



THE ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF SÃO PAULO

Charles Robert Dow

Charlie is our second South American born President (Arthur Hunter born in London and Robert Maclean in São Paulo), born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 7 February 1928. He attended St Andrews Scots School, which has a strong link to Leith Academy in Edinburgh. He studied at the Facultad de Ciencias Economicas at the University of Buenos Aires, and after graduating, he joined Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., training as an accountant. After this he worked for Otis Elevator Co., in Argentina, Uruguay and Portugal, moving to the Sydney Ross Co., in South America, then ITT in Latin America, Spain and in the then EEC countries. Finally, he worked with Foseco in Brazil and Latin America and is now semi-retired, representing UK companies in Brazil.

On arriving in Brazil, Charlie remembers going with his three children, to a churrascaria, with a buffet and a piano player. When the bill arrived, he was amazed at how low it was, only to discover the charming tradition of children under twelve not being charged!

At the 49th Banquet at SPAC, Charlie presided. The speech "Our Native Land" was ably given by Simpson Nisbet and The Rev. John McGuire officiated for the first time at a Banquet. The Ceilidh in March was entitled "A Highland Voyage", held at SPAC, and this was so popular that entrance on the first night was restricted to "members of the Society and their ladies, plus lady Scots and their men folk", probably in that order!

In October the Ladies Night was held at the Mansão França, with Charlie making the speech to the Lassies. 81 litres of Atholl brose was consumed, possibly a record? Rosemary, Charlie's wife, an excellent sword dancer, designed the programme cover showing a very delicate thistle, for the 1978 Ladies Night. In 1976 the Clube Anglo Americano donated a photograph of HRH Edward VIII when he was the Prince of Wales, dressed in full highland attire.

The theme of the St Paul's School competition was "Famous Scots" and 61 entries were received resulting in the usual dilemma for the judges. A special prize for initiative was awarded to Susan Hiddleston, the only under 7-year-old who submitted an individual entry. In March, a trophy was presented by Ian Ferguson, who was leaving Brazil. This annual trophy was for the best of three soccer matches between the Scots and the Danes. The football team first drew with the Danes, and again in August but the Danes took the podium winning on penalties. The "braun" element did very well in the seven a side tournament in April, reaching the final, but was pipped at the post by SPAC. Charlie notes in his annual report that a Lady Scots golf team did remarkably well in the "*Olimpiadas dos Imigrantes*", organized by the Municipality of São Paulo. A record crowd turned out for the annual picnic - 700 adults and an estimated 1300 children - hard work, but to see "so many wee ones have such a good day" was a grand sight. As for grey matter, the Society came a proud fourth in the Brains of São Paulo run by the Round Table.

In Charlie's year a new letter heading with the crossed Brazilian and Scottish flags was adopted, and the annual St Andrew Day church service at St Paul's Anglican Church was revived after a lapse of several years. Charlie also succeeded in raising donations to charity by 51% - no mean feat! Charlie and Rosemary, maiden name Craig, have two daughters, Nicole and Janine and 4 grandchildren who live in the UK, and a son Anthony in Madrid.

Notes from telephone conversation with Charlie Dow on 27.4.98



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School founded 1838 – oldest Scottish School outside Scotland??? Tied to Leith Academy???
Check 70% Scots in Charlie's day. In April 1998 Charlie went to the school's celebration, meeting up with about 8 ex pupils from his year

BA when Charlie was young, was a predominantly British community and he mentioned he could go weeks without speaking Spanish. From his mother's home, he walked down to the station, picking up an English newspaper, going to work at Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co. where Directors, colleagues and clients were English speaking. Times spent in the Criterion Bar, the rowing club, the rugby club and at church were all times spent speaking English., Harrods, Mappin & Webb and Maples, the furniture store tell us of the British influence in BA at that time.

Rugby player for 25 years sometimes managing 2 seasons in one year if his company sent him from the northern to the southern hemisphere or vice versa.

1972. Charlie arrived in Brazil from Belgium which was not an expensive country in those days. On his first Sunday in SP he, his wife and 3 children went for lunch to a churrascaria with a buffet and piano player. Charlie says that when the bill arrived, he was amazed at how low it was, probably due to the charming tradition then of not charging for children under twelve! Brazil was still in the miracle years; apartments were few and rents were incredibly high. Because of this and noticing that many foreigners had acquired their own homes or were being subsidised by their companies, he decided to buy a large area of land at *Itapecerica da Serra*, where he and Rosemary built a house and live to this day.

In those days SPAC had a waiting list for membership and Charlie remembers Dougie Wilson, on the club's committee, on finding out Charlie was a Scot moved him in a favourable direction on the list. Maybe there's more than rumour to the existence of a Scottish Mafia! Those were the days you had to queue to get a pantomime ticket for SPAC's December show.

Charlie had worked on pony rides; hot dog stands and latterly was famous for his very successful bar

Picnic the raffle gave away 3-5 times the value in prizes of the amount collected in raffle tickets.

Picnic – Jean Samson Romero brought about 5 ponies for rides that started at 9.30 a.m. and finished at 5 p.m. Charlie remembers lifting young children on and off ponies, umpteen times up and down the field where the football pitch is, and after this effort, hardly being able to straighten up.

Rosemary's father, David Craig, made Rosemary a member of the St Andrew's Society in BA when she was born. was an excellent sword dancer

Notes from Tel conversation with Rosemary Dow 3.9.2001

Charlie collects old lamps – miners', oil, coach – 2 were lent to "British in Brazil" Exhibition in August 2001