



# THE BRITISH SAN MARTÍN INSTITUTE

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

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

### BSMI EVENTS 2025

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 2025.

#### **2025:**

**25 February — Commemoration of the 247th anniversary of the birth of General San Martín and the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of his statue — Belgrave Square and the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador, London (UK).**

During the ceremony, a commemorative plaque was unveiled to mark the 30th anniversary of the monument to General José de San Martín in London.

On this occasion, the BSMI conferred several distinctions: the Honorary Diplomatic Chair “Paracas Bay Landing” to H.E. Ambassador Ignacio Higuera Hare of the Republic of Peru; the Honorary Academic Chair “Basil Hall” to Mr. Andrew Simpson, Lord-Lieutenant of Banffshire; and a posthumous recognition to former Ambassador Mario Cámpora (1930–2022) for his instrumental role in the installation of the monument to General San Martín in London.

**14 May - Artistic Project “The Strategy of the Eclipse” | Artist: Dolores de Argentina [Dolores Cáceres] | Curator: Victoria Giraudó - Belgrave Square & Residence of the Argentine Ambassador, London (UK)**

Invited by the Argentine Embassy in the United Kingdom, the British San Martín Institute attended an artistic intervention in Belgrave Square, London, which highlighted the legacy of General José de San Martín through the Strategy of the Eclipse project. As part of the intervention, the monument was briefly veiled and then unveiled, symbolising a renewed engagement with its historical significance.

Launched in Buenos Aires in 2023, the initiative spans Europe and the Americas and will conclude in Yapeyú on 17 August 2025. Commemorative plaques installed along the route will link each location, creating a shared network of art, memory, and homage to San Martín.

**7 June — Launch of BSMI Scotland and Presentation of the Morrion of the Regimiento de Granaderos a Caballo to the Lord-Lieutenant of Banffshire and the Banff Community — Banff, Historical County of Banffshire, Scotland (UK).**

The British San Martín Institute formally inaugurated its Scottish branch in Banff, celebrating the longstanding historical ties between Scotland and Argentina. The ceremony, held at Banff Castle, featured the presentation of a replica Morrion helmet of the Regimiento de Granaderos a Caballo to the Lord-Lieutenant of Banffshire and the local community. The piece is now on public display at the Banff Museum.

The establishment of BSMI Scotland marks a significant step in expanding the Institute’s presence across the United Kingdom. Based in Banff, the branch will serve as a hub for academic, cultural, and historical collaboration on the Scottish contributions to Latin American independence movements and fostering new partnerships with local institutions, museums, and civic organisations. Its activities will include public lectures, educational programmes, cultural events, and joint initiatives that highlight the shared heritage linking Scotland and South America.

The event brought together a wide range of local organisations and civic representatives, further strengthening the shared legacy of General José de San Martín and reaffirming the values of unity, service, and freedom that bind both nations.

The Morrion was secured through the auspices of HE Mariana Plaza, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic.

#### **The British San Martín Institute (BSMI)**

C/O Argentine Embassy in the United Kingdom, 65 Brooke Street, London W1K 4AH

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### **9 June — Banff Castle confirmed as the Scottish headquarters of the British San Martín Institute — Banff, Historical County of Banffshire, Scotland (UK).**

*In June 2025, Banff Castle was formally authorised as the Scottish headquarters of the British San Martín Institute. The site, which unites medieval and Georgian architectural heritage with a rich royal history, also reflects longstanding diplomatic and cultural ties between Scotland and Argentina. Its grounds feature a symbolic tree planted in 1950 to commemorate the visit of General José de San Martín to Scotland, further embedding the castle within the shared historical memory that connects both nations.*

*As the Institute's Scottish base, Banff Castle will host academic, cultural, and civic initiatives aimed at deepening research, public engagement, and international collaboration. Its designation marks an important step in expanding the Institute's presence across the United Kingdom and strengthening the legacy of General San Martín in Scotland.*

### **7 July – Commemorations of the 204th Anniversary of the Independence of Peru – Embassy of the Republic of Peru, London**

The British San Martín Institute was honoured to attend the commemorations of the 204th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Peru, held on 7 July at the Embassy of Peru in London. The celebration brought together members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of cultural and academic institutions, and friends of Peru to mark this historic occasion.

### **17 August - 175th Anniversary of the Death of General San Martín in Scotland — Banff, Historical County of Banffshire, Scotland (UK).**

Organised by BSMI Scotland in partnership with Banff Castle and the Friends of Duff House, the 2025 commemorations at Banff Castle honoured the legacy of General José de San Martín and his historic friendship with James Duff. Marking 175 years since his passing, the ceremony brought together music, reflection, and heritage, offering an elegant and meaningful tribute that united communities across continents through shared history, cultural diplomacy, and enduring transatlantic friendship. More than 300 people attended the event.

The programme also included the presentation of *La Mendocina* by Alejandra Guilbert, distinguished author and member of the BSMI, adding further depth and richness to the commemorative occasion.

### **22 August – 175th Anniversary of the death of General San Martín in London - Belgrave Square & Residence of the Argentine Ambassador, London (UK)**

The commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the death of General José de San Martín took place in Belgrave Square and at the Residence of the Argentine Ambassador, bringing together members of the diplomatic corps, the Anglo-Argentine community, and representatives of cultural and academic institutions. The ceremony honoured the Liberator's enduring legacy and his historical presence in London, a city that played a meaningful role in the broader context of Latin American independence.

During the event, the British San Martín Institute presented a special recognition to Ms Marilita Marcó, former Secretary of the Institute, current member of the Board of Trustees, and a distinguished figure within the Anglo-Argentine community. Her longstanding dedication and service were acknowledged as an integral part of the Institute's institutional development and its mission to preserve and promote the legacy of General San Martín in the United Kingdom.

### **June to November — BSMI support for the establishment of the San Martín Institute of the Benelux, headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.**

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Following the mandate approved at the BSMI AGM 2025, the British San Martín Institute actively supported the establishment of the San Martín Institute of the Benelux, with its headquarters in Brussels. The initiative was developed in partnership with the Instituto Sanmartiniano of Spain and received formal institutional recognition from the Instituto Sanmartiniano Nacional of Argentina.

The new Institute will serve as a regional centre for academic, cultural, and diplomatic initiatives across Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, further strengthening the international network dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of General José de San Martín.

The launch coincided with the bicentenary of the Maxims to Mercedes, written by General San Martín in Brussels in 1825—an anniversary that added historical resonance and symbolic depth to the creation of the Benelux Institute.

### **6 November — Presentation by Mario Pérez of the webinar “San Martín on the Medal” — in partnership with the Mitre Museum of Argentina.**

On 6 November, Mario Pérez delivered the webinar “San Martín on the Medal”, an in-depth presentation exploring the iconography, symbolism, and historical evolution of General José de San Martín’s representation in medallion art. The event was organised in partnership with the Mitre Museum of Argentina, strengthening collaborative ties between both institutions and contributing to the broader study of San Martín’s legacy through numismatics, heritage, and visual culture.

### **15 November – Scotland–Argentina Official Reception – Edinburgh, Scotland**

The British San Martín Institute was honoured to be invited to the Scotland–Argentina Evening Reception held in Edinburgh on 15 November. The event was hosted by Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs & Culture of the Government of Scotland, on the occasion of the official visit of the Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to Scotland.

This reception brought together representatives of government, diplomacy, culture, and civil society to celebrate the historic ties and growing cooperation between Scotland and Argentina. The Institute was represented by members of BSMI Scotland, who attended on behalf of our wider community and reaffirmed our commitment to fostering dialogue, cultural exchange, and institutional collaboration.

### **19 November – Bestowal of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Sun of Peru upon Baroness Hooper – Residence of the Peruvian Ambassador, London**

The British San Martín Institute was honoured to attend the ceremony marking the bestowal of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Sun of Peru upon Baroness Hooper, Patron of the BSMI. The distinction, conferred at the Residence of the Ambassador of Peru in London, represents the highest honour granted by the Republic of Peru and is reserved for individuals who have rendered exceptional service to the nation, particularly in the fields of diplomacy, culture, and international cooperation.

Established in 1821 by General José de San Martín, Protector of Peru, the Order of the Sun is the country’s oldest civilian decoration. Created in the earliest days of Peruvian independence, it symbolises the ideals of liberty, enlightenment, and national gratitude, honouring those whose contributions strengthen Peru’s international presence and uphold the values of its founding.

The awarding of the Grand Cross to Baroness Hooper underscores the profound esteem in which she is held for her longstanding commitment to fostering relations between the United Kingdom and Latin America, and for her distinguished contributions to parliamentary, educational, and cultural engagement across the region.

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