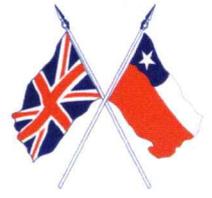


CHILEAN NEWS



Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

www.anglochileansociety.org

65th Year No. 373

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12 Devonshire Street London W1

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

The Anglo Chilean Society Reception

This was held on 16th September 2008 at Canning House in the presence of H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno and guests of honour, the 14 Compañía de Bomberos – the British Fire Company in Santiago. (Continued on page 2, column 1.)



H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno with the 14 Compañía de Bomberos.



Michael Reid delivering his speech. In the background, Mr Richard Wilkinson, chairman of the Society.



Viscount Montgomery of Alamein receiving a commemorative plaque on behalf of the All-party Parliamentary Group on Latin America.



From left to right: Mr Martyn Goldsmith, Mr & Mrs David Lamping and H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno.

At the Residence

A reception was offered by H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno on 18th September 2008 to celebrate Chile's National Day. (Continued on page 2, column 2.)



Welcoming the guests: H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno, Sra de Moreno, Mr Alex Geiger, former Military Attaché Jorge Salas, Air Force Attaché Group Captain Eduardo Peña and Captain Harald Sievers.



From left to right: The Ambassador of Mexico Señor Juan José Bremer, Ms Verónica Scott and Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.



From left to right: Colonel Valério Stumpf, Brazilian Army Attaché, Captain Carlos Soares, Brazilian Naval Attaché, and Mr Juan Monroy.



From left to right: Mr Jorge Carvajal, Ms Elizabeth Stewart, from Embassy Magazine, and Mr Felipe Sáez.

The Anglo Chilean Society Reception

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Widely known as the Bomba Inglesa, the firemen were in London to attend the annual United Kingdom Fire-fighters Memorial Commemoration, and on Independence Day they appointed HRH The Prince Edward as an Honorary Member of their Company, the first member of the Royal Family to support a voluntary organisation in Chile.

In his speech, Michael William Reid, a 21 year old member of the Fire Company, said how proud he was to be the third generation fireman in his family. His grandfather, William Reid, an ex-serviceman from the Second World War, joined the 14 Compañía de Bomberos in its initial stages of formation, and his father, David, a fire engineer, was among the visiting group.

Mr Brian Murtagh, in his capacity as President of the 14 Compañía de Bomberos, thanked the Anglo Chilean Society for a donation in 2006 to assist in the building of a new fire station that was opened in 2007. Commemorative plaques as tokens of friendship were presented to Mr Richard Wilkinson.

The reception was held in conjunction with the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce. The Society wishes to thank Antofagasta plc for sponsoring the event.



From left to right: Mr Cristián León, Mrs María Teresa Lamarca and Mr. Peter de Bruyne.

At the Residence

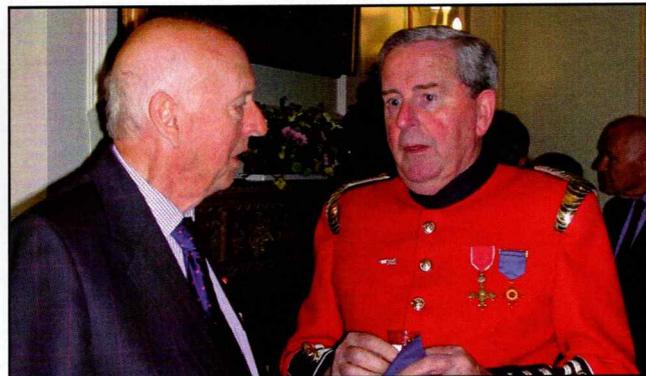
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From left to right: Mrs Angela Moon, Mr Brian Moon, Mrs Angela Wilkinson and Mrs Judith Hart.



Señora Gloria de Moreno in the company of Archbishop Faustino Sainz and City of Westminster Councillor, Dr Cyril Nemeth.



Renewing old acquaintances: Viscount Montgomery of Alamein and Mr Donald Filshill.



From left to right: Mr Francisco González, Mr Osvaldo Ahumada, Mrs María Angélica Romero and Mr Jorge Morales.



From left to right: Miss Michelle Pearson, Mr David Pearson, Mr Christopher Heap and Mrs Carmen Gloria Heap.



From left to right: Mr Américo Hernández, Mrs M. Elvira Berho and Mr Gonzalo Cuadra.

Other Celebrations

In what is now a tradition, Casa Chilena celebrated the Dieciocho at the London Irish Centre in Camden Town, London NW1. The hall was decorated with bunting and Chilean flags. Some of the guests were dressed in national costumes. This was a festive occasion with lots of singing and dancing to the strains of Chilean and Latin American music, which included the dance ensemble directed by Claudio Vera.

Meanwhile, across the river in the Latin Palace, Vauxhall, in what is claimed to be the biggest and best Chilean party, 300 guests danced and sang the night away until 3:00 a.m.



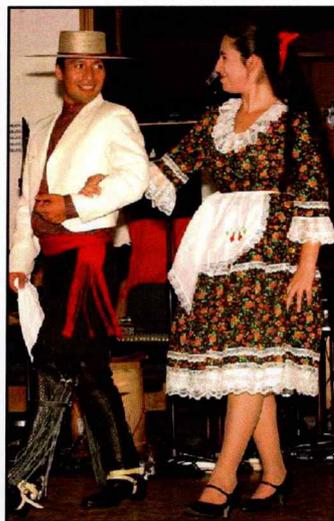
President of Casa Chilena addressing the guests.



Traditional dances at the Latin Palace.



The Ambassador of Chile leading out Tatiana Unda for the "cueca".



The unmatched elegance of the "huaso" and his dancing partner.



A display of colour and movement.

THE 2008 CHILEAN WINE TALK AND TASTING

A Chilean wine tasting was held at Canning House on 7th October 2008. The evening was hosted by Mark Hughes, a well-respected expert who has spent his professional life in the wine trade as, amongst other things, Wine Controller for Safeway and UK Sales and Marketing Director for Hardy's Australian Wines. As he explains, it is very difficult to find outstanding wines from individual producers at the supermarket or wine superstores, so he set up the Real Wine Company. Following a discussion with Michael Cox of Wines of Chile, this led to the Chilean Wine Club which has the aim of making available Chile's top wines which are in such short supply that they do not reach the general market. The idea is to provide the best wine producers at affordable prices.

Mark presented eight wines, three white, four red and a dessert wine. They came from a wide area of Central Chile, from Curicó in the south to Limarí, near La Serena, in the north. The whites started with Queulat Grande Reserve Sauvignon Blanc 2007 from the Casablanca Valley, synonymous with Chilean white wine; followed by the Errázuriz Single Vineyard Viognier 2006 from the Curicó region, the biggest producer of white wine in Chile; and finishing with Arboleda Chardonnay 2006, again from the Casablanca Region. Then followed the four reds. First was El Huique Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva 2003 from Colchagua where more than half of all the medals awarded to Chilean wines come from, and one of Oz Clarke's top 250 wines for 2009. Then the Errázuriz Wild Ferment Pinot Noir 2006 from Casablanca, possibly the best Pinot Noir outside Burgundy. The sixth and seventh red wines were from opposite ends of the Central Region; the sixth being the Tabalí Reserva Shiraz 2006 from the Limarí Valley, inland from La Serena and an up-and-coming wine producing area; while the seventh wine was an Arboleda Camenère 2008 from the Colchagua medals region and, of course, the best camenère in Chile. Finally, Mark offered a dessert wine, Errázuriz Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc 2006 to bring the tasting to a close.

However, the presenter delivered much more than a listing of the wines: the audience learnt many aspects of wine making and tasting, from the reason wine is red or white; why wine has increased in strength over the years and even a definitive reason why the much-maligned screw top is just as efficient as the traditional cork. There was no doubt that the gathering enjoyed an informative and entertaining evening. Alasdair Grant, who is to be thanked for organising the evening, will have his work cut out to maintain this standard for the 2009 wine tasting!

Members wishing to contact the Chilean Wine Club can e-mail info@chileanwineclub.co.uk or visit the website at www.chileanwineclub.co.uk.



From left to right: Mr Mark Hughes, Mr Richard Wilkinson and Mr David Pearson.



From left to right: Mr Brian Moon, Mrs Angela Moon, Mrs Laragh Grant and Mr David Grant.



Mr James Nason, Mr Alasdair Grant and Miss Eleanor Broad.



Mr Wilfred Hockfield and Mrs Brenda Crosland.



Mr Robin Holland-Martin and Miss Tamara Holland-Martin.



From left to right: Mr Robert Somner, Miss Anita Eiben, Mr Guy Wilmot and Mr Peter de Bruyne.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

At a ceremony held at the Escuela Militar in Santiago on 3rd December 2008, two former Military Attachés to the Embassy in London were promoted to the rank of General in the presence of their families and high-ranking Army officers.

Generals Bosco Pesse and Jorge Salas received their traditional swords, replicas of that used by Bernardo O'Higgins, from the Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Army, General Oscar Izurieta.

The Anglo Chilean Society offers them its warmest congratulations.



General Bosco Pesse receiving his sword from the Commander-in-Chief General Oscar Izurieta.



General Bosco Pesse with his wife, Patricia, and daughter, Magdalena.



Commander-in-Chief General Oscar Izurieta presenting the sword to General Jorge Salas.



General Jorge Salas accompanied by his wife, Adriana, and their children, Rodrigo and Loreto.



From left to right: Mr Michael Gubbins, Mrs Isabel Cuadra, Mrs Luise Silva-Rozzi and Mr Gonzalo Cuadra.



From left to right: Mrs Jane Carey-Harris, Mr Robert Hart, Mrs Angela Wilkinson and Mrs Judith Hart.

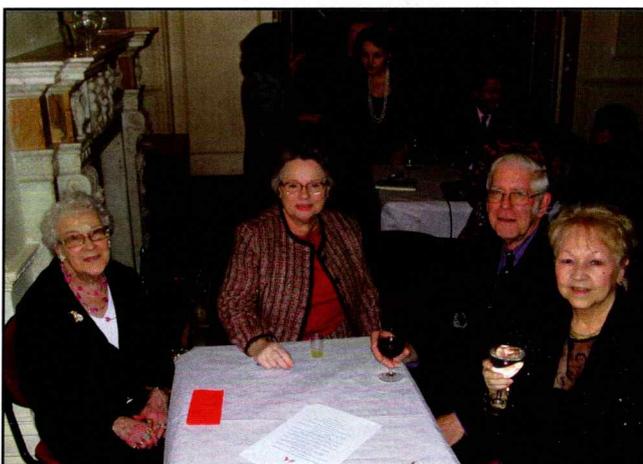
WELCOME TO 2009

In a break with tradition the Society held its end-of-year event in January instead of December.

The usual pisco and wine reception with empanaditas was followed by a buffet supper. The raffle was, as usual, the highlight of the evening with the tickets being drawn by H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno.



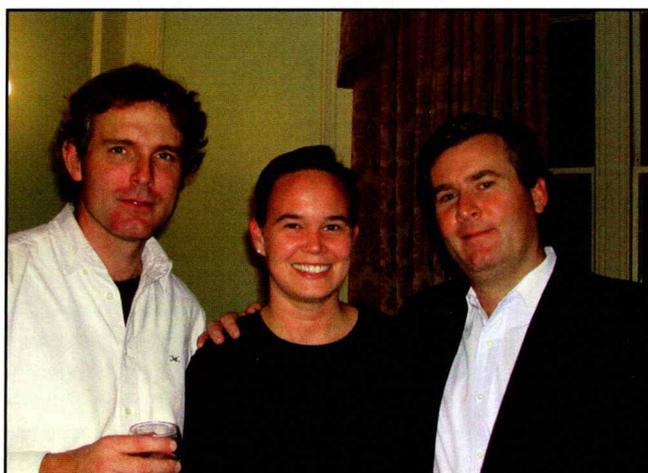
Mr Christopher Heap, Mr Richard Wilkinson, Mrs Victoria Amey and former Society chairman, Mr Julian Amey.



From left to right: Mrs Peggy Hart, Ms Geraldine Eves, Mr Alan Douglas and Mrs Joanna Douglas.



Dr Rodolf Guiloff, Dr Heather Angus-Leppan, Mr Peter Heap and Mr David Pearson.



Mr Alasdair Grant, Ms. Andrea Kirchaessner and Mr Trevor Keohane.

NEW HEAD FOR THE CHILEAN NAVAL MISSION

The new Naval Attaché, Admiral Jorge Chandía, was born in Chillán, Chile, on 10th September 1957. After studying at the Alberto Hurtado School in Chillán, he entered the Naval Academy in 1975 and was commissioned as an Ensign on 1st January 1978. He is a staff officer and Naval electronic weapons engineer.



Admiral Jorge Chandía.

In more than 16 years of seagoing appointments, he has served on board Oiler "Araucano" as Gunnery Officer; DLH "Captain Prat" as Electronic Officer; in LM "Casma" as Electronic Officer; Fire Control Officer and Operations Officer in the HQ Fleet Commander-in-Chief; Electronic Assistant and member of the Fleet Training Command; DLH "Almirante Cochrane" as Executive Officer, and Chief of Staff at both HQ Fleet Commander and Naval Operations Command.

He was Commanding Officer of LM "Covadonga" in 1995, 1996 and 1997, of Submarine Tender Ship "Almirante Merino" in 2001 and DLH "Almirante Cochrane" in 2005.

Amongst his shore duties, he has been head of studies of Electronic courses at the former School of Operations from 1998 to 1990; Chief of the Electronic Department and Deputy Chief of the Operations Department at the former Directorate of Weapons from 1992 to 1993; Chief of the Management Control Department at the Directorate of Education in 2002 and head of project for the commissioning of the Frigate "Williams" into the Chilean Navy. He has been head of the building project of the future Maritime Patrol ships at the Directorate of Research and Development of the Chilean Navy from 2003 to 2004. He took the Electronic Naval Engineering course in 1981 and 1983, the General Staff course in 1994 and the Regular Staff course in 1998, the two last ones in the Naval War Academy.

Admiral Chandía has received the following decorations: Armed Forces Military Star, Military Star rank; Mission Accomplished Third Class; On Board Service Cross, Second Class Category; Minerva Naval Polytechnic Academy; Armed Forces Military Star, Military Merit Star rank; Service on Board Cross, 1st Class Category; Service on Board Great Cross; Minerva Naval War Academy; Armed Forces Military Star, Military Merit Star.

From 13th December 2007 he took over as Director Units Refit, Chilean Navy, and on 1st January 2009 the Supreme Government promoted him to Admiral.

The Naval Attaché is married to María Angélica Schuffeneger and they have four children: Jorge Esteban, Claudio Andrés, Carlos Alberto and Fernanda Graciela.

MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC IN CURACAVÍ

Six years have passed since the creation of the Children's and Youth Orchestra with the auspices of the Municipality of Curacaví, a small community located about 60km from Viña del Mar, and the "Fundación Nacional de Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles de Chile". Its purpose was to promote the social, cultural and intellectual development of the children and young people, by taking them off the streets and away from drugs.

Jorge Cornejo, a music teacher by profession, is the young director who seems to be born for the job. A graduate of both the University of Chile and the Catholic University, he has developed a good part of his skills at the Teatro Municipal while working as Assistant Training Director.

The orchestra's eighty members are divided between beginners and advanced students. Financed by the local council, they perform at historical, religious and official events, besides travelling to different parts of the country to attend gatherings of Youth Orchestras. There are more than 300 of them in Chile, even in such remote locations as Easter Island.

Curacaví is immensely proud of its young musicians who, without exception, have shown general scholastic improvement as well. At present, nine students are studying music at the National Conservatoire of the Catholic University, a remarkable achievement by any standards.

A donation of orchestral scores by Gershwin, Ravel, Washburn and Clark was presented to the Director by Mrs Carmen Pearson on behalf of the Chilean Ladies in London.



Director and students enjoying a break from rehearsals.



Director Jorge Cornejo in consultation with Ms Juana Subercaseaux, a valued member of the community.



The orchestra during rehearsals.

WELCOME TO THE NEW MILITARY ATTACHÉ

Colonel Werther Araya, the new Military Attaché, was born in Santiago, Chile, on 7th December 1958. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1978 as a second lieutenant. He is an officer in the Armoured Cavalry.



Colonel Werther Araya.

Colonel Araya serves as a staff officer. He is a military lecturer in "Tactics and Operations", "General Tactics" and "Armoured Cavalry Tactics". He has taught at the Military Academy and the Army War Academy. He has a MA in Military Sciences and a MA in National and Strategic Resources. He is also an instructor in Equestrianism.

As an officer, he has served in the Military Academy, the School of Armoured Cavalry, the Military Institutes Command, the 4th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, the Army Education Directorate, the Army Operations Directorate and the Army Health Command.

While a captain in 1997-98 he attended the Brazilian Army Cavalry School. Later, as lieutenant colonel, he attended the MA course in Strategic and National Resources at the Industrial College in the U.S.A. between 1999-2000.

From 2005 to 2008 Colonel Araya was the Director of the Military Hospital in Santiago.

He has been appointed Military Attaché to the Embassy of Chile in London to serve from January 2009 to January 2011.

He is married to Silvia Bistolfi and they have two daughters: Trinidad (18) and María José (14).

TOM'S YEAR IN CHILE

Following our report on Emily Maule's year in Chile (Chilean News, October 2008), another Project Trust volunteer, Tom Longden, has been in touch with the Society to tell us of the amazing experience of his year in Chile before coming back to England to study for a geography degree.

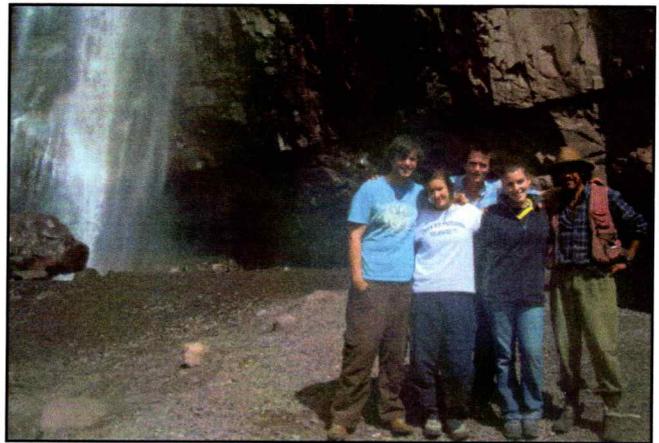
His first week in Santiago changed him from student to teacher and his whole world revolved around school life and teaching English to a class of 15/16 year olds in a very poor district of the capital. He even joined the school orchestra so as to be able to help the students and, with Christmas coming, he had his input in the organisation of the seasonal celebrations by teaching the children Christmas carols that were performed at the end of year assembly.

Tom's involvement with a different kind of project is worth mentioning. Once a week he helped disabled people by teaching them exercises to improve their mobility and flexibility.

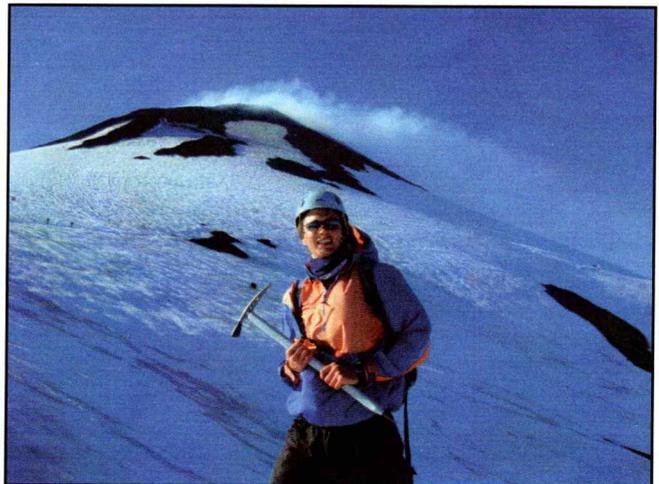
But not everything was work, there was leisure time as well. He managed to see much of Santiago and during the summer holidays he travelled to the north and south of the country whose dramatic and contrasting nature must have been a geography master class in itself.



Tom's pupils singing Christmas carols



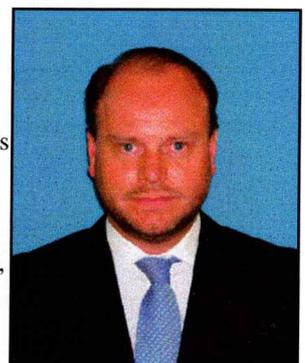
Leisure time: Tom and friends on a weekend trip to "Cajón del Maipo".



Tom at the smoking summit of Volcán Villarrica.

NEW CONSUL TO THE EMBASSY OF CHILE

Mr Alejandro Gibbons, a lawyer and career diplomat, is the new Consul General to the Embassy of Chile in London, replacing the outgoing Consul, Ms Andrea Concha.



Consul General Mr Alejandro Gibbons.

Mr Gibbons was born in Santiago, on 17th September 1962, and attended schools in Punta Arenas, Chile, and Collinsville, Virginia, USA.

He graduated from the Faculty of Law, Universidad Católica in Santiago. His thesis on International Law was awarded the highest marks.

In the academic field he was Assistant Professor of International Law at the Universidad de Chile and a graduate of the Diplomatic Academy in Chile. He studied at the International Institute of the Russian Federation, the Moscow University of Friendship of the People, and the Asociación Interamericana de Integración (ALADI) in Uruguay. He also has a post-graduate degree in International Law from the Universidad Central of Venezuela.

He held various posts as a lawyer in Santiago, Chile, including in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before joining the Diplomatic branch of the Ministry. He has served as Consul in the Russian Federation, Argentina, Croatia and Venezuela.

Mr Gibbons is married to Karina Desse and they have four children: Melissa, Robert, Daniel and Grace.

BICENTENARY PLANNING

An initial meeting to prepare for the Bicentenary celebrations was held on Wednesday, 18th February in the Salón Bernardo O'Higgins of the Embassy of Chile. It was presided over by Mr Alejandro Gibbons, the new Consul General, who welcomed the guests representing the various Chilean groups and organisations based in the United Kingdom.

The plan was to exchange ideas with the aim of drawing up a calendar of events worthy of such an important occasion and by the amount of enthusiasm and expertise generated during the meeting, the auspices for success look favourable.

Among those who attended were Ms Selma Ortiz, a retired teacher and commentator for the BBC World Service and now a member of the Chilean Women Writers Workshop, Mr Mauricio Venegas, Musical Director of Musiko Musika, composer, singer and multi-instrumentalist as well as cultural adviser to TV and radio, Mr José Olivares of the former members of the Chilean Armed Forces; Mr Eliseo Vera, a retired teacher, President of the Cultural Centre Salvador Allende and Secretary of the Chilean Writers Society. Also present were Mr Luis Blanco, Theatrical Director, and Mr Cristián Faúndez, President of the Instituto O'Higginiano and a Consulate official. The Anglo Chilean Society was represented by the Honorary Secretary, Mr Michael Roberts, and the Editor of the Chilean News and Executive Committee member, Mrs Georgina Roberts.

Mr Cristián León, representative for the Cultural Department of the Chilean Embassy, outlined various options that he has been considering although, since these are still in their early stages, it would not be appropriate to publish them. However, members will be advised by letter, e-mail and on the website of upcoming events during 2010.



From left to right: Eliseo Vera, Selma Ortiz, Mauricio Venegas, José Olivares, Luis Blanco, Georgina Roberts, Consul Alejandro Gibbons, Cristián Faúndez, Cristián León and Michael Roberts.

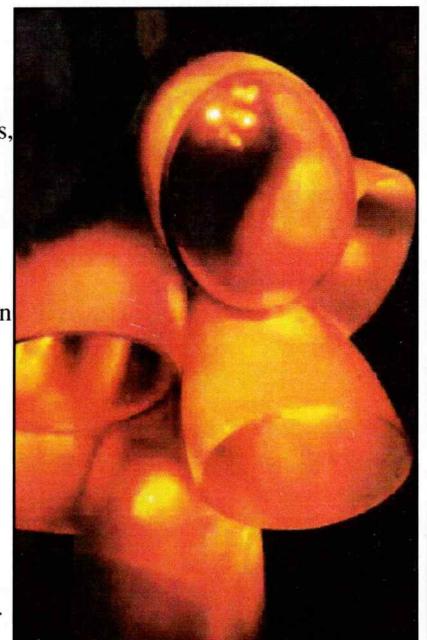


Consulate and embassy representatives Mr Alejandro Gibbons and Mr Cristián León.

CHILEAN DESIGNERS VISIT LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2008

A group of nineteen Chilean designers travelled to London to experience the latest world trends in designs and materials by visiting the "London Design Festival 2008". The trip was 70% funded by CORFO, with logistical assistance from the British Embassy in Santiago.

At Earl's Court, 100% Design (now London Design Festival), welcomed five hundred exhibitors, each showing great talent and creativity capable of satisfying every taste. In 2006 Luz Méndez, an award-winning Chilean designer, was there to show her carpets and tapestries (Chilean News – March 2007). This time she came as part of the delegation and attended lectures, shows and exhibitions that were a must for any architect, designer or decorator. They visited the fairs of "Tent London", "Focus

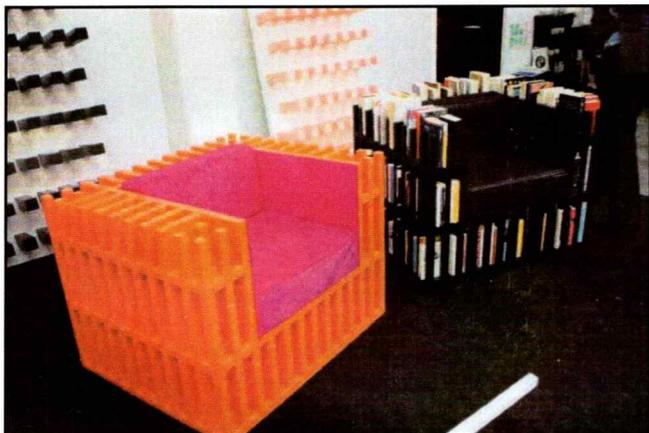


A strikingly designed lamp from the Talent Zone at the 100% Design Festival.

2008” and “Decomex”, not forgetting spectacular stores such as Skandium, a place for Scandinavian contemporary style and The Conran Shop, time-honoured centre of design.

The workshops beside the Thames in the Oxo Tower were another eye-opener where each artist has his/her own space to discuss and commission special projects. Andrea Carvacho, another well-known Chilean designer who works in copper, named Tom Dixon, with his armchairs, lamps and metal objects as the one who impressed her most.

From comments, it appears that the group appreciated the opportunity to visit London, which many consider one of the most important centres of international design. One hopes that the trip can be repeated for other Chilean designers in future years.



An armchair with built-in book space, an attraction at Tent London.



Furniture made from plastic pipe, by Dutch designer, Sander Bokkinga.

NEW COUNSELLOR TO THE EMBASSY IN LONDON

Mr Rodrigo Espinoza has been appointed Deputy Head of the Embassy of Chile in London, replacing the outgoing Counsellor, Mr Alex Geiger.

He was born in Santiago where he received a Law Degree from the University of Chile. From 1987 to 1989 he carried out post-graduate studies at the École National d'Administration (ENA) in Paris, France.



Mr Rodrigo Espinoza.

His distinguished career includes as a lawyer in private practice for both “Sociedad de El Tattersall” and “Montt & Co. Abogados” in Santiago, Chile.

In 1983 he was Professor of Commercial Law in the Facultad de Ingeniería Comercial at the University of Chile and in 1985 he spent two years at the Diplomatic Academy before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 1989 to 1992 he was Third Secretary to the Embassy of Chile in Paris and then became a member of the Cabinet for the Secretary General of Foreign Affairs in Santiago, Chile.

From 1994 to 1999 he was First Secretary for the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in New York, U.S.A., followed by two years working in the Policy Planning Department in Santiago, Chile.

Other postings abroad include Mexico and Colombia and the last two years have been spent as Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile.

He is the author of “Ley antimonopolios: análisis y estudio crítico” (Santiago, Chile, Editorial Jurídica de Chile, 1980).

CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN ISLE OF WIGHT AND CORONEL, CHILE

A project that involved over 300 children and linked two primary schools on the Isle of Wight and two schools in Coronel, Chile, was launched over a year ago by Musiko Musika. This cultural organisation has introduced the use of music, singing and composition for a better understanding between people of different cultures.

The participants, whose ages ranged from 8 to 13 years, were from two primary schools on the Isle of Wight, and from Escuela Playas Negras and Escuela Octavio Salinas in Coronel. The English pupils attended 9 family workshops, while their Chilean counterparts had 10 half-day workshops. The activities included music and songwriting, cultural information, video and audio recording. They also studied traditional music, songs and instruments from both countries.

In preparation for the project, Spanish classes were introduced in the schools on the Isle of Wight. At the same time, in Coronel the children received extra help from local musicians and the visits from members of Musiko Musika.

The benefits achieved were significant. The children not only learned new musical skills but also how to relate to different cultures: on the Isle of Wight they became very interested in Chile and Latin America while in Coronel, despite the economic and social problems created by the contraction of the coal mining industry, all members of the community participated in the many cultural programmes organised by Musiko Musika, such as the setting-up of a women's theatre group and concerts.

The Society has been connected with Coronel in the past. The ACS in Santiago, together with the Naval Attaché of the British Embassy, raised funds to erect a monument in the centre of town to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of

Coronel, which took place on 1st November 1914 off the coast of Coronel. Historically, this was the first major defeat for the Royal Navy since 1812 (Chilean News – January 1990).

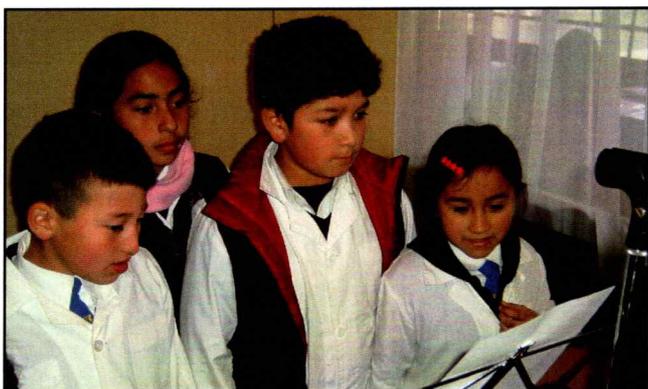
More recently the Society made a donation to Musiko Musika for the project to create links between the schools on the Isle of Wight and in Coronel, Chile.



The choir of All Saints Primary School.



Newport C of E Primary School playing the pan pipes.

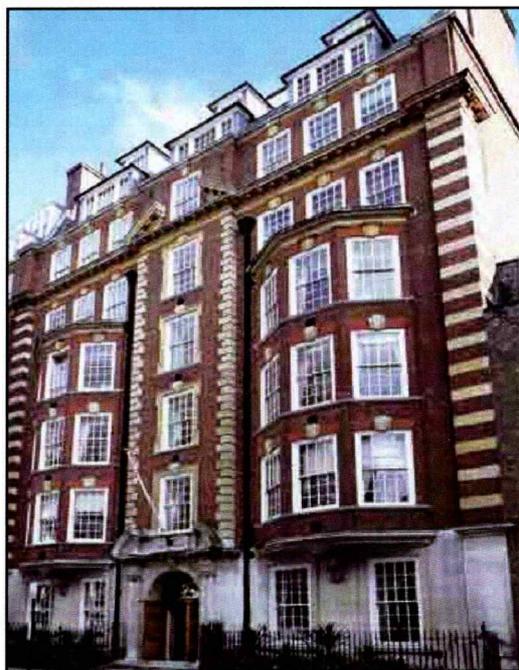


Escuela Playas Negras during singing practice.



Escuela Octavio Salinas accompanied by Mauricio Venegas, Artistic Director of Musiko Musika.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS



37-41 Old Queen Street, London SW1.

The Embassy of Chile will move from its current address to this magnificent building at 37-41 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JA. The move will take place in July.

The ambassador has generously allocated office space to the Anglo Chilean Society in the new embassy

HEIR TO THE THRONE OF GREAT BRITAIN VISITS CHILE

Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall commenced a tour of South America with Chile as their first stop, to be followed by Brazil and Ecuador.

The royal couple arrived at Pudahuel Airport on Sunday, 8th March 2009, and were given the sort of welcome normally reserved for Heads of State. The visitors were received by the British Ambassador in Santiago, Mr Howard Drake; the Chief of Protocol, Señor Fernando Ayala; the Chilean Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Señor Rafael Moreno, and General Carlos Barteus representing the Chilean Air Force (FACH).

The main items on the Prince's agenda were climate change, energy efficiency and military ties between the two countries. Among several important meetings was one held with Chilean businessmen at the British Ambassador's residence, to discuss what they are doing to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

They travelled to Valparaíso as guests of the Chilean Navy and visited FF06 Almirante Condell, formerly HMS Malborough.

A trip was arranged to The Prince of Wales Country Club where Charles's great-uncle, King Edward VIII, had laid the corner stone in 1925, and included the unveiling of a commemorative marble plaque.

An audience with the President of Chile, Michelle

Bachelet, at La Moneda, was preceded by the laying of a wreath at the bust of Bernardo O'Higgins.

The President also offered an official dinner with two hundred guests, including, among others, representatives of all the political parties, members of the Armed Forces, businessmen as well as media and arts representatives.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held at the Embassy, 12 Devonshire Street, London W1G 7DS on Thursday, 19th March 2009.

The chairman, Mr Richard Wilkinson, welcomed all present, and read a letter from H.E. Sr Rafael Moreno apologising for his absence due to his having to travel to Chile for the visits of Prince Charles, and the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to that country.

In his annual report, the chairman advised that the Society had a successful year in 2008/9, with entertaining events yielding an overall profit. Several donations were made, including Escuela Gran Bretaña in Valparaíso, COANIQUEM (as charity for children suffering from burns), and a shelter for battered wives in Iquique. The Society also contributed to Project Trust, that sponsored two young people spending a gap year in Chile helping schools in the poorer areas of the country.

Changes to the Executive Committee were the resignation of Ms Vanessa García and the election of Mr Cristián León (previously a co-opted member). Two new members to be elected were Mr John Rickus and Mr George Silva-Rozzi. Mr Rickus has recently returned from Arizona, USA, after retiring from Río Tinto, and Mr Silva-Rozzi is a senior executive with the bank, BBVA.

Following the AGM, those present enjoyed a glass (or two!) of wine with snacks.



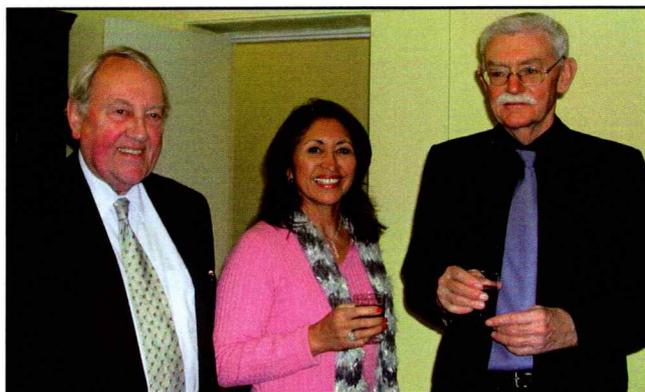
From left to right: Mr Robin Holland-Martin, Mr Richard Wilkinson CVO and Mr Alasdair Grant.



From left to right: Mr Alejandro Gibbons and Mr Peter de Bruyne.



From left to right: Mr Alan Macdonald, Mr John Rickus and Mr George Silva-Rozzi.



From left to right: Mr David Mizen, Mrs Alicia Rickus and Mr John Ince.

A VIEW OF THE PORT OF IQUIQUE, CHILE, SOLD AT BONHAM'S MARINE SALE

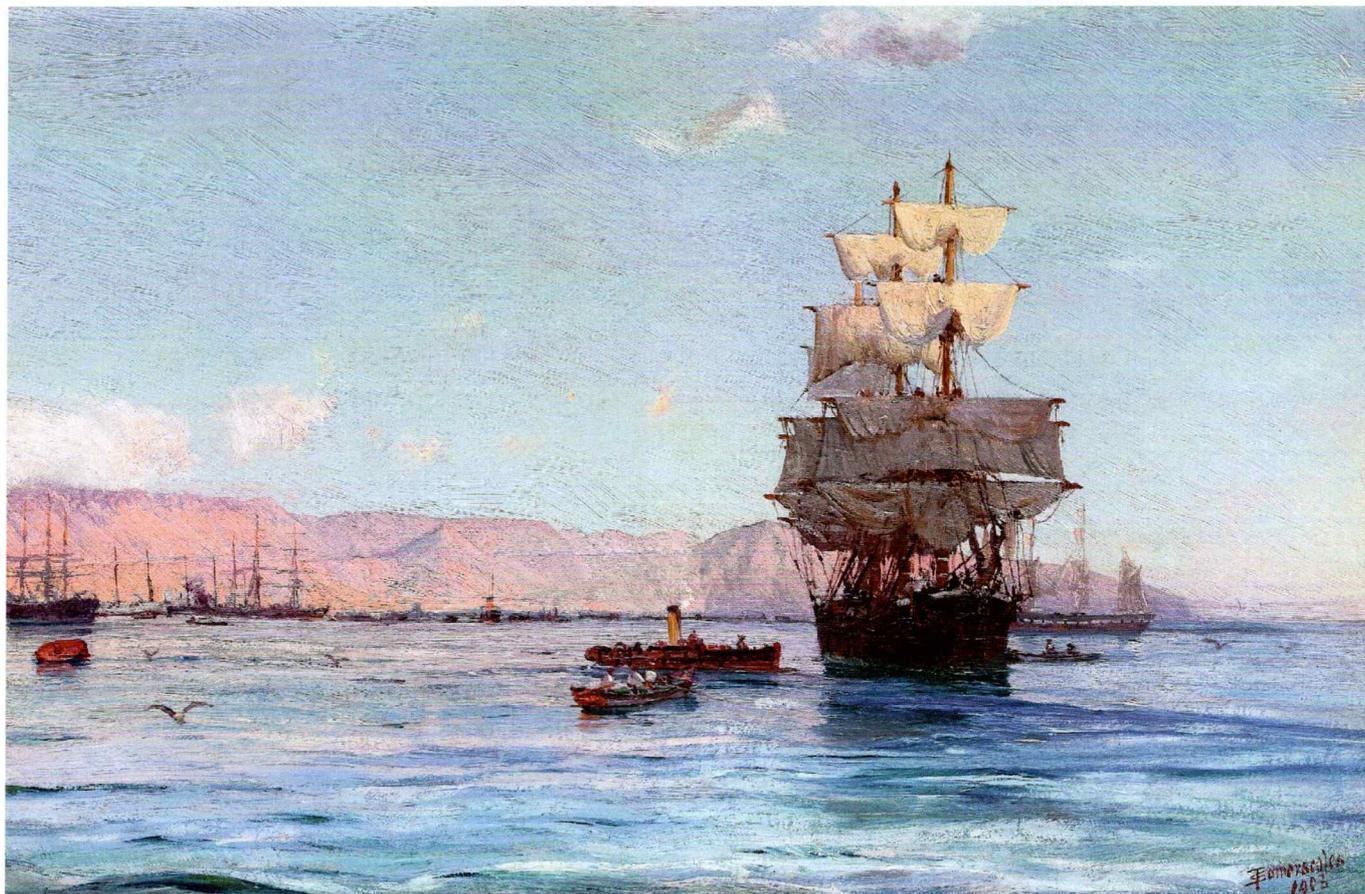
The oil on canvas painting by Thomas Somerscales (1842-1927) was auctioned at the Marine Sale on Thursday, 24th March in Bonham's, New Bond St. London.

Somerscales, a teacher from Hull with a raw artistic ability and talent, used to paint and teach drawing while working as a schoolmaster on board ships of the Royal Navy. The course of his life was changed when he contracted malaria in 1869 and had to be put ashore in Chile to recuperate. After his recovery, he decided to settle in Valparaíso and flourished as an artist. He started a school of painting, now the Somerscales Museum, and was an award-winner at the first international exposition held in Santiago in 1872. His twenty-three year stay in Chile came to an end in 1892 when he returned to England, where he was virtually unknown. His natural talent soon impressed the artistic community and critics alike. Seven years later his best-known painting, "Off Valparaíso", was hanging in the Tate Gallery.

However, he never lost his enthusiasm for Chile and his fascination of the Pacific coast, returning five times after leaving for England. It was in 1903 that he painted "Port of Iquique", depicting a vessel standing off Iquique against a backdrop of bare, lifeless hills. The ship, possibly German, was most likely engaged in the then very lucrative nitrate trade of shipping guano to Europe where it was a much sought-after natural fertiliser. This was the time of the mining boom, when Iquique played such an important role in the prosperity of the country.

This view of Iquique from the sea may well be one of a kind for Somerscales, who painted several panoramic views of Valparaíso and the Chilean landscape.

The painting which was expected to sell for between £12,000 and £18,000, actually went under the hammer for £24,000.



A view of the Port of Iquique.

DONATIONS

In July 2008 the Society donated US\$1000 to the Escuela Gran Bretaña in Valparaíso. This is a school for handicapped children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In September 2008 a donation of £1000 was made to Coaniquem which provides rehabilitation for children suffering from burns.

The British Embassy in Santiago supplied details of a charity in Iquique for the victims of domestic violence (Centro de Atención Familiar). The Executive Committee agreed to support this charity with a donation of £1000.

Requests for assistance to work for a year in Chile, teaching in poor schools, have been received from Miss C. Armour, Miss Natalie Bundy and Mr Ed Bligh. The Executive Committee agreed the sum of £250 for each applicant would be donated to Project Trust.

NEW MEMBERS

- Mr & Mrs David Bookman
- Mr Dalibor Eterovic & Ms Cassandra Sweet
- Mr Hugh Mead
- Mr & Mrs Andrew Morgan
- Mr & Mrs Eric Reynal
- Mr & Mrs John Rickus
- Mr Mario Valenzuela & Ms Milka Kukoc

BIRTHS

On 27th November 2008, to Tony and Claudia (née Iglesias) Dempster, a son, Maximilian (Max), a brother for Juliette Luciana.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Piano Concert by the Chilean Pianist Michio Nishihara-Toro at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, on 21st April 2009. This is a lunchtime concert of music by Chopin, Falla, Granados and Liszt. The programme commences at 1:00 p.m. and admission is free.

Guitar Recital at the Bolívar Hall, London, on Wednesday, 22nd April 2009 in aid of ALAF. The recital includes Spanish Music and Dance by Carlos Bonell and Friends.

Exhibition of Chilean Landscapes by Mr Andrew Mack at Canning House on 28th April 2009.

Chilean Asado at Winchester College cricket pavilion on 28th June 2009. (Provisional date – confirmation will be mailed to members.)

Normally the Society would have held a Dieciocho Dinner this year, and there would have been no Asado. However, it has been deemed more appropriate that 2010, the bicentenary of Chilean Independence, should be celebrated by a formal dinner. Thus, this year there will be a Dieciocho reception (the date and location to be advised later) and an Asado.