

ANGLO-PERUVIAN SOCIETY

Chairman's Report for 2010

I am pleased to report that the Society has had another active and successful year – a year packed full of events as varied as we have ever had and, as Terry Browne will report in his Treasurer's Report that follows this, our most profitable ever.

Charitable Donations. Funds for our donations came from a combination of sources: these included, above all, The Inca Ball, held at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, but included our regular receipts from such sources as Membership Dues, the Tennis Tournament; and the surpluses from Lecture Evenings.

The Society sent the largest donation, of £150,000, to SOS Children's Villages, Juliaca Peru. Other donations, to a total of 11 charities, amounted to £11,594. As I write, we are also holding over a considerable further sum to be distributed during the course of 2011. We are always interested to hear of small charities of special interest to our members, as we try to support new worthy causes when we can, and it is always a bonus if we can keep a special personal interest in the way that our funds are spent.

The Peruvian Embassy. It was our sad duty to say goodbye to Ambassador H. E. Ricardo Luna after his five years here in London. He proved a good friend of the Society and this year allowed us to make invaluable use of the Chancery for many of our lectures, and for an exhibition of Peruvian Art by the Scottish artist Gordon Davidson.

In November – just in time for The Inca Ball - Ambassador H.E. Hernán Couturier arrived and we do wish him and his wife Sonia and their son Gaston a very happy and fruitful time here in London. We must especially thank the Couturier family for having let us use their Residence for our Christmas Party only a few weeks after their arrival from Lima. I must also add that without the tireless support and enthusiasm of the Embassy Staff, our

Society could not perform as well as it does, and would have much reduced sums to distribute to Peruvian charities.

Activities. Last year's main event was The Inca Ball, held at the Royal Opera House on November 16th. This was organised with great panache and very considerable expertise by Beatrice Barclay and her extremely hard working and professional Committee. There really needs to be a separate report to cover this extraordinarily successful and profitable event, but suffice here to say that our Society has never before held an event of this size and complexity. . . and that there are rumours that it MAY not be the last!

The Society had another varied programme of lectures and other events during the year and I would especially like to thank my predecessor John Hemming for the way in which, year after year, he conjures up and organises such a remarkable variety of lecturers.

It is so important for members to support our programme, and a big thank you goes out especially to members who participate regularly and more so to those who bring friends and introduce new members.

In chronological order, these are the events that made up our 2010 calendar –

27 January: John Beauclerk: 'Vilcabamba Revisited'.

25 February: James Dunkerley: 'The Third Man: O'Connor and the Struggle for Independence'.

11 March: John Hemming : 'Monuments of the Incas'.

22 April: Dr Miguel Alexiades: 'The River of Time: Place & History of an Amazonian People'.

28 April: Gordon Davidson 'Arequipa to the Amazonas'. Art Exhibition Private View at The Peruvian Embassy.

26 May: Marisol Mosquera 'Mystery and History: Peruvian Art Today'.

16 June: Max Barclay 'An Inordinate Fondness for Beatles' at the Natural History Museum.

18 September: Annual Tennis Tournament at the Sigi Cornish Tennis Club.

16 October: ALAF Gastronomic Festival at Kensington Town Hall.

10 November: Mervyn Samuel 'Ayacucho, a Forgotten Gem'.

16 November: The Inca Ball at Covent Garden.

8 December: Christmas Party at The Ambassador's Residence.

9 December: ALAF Carol Concert at Farm Street Church

11 December: 'A Christmas Offering' followed by Peruvian Supper, Music & Dances at St Erconwald's Church, Wembley.

Membership. I am glad to report that for the first time for some years our membership is beginning to increase again. This is partly a result of the Inca Ball having brought new people into contact with us. We must, however, all continue to strive to recruit more members to join, and to enjoy the Society's very varied activities. If you have friends who might be interested, PLEASE ask them to take a look at our much improved website www.angloperuviansociety.org or ask Maria Varela to send them a membership pack with leaflets describing future events.

Administration. Without Maria Varela, my job would be almost impossible. She continues to work tirelessly on our behalf and puts in more hours - both inside and outside the office - than most of us could possibly imagine. Quite apart from her vital membership and committee responsibilities, she succeeds, event after event, in galvanising fellow members and friends to assist her with the buying and preparation of the delicious finger food, wine and pisco sours for the receptions. Sincere thanks from all of us to Maria! I should also particularly like to thank Blanca Cane for the unstinting support she has given Maria with the ALAF Gastronomic Festival, the ALAF Carol Concert at Farm Street, and the Christmas Offering at St Erconwald's Church in Wembley.

Thanks also to all the other hard-working members of the Executive Committee. Sufficient to say, when a Committee has enthusiasm and an ability for hard work, it is possible to achieve a remarkable result, as has been the case during 2010. Although no longer a member of the Committee, I'd like to thank David Dell

for the years of Committee minutes taking. He is a real pro at this exacting task, and we are very sorry that he, quite understandably, decided to retire from this job towards the end of 2010. Fortunately, he has agreed to keep on with the minutes of our AGM's. Special thanks also to Terry Browne who, quite apart from his exacting job as Honorary Treasurer (particularly exacting this year given the complexities of the Inca Ball), keeps such an eagle eye on the Peruvian charities that we support.

I would also like to express the Society's warm thanks to our Auditor R. M. Anstey who has, as in previous years, ably and generously audited our accounts for no fee.

I now ask Terry Browne to take us through the accounts.

Hallam Murray
Chairman.