

CHILEAN NEWS

Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - John Naylor

53rd Year No. 352

London, June 1997

12 Devonshire Street London W1

EDITOR'S NOTE

Your Chilean News is being published later than usual due to the editor's visit to Australia. A two months stay was planned covering the Christmas holidays, but events dictated otherwise, and I stayed for just short of six months. Apologies are in order.

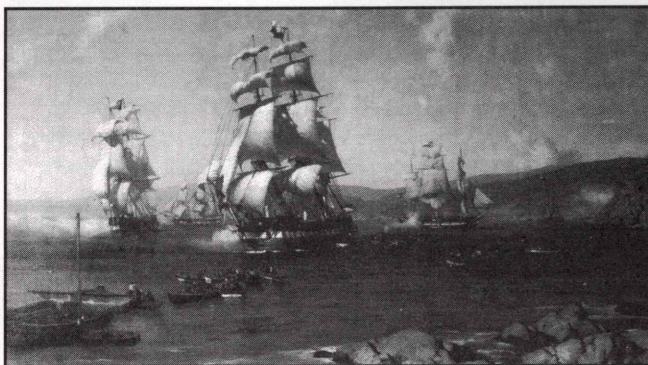
THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION "LORD COCHRANE IN CHILE: IN THE ADMIRAL'S FOOTSTEPS"

Hosted by HE Sr Mario Artaza and Admiral Arancibia, Head of the Chilean Naval Mission and in the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh was held in the Bolivar Hall, 52-54 Grafton Way - W1 on May 12th. It was followed by a reception. The exhibition will remain open until May 31st - 10.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Saturday.

H.E.Sr.Mario Artaza summed up the character and exploits of Admiral Cochrane in the following words:



The Ambassador delivering his address - l to r
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, H.E. Sr Mario Artaza
and the Venezuelan Ambassador H.E. Sr Roy Chaderton-Matos



"First National Squadron Weighing Anchor"
Thomas Somerscales, 1910

To think about Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane, Tenth Earl of Dundonald, is to recreate an image of fierce combats and courage, of unbridled boldness, of unfurled sails barely visible in the smoke of blazing guns, of surprise attacks, unexpected manoeuvring, in one word, of heroism. And it is an image which comes very close to historical reality.

Cochrane was a very complex man and very controversial in his time. Of strong character and deeply passionate, he was, above all things, a great seaman. That was the main quality that shone during his early years with the Royal Navy, a quality he

placed, unconditionally, at the service of the new Republic of Chile.

During four years, from 1818 to 1822, he was Vice Admiral and Commander in Chief of the naval forces of Chile, a country that had recently gained its independence, which ought to be consolidated and strengthened vis a vis a colonial power that still maintained strong bases in the South and had large territories under its control in the Pacific. During those four years he wrote incredible pages of daring and victories, of dash and fearlessness, helping to create a naval destiny for a country which was born for the sea, with a coastline almost five thousand kilometres long looking out over an Ocean which connected it with the regions of the greatest economical potential in the world.

It is clearly fitting to commemorate Cochrane, his times and his heritage, here in London. For the Chilean people, this figure represents an unbreakable link with Great Britain. His example and his lessons of daring and tenacity left a deep imprint on our Navy, helping to forge traditions and attitudes which have been reinforced by the testimony and sacrifice of many heroes in the course of years.

His war exploits are legendary. One need only remember the capture of the "Esmeralda", moored under the protection of the powerful guns of the forts of Callao, the conquest of Valdivia, defended by several forts which were considered impregnable, his cruising in the Pacific which took him as far as the coasts of Mexico, the actions of the feat which brought liberty to Peru, its ships proudly carrying the Chilean flag and manned by Chilean crews. All of them are heroic deeds which found many followers in other times and facing others challenges. Two maritime nations were joined by the example and the glory of this Lord born in Annsfield, Lanark, in the year 1775. It is also appropriate to remember that among the first ships of our Navy, the "Lautaro" and the "San Martin" carried before the name of "Windham" and "Cumberland" under the Union Jack, thus establishing another tradition, kept up by many ships built in British shipyards which were bought to serve under the flag of the Lone Star. Several of them were named "Cochrane".

When Cochrane left Chile, a country which had bestowed upon him the greatest of all honours, that of nationality, he sent a message of the greatest importance to new compatriots, a message which does him justice. They are simple and heartfelt sentences: "Chileans, my fellow compatriots, you have expelled from your country the enemies of your independence; do not stain such a Glorious act by sowing discord and promoting anarchy, the greatest of all evils. Four years ago the sacred cause of your independence called me to Chile. I have helped you to obtain it. I have seen it triumph. All that is left now is to preserve it. You know that independence is gained at sword point, but you also have to know that freedom is based on good faith and the laws of honour and those who break them are your enemies". It was the message of a statesman.

Many institutions and the work of many people have made possible this exhibition which honours Cochrane and his life in Chile. Our gratitude goes to all of them, because with their efforts they have kept alive and current the memory of the sailor, thus helping to strengthen the friendship between Chile and the United Kingdom.

THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE CHILEAN NAVY IN THE XX CENTURY.

The Royal Navy has exercised a strong and steady influence over the Chilean Navy throughout the present century. At its outset England built several fortified cruisers for Chile starting with the "Esmeralda". Then, shortly after the first World War, the battleship "Almirante Latorre", a veteran of Jutland, served in the Chilean Navy for around forty years. Today the characteristic bows of frigates of the "Leander" class and destroyers of the "County" class are familiar in Valparaiso and Chilean naval bases.

There is also a strong moral link and Chilean naval traditions hold on to much of their British influence, which is reflected even in the uniform of our sailors. According to oral tradition the three white stripes which adorn their collar come from a tradition which arose during the early years of the Chilean Navy and correspond to Nelson's victories in Copenhagen, Aboukir and Trafalgar. The Royal Navy provided the framework around which the Chilean Navy was structured, cementing the union between a young and brave nation and a centuries old, glorious navy.

The traditions are also kept alive by many of the ships named after illustrious English seamen and Chileans of English descent; the submarines "Thompson", "O'Brien" and "Hyatt", the helicopter carrier and destroyer "Cochrane" and the missile destroyer "Admiral Williams".

EVENTS

THE SIR LESLIE BOWES MEMORIAL LECTURE was held at Canning House on 31st October, followed by a glass of wine. The speaker was Julia Crossley and her talk was entitled "The Uttermost Part of the Earth". She crewed a sailing ship from New Zealand to Punta Arenas, and there she ran sailing voyages to the archipelago and channels of southernmost Chile, and explored the hinterland of Chile's Antarctica and Atacama extremities.

She has submitted a brief account of in her life, beginning with her early upbringing in the freedom of Kenya, which without doubt bred her love of adventure.

JULIA CROSSLEY - A SHORT HISTORY

Born in 1960 in Eldoret, Kenya. My parents had a mixed farm in the highlands 9000 feet above sea level. I grew up with the freedom of space with wildlife at my doorstep, servants, horses, tennis and sailing.

My father went to Kenya in 1938 to seek his fortune and escape a rather dull life working in the family business - Crossley Carpets - in Halifax. He spent his childhood in Somerlyton, Suffolk and was educated at Stowe. The first few years in Kenya he worked on various farms before joining the King's African Rifles in 1943, which took him to Burma, Ethiopia and the Sudan. On his return from the war he met my mother sailing on the dam he built below our farm. My mother was born in Kenya and was a true African. Her father had also managed to escape a rather organised life in Scotland where he attended Fettes, and discovered life as an accountant was not what he wanted. He left for Kenya in 1918 where he met my Grandmother a year later. Flora McDonald, born in South Africa, sailed up to Mombasa with her family to take advantage of the vast areas of land available for farming.

From an early age I ran wild and attended a very strict boarding school from the age of six. This only made me want to rebel even more. After six years boarding at Kaptagat Prep School I was sent to Headington Girls School just outside of Oxford. This was a huge shock to my system as I had never been out of Kenya. My sister was supposed to look after me and I remember my first experience of buying a train ticket and being absolutely terrified of all the people, noise and not knowing which ticket to buy. I loved the school as I was a good athlete and joined all the teams I could. I found the English girls rather different and

always worrying about what they ate! Having come from a boarding school in Kenya where we were starved as all the food went "out the back door" and we didn't have one fat person in the school. So for me in England the food was wonderful and I could eat everyone else's fishfingers.

This all came to an end rapidly as times in Kenya after independence was becoming more difficult for my parents. The black problem and the fear of losing the farm were ever present. Educating three children abroad was also quite difficult. The Kenyan government in 1973 asked my father to sell up, and he had no choice in the matter. The family moved to Queensland, Australia where we bought a rundown dairy farm and started a new life. Very difficult as they had to do everything themselves. I was taken away from my school and finished my education in Queensland.

I never really settled in Australia, always yearning for Africa and the life we left behind. As soon as I left college I went back to Kenya, teaching in Nairobi for a year. Realising my love for the bush and travelling and the fact that my Swahili was fluent I joined an American Travel Organisation (Alumni Flights Abroad) which took me to Lake Manyara National Park, Ngorongoro Crater (8th Natural Wonder of the world) and the famous Serengeti which is now a world Heritage site. By this time I was becoming a keen photographer

After four years in Kenya and Tanzania I decided to go back to Australia, running the Outdoor programme for Binna Burra Lodge situated in Lamington National Park, the largest subtropical rainforest in SE Queensland. I also led walking trips in the bush for International Park Tours.

Yearning for adventure I had met the famous Whitbread Sailor Skip Novak a few years earlier. He re entered my life in 1989 asking me to join him on an Antarctic Adventure! Always worried about the cold I took a bit of convincing but decided this would take me to "The Great White Continent" which I had dreamed about but never actually thought I would ever make it as Africa was always first. I joined the 54 foot steel hulled "PELAGIC" in New Zealand. Sailing across the Southern Pacific Ocean 500 miles for a novice sailor (having never been offshore in my life) was quite an experience. Having caught a rare Buller's Albatross on our fishing line 6 days into our voyage I felt for sure something was about to go wrong. We lost our rudder 900 miles from the Straits of Magellan. Making a jury rig, we limped into the shipwrecked jagged coast of Chile to Punta Arenas.

My first Antarctic voyage lasted 3 months with an Italian film crew. We went as far south as Crystal Sound, crossing the polar circle at 69 degrees. We did a penguin survey for BAS and climbed a few unclimbed peaks. For me this was paradise. I couldn't believe the wealth of wildlife - seals, penguins, whales, petrels etc., all so unafraid of humans. I went crazy with my camera. The penguins kept me amused for hours always busy preening, feeding hungry chicks, stealing precious stones from other nests and fending off hungry skuas. This expedition was so successful Skip and I decided to stay in Tierra del Fuego and charter the boat. Four years later the Pelagic is now running Antarctic voyages, cruising the Beagle Channel made famous by Darwin and rounding Cape Horn with punters. I think I made history by being the only Kenyan woman to have rounded Cape Horn 17 times!!

Having spent four years on board I am now ready to start sharing my experiences with young people, giving lectures on my experiences and hopefully installing in young minds the need to preserve these beautiful places in the world for future generations.

I will be going to America in the spring to do a lecture tour for 6-8 weeks before returning to the UK in the summer to do the same with young children.

I am now married, not to Skip, and living in London! I will be taking a group to the Antarctic in February. If anyone wants more information please contact me at 85 Overstrand Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, London SW11 4EU - Telephone 0171 720 1532.

THE 1996 ANGLO LATIN AMERICAN FIESTA was held on 9th November at The Royal Horticultural Hall, 80 Vincent Square, Westminster SW1

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY took place at Canning House on 11th December.



Mr Alan Douglas, Miss Patricia Roach and Mrs Gabita Gadelius



Mr John Hickman and Mrs Diana Wrigley



Peter and Carmen Glori Heap, Lady Maud and Mrs Joan Richardson

THE HOUSE OF ST BARNABAS-IN-SOHO

By Valerie Buxton

On a sunny spring evening of 17th April a group of members met at the Chapel of the House of St.Barnabas-in-Soho which stands at the corner of Greek Street and Soho Square.

The House, a Grade 1 Listed Georgian mansion, has some of the finest examples of English Rococo-style decorative plasterwork dating from 1754. It has splendid historic rooms and both the house and the Chapel have been used as period film sets.

In the Chapel we were entertained by a performance of live jazz. The Chapel was built much later than the House (mid 19th Century) and is thought to be a copy of a small chapel in Arles in Southern France. It contains a variety of coloured marbles and mosaics and in this tranquil setting, the blond and alluring Trudy Kerr sang with tremendous verve and feeling; blues, bossa nova, traditional jazz. She was brilliantly accompanied by Phil Peskett on the piano, together with Andy Hammil (bass) and Dave Mayne (drums).

We then gathered in the Council Room of the House for an excellent buffet supper and Concha y Toro red and white. This lovely room was once the drawing room of the House, its most

celebrated feature being the painted ceiling. Supper was followed by a most interesting informal talk on the history of the House and its Charity. The House of St.Barnabas has been providing food, care and lodging for people in crisis since 1846. Its Patron is H.R.H.Princess Alexandra and it relies on donations to maintain its excellent work. It was a very happy evening and much enjoyed by the members.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Kirsty Macmillan, The House of St.Barnabas-in-Soho, 1 Greek Street, London W1V 6NQ, Telephone 0171 434 1846, Fax 0171 434 1746



Miss Eliana Herrera, Miss Marcela Holtheuer and Mr Pablo Santa Maria



Mrs Olive Neilson, Mr Paul Bainbridge and Mrs Valerie Buxton

On May 6 there was an Extraordinary General Meeting in Canning House in order to ratify the New Constitution of The Anglo Chilean Society and the AGM for the approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statement for 1996 and election of Committee Officers followed by a wine and cheese party.



Mrs Helbecia Larsson and Mrs Peggy Hart



Mr Roger Venables, Mr John Hickman, Mr Alasdair Grant and Mr Peter de Bruyne

CHILEAN NAVY DAY

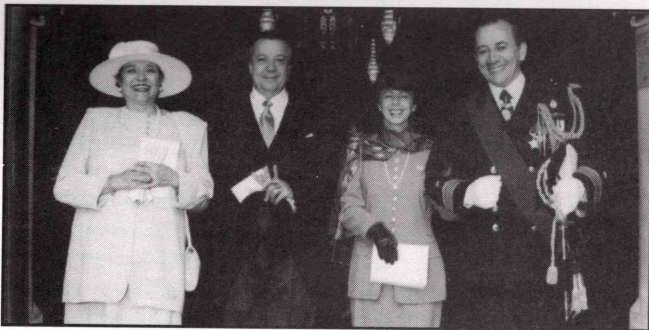
The annual laying of the wreath on the tomb of Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane took place at Westminster Abbey on 22nd May.

The guests were greeted at the entrance to the Abbey by the Head of the Chilean Naval Mission Admiral Arancibia and Mrs. Arancibia. This was followed by the arrival of H.E. Sr. Mario Artaza who was welcomed by the Dean of Westminster. There was a one minute silence after the laying of the wreath and prayers led by the Dean.

The usual brilliant reception was held at One Great George Street Conference Centre, Westminster, immediately after the ceremony.



H.E. Sr Mario Artaza and Rear Admiral Jorge Arancibia laying the wreath on Lord Cochrane's tomb in Westminster Abbey



Sra Anita de Artaza, H.E. Sr Mario Artaza, Sra Maria Angélica Pascal de Arancibia and Rear Admiral Jorge Arancibia in Westminster Abbey



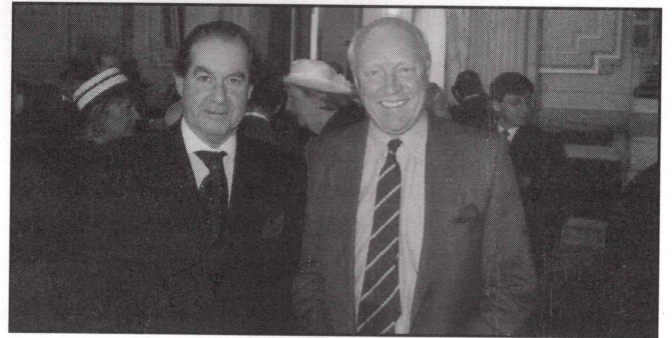
Maria Elvira Behero, Viviana Opazo, Christian Santa Maria, Jacqueline Bowes, Eliana Herrera, H.E. Sr Mario Artaza, Patricia Roach, Teresa Muñoz and Ana-Clare Vivian



Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mr Peter Shaw and Mrs Valerie Buxton



Professor and Mrs Malcolm Troup and Professor and Mrs Marcial Echenique



Mr Jose Luis Morales and Mr Michael Cannon



Mr Frank Wheeler, Miss Claudia Munro Kerr & Mrs Cecilia Morales



Lady St. Davids, John Naylor, Mrs Valerie Buxton and Mrs Heather Chapman

THE CHILEAN NAVY, GREAT BRITAIN AND VICE ADMIRAL LORD THOMAS ALEXANDER COCHRANE.

The Chilean Navy has set its own course for almost two hundred years, during which its collaboration and interchange of personnel with the British Royal Navy has been of the closest kind.

The relationship was born of a critical phase in the liberation of South America, when the Republic of Chile engaged Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane to strengthen its fleet and maintain the country's independence. Lord Cochrane's appointment was a far-sighted decision for this naval officer who was to become the 10th Earl Dundonald and had already distinguished himself in the Napoleonic Wars. Cochrane was embraced by the Government of Bernardo O'Higgins, who had himself completed his education in

England before embarking on his own career as liberator of his native country. The collaboration between the two men, the naval officer of Scottish descent and the Chilean statesman of Irish ancestry, produced many notable successes.

Under Cochrane's command the Chilean naval forces undertook campaigns that began with the expulsion of Spanish detachments from the Valdivia Fortress in the south of the country and ended with the landing of the Chilean army in Peru. These actions, together with those of General Simon Bolivar brought to an end the Spanish rule in the Vice-royalties of South America.

To achieve such victories the Chilean Navy was required to conduct military operations along the whole length of the Oriental Pacific Ocean, from California through Panama, Ecuador and Peru, a colossal undertaking for a small country, fighting for its freedom against the full might of Spain.

The experience, professionalism and commitment to the cause of Chilean independence shown by Cochrane and his associates did much to mould the character of the Chilean Navy, a character which has persisted through its many challenges down to the present day. The lessons learned under the five year command of Lord Cochrane were implemented in its war with Peru and Bolivia, which began in 1879 and was to pose the greatest challenge to Chile of the last one hundred years.

Never was this more shown than in the conduct of the Captain Arturo Prat, an exemplary officer who was commanding the "Esmeralda", a small corvette of wooden construction built 25 years previously, during the advent of steam power, in a naval dockyard of the Thames. With a sister vessel of lighter construction, the "Esmeralda" had been left to blockade Iquique harbour while the main Chilean fleet had been despatched to engage the Peruvian fleet, believed to be under the fortress of El Callao. The two fleets failed to sight each other and the weaker Chilean vessels were left to confront the main Peruvian fleet, the monitor "Huascar" and the frigate "Independencia". The "Esmeralda" suffered heavy bombardment and was three times rammed by the "Huascar", during the first of which Arturo Prat and a sergeant boarded the "Huascar" and attempted to personally encounter the enemy, by this action emulating the capture of a Spanish frigate at El Callao by Lord Cochrane sixty years before. Captain Prat was killed and the "Esmeralda" sank, but in pursuing the sister vessel through shallow waters, the "Independencia" ran aground and caught fire, thus weakening the Peruvian fleet and leading to its eventual defeat. The conduct of Captain Prat caused great astonishment among impartial observers of the war and generated such enthusiasm among the Chilean people that they were inspired to enlist and so bring the war to a successful conclusion. He sacrificed his life and his crew followed his example, to establish one of the noblest traditions; to keep the flag flying even when the ship is sinking, because when the honour and values of our Nation and the traditions received from our ancestors are in danger, it is in the hands and soul of every Chilean citizen to defend them with their lives.

After this conflict, Chile embarked on a programme of naval reconstruction based exclusively on ships built in Great Britain, a policy that remains in force to the present day. Chilean naval officers attended courses and periods of practical instruction at Royal Naval facilities and were also engaged in the construction and modernisation of Chilean ships.

British officers undertook naval missions to Chile, specially after the First World War, to contribute professional support to our navy.

It is the combat off Iquique Bay on 21st May 1879 and the events which followed that we commemorate today. We also honour the memory of Vice-Admiral Lord Thomas Alexander Cochrane, saluting him as an outstanding figure in the naval history of Britain and other countries. The Chilean Navy is grateful to him and his fellow officers for their contribution to the creation and consolidation of the Chilean Republic in almost two hundred years of its independence

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETIES' GOLF TOURNAMENT. This takes place on Thursday 19th June at the West Surrey Golf Club. This year The Anglo Chilean Society will be hosts at this event. The cost will be £45 to include green fee and luncheon with Chilean wine.

ASADO AL PALO - Sunday 29th June. The highly successful "asado al palo" will take place once again at Bonham Farm, near Alton in Hampshire, by kind permission of Mrs. Cherida Cannon. Music, plentiful and delicious food, a cash bar, dancing, games for children, from lunchtime till early evening..

HIGHLIGHTS OF TELEVISION FILM ON CHILE'S NATURAL HISTORY - Wednesday 2nd July. Crispin Sadler has made four 1 hour films on Chile's wildlife, a co-production between New Zealand Television, Television Nacional de Chile and The Discovery Channel. He and some members of his film team will be talking about these and showing highlights of the film. This will take place in the Library at Canning House at 6.30pm followed by a glass of wine.

DIECIOCHO DINNER - Wednesday 17th September. This will take place at The Naval and Military Club (the In and Out) in the presence of H.E.Sr. Mario Artaza and Sra. Anita de Artaza. This will be the last opportunity to celebrate Chilean Independence Day here, before the club moves to a new location. The guest speaker will be announced nearer the date.

SIR LESLIE BOWES MEMORIAL LECTURE - October or November. As in other years, the Sir Leslie Bowes Memorial Lecture will take place at Canning House. Advance notice will be given of the precise date and the speaker.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - Wednesday 10th December - The annual Christmas Drinks Party will be held in the Drawing Room of Canning House

*THE ANGLO CHILEAN SOCIETY
EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE
TO
SCHRODER CHARITY TRUST
FOR ITS
GENEROUS DONATION*

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

By Georgina Roberts

The combined efforts of the Group of Chilean Ladies in London and members of the Society made possible the alleviation of some of the suffering of the tragic children of the Centre Los Jazmines of COANIL (Fundación de Ayuda al Nino Limitado).

It was during the Chilean summer of 1995 when I first visited the 125 young patients in wheelchairs, beds and cots, all suffering from congenital physical defects and mental deficiency, and they have been in my thoughts ever since. I returned to Los Jazmines this February. Sadly, not all the children I saw previously were still there as eight of them had died in the intervening years. However, their places were immediately taken by others from the

huge waiting list.

The Centre was the recipient of two medical pumps, together with an industrial cooker with a 4-ring hob and oven. The pumps, made in USA, are to be used to clear the lungs of excessive secretions, one pumping in medicine, and the other removing the secretions.

The gift was handed over in an official ceremony at the Centre "Los Jazmines" in the presence of the Director, Ms. Ana Prieto, the physiotherapist, Mr. Héctor Gutiérrez, and the Administration Officer, Mrs. Ana Maria Basulto.

A letter of acknowledgement has been received from the offices of COANIL in Santiago



Presentation at the Centro Los Jazmines- l to r Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mr Hector Gutierrez, Ms Ana Prieto ans Mrs Ana Maria Basulto

CHILE'S VOICE IN ENGLISH

By Jack Roberts

Most countries in the world have at least one regular publication in English since 1991, when the NEWS REVIEW was founded. Chile has been no exception.

As Chile's economy has expanded by leaps and bounds in recent years, and the country has opened up to the world, the need for an English language newspaper became increasingly obvious, and NEWS REVIEW moved in to fill the gap.

The paper, which describes itself as "THE CHILEAN NEWSPAPER IN ENGLISH", aims to provide a summary of the local and world news with a strong slant towards the English speaking community (Chilean and Foreign), along with exclusive reports and interviews with leading public figures; extensive culture and sports sections, and environmental, science, medical and human interest stories.

After having begun as a weekly, the newspaper expanded quickly during the early 1990's, as indeed did the number of English speakers in Chile. IN 1995 NEWS REVIEW started publishing twice a week, and later the same year began inserting the Guardian Weekly's American edition on Saturdays.

The other publishing day, Wednesday, features a specialist mining supplement called the Weekly Mining News, catering for Chile's number one industry which has attracted the attention of more and more foreign investors in recent years.

Apart from the Guardian Weekly, the Saturday edition of NEWS REVIEW also includes Business World Update, covering all the latest business and finance news from Chile and around the world, along with in-depth features and interviews with the people who have made the Chilean economy the model it is for the rest of Latin America.

It is not just the regular publications that make the NEWS REVIEW, what it is, however; there are also the special supplements. These full colour lift-outs cover notable events, such as the opening of major new businesses, and the anniversaries and National Days of specific countries like U.S.A., Australia and Chilean Independence Day on September 18th.. Queen Elizabeth 11's birthday on April 21st is also an important date on the NEWS REVIEW supplement calendar, and this year the paper published an exclusive interview with Britain's outgoing Ambassador to

Chile, Mr. Frank Wheeler.

Given Chile's natural splendours and relatively untapped potential NEWS REVIEW has also been producing regular tourism supplements, again in full colour. These, like all NEWS REVIEW innovations, are designed to provide the visitor, and everyone who has an interest on our country, with all he or she needs to know about Chile, and entertain the reader at the same time.

The annual subscription in the UK for the paper is 385 American dollars and can be ordered through Jack Roberts: 01628-522131. There is a free copy of the paper for the first 12 people who phone in !

Mrs. Sandra Carey has replaced Michael Cannon as General Manager of the British Chilean Chamber of Commerce. She formerly worked for CODELCO in London for 15 years. Michael is now responsible for the British Argentine Chamber of Commerce.

DARWIN AND INCHCAPE PUT RALEIGH ON SOUTHERN CHILEAN MAP

by Alan Macdonald

Raleigh International, the youth development charity, has won funding under the UK Government's Darwin Initiative to support a large scale biological investigation in the Laguna San Rafael National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Region XI and one of South America's most remarkable and important protected areas.

The Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species was established by the UK government in the wake of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to encourage the conservation of biodiversity through collaborative international projects.

The grant will create exiting opportunities to build existing partnerships in what is now, by far, the British charity's longest standing destination. For the young "venturers", as they are known, the next three years will bring a series of challenging and rewarding projects and the chance to work alongside experts conducting pioneering research.

The latest success follows on swiftly from Raleigh's triumph in attracting sponsorship from Inchcape, the British trading company, better kown as Williamson Balfour. Chile was chosen to provide the blueprint for Inchcape Initiative expeditions over five years around the world. The partnership enabled the charity to enter Region IX for the first time in 1996 and to manage three projects to construct community centres in remote settlements around Temuco. Two of these were conducted in partnership with the Chol Chol Foundation, which is devoted to the development of the indigenous Mapuche people.

Another benefit of Inchcape support was that the expedition could include 18 young Chileans, all university students, selected by past Chilean participants at a fiercely competitive and physically testing assessment weekend in the Rio Clarillo mountains near Santiago. There is now a thriving alumni group in the nation's capital, enthusiastically encouraged by Les Hemery of Price Waterhouse, Raleigh's national chairman. It is a priority to maintain this participation; there are eight Chileans on the current Inchcape expedition in Malaysia.

Now one of the best known names in Chile, Raleigh has been active since 1985, when one of the earliest expeditions by what was then Operation Raleigh took place in the far north. In 1986 Raleigh moved to southern Chile, operating out of Puerto Montt in Region X, but venturing as far away as Lago Jeinimeni, 600 km further south. The success of this shift in emphasis led to a subsequent removal to Coyhaique, the wilder Region XI's capital. In 1989 a permanent base was established in the rolling pasture on the edge of this small town.

Facilities now include a farmhouse, two large barns and a

dedicated block for scientists. The site, staffed for 10 months of the year, is the base for two expeditions annually, each numbering some 150 venturers and staff. The wide range of equipment includes mountaineering gear, sea kayaks, inflatable boats and outboard motors, as well as three Land Rovers.

Perhaps the most significant partnership nurtured over the past 12 years has been with CONAF, Chile's forestry authority. Protected areas cover almost half the region. Raleigh has worked in most of them, tackling tasks such as the building of fences, bridges, guardarias and refugios. Early expeditions were dominated by this environmental infrastructure work, along with a wide variety of community projects, typically some form of construction undertaken in partnership with a small rural community.

The introduction of a scientific research element has been a steady progress, with a growing emphasis on responding to Chile's own research priorities. Probably the best example of this approach is the survey of the endangered huemul deer, begun in 1995 and an ongoing feature of Raleigh's work. Discussions with CONAF in fact gave rise to the successful Darwin Initiative proposal.

The award will allow the first sustained effort to gather biodiversity data from throughout the park and to identify species and habitats that could serve as indicators of ecosystem health or of special ecological significance. Although concentrating on the park, the benefits will not be limited to this single protected area, nor to the period in which scientists will actually be in the field.

Following a recce earlier this year, Raleigh will provide full logistical support for the research programme during all expeditions from this October until 1999. Scientists from London's Natural History Museum will play a key role in conducting field studies, in collaboration with some of Chile's leading research organizations, including the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and the University of Valparaiso. The expertise of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge will be crucial in enabling CONAF to refine the data collected by the venturers and to establish monitoring techniques and an information system.

Represented in the park are seven of the region's ten major habitat types. The permanent snow and ice that make up the North Patagonian Icecap lie entirely within its boundaries, and give rise to 13 glaciers, including the famed San Rafael Glacier which calves into the Laguna itself. Dense evergreen temperate rainforest lies to the west of the icecap. Lichens are abundant.

The vertebrate and invertebrate fauna are scarcely known. The marine fauna including sealions are numerous and diverse along the fiordal coastline. Amongst the mammals important species number puma, huemul and pudu. Around the Laguna San Rafael, black-necked swans are highly visible; hummingbirds are common in the forests; and condors can be seen over the mountains.

The first written accounts of visits to the Laguna San Rafael date from as long ago as the late 17th century, but the isolation of the location has severely limited the study of its riches since that time. The Darwin Initiative, as well as giving rise to a wealth of new information about a most remarkable area, will also act as a fitting tribute to one of Britain's earliest and most revered visitors to Chile's shores.

The author was a staff volunteer with Raleigh in Chile 1995-6

PATAGONIAN EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF MANKIND

From a letter from the British Museum, Dept. of Ethnography to members of The Anglo Chilean Society.

The British Museum is currently preparing an exhibition on southern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego at the Museum of Mankind scheduled to open in autumn 1997. The provisional title is "Patagonia: Natural History, Prehistory and Ethnography at the

Uttermost End of the Earth". This will be the first interdisciplinary museum exhibition of its kind in Europe to address the history of human adaptation to this remarkable region. The museum is working closely with the Chilean and Argentine governments who are jointly sponsoring the project.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book offering an up to date and authoritative synthesis of recent archaeological and anthropological investigation. As part of the research for both the exhibition and publication archival material is being sought relating to the history of European contact with the area around the Magallanes Straits and Tierra del Fuego. It would be much appreciated if members of The Anglo Chilean Society could give any assistance in providing information on maps, photographs, engravings, paintings, sketches and associated documentary materials in both public and private collections.

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This exhibition is supported by the Chilean and Argentine Governments.

IN MEMORIAM

Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro, former Commander in Chief of the Chilean Navy and Naval Member of the Government Junta from 1973 to 1990, died in Valparaiso on August 30th aged 80. He was born in La Serena, Chile in 1915.

During the last year of the Popular Unity government of President Salvador Allende Vice Admiral Merino was second in command of the Chilean Navy based in Valparaiso. The Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Montero, remained loyal to Allende and it was Merino who, in September 1973, took the decision to launch the military coup d'etat which ended three years of the left-wing government.

Jose Toribio Merino Castro was born into a naval family in the same year (1915) as Augusto Pinochet with whom he was to govern Chile for 16 years after the coup. As a boy Merino was sent to school in England while his father was serving as Chilean Naval Attaché in France. In 1956/57 he returned to London as Assistant Naval Attaché. This was only an interlude in a distinguished career but left him, like most Chilean naval officers, with a strong regard for the historic relationship between the two countries and their navies.

An intensely patriotic and conservative Catholic and a convinced anti-Communist, Merino and most of the armed forces' leadership had, by 1973, become deeply alienated from politicians whom he had reason to distrust. Amid rising tension, some of Allende's collaborators had tried to foment mutiny in the Navy. Inside and outside the Armed Forces many Chileans saw other national institutions under attack and became desperate to stop what they felt to be the ruin of their country by a minority government forcing through revolutionarily policies with the support of the Soviet Bloc, and most blatantly Fidel Castro.

On 9 September 1973, after months of pressure within the Armed Forces and from public opinion generally, Merino sent a message to the Air Force and Army Commanders, Generals Leigh and Pinochet, insisting that the moment of action had come. Later he kept the note framed on his office wall to show visitors that he—not Pinochet—took the fateful decision.

Despite this, Pinochet emerged as the dominant figure in the military regime. Leigh was ousted in 1978 (proving the predominant strength of the Army) but Merino remained as the only man capable of dealing with Pinochet on nearly equal terms. He was particularly concerned to rebuild Chile as a Christian and Western-oriented nation and insisted that the 1980 Constitution be specifically based on those values.

His other principal responsibility in government was the rebuilding of the economy. For this he called on a former naval colleague, Roberto Kelly, who had already formed a group of young technocrats, often educated at the University of Chicago and known as the "Chicago Boys", who were brought progressively into government to construct a new free market economy.

This was the real and lasting Chilean revolution. Justified criticisms have been directed against the military regime for its human rights record and for prolonging its own power so long. But finally it returned Chile to democratic rule in 1990 with a strong diversified free market economy which brought unprecedented prosperity to the country and has made those policies models for Latin America in the 1990's.

Although Pinochet and the Army were the principal authors and instruments of repression, Merino has to share some of that responsibility as well as great credit for the economic successes achieved in the same period.

"Pepe" Merino always remained at heart a naval officer and was proud of the fact that he had served in a U.S. warship in the Pacific in 1944/45. He was an improbable figure as initiator of a radical economic revolution but he picked the best men for the job and backed them with his own self-confidence. Notwithstanding his image as a rigidly conventional autocrat with a short fuse, he had a caustic sense of humour and an enquiring mind. His weekly press conferences, unscripted and often utterly frank, were performances to relish. He eventually became a considerable national figure, grudgingly admired even by some of his old enemies.

When the first civilian President, Patricio Aylwin, took over in 1990, Merino gladly retired at once and spent his last years happily with his wife, Margarita Riofrio, their three daughters and many grand children. While he could, he still played golf with fierce determination, kept up innumerable hobbies and wrote the memoirs which he always said he intended but would not publish in his lifetime. If they match his off-the-cuff obiter dicta, they will be worth waiting for.

As published in The Times of April 19th, 1997 Sir David (Toby) Hildyard KCMG, DFC, former British Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, died on April 5 aged 80. He was born on May 4 1916.

Toby Hildyard's career reads like a chronicle of world politics since the Second World War. It culminated in 1975, one year before his retirement, when as head of Britain's delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), he flew with Harold Wilson to Helsinki to sign the final act - one of the great treaty symbols of East-West detente.

Only seven years before he had been acting head of the British delegation at the UN in New York (in absence of the Ambassador, Lord Caradon) at the time of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

But if the UN provided one of the main strands in his career, another was formed by Hispanic affairs. His first appointment as head of mission in 1970 had been as British Ambassador in Santiago. No sooner had he arrived than Salvador Allende came to power as the Chilean President - the world's first democratically elected Marxist leader. Hildyard successfully forged a close personal and working relationship with Allende - with at least one unexpected benefit for Britain.

In 1971, Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the British envoy in Uruguay, was kidnapped by the Tupamaros guerillas, who demanded a large ransom for his release. It was President Allende who, through his contacts with left-wing groupings, opened a channel of communication with the terrorists for Hildyard. The latter subsequently held three secret meetings on behalf of the Government with Tupamaros leaders in Santiago, being driven blind-fold to meet them in the middle of the night. His task was complicated by Britain's persistent refusal to meet their demands. Nonetheless, Geoffrey Jackson was released after eight months.

Hildyard returned to this country in 1973, just before Allende's overthrow and death in a military coup. But Chile recognised his friendship 18 years later by appointing him a Grand Official in its Order of Merit - its highest civil honour.

David Henry Thoroton Hildyard was born in London, the son of a distinguished QC who later became a County Court judge in Nottingham after inheriting a 1,000-acre Nottinghamshire estate. Toby (as he was always known) went to Eton, where he played for the Oppidians in the Wall Game, and was one of the school's 22 leading cricketers. He also won a Timmis exhibition to Christ Church, Oxford, to read politics, philosophy and economics. His tutors included Lord Longford, Sir Roy Harrod and A.J. Ayer.

Hildyard then travelled to Germany, where he helped a young German friend, Alexander Boeker, to get away from the Third Reich before the outbreak of the Second World War. Boeker, who eventually reached the United States, was later to serve as the Federal German Republic's Ambassador to the UN.

Hildyard had learnt to fly with the Oxford University Air Squadron in the 1930's, so found himself in the RAF shortly after the war started. Posted to Coastal Command, he served in Gibraltar and North Africa before leaving for the Far East.

He spent much of his time with 202 Flying Boat Squadron in Ceylon, winning the DFC in 1943 after "an exceptionally long operational career". The citation referred to the "resourcefulness" shown by Flight Lieutenant Hildyard while on escort, anti-submarine and maritime rescue sorties, and to the number of VIP's (including Lord Louis Mounbatten) whom he had ferried around the region.

But the mission which attracted most attention was his intervention at Nancowry in the Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean. In an operation which was described by the Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in the Commons, Hildyard and his crew snatched a small party of RAF personnel from the path of the advancing Japanese, then destroyed their base - including two wooden camps, power stations, radio transmitters, stores, dams and 100,000 gallons of petrol. The Japanese arrived two days later.

Hildyard ended the war as a Wing Commander in Ceylon, in charge of the largest flying boat school in the world.

He attended the postwar Nuremberg trials after being commissioned by Whitehall Intelligence to contribute a short account of the war from a German perspective. Following a period of ill health, he entered the Foreign Office in 1948. A year after he paid his first visit to the UN General Assembly, acting as secretary to the British legation.

Hildyard's early postings included Montevideo from 1950 and Madrid from 1953. He went to Mexico City as councillor in 1960. Between 1965 and 1968 he was head of the Foreign Office's economic relations department - a period which included the devaluation of the pound by the Wilson Government. Then in 1968 he left for the UN as minister and deputy to Lord Caradon - a more than usually important post since Caradon was a political appointee and Hildyard was thus the senior diplomat in the legation.

His last post was as Permanent Representative (with the rank of ambassador) to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva. The other organisations then included not only CSCE but also the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gaat).

His wife Millicent, whom he married in 1947, was the widow of an old friend Wing Commander Richard Longmore. They met when he called on her after her husband had been killed in action in the war. She, their son and daughter, and a step-son and step-daughter from her first marriage, survive him.

There will be a memorial service at 12 o'clock on Tuesday 24th June at St.Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea

The society regrets to report the death on June 6th of Richard (Dick) Neilson, former Ambassador to Chile. He is survived by his wife Olive and son Paul.

NEW MEMBERS

Miss Amy Battle
Sebastian Sheppard Esq.
Miss Melina Pryce
Miss Julia Crossley
Dr. Sara Trevitt
Brian Hood Esq.
Jon Cooper Esq.
Mrs. Diana and Mr. James Wrigley
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