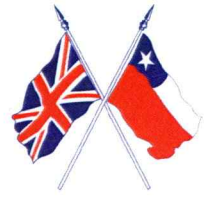


# CHILEAN NEWS



Bulletin of the Anglo-Chilean Society

Editor - Georgina Roberts

[www.anglochileansociety.org](http://www.anglochileansociety.org)

68th Year No. 381

London, October 2012

37-41 Old Queen Street London SW1H

## ARMED FORCES CELEBRATIONS

### CHILEAN AIR FORCE DAY

On the occasion of the 82nd anniversary of the Chilean Air Force, a reception was offered by the Air Attaché, Group Captain Rafael Carrère and Mrs Carrère on 19th March at the RAF Club in Piccadilly.

*Continued on page 2*



*From left to right: Squadron Leader Graham MacRury, Mrs Lorena Carrère, Mrs Mireya MacRury and Group Captain Rafael Carrère.*



*From left to right: H.E. Señor Tomás Müller, Mrs M. Teresa de la Maza, Señora Claudia Bobadilla and Captain Juan de la Maza.*



*From left to right: The Military Attaché, Colonel Claudio Cubillos, Brigadier General Thomas Bergerson USAF, the Naval Attaché, Captain Ronald McIntyre and Captain Anastasios Tserkzoglou HN..*

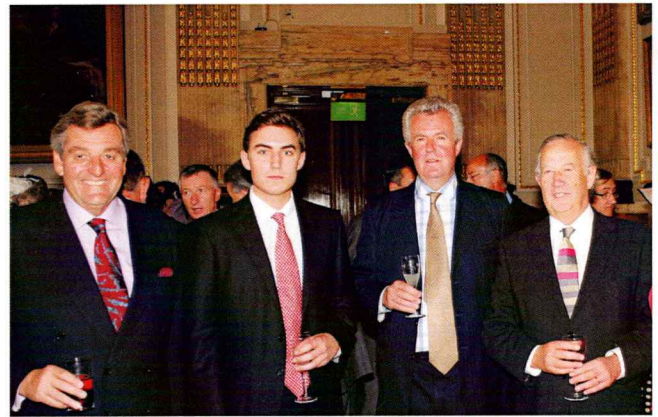
### CHILEAN NAVY DAY

In the presence of HRH The Princess Royal, the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of Admiral Lord Cochrane took place at Westminster Abbey on 22nd May on the occasion of Chilean Navy Day.

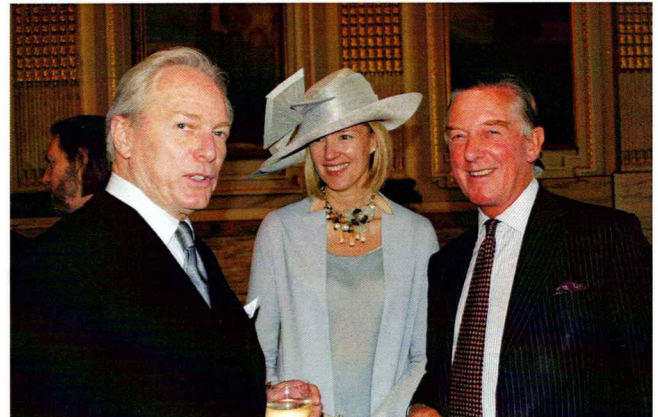
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*From left to right: Commander Andy Hancock RN, Naval Attaché, Captain Ronald McIntyre, Commander Jack Shriver USN.*



*From left to right: Mr Manuel Ibañez, Lord Archie Cochrane, The Earl of Dundonald and Prof. Marcial Echenique OBE.*



*From left to right: H.E. Señor Tomás Müller, Sra Claudia Bobadilla and Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes.*



**CHILEAN AIR FORCE DAY** *Continued*



*From left to right: Mr Ignacio Llanos, Mr Patricio Díaz, Captain Juan Pablo Campos & Captain Nelson Moscoto.*



*From left to right: Mrs Janet Cochrane, Commodore the Honourable Michael Cochrane and Lady Davis.*



*From left to right: Mr Rodrigo Espinosa, Mr Cristián Santa María & Mr Romero Schiaffino.*



*From left to right: Mrs Carmen Verschueren, Colonel Claudio Cubillos and Mrs Carolina McIntyre.*



*From left to right: Mr Cristián Faúndez, Mr Salvador Guerrero and Mr Manuel Condesa.*



*Mr Cristián León, the Ambassador of Paraguay Señor Miguel Angel Solano, Mrs Valentina Carmona and Mr Eduardo Carmona.*

**OUT OF SYNC**

The private view of a courtyard installation was held on Thursday, 15th March in the Fountain Court of the prestigious Somerset House, London WC2. "Out of Sync" consists of 10,000 daffodils sculpted by the avant-garde Chilean artist Fernando Casasempere out of clay and copper from the Atacama Desert that will eventually find their way back home to northern Chile.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Jean-Paul Luksic, chairman of the Chilean Mining Company, Antofagasta plc, said: "We are honoured to have sponsored Fernando Casasempere. Is there anything more quintessentially English than a country meadow filled with flowers? The artist has captured the spirit of the words of William Wordsworth, who famously wrote of seeing 'a host of golden daffodils, beside the lake, beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze'". Mr Luksic went on to explain that the installation will be exhibited in Santiago before going on permanent display in Antofagasta, a city in the driest place on earth – the Atacama Desert, where the material

**CHILEAN NAVY DAY** *Continued*



*From left to right: Mrs Lorraine Zuleta, Mr Rodrigo Espinosa and the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Angela Harvey.*



of the installation originated from.

The opening was also honoured with the presence of H.E. the Chilean Ambassador, Señor Tomás Müller. In his address he said: "There are few more rewarding moments than when an ambassador has the opportunity to praise the work of a fellow countryman. Fernando's inspiration and years of labour have produced this breathtaking installation." He went on to explain how Mr Casasempere had made the decision in 1997 to leave the security of his home and friends in Chile and come to the exciting but critical art world of London. Señor Müller then invited the assembled guests to view the mammoth but beautiful installation.

The Fountain Courtyard was then floodlit amid gasps of admiration as the balcony overlooking it was jammed with people eager to see the "host of golden daffodils".



*A field of daffodils.*



*Close up of the daffodils.*



*Mr Jean-Paul Luksic, chairman of Antofagasta plc.*



*Mr Fernando Casasempere, Sra. Claudia Bobadilla, H.E. Señor Tomás Müller and Ms Catalina Sahie.*



*Mr Ricardo Massu, Miss Camila Massu, Mr Alvaro Sahie and Mrs Alejandra Massu.*

## THE SIR LESLIE BOWES LECTURE

"Robinson Crusoe Island before and after the 2010 tsunami." was the title of the joint talk delivered by H.M. Ambassador to Chile, Mr Jon Benjamin, and Alasdair Grant, member of the Society and TV film producer, on 3rd May at Canning House. The audience for the talk included Sir Leslie Bowes' daughter, Mrs Marilyn Laing, and his grandson, Mr Robert Somner.

First, Mr Grant gave a slide presentation of his trip to the island twenty years previously, when, as a young man, he travelled to Chile to spend the third year of his university education in Latin American studies. Fascinated by the story of Andrew Selkirk and his marooning on the Juan Fernández Islands, Alasdair took a small four-seater aeroplane to the island known as Robinson Crusoe, after the fictional character based on Selkirk. The island is around 7 miles long on a northwest-southeast axis, with a long finger pointing to the southwest, and rises steeply from the Pacific Ocean. The only reasonably flat space is on the southwest finger, on a small plateau just sufficient for a short runway. Unfortunately, the only centre of population, the town of San Juan Bautista, was, and still is, in the centre of the north-eastern coast, where Selkirk was first set ashore. Transport from the airport to the town was via a launch right around the coast. Alasdair's photos showed a small community nestled in a bay surrounded by steeply rising mountains covered in verdant vegetation.

To end his stay, he wanted to see the famous "Look-out Point" described in the novel, where Selkirk/Crusoe is said to have patiently searched the empty ocean for a vessel to rescue him. The islanders explained that there was a path from the town, over the mountains, passing the point, and then back down to the airport. So Alasdair strapped on his knapsack and set off. He then discovered that the island was divided



into two halves: the wet part and the dry part! Having toiled up the mountain in the heat, he had soon drunk the water he had brought with him, only to discover, after the famous Look-out Point, the land sloping down to the west was barren, with no signs of water. Many, many hours after setting out on his journey, a very thirsty Alasdair arrived at the airport to consume vast quantities of liquid!

Ambassador Benjamin then described the effect of the tsunami on San Juan Bautista and how he came to be involved in the reconstruction. The huge wave, about 17m high, struck the island around 4 o'clock in the morning on Saturday, 27th February 2010. The earthquake of the previous day had not been felt on Robinson Crusoe, and the news only reached there because of a telephone call from Santiago. A 14-year old girl, who was still up, saw the tell-tale signs of the coming tsunami, the sudden and profound drop in sea level, and rang the warning gong, the only alarm system at that time. This allowed the population to hurriedly move to higher ground before the wave hit. Everything up to a height of 13m above sea level was completely destroyed: the school, gymnasium, cemetery and 13 of the 14 hotels and hostels on the island. Miraculously, only 16 people from a total population of around 800 were killed. Mr Benjamin showed the audience photographs of the devastation, and compared them with pre-tsunami pictures.

During the 1950's, the island was twinned with the town of Largo in Scotland, birthplace of Alexander Selkirk, although little was done by either "twin", apart from a visit from two councillors from Largo. After the tsunami, the Mayor of San Juan Bautista contacted Mr Benjamin with the view of possibly getting some financial or other aid from Largo. The idea appealed to the ambassador as it allowed for a more personal involvement with the people receiving the aid, rather than giving donations to large Aid organisations. He got in contact with Mr Peter Aitken, the Mayor of Largo, and they agreed to raise some money, both from the UK Government and from private donations both in the UK and abroad. It was decided to concentrate on rebuilding the school, since the original had completely disappeared, together with all its contents, which included an irreplaceable library of books on Robinson Crusoe in several languages, many of them first editions.

With the help of a Chilean entrepreneur, Señor Felipe Cubillos, and the Chilean Navy, two container-sized modules were procured and shipped to the island to become the temporary school. Tragically, Señor Cubillos was killed in September 2011 when the aircraft carrying him and 19 other journalists, businessmen and aid workers to Robinson Crusoe, crashed into the sea while trying to land. Mr Benjamin himself has visited the island three times, the first time shortly after the tsunami with the incoming Chilean President, Señor Sebastián Piñera.

He finished by saying that the fund he had helped start, had now raised over US\$100,000. It was so large that he had set up a legal foundation, the Fundación Alexander Selkirk, to administer the money. So far, the foundation has supplied not only the temporary modular buildings, but also equipped them with the very latest in teaching technology, including computers for all the students and a language laboratory. Nor has he concentrated solely on the school. The foundation arranged for two of the volunteer fire-fighters of the 14 Compañía de Bomberos of Santiago (the "British" fire brigade) to visit the island and train a group to form their own fire brigade.

More information can be found at [www.fundacion-selkirk.org](http://www.fundacion-selkirk.org).



*From left to right: H.M. Ambassador to Chile, Mr Jon Benjamin, Miss Carolina Arriagada and Mr Rodrigo Espinosa.*



*Mr Charlie Jenkins, Mr Alasdair Grant, Ms Gayle Young and Mr Ian Mihajlovic.*



*Mrs Marilyn Laing, Miss Anita Eiben and Mr Robert Sommer.*



*From left to right: Ms Susan Meehan, Dame Marcela Contreras and Mrs Paula Meehan.*

## INCREASED TIES BETWEEN CHILE AND THE UK

On 11th May 2012, the British Foreign Secretary, Mr William Hague, invited his Chilean counterpart, Señor Alfredo Moreno, to lunch at his official residence in Chevening, Kent. The occasion was to mark a new round of political discussions between the two countries, reviewing the current global



situation and matters of bilateral interest. After the meeting, the Foreign Office issued the following statement:

UK Foreign Secretary William Hague praised Chile during a meeting in London with his peer Alfredo Moreno to discuss a range of issues on which the two countries can work together.

“Chile is one of our greatest friends in the region and a valued international partner. We share common values on climate change, energy, human rights, education and international justice and security”, said the Foreign Secretary.

“I am delighted to have met Foreign Minister Moreno during his visit to the UK and, of course, we are looking forward to welcoming Chilean athletes to the London Olympic Games very shortly”.

Likewise, Hague said: “Since this Government began I have been dedicated to reinvigorating the UK’s relationship with Latin America. The Foreign Office has now opened new posts in Brazil and El Salvador, we have seen a trebling of ministerial visits to the region since 2010, and have had a series of presidential visits to the UK”.

Finally, the Foreign Secretary said that Latin America is a region growing in influence and Chile is one of the world’s fast-emerging economies.

“In our talks today we discussed how the UK and Chile can work together on the range of international issues that affect us and how we can make a difference together”, he concluded.



Head of America Team, Foreign Office, Mrs Fiona Clouder-Richardson, H.E. Señor Tomás Müller, Chilean Minister of External Affairs, Señor Alfredo Moreno, Foreign Minister, the Right Honourable William Hague, H.M.Ambassador to Chile, Mr Jon Benjamin and Minister Counsellor Mr Rodrigo Espinosa.

## INTERNATIONAL SPRING FAIR

The CFAB Fair (protecting Children and Families Across Borders, previously known as ISS) was held on the 16th and 17th May and, once again, the usual huge crowd filled the Kensington Town Hall, London W8, to visit the stalls representing most of the embassies in London displaying an enormous variety of their typical dishes and a colourful display of the arts and crafts.

The Chilean stand that was manned by the wives of members of the Armed Forces, also included an appeal for the restoration of the National Park of Torres del Paine. The devastating forest fires of December 2011 destroyed 42,500 acres of the park. This tragedy inspired the birth of “Reforest Patagonia”, a non-profit organisation with the goal of planting more than 1 million native trees, both in Torres del Paine and other national parks and reserves in Chile. The hope is that the public will each subscribe a minimum of US\$4.00, which covers the cost of obtaining one sapling and its planting.

More information is available on their website at [www.reforestemospatagonia.cl](http://www.reforestemospatagonia.cl) (in both English and Spanish).

A new Chilean stand, Cosmetofruit, was the novelty of the 2012 Fair for those in search of eternal youth. Making use of the variety of climates and fertile soils, as well as exceptional plants and fruits, an industry aiming at both beauty and health has materialised. The products are on sale at the Cosmetics section of Fenwick’s, Bond Street. Details are available on [www.michaeljohn.co.uk](http://www.michaeljohn.co.uk) or [www.spacenk.co.uk](http://www.spacenk.co.uk).



From left to right: Mrs Lorena Carrère, Mrs Ana María Moscoso, Mrs M. Teresa de la Maza and Mrs Paulina Campos.



Mrs Winnie Irrarázabal promoting Cosmetofruit.



The elegance of the Chilean woman: Mrs Adriana Imhoff.



Patagonia needs our help.

## ANINAT AND SWINBURN

The preview of the “Indulgences” exhibition by Teresa Aninat and Catalina Swinburn was held on 24th May at the Selma Feriani Gallery, 23 Maddox Street, London W1.

The largest work of the unconventional artists consisted of four immense photographs covered with 275 engraved bronze plaques. In the piece called “Four Cardinal Virtues”, each



photograph represented Temperance, Justice, Fortitude and Prudence. The plaques on each individual frame were engraved with the word of that particular virtue, translated in various languages. The photographs were of King Juan Carlos of Spain (Temperance), George Washington (Justice), an Indigenous native (Fortitude) and Queen Elizabeth II (Prudence).

In another room were two intriguing installations. Both consisted of small rectangular gold-plated sheets, each beautifully engraved with a seemingly random collection of letters in a 14x20 matrix. One of the installations of seven plates was entitled "The Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost" while, on the opposite wall, two plates were called "Sins and Virtues". On closer examination it transpired that, like those puzzle books one buys at train stations and airports, hidden inside each matrix were words spelling out, for example in the smaller work, various sins and virtues.

Set apart from the main exhibition was the work "In God We Trust". The title was taken from the phrase printed on the US\$100 banknote. The photograph, printed on board and placed on a pile on concrete rubble, showed a pair of eyes peering out from a burka formed of the \$100 bills. This was a striking example of the enigmatic work of the two artists, suggesting a conflict between God and Mammon, having both a religious and a secular aspect.

**"Utopia"**

The official unveiling of "Utopia", an installation by Aninat and Swinburn, was held on Tuesday, 26th June at Farm Street Church, London W1. The work, set in front of the statue of Sir Thomas More, consisted of a large stone block engraved with a matrix of letters, in a similar manner to the work "Sins and Virtues" previously described.



*Indigenous Native.*



*Queen Elizabeth II*



*"In God we trust".*



*"Utopia" at the foot of Sir Thomas More's Statue.*



*Aninat and Swinburne.*



*King Juan Carlos of Spain.*



*George Washington.*

**DIAMOND JUBILEE PAGEANT**

An evening of pageantry to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's 60 year reign took place at Windsor Castle on 3rd June.

In 1968 the Queen visited Chile and in memory of that, a group of Chilean "huasos" (cowboys) flew 7000 miles with their horses to take part in the celebration. Riders and performers from all over the world, together with 558 horses, turned Windsor Great Park into place of magic. Chile rose to the occasion with 7 huasos dressed in their colourful traditional dress displaying their skills while dancing on their horses to the Chilean "cueca" played and sung by a duo of harp and guitar.

It was certainly a night to remember.





The "huasos" displaying their technique.

## “SELF-CRITICISM”

by Michael Roberts.

The ground floor reception room at the Chilean Embassy was the venue for the première of a play by Ms Constanza Hola. This was theatre at its most intimate. With no stage or pit to separate the actors from the audience, there was almost a sense of voyeurism to the event.

The play, in one act, tells of two women who apparently share a flat. One, Blanca, is introverted and filled with self-doubt. The other, Estela, is very extrovert and extremely sure of herself. Their battle of wits leads to the surprise dénouement which, the audience realised, was the logical outcome of the play. Moments of comedy, slapstick, drama and tragedy maintain the tension of this well written and well acted play. The author, in her programme notes, acknowledged the influences of Samuel Beckett, George Mead, Sophocles, Juan Radrigán and David Fincher, even of Queen, the rock group.

The two actresses, Cornelia Bauman as the introverted Blanca and Sarah Jayne-Harris as the outgoing Estela, were both excellent, and are names that theatregoers should look out for in the future. The author, Ms Constanza Hola, is a Chilean playwright and director who trained at RADA. Her plays “Weak Edward” (an adaptation of Marlowe’s “Edward II”) and a modern version of “Saint Joan” were performed at the Rose Theatre, London, earlier this year, both to critical acclaim.

Following the première, the play was performed at the Camden Head Pub/Theatre as part of the Camden Fringe Festival, prior to going on to the Edinburgh Fringe.

## AN EVENING AT BACCHANALIA

A private wine tasting was held on Thursday, 21st June 2012 at Bacchanalia, the beautiful location overlooking the Thames.

Wines from Spain and Chile were tasted, accompanied by delicious Spanish tapas from Hacienda Zorita organic farm. As in 2011, the guests were welcomed with a glass (or two) of Mas de Monistrol Premium Reserve Cava.

The evening was hosted by Mr David Bowman, a wine expert with 12 years experience. Nine wines were tasted, together with two blind tastings for the guests to guess which came from the old world and which from the new.

The wines from Spain were: Vega de la Reina Cosecha 2009 D.O. Rueda, Ariyanas Seco Sobre Linos 2009, Languilla Casa del Comendador Rioja Reserva 2006 D.O. Rioja, Marqués de la Concordia Hacienda de Susar 2005 D.O. Ca Rioja and Durius Natural Reserve Syrah 2007

Arribes del Duero. From Chile were: Leyda Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, Leyda Valley 2010, Tabalí Reserva Especial Chardonnay, Limarí Valley 2012, Anakena Single Vineyard “Murta” Syrah, Colchagua Valley 2010.

By the end of the evening, everyone agreed that there was no real contest, both countries produce superb wines.

As a parting gift, Bacchanalia offered a glass of Spanish dessert wine of unsurpassed quality, and at a purchase price in Bacchanalia’s restaurant which made many eyes water!

Bacchanalia has a unique location, and the management and staff are both welcoming and helpful. Their restaurant, in the shadow of the new “Shard of Glass” building, is ideal for a relaxing lunch or dinner, where much of the food and wine is the produce of their own farms and vineyards.



From left to right: Mr Ian Mihajlovic, Mr Arwind Vij, Mr Alasdair Grant and Mr Charlie Dehnel.



Mrs Magdalena Jones, Mrs Sandra Amedick, Mr John Amedick and Mr Brian Jones.



Mr Marc Hairsine, Mrs Caroline Hairsine, Mr George Silva-Rozzi and Mrs Luise Silva-Rozzi.



Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mr Malcolm Brown, Mrs Julieta Brown and Mr Paul Todd.





Mrs Yesmin Mydeen, Mrs Carmen Gloria Heap and Mr Peter Heap.



Mr David Pearson, Mr Jim Surguy, Mr Richard Wilkinson and Mrs Angie Wilkinson.

## THE PINTA LATIN AMERICAN ART SHOW

On 8th June, Modern and Contemporary Chilean artists took part in the art show at the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre. Among them: Francisca Prieto, Livia Marin, Teresa Aninat and Catalina Swinburn.

One of the highlights was the presence of the renowned Chilean kinetic artist, Matilde Pérez. She not only exhibited at the event, but on Saturday, 9th June, she gave a brief question and answer session for the general public.

Matilde Pérez had always wanted to be an artist. Born in Santiago in 1920, she attended the Escuela de Bellas Artes in 1939. By 1950 she was teaching painting and drawing at the Universidad de Chile. At the same time she helped found an Art Academy in Providencia.

She was one of a small group of avant-garde painters known as "El Grupo Rectángulo" led by Ramón Vergara Grez, at a time when "modern art" was almost a foreign language in Chile.

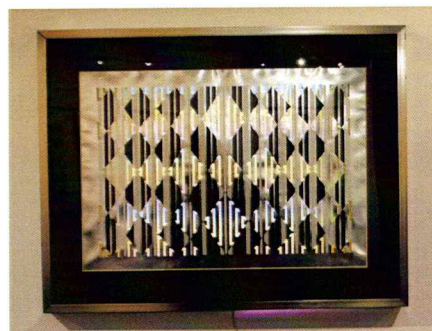
In 1960 she won a scholarship to Paris, where she first saw the works of Victor Varasely, the father of op art. On her return to Chile, she started experimenting with different materials such as metals and wood, but this tended to marginalise her from her more conventional Chilean contemporaries.

In 1970 she was commissioned by the Universidad de Chile to continue her studies in Paris in what was now called "Kinetic Art". In the question and answer session, she emphasised the enormous influence Victor Varasely, whom she personally met, had on her work.

Although now in her 90s and in a wheelchair, Matilde is still active, and several examples of her latest works were on display in one of the largest stands in the exhibition.



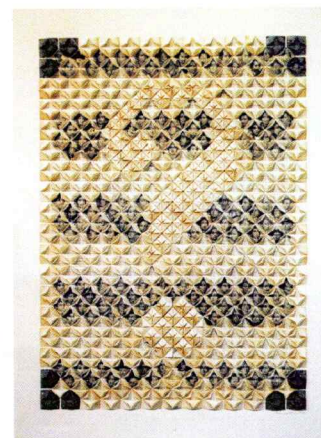
Matilde Pérez: 1973 untitled works, Silk Screen Lilac, Silk Screen Green and Silk Screen Orange.



Matilde Pérez: 1985, Electronic Illuminated Kinetic sculpture in acrylic and stainless steel.



Matilde Pérez: 2008, Motorised Kinetic sculpture in acrylic and wood.



Francisca Prieto: Between Folds/Royal and Noble Authors.



Examples of Livia Marin's work.

## ASADO IN SURREY

The inclement weather on Saturday, 12th June, did not deter people from attending the Chilean barbecue in the beautiful setting of Epsom College. Some even challenged the rain by taking gazebos.

As usual, Chris Hopewell was welcoming the guests with a complimentary pisco sour to start the ball rolling. The much-awaited "choripan", "empanadas", as well as steaks and salads followed. To crown it all came the dessert, meringue nests with raspberries!

The highlight of the day, the raffle, was enjoyed by grown-ups and children alike.





*The barman, Mr Chris Hopewell, and his assistant, Mrs Pritchard.*



*Mrs Carla Díaz, Mr Ignacio Llanos, Mr Rodrigo Espinosa, Mr Claudio Durán and Mr Patricio Díaz.*



*Mr George Silva-Rozzi, Mrs Luise Silva Rozzi, Ms Alexandra Jones, Mr Callum Fyfe and Mrs Catherine Fyfe.*



*Mrs Sandra Amedick, Mr John Rickus, Mr John Amedick, Kevin Amedick, Sebastian Amedick, Ms Allison Amedick and Mrs Lori Amedick.*



*From left to right: Mr César Guerra-Reyes, Mr Gary Brown and Mr Cristóbal Pollman.*



*Standing: Mr and Mrs Jonathan Cook and their daughter, Philippa. Sitting: Mr & Mrs Robert Hart and their grand-daughters Emily & Chloe.*



*Beatriz Cuadra, Violeta Casado and Eron Durán playing football, while little Max McInnes checks for rain!*

## FACING

The exceptionally talented sisters Angélica and Mónica Peric held a joint exhibition of their works on Gallery 27, Cork Street, London.

Angélica, a sculptress, studied at the School of Fine Arts in Santiago, and has exhibited widely in both Chile and Europe. She currently lives in Brussels. In describing her art, she says: "I work the material, its transformation, vitality, the play of texture, contrasts and volumes. I see the mystery hidden in each of them with the various different materials: bronze, copper, plastic or clay. I see their possibilities and development. What interests me is to go in, find myself, watch the birth of something new and feel the sense of eternity."

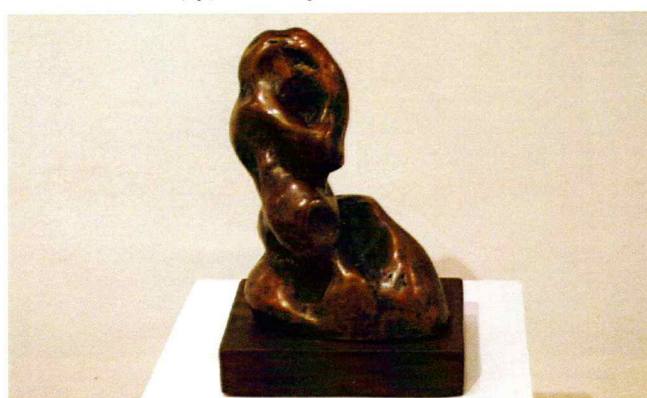
Mónica is the younger of the two sisters. She studied art at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago and graduated with maximum distinction. She has also exhibited extensively. As she explained in the Gallery catalogue: "In that present tense which painting is, the model and I meet in an intermediate space, where sensations, memories, colours vibrate and express themselves by means of the chosen palette."



This is the second time they have exhibited together, with the abstract sculptures of Angélica on the ground floor and Mónica's paintings in the brightly lit and spacious basement.



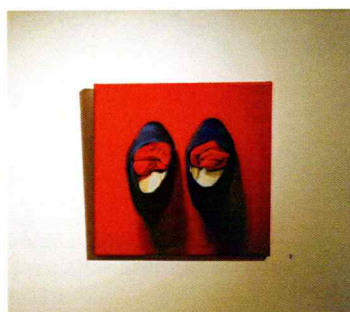
Mrs Francisca Prieto (left) with Ms Angélica Peric and her sculpture "Perception".



"Embrace" by Ms Angélica Peric.



Ms Mónica Peric in front of her work "In Memoriam".



"Blue Shoe" by Mónica Peric.



From left to right: Mr Cristián León, Mr Rodrigo Espinosa, Mr Cristián López and Mr Henning Droege.

## THE BRITISH INFLUENCE IN VALPARAÍSO

The renowned Chilean historian and writer, Mr Miguel Laborde, gave a lecture on the British influence in Valparaíso at

the Cervantes Institute, Eaton Square, London SW1, on Thursday, 12 July 2012. Mr Laborde teaches urban development at the School of Architecture at Universidad Diego Portales. He has written 14 books, 8 of them about urban history.

He started by explaining that the Humboldt current has, over millions of years, eroded the southern Chilean coast so that there are few natural bays or harbours. However, the large bay of Valparaíso is an exception. The town itself was founded in 1536 by Juan de Saavedra. It developed as a convenient stopping-point for ships rounding Cape Horn to reach the Pacific Ocean.

However, it didn't really start to grow until the beginning of the nineteenth century when the embryonic Chilean Navy chose the port as its main base. This coincided with the start of the Industrial Revolution, when several European countries, principal among them, Great Britain, seeking markets for their goods, found Valparaíso a convenient centre to serve the eastern Pacific countries, including North America, Australia and Japan. The port soon had so many warehouses that it had to be artificially increased in size by land fill, adding an area approximately three blocks deep. By the 1820's there were around 3000 British residents in Valparaíso.

The heyday of the port was the second half of the nineteenth century. The Californian gold rush of the 1850's was virtually completely supplied via Cape Horn and Valparaíso. The nitrate boom of Southern Perú and Northern Chile led to the importation of machinery and export of the nitrate through the now bustling trading centre. Coal from Central Chile and wool from the huge Patagonian "fundos" also passed through the port. Several British trading houses, such as Gibbs Williamson, were established and grew very rich. All this led to an ever-increasing British population. The community established schools, of which the Scottish MacKay School for boys and St Margaret's School for girls still exist, and are considered among the best in the country. The community also donated the British Hospital, for a long time the finest hospital in the South Pacific. There were English language newspapers and magazines, and the British brought their sports, such as football, golf, tennis and even fox hunting!

Life around the port soon became unpleasant with crime, noise and pollution. So the various foreign communities took to the hills above the town and built their own enclaves. The British populated Mount Pleasant and Victoria (now Concepción) hills. To reach these residential areas the inhabitants built the now famous "Ascensores" or funiculars, of which 16 are still functioning.

The British also brought Anglicanism to the area. Originally banned under Spanish rule, the bodies of non-Catholics were thrown into the sea, being denied burial in the local cemetery. However, this proved impractical, as the bodies would be washed back on shore. The authorities finally granted permission for the first Anglican cemetery in South America. Eventually, an Anglican church was built and St Paul's is still standing today, although in urgent need of restoration, especially after the 2010 earthquake.

However, in 1914, the Panama Canal was opened, and ships no longer needed to undertake the long and dangerous voyage around Cape Horn. The effect on Valparaíso was immediate and devastating and it became a relatively quiet backwater. Trade between Britain and Chile declined throughout the twentieth century as Chile looked more to the Pacific rim for trading partners.

In 2003, Valparaíso was declared a World Heritage Site, and restoration of many of the nineteenth century houses has been undertaken.



## CELEBRATION OF O'HIGGINS BIRTHDAY

The annual celebration of the birthday of Bernardo O'Higgins, liberator and founding father of the Chilean nation, took place on 20th August 2012 in O'Higgins Square, Richmond-upon-Thames, in the presence of members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Armed Forces, Defence Attachés of the Latin American countries and special guests. The National Anthems of Great Britain and Chile were followed by the speeches from the Military Attaché, Colonel Claudio Cubillos and the Mayor of the Borough of Richmond, Cllr Rita Palmer.



*Baroness Hooper, Mrs Aura Laborde, Mr Miguel Laborde, Mr Ignacio Llanos and Sra Claudia Bobadilla.*



*Mrs Judith Hart, Mrs Angie Wilkinson and Mr Richard Wilkinson.*



*From left to right: Mr David Pearson, Mr Robin Kent and Mr Peter Heap.*



*Mrs Diana Cooper-White, Mr Gordon Pratt, Mrs Anne Nock and Mr David Nock.*



*Collecting donations for St Paul's Church. From left to right: Mr David Williams, Mrs Carmen Pearson, Mr Roger Lumby, Mrs Cristina Willans and Mr Robert Willans.*

In his address to the assembled company, Colonel Cubillos explained the reasons for the celebration. When he was seventeen, Bernardo's father had sent him to England to further his education, and he had lived and studied in Richmond. This was a turbulent time in the western world, with the recent events of the American War of Independence and the French Revolution. England was at war with France and the Spanish King, Charles IV, had abdicated in favour of his son, Ferdinand VII. This last act had encouraged the Spanish colonies to seek emancipation and the young Bernardo came into contact with such revolutionaries as the Venezuelan Francisco de Miranda, who were living in London at the time. This moulded a man and soldier who devoted himself to spreading the ideals of independence, resulting in his assuming leadership of Chile at a time of controversy and difficulty. His education in England had great influence when, in building both a merchant and fighting navy, he bought ships from this country, and hired English officers, of which the most famous was Lord Cochrane.

Wreaths were laid at the bust of the liberator on behalf of Casa Chile, Instituto O'Higiniano, Richmond-upon-Thames and the Chilean Embassy.

A vin d'honneur followed.



*Wreaths at the foot of the bust of Bernardo O'Higgins.*



*The Military Attaché, Colonel Claudio Cubillos, Minister Counsellor Rodrigo Espinosa, the Mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames, Cllr Rita Palmer and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lisa Blakemore.*



*From left to right: Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, Cllr Pamela Fleming and Mr Robin Jowit OBE.*





From left to right: Ms Jutte Ayscough, Mr Cristián León and Baroness Hooper.



Mr Omar Miranda, Mrs Sussana Miranda, Mr Cristián Faúndez and Mr José Carmona.

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## NEW MEMBERS

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Mr & Mrs Eduardo Carmona.  
Mr Dennis Doble.  
Ms Lucie Guarello.  
Mr Juan Carlos Olivares & Ms Carmina Dominguez.  
Mr Stephen Robinson.  
Mr Robert Somner.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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ALAF Gastronomic Fair on 20th October 2012 at Kensington Town Hall, Horton Street, London W8 7NX.

The Christmas Dinner on 6th December 2012 at Rectory House, Imperial College, 190 Queen's Gate, London SW1H 9AJ.

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## BIRTH

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### Oh boy!

On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012 in Santiago, Chile, to Jon Benjamin and Carolina Vásquez, a son, Louis Isaac Arthur. Mr Benjamin is H.M. Ambassador to Chile.

The Society extends its warmest congratulations.

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## WEDDING

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On Saturday, 6th October 2012, at the 13th century village church of St John's in Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire, the wedding took place of Mr Michael Roberts and Miss Emma Wild. The groom is the son of Michael and Georgina Roberts.

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## OBITUARY

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by Mr Warwick Stanton  
(nephew) and Mr Robert Hart.

### Henry Clements 1928-2012

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Henry (Harry) Clements OBE, of London, on Sunday 26th August 2012, aged 84.

Henry was a bachelor. Born in Liverpool to Mary and Henry Bolton Clements on 1st March 1928, Henry attended St Anselm's Grammar School, Birkenhead and later gained his chemistry degree whilst working with Unilever.

Henry took pride in being a "Unilever Man". He worked with the company for forty five years, spending thirty of those years overseas, in Trinidad (1956-63), Turkey (1963-65), Perú (1965-71), El Salvador (1971-76), Chile (1976-86) and Mexico (1986-89). Always self-deprecating, when asked what he did for a living he would smile and say "I sell soap". He received an OBE for services to British export in 1987 and retired in 1989.

Henry's longest overseas appointment was as chairman of Unilever's Chilean operations and Chile was undoubtedly his favourite Latin American country and where he made many friends. Many messages have been received extolling the contribution he made there. On retirement, he continued his Chilean connection by joining the committee of the Anglo Chilean Society, helping to get the Society on to a formal basis with Charity Commission registration.

In 2005, Henry developed multiple myeloma and was given three months to live, but confounded all medical opinion by fighting the disease and living life to the full for a further seven years!

Henry's Catholic religion was always important to him. He took great pleasure in a wide range of sports, playing tennis, golf, football and cricket and was a lifelong supporter of Liverpool Football Club. He also enjoyed crosswords, good food and wine.

He was well known and respected by friends and family for his keen intelligence, perceptive and astute reading of people, great sense of humour and self-deprecating style. A courteous and genial man, he showed great forbearance and indomitable spirit in the face of illness. Henry was warm and outgoing, at the same time as being a very private and dignified man. He will be much missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

The funeral service was held at Marylebone Crematorium, London, on 8 September 2012. It was well attended by many Unilever colleagues, family and friends, including colleagues from the Anglo-Chilean Society. At Henry's request his funeral was a celebration of his life, with "no black ties".

The family wish to thank all those who attended his funeral or sent their condolences.

Memorial donations may be made to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. ([www.leukaemia-lymphoma-research.org.uk](http://www.leukaemia-lymphoma-research.org.uk))

