



THE BRITISH SAN MARTIN INSTITUTE

In Honour of General José de San Martín, South American Hero, Statesman, and Liberator.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

BSMI EVENTS 2024

Aligned with the Strategic Development Plan 2024-2027, this document contains the full list of activities carried by the BSMI since the last AGM in January 2024.

2024:

5 December - Bicentenary of the Battles of Junín and Ayacucho (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

The President of the National Sanmartiniano Institute in Argentina, Colonel (R) Dr Claudio Morales Gorleri, alongside the Peruvian Ambassador to Argentina, HE Carlos A. Chocano Burga, and the Argentine Ambassador to Peru, HE Samuel Ortiz Basualdo, invited the British San Martín Institute to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Battle of Ayacucho.

Ms Florencia Canale and Ramiro San Román represented the BSMI.

28 November - Bicentenary of the Battles of Junín and Ayacucho (London, United Kingdom)

The Embassy of Peru in the United Kingdom hosted the panel discussion "The Independence of Peru and its Key Figures," a thought-provoking event that delved into the rich and complex history of Peru's journey to independence.

12 November – Inauguration of the Exhibition for the Bicentenary of the Battles of Junín and Ayacucho. (London, United Kingdom)

Organised by the Embassy of Peru in London, an innovative exhibition to commemorate the bicentenary of the Battles of Junín and Ayacucho was inaugurated at the embassy.

The BSMI was represented by George Bush and Juan Dávila y Verdin.

6 November - HM Ambassador in Argentina Kristy Hayes receives the Honorary Chair "Duff House" (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

In Buenos Aires, Florencia Canale and Ramiro San Román, in representation of the institute, presented the Honorary Chair "Duff House" to HM Ambassador in Argentina, HE Kristy Hayes, in merit of her diplomatic efforts promoting understanding among nations, and in coincidence with the bicentenary of the visit of General San Martín to Scotland.

The British Embassy in Buenos Aires confirmed Mr Oliver Galak, Head of Communications, as a Liaison with the British San Martín Institute.

6 November – Second Session "II International San Martín's Lectures of Women Historians 2024" (London, United Kingdom)

Organised Argentine Embassy of London in partnership with the British San Martín Institute, presentation of « La Mendocina » by Ms Alejandra Guibert. Moderated by Marcelo Scenna.

The event took place at the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador in London.

29 October – Official visit to the Argentine Embassy in Brussels (Brussels, Belgium)

Official visit to the HE Ambassador Juan C. Valle Raleigh, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the Kingdom of Belgium and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in Brussels.

During the meeting, we discussed the bicentennial of General San Martín's arrival in Belgium, where he lived between 1824 and 1830 after retiring from public life, and the possibility of organizing cultural activities in 2025, including the potential creation of a San Martín Institute in Belgium.

25 October – Meeting with the Instituto Nacional Sanmartiniano (Online).

Online meeting with the new authorities of the Instituto Nacional Sanmartiniano, Colonel (R) Dr Claudio Morales Gorleri (President), Mr Roberto L. Elissalde (Vice President), and Ms Alicia Timpanaro, Coordinator of

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the network of San Martín's institutes and cultural associations. Represented the BSMI, Mr Juan Dávila y Verdin.

20 October – First Session “II International San Martín's Lectures of Women Historians 2024” (London, United Kingdom)

Organised Argentine Embassy of London in partnership with the British San Martín Institute, presentation of « Entre la pasión y traición, el Diablo y la Bastarda » - Men and women of flesh and blood who played an extraordinary role in our history by Ms Florencia Canale. Moderated by Juan Dávila y Verdin.

The event took place at the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador in London.

30 August - 246th Anniversary of Captain-General Bernardo O'Higgins's birth (Richmond-upon-Thames, United Kingdom)

Invited by the Chilean Embassy in the United Kingdom, the British San Martín Institute participated of the official commemorations of the 246th anniversary of the birth of the Captain-General Bernardo O'Higgins.

The institute was represented by Baroness Hopper, and Juan Dávila y Verdin.

19 August - 200th Anniversary of the visit of General San Martín to Scotland (Banff, Scotland)

The British San Martín Institute, in conjunction with the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in the United Kingdom, among other institutions, participated in the celebrations and activities jointly organized by the town of Banff and Aberdeenshire County.

The activities included a visit to Banff Castle and the local museum, showing an exhibition on San Martín's visit to Banff in 1824.

On the occasion of the bicentenary of General José San Martín's visit to Scotland, His Majesty The King sent us his greetings.

Also, during the event, His Grace The Duke of Fife officially joined the British San Martín Institute. His Grace has accepted the First Academic Chair “James Duff, 4th Earl Fife (1776-1857)”, named after his ancestor, whose influence was instrumental in the passage of San Martín to South America in 1812, actively supporting the liberation of Argentina, Chile, and Peru.

The institute was represented in Scotland by Baroness Hopper, Marcelo Scenna, Juan Dávila y Verdin, Soledad Salto, Cristian Caratti, Susana Ecclestone, Thomas Verdin, and Andrés di Fiore.

The British San Martín symbolically presented to the Friends of Duff House (FoDH) a painting of San Martín and James Duff donated by maestro Cristian Caratti.

17 August - Inauguration Exhibition “BANFF, 1824” (London, United Kingdom)

During the 174th anniversary of the death of General San Martín, it was inaugurated the exhibition “BANFF, 1824” in commemoration of the bicentenary of the visit of General San Martín to his friend James Duff, 4th Earl Fife, in the summer of 1824.

During the event, the British San Martín Institute presented the Honorary Chair “Guayaquil Conference” to the ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Kingdom, H.E. Luis Vayas Valdivieso.

17 August – Signature MOU with the Instituto Sanmartiniano de España (London, United Kingdom)

During the commemorations for the anniversary of the death of General San Martín, and the bicentenary of his visit to Scotland, the British San Martín Institute and the Instituto Sanmartiniano de España signed a memorandum

8 August – Ecuador's National Day (London, United Kingdom)

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Invited by the Ecuadorian Embassy and the Ecuadorian General Consulate in the United Kingdom, the British San Martín Institute participated of the official commemorations of the Ecuador National's Day, the "Primer Grito de Independencia" (1809)

The institute was represented by Baroness Hopper, and Juan Dávila y Verdin.

June 2024 - Official visit to the Embassies of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador (London, United Kingdom).

Protocolar visit to the embassies of Chile, Peru and Ecuador to present a copy of the constitutions of the institute. One of the main purposes of our organisation is to strengthen the long-lasting friendship which has existed between the United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile, and Peru since the beginning of the 19th century.

The Embassy of Peru in London confirmed Ms Irina Encarnación, Head of Cultural and Press Affairs, as a Liaison with the British San Martín Institute. Also, the Embassy of Ecuador in London confirmed Counsellor Gabriel Villafuerte Manzano, Deputy Head of Mission, as a Liaison with the institute.

March to July 2024 - Several meetings to coordinate the Bicentenary of the visit of General San Martín. (Online)

Attended to the meetings Florencia Canale, Leandro Ocón, Laura Delacriox, George Busch, Ramiro San Roman, Marcelo Scenna, Maria Marcó, and Juan Dávila y Verdin.

1-2 June - Official visit to in reparations for the Bicentenary (Banff, Scotland)

Two days visit to meet in-person our Scottish strategic partners, and to discuss all the details about the in reparations for the Bicentenary of the visit of General San Martín to Banff.

This project is jointly coordinated by the British San Martín Institute (BSMI), the Argentina British Community Council (ABCC), Friends of Duff House (FoDH), Banff Castle Community Association, Historic Environment Scotland – for Duff House, Banff Academy, Lord Lieutenancy of Banffshire, Banff Preservation and Heritage Society (BPHS), and Aberdeenshire Council.

29 April - 10th Anniversary of the British San Martín Institute (London, United Kingdom)

On 29th April 2024, the British San Martín Institute (BSMI) commemorated the tenth anniversary of its establishment in the United Kingdom. The original signatories of the institute are Baroness Hooper, CMG, Allan Tabbush, OBE (+), Richard Street, John Wilson. Marilita Marcó it was its first Secretary.

During the event, we presented the Honorific Chair "Battle of San Lorenzo" to the newly appointed Argentine Ambassador, HE Mariana Plaza, and the Honorific Chair "Paracas Bay Landing" to the former Peruvian Ambassador, HE Juan Carlos Gamarra Skeels.

The BSMI was represented by Baroness Hopper (Patron), Marcelo Scenna (Chairman), Juan Dávila y Verdin (Secretary General), Tony Robinson (Treasurer), and George Bush (member of the Board of Trustees).

The event took place at the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador in London.

The Argentine Embassy in London confirmed Counsellor Esteban Pronato as a Liaison with the British San Martín Institute.

25 February - 246th Anniversary of the birth of General Don José de San Martín (Bs As, Argentina)

Invited by the Instituto Nacional Sanmartiniano of Argentina, a delegation of the British San Martín Institute participated of the official commemorations of the 246th Anniversary of the birth of General Don José de San Martín at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Buenos Aires.

The BSMI delegation was composed by Laura Delacroix, Ramiro San Román, Florencia Canale (member of the Board of Trustees) and Juan Dávila y Verdin FRSA (Secretary General).

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3 February - 211th Anniversary of the Battle of San Lorenzo (San Lorenzo, Argentina)

Invited by the Mayor of the City of San Lorenzo, the BSMI was represented by its Secretary General, Juan Dávila y Verdin and Federico Sivak in the official commemorations of the anniversary of the Battle of San Lorenzo.

20 January - Official visit to the Instituto Nacional Sanmartiniano (Bs As, Argentina)

After the last BSMI AGM, the newly elected BSMI Secretary General, Juan Dávila y Verdin, and John Hunter, Vice-Chairman of the British Argentine Community Council, made an official protocolar visit to the Instituto Nacional San Martiniano in Buenos Aires. We were received by the President of the institution, Mr Eduardo García Caffi.

During the meeting we discuss the progress of the BSMI and the organisation of the commemorations of the bicentenary of the visit of General San Martín to Scotland (1824-2024).

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