

CHILEAN NEWS



Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

www.anglochileansociety.org

62nd Year No. 368

London, March 2006

12 Devonshire Street London W1

DIECIOCHO CELEBRATIONS

At the Ambassador's Residence

A selected gathering of diplomats, parliamentarians, captains of industry and Chilean nationals attended the reception offered by H.E. Sr. Mariano Fernández and Sra. de Fernández on Monday, 19th September 2005 to celebrate Chile's National Day.



H.E. Sr. Mariano Fernández and Sra. de Fernández in the company of Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO CMG, Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps, and Mr. Rupert Goodman.



From left to right: Mr. Peter de Bruyne, Mr. Michael Cannon, Lord Lamont and the Mayor of Richmond, Mr. Robin Jowitt OBE.



From left to right: H.E. the Ambassador of Argentina, Sr. Federico Mirré, H.E. the Ambassador of Brazil, Senhor José Maurício Bustani, H.E. the Ambassador of Mexico, Sr. Juan José Bremer CVO, the Chargé d'affaires of Paraguay, Sra. María Cristina Acosta and H.E. the Ambassador of Perú, Sr. Luis Solari Tudela.



Sir Mark Moody-Stewart, Mr. Gonzalo Cuadra, Mr. Desmond O'Connor and guest.

The Dieciocho Dinner

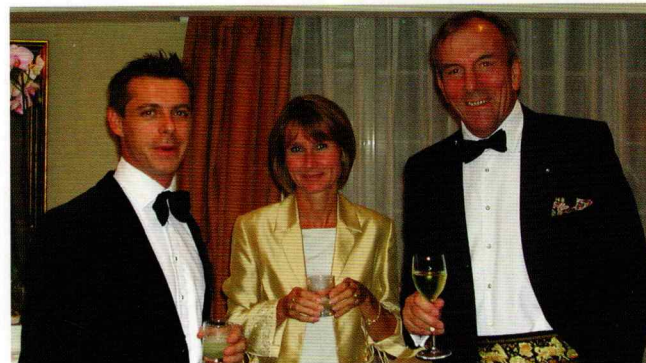
This was hosted by the Society in association with the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, 20th September 2005 at The Meliá White House Hotel, London NW1. (continued on page 2)



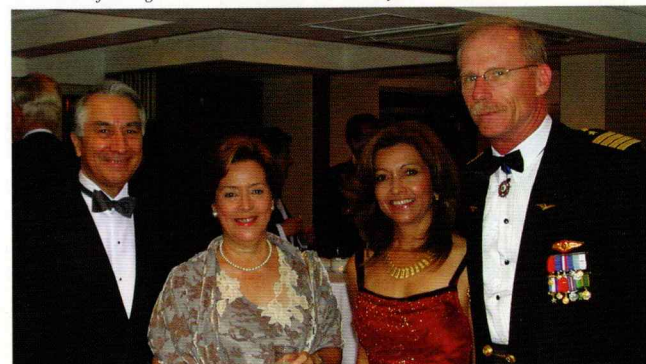
Lord Brennan, QC, giving his thank-you speech, with H.E. Sr. Mariano Fernández.



From left to right: Mr. David Pearson, Mr. Richard Wilkinson and Mr. Julian Amey.



From left to right: Mr. David Brennan, Mrs. Lynne Cox and Mr. Michael Cox.



From left to right: Mr. Luis Montero, Mrs. Norma Montero, Mrs. Priscilla Tilly and Group Captain (A) Hugo Tilly.

The Dieciocho Dinner (continued from page 1)

The evening started with a pisco-sour and "empanadita" reception during which H.E. Sr. Mariano Fernández, on behalf of the Chilean Government, honoured Lord Brennan, QC, with the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins for service and support to Chile.

Dinner began with an illustrated talk by Ms. Sarah Wicks of Viña Errázuriz, who explained the selection of wine that would be served with the menu. Toasts were proposed to the Queen by the Chilean Ambassador and to the President of Chile by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Vice-President of the Anglo-Chilean Society, who then proceeded to introduce the Guest Speaker, former Ambassador to Chile, Mr. Ricardo Wilkinson CVO.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr. Julian Amey on behalf of the Society.

The organisers wish to thank Antofagasta plc for sponsoring the event together with ProChile UK and Viña Errázuriz for the donation of pisco and wine, as well as to ASOEX (Asociación de Exportadores de Fruta) for providing the fruit for the dessert.

"THE 21ST CENTURY, A VIEW FROM THE SOUTH", BY RICARDO LAGOS

The launching of his book with a preface by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, took place on Tuesday, 11th October 2005 at the Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 George Street, Westminster. It was one of the several political and cultural engagements that outgoing President Lagos had during his visit to London.

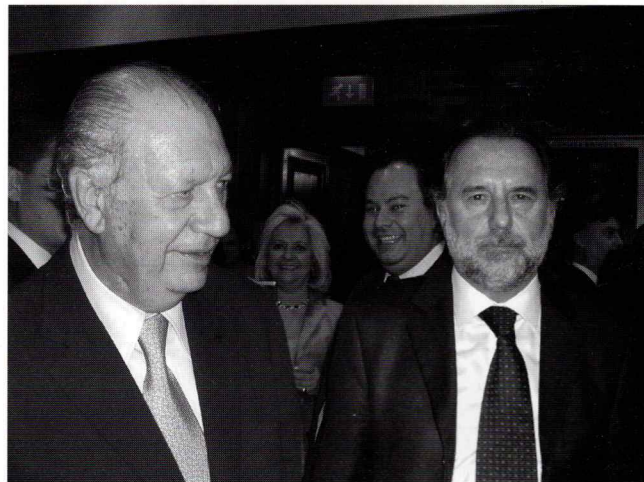
The event was hosted by FIRST, which publishes books on business strategy and government policy making.



Sir Patrick Cormark FSM MP, President of FIRST, introducing Sr. Ricardo Lagos.



Lord Triesman of Tottenham welcoming the outgoing President Ricardo Lagos to the UK.



Sr. Ricardo Lagos and H.E. Sr. Mariano Fernández.

THE SIR LESLIE BOWES MEMORIAL LECTURE

A capacity crowd attended the illustrated talk "Brothers in Arms" by Tom Hudson on Monday, 24th October 2005 at Canning House, based on his book that completes the trilogy on unsung heroes of the Wars of Independence of South America.

Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Vice-President of the Anglo-Chilean Society, initiated the proceedings by giving a brief biography of Sir Leslie and his close links with Latin America.

Mr. Hudson, with obvious enthusiasm for his subject, described the lives of the two "brothers", James Paroissien and John O'Brien, who went to South America in the early nineteenth century in search of adventure, which they certainly found, fighting with the revolutionary leader, San Martín. He held his audience spellbound to the end, and was justifiably rewarded with hearty applause.

Chilean wine, courtesy of Viña Concha y Toro, and snacks were served during the reception.

The event was given jointly by the Anglo-Argentine and Anglo-Chilean Societies.



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



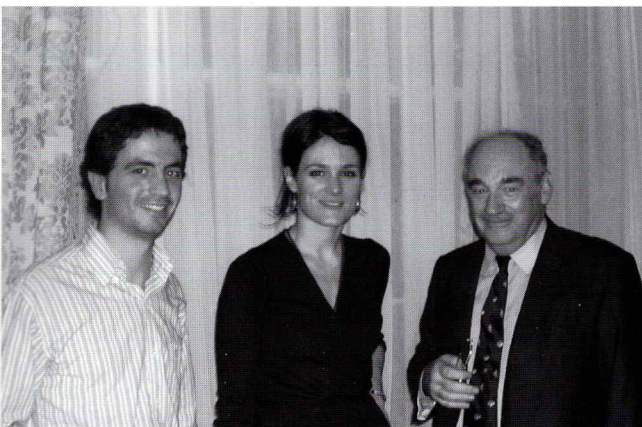
Mrs. Heather Bouche, Mr. David Bouche, Mrs. Henny Subercaseaux and Sir Humphrey Maud.



From left to right: Mr. Peter de Bruyne, Mr. Charles Bell, Mrs. Sheila Bell and Mr. Peter Schaad.



From left to right: Mr. Tim Street, Ms. Heather Van den Broucque and Mr. David Jewell.



From left to right: Mr. Mariano Machain, Ms. Claudia Munro-Kerr and Mr. Tim Rumboll.

A SAINT FOR CHILE

Thousands of Chilean pilgrims arrived at the Vatican on Sunday, 24th October 2005 to attend the canonisation of Father Alberto Hurtado, among them former Presidents, as well as political and religious authorities, members of the armed forces and representatives from the academic world.



Father Alberto Hurtado.

This historic ceremony was presided over by Pope Benedict XVI and was relayed to millions of Chileans via television and radio.

The Jesuit priest was born in Viña del Mar in 1901 into a very united and Christian family. When he was 4 years old his father died, and at the age of 8 he won a scholarship to study at the Colegio San Ignacio, before reading law at the Universidad Católica.

Even though he was an active member of the Conservative Party, his real vocation was the priesthood. He entered the Compañía de Jesús in 1923 and, after ten years of training, he was ordained in Belgium in 1933.

He died of cancer at the age of 51 and was buried in the Santuario of Padre Hurtado situated in the heart of Estación Central, Santiago, between the Hogar de Cristo and the Parish of Jesús Obrero, which is visited by thousands of worshippers every year.

Father Hurtado is the second Chilean to be so honoured. Santa Teresa de Jesús de Los Andes was canonised in Rome in 1993 by the late Pope John Paul II.

LATIN AMERICAN SONGS AT THE RESIDENCE

A sell-out performance was given by Mistysa, the stage name of the Chilean singer Tatiana Garrido, on 21st November 2005.

She was accompanied by the French pianist, composer and arranger Franck Monbaylet who started the programme with "Bulerías".

The repertoire, which included songs from Argentina, Chile and Venezuela, gave the singer the opportunity to display her powerful voice, full of emotion. This was especially so in "Gracias a la Vida" by Violeta Parra and "Aquí me quedo" with music by Victor Jara and lyrics by Pablo Neruda:

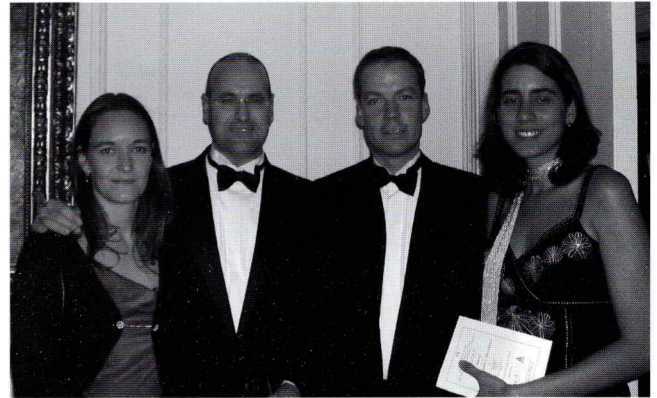
*"Yo no quiero patria dividida
cabemos todos en la patria mía."*

A reception of Chilean food and wine followed. The event, organised by the Embassy of Chile in association with the Anglo-Chilean Society and the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce, was sponsored by LAN and CMPC (Paper and Cardboard Manufacturing Company).

The proceeds of the evening were in aid of Fundación de Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles de Chile.



Mistysa and her accompanist, Frank Monbaylet



From left to right: Ms. Mary-Anne Nelson, Mr. Antonio Vaquero, Mr. Cristián León and Ms. Alejandra Hernández.

ART EXHIBITION

A private viewing of works by Angélica Peric (ARBS), Marcelo Larraín and Fernando Dowling was held on 28th November 2005, at the Embassy of Chile, 12 Devonshire Street, London W1.

The three graduates from Universidad de Chile have had exhibitions in South America, U.S. and Europe.

Angélica's sculptures have won prizes at home and abroad. In 1987 she was commissioned in Argentina to erect a monument in honour of the immigrants to Tierra del Fuego. The four metre monument stands facing the Pacific Ocean. Last year she became a member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors.

Marcelo Larraín and Fernando Dowling's paintings have also been very well received in galleries around the world. Marcelo specialises in still lifes, but also paints landscapes and the human figure. Fernando produces brightly coloured paintings whose creatures plunge the viewer into a space of life, energy and experiences.



From left to right: H.E. Sr. Mariano Fernández, Mrs. Priscilla Tilly, Mr. Richard Wilkinson and Group Captain (A) Hugo Tilly.



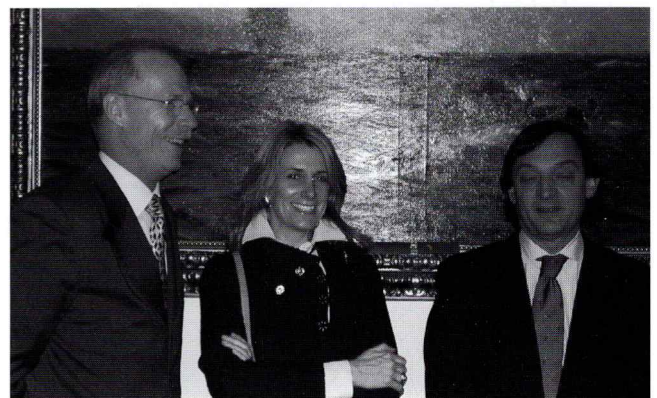
From left to right: Mr. Jonathan Heywood, Mrs. Liz Baldock, Mr. Keith Baldock and Mr. Claudio Ojeda.



Angélica Peric and Fernando Labra with, "Queen", one of her sculptures.



Mr. Brian Jones, Mrs. María Isabel Torres and Mrs. Magdalena Jones.



From left to right: Group Captain (A) Hugo Tilly, Mrs. Ana María de Undurraga and Mr. Isauro Torres.



Ms. Anna Wise and Ms. María Elvira Berho.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Chileans took to the polls on Sunday, 15th January 2005 to elect their first woman President. Michelle Bachelet, 53, a Socialist, doctor by profession and single mother of three, won in twelve of the thirteen regions of the country, obtaining 53.49% of the votes against 46.50% for Sebastián Piñera, her right-wing opponent. She becomes the first democratically elected woman President in South America and the fourth in Latin America after Violeta de Chamorro of Nicaragua, Mireya Moscoso of Panama and Janet Jagan of Guyana.

The Anglo-Chilean Society wishes all success to the new administration and continued prosperity for Chile.

NEW MILITARY ATTACHÉ TO THE EMBASSY IN LONDON

The new Military Attaché, Colonel Bosco Pesse, was born in Temuco, Chile, on 2nd July 1956. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1976 as a Second Lieutenant.

Colonel Pesse is a Staff Officer, a Military Lecturer on both "Intelligence" and "Military Security". He has taught at the School of Military Engineers, the School of Intelligence, the School of Non-Commissioned Officers, the Military Academy and the War College. He also has a degree in English as a Foreign Language and successfully completed a Course on Military Tactical Diving. He has a MBA in Military Sciences and a Diploma in Corporate Communications.

In 1996-97 as Lieutenant Colonel, he attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the British Army Command and Staff College in Camberley, United Kingdom.



Colonel Bosco Pesse

He has also been attached to the Chilean Base in Antarctica, the Military Academy and the Army Engineers Command. In 2000-01 he was Commandant of the 8th Regiment of Engineers and in 2002-03, Director of the School of Military Engineers.

In the years 2004-05 Colonel Pesse was the Commandant of the Chilean Army War College.

He is married to Patricia and they have two daughters, Daniela, currently studying Medicine, and Magdalena, studying Language Therapy.

A MAN AND HIS PASSION

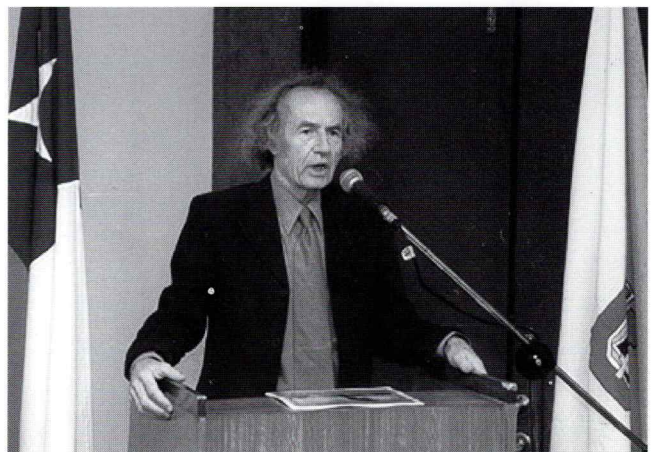
On 7th June 1976 Ian Bernard Thomson arrived in Chile as a Transport Consultant for CEPAL (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). During the subsequent 29 years he had the opportunity to participate in innumerable transport projects, both city-wide and suburban, as well as privatisations and regulatory matters in the transport sector.

But Ian's real passion is trains, especially the history of the railway in South America, so much so, that in 1986 he became President of the ACCPF (Asociación Chilena de Conservación del Patrimonio Ferroviario), an official organisation dedicated to the preservation of Chile's railway heritage. He held this post almost continuously until 1995, during which time he had the opportunity to organise many tourist trips including the "Expreso del Recuerdo", "Tren de la Araucanía", "Tren de las Américas", "El Porteño", and a series of train expeditions in the north of Chile.

Ian has also written many articles on the railways of various South American countries, as well as books such as "Red Norte: la historia de los ferrocarriles del norte chileno" (Northern Network: a history of the railways of northern Chile) and "Historia del Ferrocarril en Chile" (History of the Railway in Chile), co-written with his friend Dietrich Angerstein.

In March 2005, the Chilean Senate, in a secret ballot, decided by thirty-five votes for with only two against, to grant Ian Bernard Thomson Chilean Nationality in recognition of his unstinting support and selfless efforts in furthering the Chilean cultural patrimony.

Ian is the son of Ron and Jean Thomson, members of the Society.



Mr. Ian Thomson.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

This took place on 12th December 2005, at Canning House. The pre-dinner reception of pisco and wine with “empanaditas” was followed by a buffet of “pastel de choclo”, salads, and “torta mil hojas”, the pride of Chilean pâtisserie. As usual, Chilean wines were served throughout the evening.

The Christmas raffle had a double winner. Sra. Amelia Ibarra, a Chilean visitor to this country, won the star prize consisting of an overnight stay in a suite with Dinner for two at The Connaught, that most exclusive of hotels in Mayfair. She also won a case of fine Chilean wines donated by H.E. Sr. Mariano Fernández.

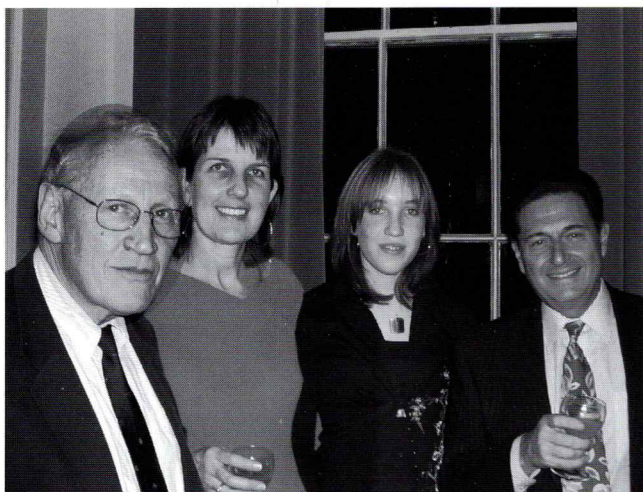
Tea for two in the elegant surroundings of The Dorchester was won by Mr. David Greene while Mr. & Mrs. Patricio Damm enjoyed dinner, courtesy of The Meliá White House Hotel, London NW1.

The case of Cousiño Macul Antiguas Reservas, donated by Jonathan Cook, found its way to Mr. John N. Hart in Harrogate. Other prizewinners were: Mr. Jonathan Callund, Mr. Peter Heap, Dr. Judith Hart, Group Captain (A) Hugo Tilly, Mr. M. A. Roberts, Mr. Christopher Oates, Ms. Jane Aylwin, Mr. Gonzalo Cuadra, Mr. Anthony Westnedge OBE, Mr. Christopher Hopewell, Ms. Viviana Muñoz and Ms. Gill Page.

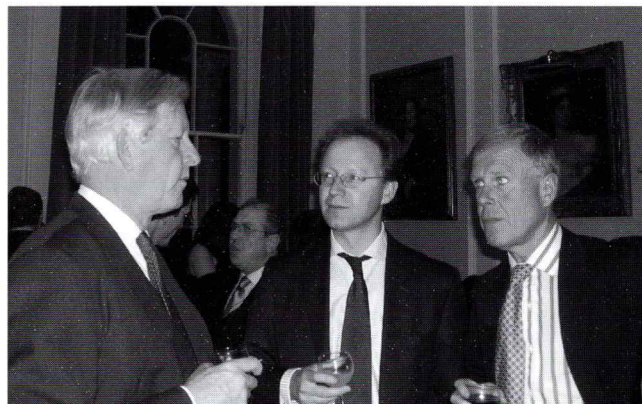
The Society thanks Casa Lapostolle and ProChile for their donation of wine and pisco.



Sra. Amelia Ibarra receiving the star prize from the Chairman, Mr. Julian Amey.



From left to right: Mr. Andrew Hurst, Dr. Heather Angus-Leppan, her daughter Kate, and Dr. Roberto Guilloff.



Mr. Desmond O'Conor and Mr. Alan Macdonald talking with a guest.



From left to right: Colonel Sergio Béjares, Mrs. Verónica Béjares and Mr. Cristián León



Mr. Isauro Torres, Mrs. Georgina Roberts, Mrs. María Isabel Torres, Mr. Peter Lydon, Mrs. Ingrid Lydon and Mrs. Henny Subercaseaux.

CHILE REVISITED

by Mr. Karl Stanek

On our way to the most northern and highest part of our trip to Chile, Lake Chungará at 4,570m on the border with Bolivia, we had an incredible and emotional encounter with a young woman who had been at school with our eldest daughter in Chuquicamata, around 40 years ago. She now lives with her husband and children in a deserted railway carriage in the middle of the Altiplano. Living a life of self-sufficiency, they make “pan amasado” (a rustic white bread), juices, honey, jam, etc., which they sell to passing travellers and truck drivers. They believe they are living the life of the future, today!

Travelling on down to Central Chile, we visited all the popular places along the coast and inland: Isla Negra and La Sebastiana in Valparaíso for Pablo Neruda, Monte Grande for Gabriela Mistral, Curacaví for the “chicha” (a local fermented drink), La Ligua for the “dulces” (pastries) and the

Elqui Valley for the pisco, where we learned to experiment with more exotic cocktails such as passion fruit and pisco. Delicious! And last, but not least, the world's most advanced observatory at Paranal with its four 8.2m mirrors giving a combined equivalent of a single 200m mirror, with real time compensation for the earth's atmosphere.

Independence Day was spent in a small quaint town, Combarbalá (IV Region), where we ate "empanadas", drank wine and watched the parade of the school children and local "society ladies" dressed in beautiful national costume.

My highlight of the far south was the awesome scenery around Torres del Paine. This was a dream come true, covering a three-day period. The first day was a fourteen-hour excursion from Puerto Natales to the Serrano and Balmaceda Glaciers, including 6 hours by raft following the Río Serrano to the Hostería Tyndall in the Torres del Paine National Park. Even the heavily overcast sky couldn't detract from the majestic scenery. A bus trip took us back to Puerto Natales, arriving at close to midnight. The next day we drove into the Torres del Paine National Park visiting all the tourist spots on the way to the Grey Glacier. Unfortunately, heavy rain prevented us taking a two-hour hike between Refugio Pudeto and Lago Nordenskjöld, so we headed for Cerro Castillo at the entrance to the park. Our overnight stop was at an "estancia" some 7km from Cerro Castillo over a grass track through fields of sheep and cattle, for which our hired Nissan Sentra was not really suitable!

On the third day we again visited the park. This time my intention was to hike from the Hostería Las Torres to just below the Mirador (viewpoint) de Torres del Paine, a distance of 11km and rising some 1,600m, which I calculated would take approximately 5 hours. Although returning hikers complained of wasting eight hours because the Torres were hidden by clouds, I pressed on, and after a strenuous hike, arrived at Campamento Chileno, a short distance from the actual Mirador. Although I had originally planned to return at this point (there was an "asado al palo" being prepared at the estancia), other hikers reported having seen the Torres, so I continued, climbing almost vertically for an hour to be rewarded with a view of breathtaking beauty, even without the sunshine. After a short rest I returned to the Hostería and back to the estancia as snow started to fall, finally arriving around 10p.m. and too late for the "asado"!

Travelling on down south, we took a cruise from Punta Arenas on the "Norwegian Crown", arriving back at that port early in the morning of Christmas Eve. After a casual walk around the centre, we took a taxi ride to Fort Bulnes where the first settlers arrived. On the way we passed an obelisk indicating the geographical middle of Chile. Back in Punta Arenas we visited Sotito's restaurant to have the famous Chilean "centolla" (king crab) with a bottle of fine Chilean wine. Back on the cruise ship we attended Christmas Mass offered by a local priest in English and Spanish, with music provided by a girl with the voice of an angel.

On Christmas Day we sailed through the Beagle Channel with countless beautiful glaciers emptying into the narrow channel. Around 11a.m. we arrived at Ushuaia, Argentina, quaintly located at the foot of a mountain range. Here we visited the southern end of the Pan American Highway at Bahía La Pataia, 17,848km from the northern end in Alaska! Next day, we fulfilled what must be every sailor's dream and sailed round Cape Horn. I was expecting 50ft swells and hurricane force winds, but the reality was 5ft waves, light

winds and rain. However, I did have the "Horn Initiation" of having water from the three oceans poured over my head!

(Mr. Karl Stanek worked in the Chuquicamata Copper Mine in charge of the telephone network, in the early 60's. He now lives with his Chilean wife and family in the US.)

FAREWELL REUNION

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London said goodbye to its Honorary President, Sra. María Angélica (Keka) de Fernández, on the occasion of her return to Chile. A very supportive and much loved member of the group, she will be sadly missed by the many friends she made while accompanying her husband, the Ambassador of Chile. The lunch was hosted by Mrs. Carmen Troup at her South Kensington residence and a gift consisting of a pair of bone china vases was presented to the guest of honour.



Mrs. María Angélica Fernández sitting between Mrs. Carmen Troup and Mrs. Rita Phillips, with Mrs. Henny Subercaseaux standing behind.



From left to right: Mrs. Georgina Roberts, Mrs. Ingrid Lydon, Mrs. Valentina Carmona and Mrs. Liliana Cerda.



From left to right: Mrs. Patricia Pesse and Mrs. Vicky Le May.



From left to right: Mrs. María Isabel Torres, Mrs. Vicky Le May, Mrs. Alejandra Novoa, Mrs. Verónica Jaques and Mrs. Carmen Pearson.

DONATIONS

A donation of four hospital beds complete with linen and night tables, was handed over on Friday, 6th January to "El Hogar de la Madre Campesina" in Ancud, (X Region) by Mrs. Mónica Ojeda on behalf of the Group of Chilean Ladies in London.

Ancud, one of the two largest towns on the island of Chiloé is in an area of great natural beauty, but is one of Chile's poorest regions. The "Hogar" is attached to the Ancud Regional Hospital and provides accommodation for expectant mothers from the nearby islands who have come to give birth. Many have to travel large distances by land and sea to arrive at the hospital. Until recently, the Hogar had two dormitories with four places, so these extra beds should considerably improve the attention available for the islanders.



Mrs. Mónica Ojeda receiving a bouquet of gladioli and the heartfelt thanks of the hospital staff and members of the Comité de Damas Leonas in Ancud.

TWENTY YEARS OF SUPPORT TO CHILE

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London is celebrating twenty years of charitable work for Chile.

It was formed in 1986 by Sra. Marta de Silva, wife of the then Chilean Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Sr. Mario Silva Concha, and is continued till this day by Mrs. Georgina Roberts with the help of a formidable group of women. This would not have been possible without the core of permanent residents together with those who are temporarily living here, accompanying their husbands, either in diplomatic missions or working with UK-based companies.

The dues paid at the monthly meetings provide the funds to go in aid of charities such as Fundación del Cáncer de Santiago, COANIL (Fundación de Ayuda al Niño Limitado), Old People's Home in Antofagasta, Refugio de Cristo in Valparaíso and Rural Schools in the Elqui Valley.

In 1987 clothes, blankets and medicines were collected on behalf of the victims of floods and earthquakes and in 1988 ALAF (Anglo-Latin American Fiesta) received a donation of £600 to help the Children of Latin America.

In 1991 the then First Lady, Sra. Leonor de Aylwin, received seven sewing machines for the Talleres de Trabajo (workshops) in Santiago. The same year the torrential rains and landslides that devastated Antofagasta prompted the Group of the Chilean Ladies to send 120 boxes with clothes and blankets with the help of the Chilean Air Force Mission in London.

In 1995 the Luis Calvo MacKenna Hospital in Santiago was the recipient of a Personal Computer to be used to maintain a database for the administration of drugs to children suffering from cancer.

In 1996 funds were used to help the Centre Los Jasmínes (jasmine) de COANIL, with the purchase of two medical pumps to be used to clear the lungs of excessive secretions.

In 1998, boxes with clothes were sent to both the aged helped by CONAPRAN (Consejo de Protección a la Ancianidad), and the children of the Centro Los Ceibos de COANIL in Colina. Once again transport was provided by the Chilean Air Force Mission in London. The same year, stainless steel tables were donated to help with the reconstruction of the kitchen of the Centre Los Ceibos in Colina, which had been destroyed by a fire in 1997 resulting in the death of 31 children.

In the year 2000 four hospital beds were donated to an Old People's Home run by CONAPRAN in La Reina, Santiago, and complemented with motorised surgical mattresses a year later.

In 2003, two rural schools in Curicó and Linares (VII Region) received computers and scanners and a third school in Ranchillos (VII Region) had a beautiful Christmas Party, courtesy of the Group of the Chilean Ladies.

In 2004 the town of Curacaví, (about 60km from Viña del Mar), received two computers for both the school and the Cultural Corporation. On this occasion the offer of help with transportation came from the Chilean Naval Mission in London. Also, the Hogar San Ricardo in Batuco (a rural district, 25km from Santiago) was the beneficiary of medicines to help with the caring of 160 mentally deficient youngsters. The same donation was repeated in 2005, and the rural school in Ranchillos received 30 children's books in Spanish to form a small library.

The year ended with the donation of audio-visual equipment for a Centre for Training and Rehabilitation in Quillota (V Region).

"El Hogar de la Madre Campesina" (Home for Expectant Mothers) in Ancud (X Region) has just been the beneficiary of the first donation of 2006, four hospital beds, complete with linen and night tables.

For the last three years, the group has been fortunate to count with the wholehearted support and co-operation of its Honorary President, Sra. María Angélica de Fernández, wife of H.E. the Chilean Ambassador.

TRAVELBAG

Christmas in Arizona

John & Alicia Rickus reporting for the Chilean News

It is snowing somewhere but definitely not here in

Southern Arizona where the daily temperature hits 25 degrees. Fortunately this is cold enough for the rattlesnakes and scorpions to go into hibernation so we don't have to worry about inviting them for Christmas dinner! We managed to organise our new house before our son Steven arrived from boarding school in England and his elder brother, Paul, arrived from Amsterdam.

Christmas here is similar to Christmas in U.K. except for the temperature, of course. Meanwhile, the rest of North America is in the grip of ice and snow and those who can escape the frozen north head down to Arizona. They are known as snowbirds, but this is politically incorrect so we are learning to call these refugees "winter visitors".

Shortly after Christmas we headed off on a trip to San Antonio, Texas, to meet some friends who live just around the corner from us in London. It takes two days to drive, one to El Paso and the next day halfway across Texas; it is huge! What a surprise! San Antonio has an attractive centre and some soul around a river system called the Riverwalk. We can recommend San Antonio as a place to visit and while you are there take in the Alamo.

From Russia with Love

by Jeff & Angélica Gamblen

Landing in Moscow just before Christmas was a fantastic experience. The traffic is close to being gridlocked during the working day and the roads turn into race tracks at night, but the presence of snow on the streets kept many exotic cars such as H2 Hummers, Ferraris and Bentleys safely locked in their garages.

We took our own decorations for the Christmas tree and shared Christmas Day as a family. Finding a turkey is not as easy as you might think! After opening our presents we went to the park next to the hotel to enjoy the snow and the chilly -7°C temperature. We ate a traditional Christmas dinner then went to Red Square to absorb the atmosphere. A truly stunning place, with additional appeal when the fir trees around the Kremlin are laden with snow. The Gum department store on Red Square is also beautifully decorated with lights on the outside and fantastic clothing shops on the inside. Russia is one of the few places in the world where natural fur coats are not only acceptable but almost necessary protection against the cold – necessary for the next part of our journey which took us to Irkutsk in East Siberia for January 1st at a mere -28°C!

Fröhliche Weihnachten!

by Ester Toro, Saarland, Germany

We have entered December, the month with the shortest days and longest nights. The schoolchildren start the day before daybreak and return home in the dark. Candles can be seen everywhere, lighting living rooms and dining rooms after dusk on the days leading up to Christmas. Large amounts of home-made cookies are consumed at this time of the year, as well. I know of someone who can make sixteen different varieties!

The Christmas Fair or "Weihnachtsmarkt" plays an important rôle in many cities, towns and villages. A profusely decorated Christmas tree forms the focal point in the main square, surrounded by stalls selling everything from mulled wine to candles and Christmas decorations. The first German Christmas market originated in Dresden, still home of the famous handmade wooden figures (angels, toy orchestras, etc.)

The most well-known Christmas Fair is that of Nuremberg, held in an open space surrounded by marvellous

old churches. This is no place for plastic! Typical products are the figures made from dried prunes, the "rauschengel" (finely-made angels) and the famous "lebkuchen", a thick, cakelike cookie which is speciality of the town. It is essentially gingerbread, sweetened by honey, full of spices, citron and almonds. It has been produced for many centuries, is baked in decorative molds, and is very popular throughout Germany.

All these celebrations begin on the 1st Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. People make or buy a wreath of fresh pine branches with four large candles and light the first candle on the first Sunday. On each consecutive Sunday, another candle is lit so that by Christmas all four are burning.

This year has seen a bitterly cold December with lots of snow, but just to be able to feel the warmth of the family gathering and see the garden turned completely white underneath a brilliant moon touches me profoundly. On Christmas Eve all businesses close at 2p.m. and a deep peace settles over the town centres, except for the church bells welcoming the Christmas season.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

from El Observador, Quillota, 8 de noviembre 2005

Valioso aporte realizaron desde Londres para Centro de Capacitación Quillotano.

"El Centro de Capacitación y Rehabilitación 'Dr. Carlos Urrutia', recibió una valiosa donación del Círculo de Damas de Chile en Londres, representado por la Sra. Angélica de Gamblen, y consistente en un televisor, un DVD, un equipo de música y un micrófono vocal, equipamiento que permitirá generar en los jóvenes aprendizajes más significativos y funcionales para la vida. El Centro funciona desde el año 1992 y es una Institución sin fines de lucro que atiende a jóvenes con deficiencia mental en sus grados leve, moderado y severo, pertenecientes a familias de escasos recursos."

(Valuable contribution from London to a Training Centre in Quillota)

The Group of Chilean Ladies in London donated audio-visual equipment consisting of a television, a DVD and VHS player, a component HiFi system for CD and radio, as well as a microphone to the Centre of Training and Rehabilitation 'Dr. Carlos Urrutia', situated in Quillota (V Region). The Centre is a non-profit organisation and has been in existence since 1992, training young men from poor backgrounds with varying degrees of mental handicap. The equipment will allow more practical and meaningful training in preparing them for life.)

Ancud, 17 de enero de 2006.

Señora
Mónica de Ojeda
Presente

Estimada señora:

Saludamos muy cordialmente a usted y queremos hacer llegar nuestros mas cálidos agradecimientos al grupo de Damas Chilenas residentes en Londres por su valiosa iniciativa de ayudar al más desposeído, su colaboración fue de gran valor para el hogar de la madre campesina, lo que hizo posible implementar dos dormitorios, ya que en estos lugares tan apartados de los centros médicos tener un lugar de acogida es muy importante y valioso.

Sin otro particular saludamos a Usted y demás señoras residentes en Londres, reiteramos nuestros agradecimientos.

Saluda atentamente.

Presidenta Comité de Damas Leonas

(Dear Mrs. Ojeda,

We wish to send our heartfelt thanks to the Group of Chilean Ladies in London for their donation to the Hogar de la Madre Campesina (Home for Expectant Mothers) which enabled us to furnish two bedrooms, as it is very important for patients who live far away from the medical centre to have a welcoming place of reception.

President, Lions Club – Ladies Committee

FOOD AND DRINK

BBC Food and Drink Show

London got Christmas started with the Food and Drink Show, held once again at Earl's Court. It was a chance to see the country's finest chefs in action as well as hear wine experts teaching how to match the finest wines to the appropriate dishes. Long queues formed to get tickets for the Festive Tasting Theatre where Oz Clarke, an authority in wines, gave several lectures inviting the public to "Discover Chile and its Wines". Nearby, "Wines of Chile" was attracting great numbers of visitors to its striking island stand whose four sides had enormous posters depicting a vineyard, "huasos" (Chilean cowboys), the Osorno Volcano and the majestic peaks of Torres del Paine in all their glory. A large variety of wines were available for tasting.



Wines of Chile stand, general view.



Wines of Chile stand with the Orsono Volcano poster.

"Keep it clean and remember, no full measures"

by Robin Young, The Times, 16th April 2005

To taste wines at their best, to enjoy all their flavours and aromas and to appreciate their tints and texture, it is necessary to use glasses designed for the purpose. The greatest wine will smack of dross from a plastic beaker, while a modest £3.99 bottle may well impress when served in a decent glass.

The ideal wine glass is a generous tulip shape made of fine, clear and uncoloured glass. It should have a slender stem and preferably no rolled lip at the rim. When the wine is poured at least a third of the glass, and preferably a half, should be left unfilled so that there is plenty of room in the glass for the wine's aromas, which are vital to its organoleptic appreciation. In other words there should be enough room in the glass for the drinker's nose to sniff and appreciate the wine's bouquet.

The only other absolute necessity is that the glass should be 100 per cent clean and untainted with alien aromas. That means it must be washed in hot, clean water, without detergent, and wiped and polished dry while still hot with cloths reserved for the glasses.

When put away, glasses should never be set upside down on the shelf. The air trapped inside will go stale and the musty smell that accumulates as a result can be disastrous to a wine's enjoyment and stubborn to disperse.

In these days of washing machines and industrial cleaning products it is all too common, even in top restaurants and professional wine tastings, to encounter glasses that are tainted. It is wise to sniff all glasses before anything, wine or water, is put in them, and to send them away if they smell even mildly offensive. More good advice: use your table napkin to clean your lips after eating and before raising your glass. This is almost invariable practice in France, yet hardly ever seen in Britain where people seem to have little appreciation that the scent of foods and sauces will cling to the glass, and quite probably conflict with following courses. The resulting off-flavours are especially damaging when fish or cheese starters are followed by a meat to be accompanied with the same wine.

For few households, though, does a policy of one glass fits all suffice. Most people use larger glasses for red wines than white, and smaller glasses for sweet wine than dry. Most will also have especially tall, thin glasses to display and prolong the bubbles in champagne and sparkling wines. Then there is a convention that wines for burgundy are more bulbous. It is possible, though, to carry things much further, with glasses specially designed to set off to maximum advantage the particular properties and qualities of any individual type of wine.

Riedel, the Bohemian crystal maker, was the first to make a speciality of designing glasses for identified types of wine. Now many of their new designs are developed in Cupertino with winemakers. The latest addition is a glass for Australian shiraz, developed with Penfold's.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Latin-American Societies' Golf Tournament will take place again this year at The West Surrey Golf Club, Eton, Nr. Godalming, Surrey, on Friday, 2nd June 2006. As usual it will consist of 18 holes of golf (three-ball Stableford) preceded by coffee on arrival and followed by lunch and prizes. The cost has yet to be finalised will be in the order of £65 for the day. The event is open to Ladies and Gentlemen as well as guests. Any non-golfer wishing to attend the lunch and just pay for lunch would also be most welcome.

Application forms with complete details will be available early May from: The Secretary, The Anglo- Argentine Society, No 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1 8PJ.

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement was announced between Miss Paulette Roberts and Mr. David McInnes on 1st September 2005. A summer wedding is planned in France.

The engagement was announced between Miss Katherine Tilly and Mr. Sebastián Córdoba on 23rd September 2005. The wedding will take place in Chile.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Meehan, a long-standing member of the Society. He lost his fight with cancer on 27th November 2005 at the age of 71.

John was born in Brentwood, Essex in 1934. He studied at Brentwood School and, following his National Service, in 1954, he read History at St. John's College, Cambridge. While at University he was editor of "Varsity", as well as having short stories published in the Boy Scouts magazine.

One of John's ambitions was to travel and experience life abroad. Contracted by the British Council he set off for Chile soon after graduating. Thus began his lifelong connection with, and passion for, the Spanish language and South America, where he led a distinguished career. His first post was teaching at the Grange School in Santiago (1958-1961). It was during this time he married his Chilean wife, Paula. He then returned to England and taught at Forest School, Essex for a year (1961-1962) before returning to the Grange (1963-1965). Subsequently, while employed by the British Council in Chile, John became Director of the British Chilean Institute of Culture in Concepción during which time he was also appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Concepción (1965-1976).

In order to pursue his professional interest in language John finished an MA in Applied Linguistics (1973-1974) at Essex University after which he returned briefly to Concepción. He followed these studies up again in 1984 at the Institute of Education, University of London.

His next major professional move was to Caracas, Venezuela, where he spent ten happy and fruitful years from 1978-88 as full time lecturer at the Simón Bolívar University where he attained a Professorship.

As well as numerous academic papers, John also had two books published when in Chile: "With Darwin in Chile" (London: Frederick Muller) translated into Spanish: "Con Darwin en Chile" (Buenos Aires: Francisco de Acuirre, 1971) and "South American Fairy Tales" (Frederick Muller, London, 1970)

Back in England (1988) he continued enjoying his main interests: writing, reading, doing research, walking and cooking.

He is survived by his wife, his children Paul, Jane, Julia and Susan, and six grand-children. He is sadly missed by his family, and kindly remembered by friends, colleagues and former students in England, Chile and Venezuela.

His incisive mind, intellectual curiosity and keen sense of humour made him a most stimulating companion.



Mr. John Meehan

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Classical Guitar Concert by José Antonio Escobar at the Residence on 13th March.

AGM at the Embassy of Chile, 12 Devonshire Street, London W1 on 23rd March.

Piano Recital by Michio Nishihara at the Royal Festival Hall on 5th May.

The Latin-American Societies Golf Tournament on Friday, 2nd June.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Paul Gough
Ms. Sheila McMenamin
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Jones
Ms. Diane Jones
Mr. David McInnes & Ms. Paulette Roberts
Mr. Mariano Machain
Mr. Christopher Mutlow
Ms. Eve Peddle
Mr & Mrs Silva-Rozzi (BBVA)
Mr. Richard Wilkinson (Life)
Corporate Member - Wines of Chile

M

SPANISH – CHILEAN STYLE

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

- Coima - A bribe.
- Cola de mono - Alcoholic drink made with aguardiente, milk, coffee and cinnamon.
- Como el forro - (synonym: Como la mona) "lousy", very bad..
- Como Dios manda - To a "T", to do something perfectly.
- Concho - The small amount of liquid that remains in a bottle, the dregs; the youngest child in a family, especially when he/she is much younger than the others.
- Cuña - A contact with someone or in some place so as to receive special treatment or privileges.
- Dar bola - (synonym: Dar boleto) To pay attention to someone or something.
- Dar bote - To not understand anything, especially in school.
- Dar filo - To reject. To end a romantic relationship, to "dump" someone.
- Dar vuelta la página - To undergo a radical change. To begin a new "chapter" (in life, affairs, etc.).

- De chincol a jote - Everybody.
- De pé a pá - Complete, from beginning to end, from A to Z.
- De película - Excellent
- De perillas - Excellent. Something very suitable or opportune.

ERRATUM

In Issue 367, October 2005, in the article on the INTERNATIONAL SPRING FAIR, we printed a photograph, captioned as Mrs. M. Angélica Damm with Councillor Warwick Lightfoot. Mrs. Damm is actually with the Mayor, Councillor Barry Phelps.

We apologise for any confusion or offence that may have been caused by this error.

Readers who wish to purchase any of the photographs appearing in this issue should contact the Editor, Chilean News, telephone 020-8398-9448. Prices start at £1.50 for a standard 6 in. by 4 in. print.



ISLA MONITA
Fishing Lodge



Lago Yelcho
PATAGONIA - CHILE

*"Excellent fishing in varied waters in spectacular surroundings.
Facilities were top notch and the food superb."
John Shanley. New York*

FISHING SERVICES

- Drift boats
- Float tubes
- International guides
- Jet boats
- 15 motor and rowing boats
- Lago Yelcho's top lodge

LODGE SERVICES

- Accommodation for 10
- Free bar (open bar policy)
- Large relaxing sitting room
- Open log fireplace
- Ample wine cellar
- International cuisine

The best fly-fishing in Patagonia

See our website: www.islamonita.cl

For any enquiries or to make your reservations please call or fax
Christopher Brown or Rebeca Coronado on (56-2) 273 2198 (Tel.) or (56-2) 275 1898 (Fax)