

# ROCKY TRIP ARRIVES IN WALES



*Starting from left: Jorge Miglioli, Sergio Sepiurka, John Hughes, Federico Mirré, and Alun Pugh during the launching of Rocky Trip at the National Assembly for Wales building.*

**At Welsh First Minister Rhodri Morgan's invitation, the Argentine Ambassador to the UK Federico Mirré made an official visit to Cardiff on May 23, 2005.**

The many events on that "Argentine Day" in Cardiff started with the launching of the book *Rocky Trip – The Route of the Welsh in Patagonia* by the Argentine-Patagonian authors Sergio Sepiurka and Jorge Miglioli. This event was held at the National Assembly building and was presided over by Mr Alun Pugh, Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport. At the end of his presentation Sergio Sepiurka said:

*"The Welsh saga can be seen as a metaphor for tolerance. A small, but unique example in America of peaceful cohabitation and co-operation with the Natives, in this case the Tehuelche people. The Welsh that came to Patagonia went on being simple persons, free and merry, who acted towards the Natives in the same way they did among themselves. They did not try to convert them: they only shared with them their bread, the cold, the desert, and their dream to go west, always keeping poetry and music alive in their soul. They wanted to keep their language, and they succeeded in doing so.*

*"It was a kind of Utopia. And also a political project of the time, that has reminded me of some beautiful*

*words written by the Spanish writer Leon Felipe, which I read in my youth and never forget: "The day people are free, politics will be a song." You people fought for that. We are not Welsh, but living in Patagonia we have learned from your example. We would feel very proud if, through our book, we contribute in some modest way to make this saga and its universal meaning for Humankind more widely known."*

Another of the day's activities was a free Argentine food and wine tasting that went on all day, and a show



*The British and Argentine Ambassadors at Jorge Miglioli's show of the Rocky Trip photographs.*

of some of the striking photographs made by Jorge Miglioli especially for *Rocky Trip*. The images would remain in exhibition for many days and then stay in Wales, as they were donated to the Wales–Argentina Society (Cymdeithas Cymru-Ariannin).

The day reached its climax with the exciting Los Pumas – The British & Irish Lions rugby match at the Millennium Stadium, which ended in a last-minute draw, 25-all. During a great reception after the match, which was attended by about 1,000 guests, young Patagonian singer Alejandro Jones –from Trevelin, Chubut, now temporarily staying in Wales– was in charge of presenting two copies of *Rocky Trip* as a gift from Los Pumas and the Argentine Rugby Union to their hosts.

*Aur Roberts, Jorge Miglioli,  
Alejandro Jones and Sergio Sepiurka.*



## ROCKY TRIP AMONG THE WELSH

The authors of *Rocky Trip* stayed in Wales for 10 days and also visited Aberystwyth and Bangor.



*The Welsh Books Council headquarters at Castell Brychan, Aberystwyth*

In Aberystwyth, they were granted interviews at the National Library of Wales and the Welsh Books Council. An agreement was reached for the distribution of the book in Wales and its marketing through [www.gwales.com](http://www.gwales.com) the WBC site on the Internet. Sepiurka and Miglioli also met the managers of one of the most renowned publishing houses in Wales, and discussed the possibilities for a bilingual, Welsh-English language edition of *Rocky Trip* for next year.

As Wales is a country with many well-preserved narrow gauge trains in operation, it was only natural that often during their visit the authors found there was also a strong interest from publishers and train-lovers for their previous book *La Trochita – A Journey Through Time and Space on the Old Patagonian Express*.

The authors' journey was largely possible through traditional Welsh hospitality. They were hosted by many kind people who have strong ties with the Patagonian Welsh community and are well acquainted with Chubut province and its wild and beautiful scenery.



Maybe because of this knowledge, during a meeting with Wales' most important TV channel the authors were taken by surprise by a suggestion they made to take *Rocky Trip* to the big screen, through a Welsh-Argentine co-production of a movie. This project is now under evaluation: a hundred and forty years after the Welsh landed in Chubut, another dream strives to come true!

*The beautiful town of Dolgellau*

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*The plaque at Engedi Chapel, where one of the first meetings was held towards establishing a Welsh Colony in Patagonia*



*Caernarfon Castle.*