si opinan que pueden hacerse rectificaciones y b) comunicar cualquier noticia que consideren que debería ser incluida en ediciones futuras. Indudablemente que los eventos "oficiales" de la Sociedad, charlas o almuerzos serán publicados, y las noticias de interés alusivas a relaciones Anglo-Chilenas que puedan escapar nuestra atención, deberán ser consideradas. Por ejemplo, proyectos especiales, estudios, visitas, actividades de los socios, en fin, cualquier información que pueda ser sometida a la consideración final de los editores.

Se ruega enviar todo material a: Dr. Harold Blakemore, 43 Fitzjohn Avenue, Barnet, Herts., EN5 2HN.

THE ANGLO-LATIN AMERICAN FIESTA

The colourful culture of Latin America returned to Battersea Park in London on Saturday, 8th September, at the second Anglo-Latin American Fiesta. Such had been the interest aroused by the first Fiesta two years ago, that this year over 7,000 guests spent the day, from 3 p.m. until midnight, sampling the delights of those mysterious and exotic lands.

Nineteen countries displayed their wares, food, drink and handicrafts. The proceeds of the Fiesta will go to the Salvation Army, who will distribute these to the children of Latin America. As darkness fell and the drink flowed, attention focussed on the main stage, where the best in Latin American music and dance was served up by a wide variety of groups. The rhythms proved so catching that the audience took to dancing on the stage as well as in the large space in front of it, where they would surely have stayed all night. Chile was represented in this respect by the group Quimantú. These extremely popular musicians play the rhythms of the "tonada" and "cueca", and they excel in the music of Northern Chile.

The Chilean stand, organised by Georgina Roberts of the Anglo-Chilean Society, once again provided an attractive platform for displaying the country's cultural wealth. Thanks are due to the many people whose invaluable assistance ensured the success of the stand housed in a pagoda generously paid for, as in the first Fiesta, by Chile Copper Ltd. A special thanks must go to General de Brigada Aérea (A) don Carlos Ottone and Sra. María Eliana de Ottone - both present two years ago - who purchased and sent the artisan handicraft from Chile. Another thank-you goes to Peter Shaw for taking excellent care of the proceeds from the stand.

The stall turned out to be something of a family affair, with members of the Riesco, Poklepovic and Roberts families pitching in. Guests were drawn by the irresistible aroma of the "empanadas" made by Judith Hill and Kiko Sanhueza. To follow, they were tempted by the delicious "tortas mil hojas" commissioned from Isabel Poklepovic and Loreto Balmaceda. All washed down, of course, with the best in Chilean wines, sold under the capable supervision of Arturo Cruzat, from the Commercial Department of the Chilean Embassy, assisted by Michael Roberts, Gonzalo Opazo, Chris Hopewell and Miles Quinton.

However, the highlight of the stand proved to be the twelve "damas" from the Chilean community, headed by Sra. Jacqueline de Riesco, wife of His Excellency, the Ambassador. Stunningly decked out in national costume, the ladies drew admiring glances and comments from guests, becoming the darlings of the paparazzi.

The contribution of Chile to the success of the Fiesta means that there is much to look forward to at the next Fiesta in 1992 which, coinciding as it does with the 500th Anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America, must surely turn out to be an even bigger affair.

GEORGINA ROBERTS



On the Chilean Stall at the Fiesta (from left to right) Miss Anne-Marie Riesco; Mrs. Cristina Harper and Sra. Jacqueline de Riesco.



(From left to right) Mrs. Gabriela Bastías; Mrs. Georgina Roberts and Mrs. María Antonieta Awad at the Latin American Fiesta.



(From left to right) Mrs. Cecilia Cabrera and Mrs. Henriette Subercaseaux at the Fiesta.



British "huasos" working at the Bar
From left to right: Mr. Chris Hopewell and Mr. Michael Roberts

Photographs by Mrs. Angélica Shaw



At the reception of Dr. Harold Blakemore: (reading from left to right, H.E. The Ambassador of Chile, Mrs. Déllano, Mrs. Miriam Blakemore, and Dr. Harold Blakemore.

DR. HAROLD BLAKEMORE RECEIVES CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AWARD "ORDER OF MERIT - BERNARDO O'HIGGINS"

The Ambassador of Chile and Mrs. Juan Carlos Déllano held a reception on Tuesday, 6th February at the Residency, 92 Eaton Place, London, SW1, in order to invest Dr. Harold Blakemore, a past Chairman of the Society, with the Chilean Order of Merit in the rank of Comendador. One of the guests on that occasion reports as follows:
"The reception in Dr. Blakemore's honour was enjoyed by some fifty guests, representative of the many areas in which

he has worked to further Anglo-Chilean interest. Together with H.E. the Ambassador and Mrs. Délano, and many others from the Embassy, the distinguished audience included many members of the Society, past and present members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Anglo-Latin American organizations, including Canning House - with which Harold Blakemore has had such a fruitful association - and of the academic world, including colleagues from a number of universities and members of the Society for Latin American Studies in the U.K. His wife, Miriam, and daughter, Mrs. Alison Copeland, also attended to share in the tributes and to remind us of the enormous support the members of the family have given each other - in true Chilean fashion - over the years. Although those present might be identified by formal or family ties, that truth is that Harold Blakemore was in a gathering of his many friends.

Don Carlos prefaced the investiture with a rehearsal of Harold's long and deep association with Chile, and reminded the gathering of some of the more tangible products of that association. His book *British Nitrates and Chilean Politics*, published in 1974, was a measure of the depth of his academic knowledge of Chilean history; his almost-twenty year editorship of the *Journal of Latin American Studies* and his recent contributions to *The Cambridge History of Latin America*, as well as his co-editorship of *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean* all suggested something of his breadth. Everyone looked forward to the forthcoming publication of his latest book, *From the Pacific to La Paz*, written to celebrate the centenary of The Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway Company (and reviewed elsewhere in this Newsletter) which was simply the latest product of a life-long interest in Anglo-Chilean matters. Moreover, Harold's professional life as Secretary of the Institute of Latin American Studies and Reader in Latin American History of the University of London, until his retirement in 1987, and subsequently as Honorary Professor of the University of Bradford, had given prominence to Chilean affairs in the United Kingdom, while his election in 1970 as a Corresponding Member of the Chilean Academy of History and, in 1978, as an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Letters of the Catholic University reflected something of the academic esteem in which he was held in Chile. And his election in 1982 to the presidency of the 2,000-strong International Congress of Americanists showed that that esteem knew no frontiers. The award, concluded the Ambassador, gave him enormous personal pleasure as well as the opportunity of recognizing officially on behalf of his country the magnificent contribution Harold Blakemore had made to Anglo-Chilean understanding and the high regard in which he was held in both Chile and the United Kingdom.

In thanking the Ambassador for his very kind words, and for the gracious hospitality of Mrs. Délano and His Excellency, Dr. Blakemore recalled for the guests his personal history of his relationship with Chile. He remembered, and quite vividly, that almost forty years before, as an undergraduate studying modern Latin America history at University College, his tutor in his final year had invited him to write an essay on 'The Significance of the Chilean Revolution of 1891'. Thus began, he said, 'the second great romantic attachment of my life', the first being, of course, with one lady who was present, Mrs. Blakemore. But he could not then know that that short essay would lead to a doctoral dissertation on the same subject, and that thesis itself become the basis of his first book. Since those times, he had visited Chile on many occasions, formed more firm friendships than he could possibly count, and done what virtually every foreigner does in Chile - fall in love with the country and its marvellous people. He felt very conscious of the honour conferred on him by the Chilean Government, and concluded by assuring those present that if, indeed, that was, perhaps unmerited,

recognition of his life-long affection for his second country, he would try to live as long as possible!

DAVID J. FOX,
Consul for Chile in Manchester

FOR THE RECORD - RECENT SOCIETY EVENTS

FAREWELL LUNCH

The General Committee of the Anglo-Chilean Society gave a farewell lunch to the Ambassador and Mrs. Délano at the Naval and Military Club on Wednesday, 21st February. The Chairman thanked them for their support of the Society during their stay in the U.K. They had attended all the functions, had been the only Latin American ambassadors to witness the handing over of the cheque to the Salvation Army after the first Anglo-Latin American Fiesta, and had shown great hospitality to the Society and its members. To commemorate their stay in London, the Society gave them three old prints of the Regents Park area of the city.



LADIES' TEA PARTY

A ladies tea party took place on Wednesday, 28th February. It was organised by Georgina Roberts, who unfortunately could not be there, with help from Ester Toro. Sra. Délano presided over the tea which 35 ladies attended. Michael Cannon gave a short talk about the work of the Society, and asked that more ladies become involved in organising events for the Society. A large number of cakes and sandwiches were brought by the ladies present. A list of ladies who could help with events was made, and they will be called upon whenever necessary.

M.C.

THE SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY took place on 5th June, 1990 in Canning House. Eighty members and their guests were there and were able to meet for the first time, the new Ambassador of Chile to the Court of St. James, Sr. Germán Riesco and his wife Sra. Riesco. Amongst several young members was Samantha Slark, recently returned from a stint teaching in Chile and also present were Alice Valdés-Scott, Emily Cannon and Marcial Echenique. M.C.

GOLF AT TEMPLE GOLF CLUB - 26th JUNE 1990

Once again Chile won the event with Robin Rumsam taking the Ambassadors Cup with 43 points off a handicap of 16. He also won the Punta Arenas Cup. He won a share of the sweepstake and a coffee service presented by Varig Airlines. Fifth place went to Tom Harrington representing Chile with 37 points off a handicap of 18. Mrs. María Schneider won three golf balls for winning her class with 34 points off a handicap of 28. Sandy Hay won his class prize as did Francisco Goñi. The trophies and prizes were presented by

Lord Dartmouth. It was a good day, warm and humid, with nearly 50 golfers taking part. Jonathan Callund, Secretary of the Sociedad Chileno Británica, also played. M.C.

THE SIR LESLIE BOWES LECTURE 1990

The second Sir Leslie Bowes lecture, organised jointly by Canning House and the Anglo-Chilean Society, was given by Dr. George Philip, Reader in Latin American Politics at the London School of Economics, at Canning House on 9th October. His subject was 'The Role of the Military in the fact of Social Change', an aspect which formed part of this year's syllabus for 'A' level Hispanic studies; about 65 people attended, including Lady Bowes, Sir Leslie's widow, H.E. the Ambassador of Bolivia, and many students.

Dr. Philip began by pointing out that antagonisms between states in Latin America were on the decline; there had for instance been no such conflict since the border skirmish between Perú and Ecuador in 1981. The military had been increasingly employed in a counter-insurgency role against political violence in countries such as Colombia, Nicaragua and El Salvador, where local police forces were not necessarily particularly effective. There was a danger that if the growing tendency towards democratic practice amongst civil administrations in Latin America should relapse into forms of oligarchy there might once more be greater dependence on the military, but he did not foresee that large-scale counter-insurgency measures such as had occurred in Chile and Argentina would ever be tolerated again.

It had to be remembered however that an independent role for the military in society was very much part of the Hispanic tradition; only in Cuba and Venezuela for instance could it be said that the government of the day exercised full control over them. So long as civil administration confined their influence to budgetary control, there should be no problem; but interference with the military, such as had occurred in Chile in 1972/3 was liable to produce a backlash. When military regimes had taken over in the past, social reform had always been restricted by vested interests; Peronism in Argentina had been the classic example where no reform had been possible due to lack of social pressure largely engendered by fear. No consistent policies as regards social change could be expected from such regimes either; the emphasis for instance in Argentina after the takeover in 1976 had been on increasing the role of the public sector in the economy, while in Chile under General Pinochet from 1973 the reverse had been the case. There was really no case to be made today for enhancing the role of the military, popular as they still might be in some quarters in providing efficient services such as building roads. Their overall cost absorbed a disproportionate share of government expenditure, while the social aspect of conscription was better avoided. Social changes in Latin America could only be anticipated in the wake of the policies of economic liberalism which were beginning to sweep the sub-continent. J.H.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, 1991

- 8th January: Centenary lecture by Dr. Harold Blakemore on the Civil war in Chile in 1891.
- 19 February: Wine tasting.
- 29 May: AGM and Spring Cocktail Party.
- 2 June: Asado al Palo - Younger Members.
- 12 September: Dieciocho Dinner.
- 12 December: Christmas Party.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIEDAD ANGLO CHILEAN IN SANTIAGO

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS:

These have been held every month since March at the Club

de la Unión although no lunch was held in September due to the national holidays. The speakers at our lunches so far have been:

- March: Emilio Meneses on Winston Churchill.
- May: Julio Retamal on the Royal Family.
- August: Alan White, farewell speech.
- October: Rev. Alfred Cooper - State of the Anglican Church in Chile.

The lunches have been well attended, with an average of 25 members and guests.

ESSAY PRIZE:

In July we announced our third annual essay competition for students of schools promoting English. This year the subject is "Lord Cochrane". The closing date is the end of the month, and so far we have had eight entries from four schools.

Like last year, the competition is being run by Adml. Carlos Chubretovic. The results will be known by mid-November.

This year Charles Le May has organised a special prize for the best entries; a visit to Antarctica. This has been arranged with the support of the Chilean Navy.

In addition, the 1st prize will be a copy of the complete works of Shakespeare.

SWORDS: The traditional ceremony will be held at the Prince of Wales Country Club, the week before Christmas.

We look forward to receiving the new Wilkinson swords, when they are ready.

As always, our thanks go to you for arranging the swords and to Antofagasta Holdings for having continued to support this tradition so generously.

CHANGE OF AMBASSADOR: Alan White left us in September to retire. We arranged a very well attended lunch in his honour before he left, during which he gave an excellent speech.

Last month the Directors of the Society (Charles Le May, Gonzalo Serrano, Peter Oats) and we met the new ambassador, Mr. Richard Nielsen, at the Embassy to welcome him to Chile, and invite him to become our new Honorary President. Mr. Nielsen gladly accepted, and was present at our last lunch.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

From the Pacific to La Paz: the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company, 1888-1988. By Harold Blakemore. London: Lester Crook Academic Publishing, 1990. Pp. 334. Map. Illustrations. Bibliog. Index. £15.

This is a welcome, well-illustrated, and succinct historical account to celebrate the centenary of what was at one period the largest single British investment in Chile - a railway system developed largely by British capital and enterprise in the 1880s-1890s and designed originally to carry Chilean nitrates and Bolivian minerals over the Andes and through the Atacama Desert to the Pacific coast. Operated by dedicated and fair-minded management and a hardworking workforce, by means of financial prudence and a remarkable ability to adapt to changing circumstances, the railway has since survived every sort of vicissitude. Owned and managed today as part of Antofagasta Holdings p.l.c., under the dynamic control of Don Andrónic Luksic and his Chilean and British associates, its commercial viability has retained its status as the only private sector railway left in Latin America.

For anyone who has travelled as a passenger on the 24-hour journey by the Antofagasta Railway from Calama to La Paz, Dr. Blakemore's account will be especially evocative. While he has made full use of the voluminous company archives, notably in dealing with the many difficult negotiations with the governments involved - over tariff rates, over water supplies, reconstruction and extension of lines, reinvestment in new equipment - and the problems of labour relations and living and working conditions, often in times of deep political crisis or economic recession in Bolivia or Chile, this is no dry-as-dust record but a living account of a fascinating period, using many individual descriptions of the ups-and-downs in the enterprise over the years, especially the lean years of the 1930s and the labour turmoil of the 1950s.

As a professional historian with a specialised knowledge of the Chilean nitrate industry, Dr. Blakemore has produced an original and pioneer study which in its unique way provides a microcosm of Anglo-Chilean relationships, based essentially on mutual trust and enterprise over the past century: and the epilogue which brings the work up to date from 1972 (when, during the Allende period, the railway narrowly avoided nationalisation) is factual and forward-looking.

JOHN HEATH

Chile. Oswestry: Anthony Nelson Ltd. for the Anglo-Chilean Society, the Chilean Embassy and the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce, 1990. Pp.57. Map. Illustrations. Bibliog.

As an introduction to Chile, this booklet has much to recommend it. Intended for students and business people, much of the information is useful and pertinent, it is attractively produced and has a series of striking colour photographs and, not least, it includes an annotated reading list, taken from Harold Blakemore's recently published bibliography, which will facilitate the task of those readers who wish to pursue their interest further.

Despite these merits, the booklet is not without its blemishes. The arrangement of the different sections leaves something to be desired. It surely makes more sense to deal with "Chile in our times" after, and not before, the sections on Chile's past political and economic development. That, at least, would have avoided beginning the section on Chile's recent experience with the discovery of the country in 1520 and also help to explain to the uninitiated some otherwise rather puzzling statements like that, for example, concerning the "secular type of democratic socialism" supposedly pursued by the Radical presidencies in the 1940s.

Furthermore, the treatment of the Allende years is not as impartial as it might be and, while the intention of underlining the overwhelming importance of Chilean factors in the 1973 coup is laudable, that end is not properly served by giving currency to the notion that the US had given up interfering in Chilean affairs after the 1970 presidential elections. Similarly, while the authors properly indicate the major achievements of the Pinochet regime in reshaping the state and restructuring the economy, they do so uncritically, without much reference to the human and social costs involved. The text is quite correct to emphasise, not least in comparison with most other countries in Latin America, Chile's solid economic achievements in recent years, not least in pioneering debt-equity swaps and in keeping inflation low, by Latin American standards. But it also underplays somewhat the fact that this necessary change in the economy has rather concentrated wealth and that a major governmental task in the future - as the government of President Aylwin recognizes - will be to ensure that the benefits of remarkable economic success must be more

widely distributed.

Finally, it seems rather surprising that the section on British influence in Chile should contain no direct reference to the important British trading houses like Duncan Fox and Gibbs nor to the great Anglo Chilean families - both in their own way made unique contributions to Chile's development. It would have also been appropriate to have had a short account of the history and activities of the Anglo Chilean Society itself somewhere in this book.

ANDREW BARNARD

OBITUARIES

DON VICTOR SANTA CRUZ

Members of the Society will be saddened to hear of the death, from a heart attack, of Don Victor Santa Cruz on 8th September, 1990, while residing at his home in Zapallar. He was 77. Born in Chihue in the metropolitan region, he was educated at Stonyhurst College and the Instituto Nacional in Santiago before entering, in 1932, the School of Law of the University of Chile, obtaining his Licenciatura in Juridical and Social Science in 1936 with a mark of distinction. This early promise was amply fulfilled by his subsequent career, both as a practising advocate and as a university teacher, and he occupied a number of important posts with outstanding merit, such as that of Executive Secretary of the Chilean Institute of Legislative Studies from its foundation in 1939 to 1945, and, particularly in the early 1940s, as Professor of Civil Law at the University of Chile. By then, his reputation as a young lawyer was well-established, and he played a prominent part in numerous contexts relating to reform of Chilean Civil Law. In 1945, however, his career took a political turn when he was elected a Deputy to Congress for the then province of Concepción as a member of the now defunct Liberal Party, in which he played a leading role. He was re-elected to Congress for a second term but already in the second half of the 1940s his mainstream career as a distinguished international diplomat had been launched. Invited by President Gabriel González Videla, in 1947 he headed a special mission to the United States on economic matters (he had worked for the Banco de Chile in 1929-31), and in 1949, with four other colleagues from the Law Faculty of the University of Chile, was invited by the government of Salvador to advise on the reform of the Country's civil code. But his most significant contribution in Chilean diplomatic history came with his appointment as Chilean Ambassador to the Court of St. James's in 1959, a post he held with great distinction until 1970 when he retired from the service. He was for some years Dean of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps in London, an honour conferred on only one other Chilean, no less a friend of this Society, Don Manuel Bianchi. For his services to Anglo-Chilean Relations he was awarded the honour of G.C.V.O. by Her Majesty, the Queen. So far as Chile's other interests were concerned, together with another distinguished Chilean jurist and diplomat, Don José Miguel Barros - now Chilean Ambassador in Paris - Don Victor bore the brunt of the protracted negotiations, with H.M. the Queen as arbiter, on the Palena territorial dispute with Argentina in the 1960s. The award, satisfactory to both sides, was a triumph of diplomatic expertise and compromise. An outstanding representative of the country abroad, in London, Don Victor, as President of this Society, made a major contribution to Anglo-Chilean relations which the Society recognized by electing him a life-long Vice-President (one of only three) on his retirement. And those who knew him will remember him not only for his brilliant professional career, as jurist, teacher and diplomat, but also for his sagacity, generosity and wit - 'un

GEORGE WILLIAM CRAIG

We regret also to record the death, at the age of 89, of George William Craig, for almost forty years an active member of the Anglo-Chilean community in the north of Chile who died, peacefully, on the Dieciocho, 18th September, 1990. And that co-incidence was entirely appropriate. George Craig first went to Chile in the mid-1920s to take up a post with the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company, with whom he remained until his retirement in 1962, having been, successively, assistant sectional engineer, engineer for the Calama section, assistant to the Resident Engineer, and Resident Engineer from 1948 to early 1962 - a total of 37 years' service as a loyal employee. On retirement, he returned to the U.K., to live in Sussex, but his interest in Chile remained and he was a long-standing member of this Society whose services to Chile were remembered by his enrolment in the Chilean Order of Merit (Bernardo O'Higgins). Towards the end of his life, he kindly assisted in the preparation of Harold Blakemore's recent history of the company he served (*From the Pacific to La Paz*) through his exhaustive knowledge of its earlier days, a service the author acknowledges with gratitude in his preface. George Craig is survived by his wife, Ethel, also a member of the society.

DICK HARRISON

THE RETURN OF THE JUNIN

Members of the Society may be interested to read of a fascinating recent episode in Anglo-Chilean historical relations, the return to Leeds of the diesel locomotive, the *Junín*, which had lain for decades in an abandoned nitrate *oficina* in the Atacama desert. The locomotive had a short but chequered history reflecting not only the vicissitudes of the Chilean nitrate industry in an earlier epoch but also the close ties between British technology and the Chilean economy in decades gone by.

In February, 1894, the Chilean *Compañía de Salitres del Ferrocarril de Junín* opened to traffic its recently completed railway line, linking the tiny port of Junín with the rich nitrate grounds of Carolina in the Chilean province of Tarapacá. Together with branch lines to various *oficinas*, the line ran some 90 kms. through the Atacama desert to the coast, crossing that hostile environment and reaching, at its height, some 1,300m above sea-level. Its chief down traffic was nitrate and, in the other direction, coal, foodstuffs and forage for the works in the interior, and, for the greater part of its history it was serviced by steam locomotives.

From approximately the 1880s to the 1920s, Chile's near-monopoly of the world's deposits of natural nitrate made the export of that commodity the principal prop of the national economy, though the history of the industry was one of dramatic booms and slumps, turning, as its fortunes did, on the highly erratic nature of world markets for the fertiliser. By the 1920s, however, following the development of synthetic nitrates in the First World War and its aftermath, a more persistent threat to Chilean nitrates in world markets had appeared. And in that competitive situation, production costs were a key factor. It was in such circumstances that the Junín Company, hitherto reliant on steam traction, desperately sought to reduce costs by turning to the almost untried technology of the diesel locomotive. For this part of the story, mainly for railway buffs, the account relies on an interesting paper on the *Junín* by Mr. R.I. Cockroft, Acting Director of Leisure Services of Leeds City Council, who writes:

'In March 1929 an order was placed by the railway with the Leeds locomotive builders Hudswell Clarke and Com-

pany for a 300 h.p. diesel locomotive. With two unsuccessful exceptions this was to be the most powerful direct drive diesel locomotive in the world, and the first to be successful. It was Hudswells second diesel milestone for in 1927 the firm had built the first British diesel locomotive. This ill recognised achievement was linked to another equally obscure Leeds triumph. In 1926 Hudswell's neighbours J. & H. McLaren had taken out a manufacturing licence for the Benz diesel engine, the first firm in Britain to embark upon the production of high speed automotive diesel engines. It was the McLaren MDB engine which powered Hudswell's 1927 locomotive.

The power unit for the Junín diesel was a McLaren M.W.M. diesel engine with Bosch solid injection. The problem of transmitting the power to the gearbox, so long an intractable obstacle to applying the diesel engine to railway locomotives was dealt with by Harold Sinclair's newly developed fluid flywheel, the first railway application of hydraulic transmission. The 5½ ton gearbox was a virtuoso performance by David Brown and Company with ball race bearings by Hoffman, one 13½" in diameter. The gearbox was coupled to the flywheel by a Simms Jurid flexible coupling. An equally monumental radiator combined water and oil cooling in a total unit weight of three tons. It was built by the Reliance Manufacturing Company and ventilated by a Sirrocco fan supplied by Davidson and Company. The air auxiliaries were powered by a Hamworthy air compressor mounted in the cab with an attendant air bottle sumptuously lagged with mahogany, bound with brass strips.

Her delivery in March 1930 drew international attention as did her performance which reduced operating costs for the journey from 64/- to 3s 10½d. It was, however, her melancholy fate to witness the demise of the Junín Railway three years later, unable to withstand the catastrophic decline in demand for mineral nitrates.

For the next fifty years this, the most sophisticated product of the British diesel locomotive industry of its day retreated into obscurity. Its seminal significance was appreciated by historians but its fate in the aftermath of its short limelight was unknown. Three years ago a British historian of the nitrate trade discovered at a derelict nitrate *oficina* the instantly recognisable bulk of this remarkable locomotive. In the middle of the Atacama desert, bereft of paint as a result of constant sand blasting by desert winds, but perfectly preserved she had stood since the closure of this, her second home, in 1956.'

Almost 35 years later, in September 1990, the *Junín* found her third home, very near to her first, namely in the Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mill, thanks to the munificence of a number of industrial sponsors who met the enormous cost of translating the 32-foot long locomotive from the Atacama to Armley. There, after a civic reception on arrival on 24th September, she occupies pride of place. And that is as it should be. For, in the words of Mr. Cockroft, "The survival of the *Junín* is without parallel in terms of its technological significance. No comparable pre-war diesel locomotive exists anywhere. It is a monument to innovative courage in the bleakest of economic climates, a major artifact of our technological heritage". It is also a timely reminder to us all of a historic Anglo-Chilean relationship which may still be reinforced.

H.B.

NEW MEMBERS

Capt. and Mrs. Paul Balaesque
Mr. José Luis Balmaceda
Ms. Kathleen Barclay
Capt. and Mrs. Carlos Bastías
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Baker

Admiral and Mrs. Octavio Bolelli
 Mr. Ronald H. Boyes
 Cmdr. and Mrs. Pascual Briganti
 Mr. John Turner-Burrows
 Mr. and Mrs. Christian B. Castillo
 Mr. J. Cool
 Dr. Lester Crook
 Mr. and Mrs. Ian Dalziel
 Dr. David Galloway
 Mr. Archie Gorst-Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hay
 Mr. Thomas Harrington
 Ms. Jane Hunter
 Mr. Ian Laird
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Lawrence
 Mr. and Mrs. Ian R. Lewis
 Mr. John R. Long
 Group Captain and Mrs. John Lunt
 Cmdr. and Mrs. H.R. Obermoller
 Mrs. Diana Olney
 Mr. and Mrs. William Pigg
 Ms. Barbara Ann Pixton
 Miss Margaret A. Pountney
 Mr. and Mr. John Anthony Rendell-Dunn
 Mr. and Mrs. Chris Rushton
 Mr. Michael Sharman (Life)
 Mr. John Seewer
 Mrs. Florencia Varas
 Mr. Martin G. Ward
 Mr. and Mrs. Allan White
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Willans
 Ms. María Alejandra Zambrano-Saez

MEMBERSHIP:

We have decided to change the criteria upon which we decide applications for membership. In the past the applicant had to be proposed and seconded. Now the criteria is based upon the applicant's interest in Chile and connections with Chile. We feel that the Society needs to open up and increase its membership and this change is part of that strategy. The cost of membership has been kept the same for the past four years, and the new subscriptions from 1/1/91 are as follows:

	£	
Corporate	60	Minimum
Ordinary single	8	
Ordinary double	13	
Life single	100	
Life double	150	
Junior (single)	5	

We hope that members will encourage their friends who are interested in Chile to join.

MARIA DE LOS ANGELES SALAS

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the death of little María de los Angeles who, almost a year ago, came from Córdoba, Argentina, for a heart transplant operation. Her parents, Pedro and Gladys Salas, had just suffered the loss of María de los Angeles' twin sister when they heard they could bring their daughter to England thanks to the kindness of a group of people willing to raise the necessary financial help. Pedro, a construction worker, was born in Santiago, Chile.

Within hours of knowing about the appeal, María Clea Schneider and I started contacting friends in this country and Chile and we were overwhelmed by their enormous generosity. Unfortunately, the right donor was never found and

María de los Angeles died in the early hours of Saturday, 3rd November at Harefield Hospital. She was just six years old. Her parents flew back to Argentina taking the child to be buried by the side of her sister.

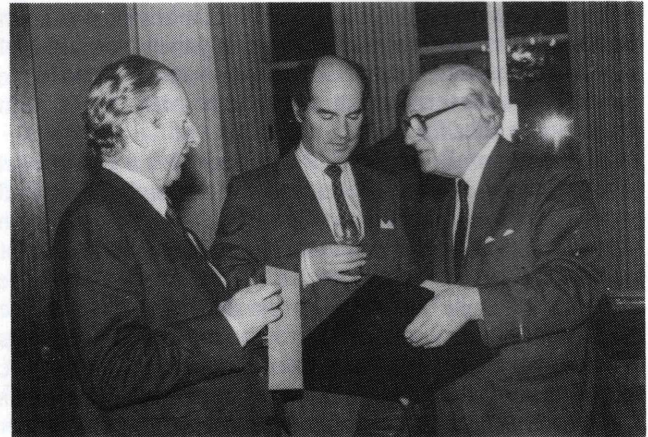
Though we never met, Pedro called when he heard that I had gone into hospital. It was his own special way of saying thank you; this was a Chilean trying to comfort another Chilean in the dark hours of need.

I talked to his wife on the telephone two days before she left for Argentina and I was very moved when she told me that she had taken María de los Angeles to visit the Chilean stand during the Anglo-Latin American Fiesta 1990 which the girl enjoyed immensely. They did not want to bother me, thinking I was too busy. How much I regret such consideration!

The Twins Transpant Appeal Committee had decided to use some of the money from the Trust to help the Salas family since they are people of very modest means. But this was firmly rejected by the Salas, who asked for the funds to be used to create a Charitable Trust which will help children of Latin America who may find themselves in the same situation as María de los Angeles. What a marvellous lesson of unselfishness to be treasured by us all!

GEORGINA ROBERTS

On 7th February the Executive Committee gave Leslie Pountney some engraved glass goblets and a case of Cousiño Macul, to mark his ninetieth birthday. It was also to mark 30 years of service to the Anglo-Chilean Society, as Secretary and also an assiduous member of the Executive Committee. The pair of goblets were engraved with the crossed flags of Chile and of Great Britain.



*John Hickman, H.E. Juan Carlos Délano,
 Leslie Pountney*



*Occasion marking Leslie Pountney's 90th Birthday
 George Richardson, Leslie Pountney,
 Lady Dora Pink, Michael Cannon*