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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO. 38

JANUARY, 1963

PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

(Re-printed November, 1975)

MEETING.

A Happy New Year to all members with good shelling and rare finds in 1963 !

The first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, 22nd January at 8.15 p.m. in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum. This will be a general exchange and "get-together" evening, so come along and tell us about your holiday shelling. We hope to show a film.

Will members please note that meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday in the month, except when there are five Tuesdays, when the meeting will be held on the fourth Tuesday.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 20.11.1962.

This was very well attended, sixty-one being present. In the absence of Prof. Day, Mr Jack Walker was in the Chair. The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were read and confirmed.

The following were elected as members of the Society:

Mr Tom Walters, P.O. Box 248, Cape Town.
Mrs M. Helm, The Island, Great Brak River.

The following were proposed as new members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by:-</u>	<u>Seconded by:-</u>
Mrs M. Searle	B. Richards	L. Kerr
Mr & Mrs E. Pickstone	D. Ackermann	"
Mrs G. Haylett	D. Kennelly	"
Miss K. Leers	L. Kerr	M. Pinkham
Mrs K. Blackburn	"	J. Walker
Mrs D. Hawley	E. Burnes	L. Kerr
Mr B. Burch	R. Kilburn	D. Kennelly
Mrs J. Florence	V. Boulton	L. Kerr
Mrs H. Searle	M. Searle	"

The Hon. Secretary then read her report for the year, as follows:-

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 20th November, 1962.

Our fourth year has shown a steady advance in the growth of our Society. 29 new members have joined and 14 have resigned, making the membership now 153.

Ten evening meetings have been held and 3 field days. More field days would be arranged if members gave them better support. Circulars No. 27 to 37 were published, containing 67 pages. In addition, we issued in September our second Special Publication "The Families and Genera of South African Mollusca" by Prof J.H. Day, consisting of 17 pages.

The meetings on the whole have been well attended and we feel that beginners are deriving some benefit from the shells on display. We have had the privilege of seeing some outstanding films, thanks to the late Mr Thorne and also to Mr John Grindley for procuring and showing them. During the year, nearly 100 species of molluscs were collected in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve by Mrs Connolly and the writer and handed to Mr Middlemiss.

Special mention must be made of the excellent field work by Mrs Clarice Connolly of Fish Hook. She is assembling a reference collection of small shells, correctly named, which are available to members. There are already 230 species, all in small plastic packets. In addition, Mrs Connolly is making valuable notes on molluscs living in her sea-water aquarium.

Last/.....

Last December we had our annual party at the Round House, Camps Bay. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

We would like to record our thanks to the Director of the S.A. Museum for making this hall available to us for our meetings, to Dr Barnard for his patient help in identifying shells and to Sydney Kannemeyer for duplicating the Circulars.

May I add my personal thanks to the Members of the Council for their unflinching support, especially to John Grindley for his help in editing the Circulars

L. Kerr (Mrs)
Hon. Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Hon. Treasurer handed in the Financial Statement which was displayed for examination.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1962

Natal Building Society	230.98		Secretary's Expenses	23.87
Cash on Hand	<u>1.07</u>	232.05	Cost of Circulars	87.89
Interest on Building Society Account	8.70		Purchase of Books	56.07
Donations	1.60		Less sale of Books	<u>35.75</u>
Exchange on Cheques	<u>.38</u>	10.68	Membership of Zoological Society	10.00
Life Membership		15.00	Library Expenses	20.72
Entrance Fees		17.50	Balance at Natal Building Society	258.23
Subscriptions:			Cash on Hand	<u>4.84</u>
1960/1	39.60			263.08
Current year	100.00			
Prepaid	<u>11.05</u>	150.65		
		<u>R425.88</u>		<u>R425.88</u>
		=====		=====

M. Kempthorne (Miss)
Hon. Treasurer.
20.11.1962

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1962.

17 new books have been added to the Library this year, most of them a second gift from Dr Cohen. This makes a total of 50 books. Members are making good use of the Library. Country members are reminded that they, too, may borrow books. Gifts of books or papers on Conchology will be gratefully accepted.

L. Kerr (Mrs)
Librarian.

Prof. J.H. Day had been proposed as our Honorary Member by the Council. He was elected unanimously by the meeting.

A vote of thanks to Prof. Day as retiring President was passed for all his good work and encouragement to the Society. Mr Jack Walker was also thanked for his work on the Council.

THE NEW COUNCIL.

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| President | - Dr K.H. Barnard |
| Vice-President | - Dr F.H. Talbot (Mr C. Swaneveld to substitute until March) |
| Secretary | - Mrs L. Kerr |
| Treasurer | - Miss M. Kempthorne |
| Members | - Mrs C. Connolly |
| | - Mr J. Grindley |
| | - Mr D. Freeman |

Country/.....

Country Members

- Mrs H. Boswell - Transvaal
- Mr P. Elston - Natal
- Mr D. Kennelly - Border

After the tea interval, an excellent film was shown "Secrets of the Underwater World" by Walt Disney.

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THE CHRISTMAS PARTY. 13.12.1962

As usual, this went with a swing! Unfortunately, there was a strong southeaster blowing, so we had the party indoors. After the "braai" the Lucky Dips were given out by "Mother Neptune" in alphabetical order. Members and guests alike seemed to appreciate their prizes. Our thanks to Mrs Max Ackermann, Dirk Ackerman, Graham Ivy etc. for donating and parcelling up the shells. While some looked at Dirk's shells in his Museum, others danced or watched. A big "thank you" to Mrs Dirk Ackerman for the braai. We all enjoyed ourselves.

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Mr Graham Ivy, Long Street, Cape Town, has East Coast and Zanzibar shells in perfect condition, for exchange.

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Will all collectors who have any South African Cypraeidae, in any condition whatsoever, please send details of their shells to Mr J.H. Liversidge, 28 East St. Helens, Abingdon, Berkshire, England, with locality, name of collector, etc. Mr Liversidge is hoping to produce a check list of S.A. cowries and would be grateful for any information regarding breeding, range, rarity and notes on any particularly remarkable specimens. Will members please help.

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GENERAL NOTES.

COLLECTING BEACH SHELLS by P. Elston.

On again perusing Circular 35 and re-reading Mr P.J. le Roux's notes on his recent trip to the Natal and Transkei coasts, I must disagree strongly with his statement "leave the beach rolled specimens at Bonza Bay ----- to the children." This paragraph sounds like an attack on our Honorary member D.H. Kennelly.

While I concur that every endeavour should be made to collect LIVE specimens, especially when submitting for identification, (see Cir.34) preserved in alcohol, dead specimens are useful in establishing locality and extent of species. Much good work of this type has been done by members since the formation of the Society in 1958. Can Mr le Roux inform us as to whether live specimens of for example Cypraea fultoni, C.broderipi and C. amphithales have yet been collected, yet these are recorded and exhibited with pride in famous Museums. One example in my sixteen years of collecting is Ficus ficus Linnaeus. In 1946 I found fair specimens of this shell near Port Natal and ensuing years several more. This part of the coast is not subject to inshore currents and it was not until the September Equinox tide this year that I collected a LIVE specimen. This was preserved and sent to Dr K.H. Barnard for checking and was duly recorded, but I had already established, to my own satisfaction, that this species must live in that locality.

Reference collections in all Museums have many dead specimens of Marine Mollusca and are (with caution) referred to in articles issued from time to time by prominent Zoologists.

In conclusion is Mr le Roux aware that the collecting of live Marine Mollusca in Natal is only permitted by written permission of the Provincial Administrator in Executive Committee and that only two persons have such

permit/.....

permit as far as I am aware, as this Province is endeavouring to preserve our marine life.

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FURTHER NOTES ON CYPRAEA AMPHITALEA, MELVILLE, 1822, by D.K. Kennelly.

At the present time collectors in general have been becoming keen on obtaining a specimen of this shell, and these notes are compiled for the benefit of all interested.

It is now 74 years since the discovery of this species, and as far as the writer can ascertain from all available sources, the total number of specimens known is 16. This figure includes Dirk Ickermann's shell found at Ponta Bay in October.

Therefore C. amphitalia may still be rated as a rare species.

At the present time the known range of the shell is from Jeffreys Bay to Pondoland, and it seems possible that few specimens have been found owing to the similarity of amphitalia to the very common orientalis, and there are probably many more which collectors have overlooked.

In discussing this matter with Percy Elston recently, he agreed with this point of view, and considered that amphitalia may eventually be proved to be not as rare as hitherto considered.

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TWO MEN IN SEARCH OF SHELLS, by D.K. Kennelly

It all started with the kindly generosity of our member - E.C. (Ginger) Wicks of Uitenhage - who invited the writer to share his trip to the "Wild Coast".

Permission was readily granted to the writer by the East London Museum Board, who greatly appreciate the action of Mr Wicks in offering the transport.

In November 1961, a similar trip was made by "Ginger" and a friend, and the weather was fine. The present trip was marred and curtailed by rain for a period of over a week.

We made our way to Umtata River Mouth, where three days were spent, and collecting was done in rainproofs.

This is a good locality, which appears to mark the Southern limit of the range of certain Natal species, and it certainly warrants further investigation by collectors with time to spend.

The road from Ngqoleni to Umtata River is in poor condition for most of the thirty miles. Pot holes and corrugations abound, and there are several hair pin and S bends. The scenery is magnificent, and we greatly admired the stretch of natural forest traversed by the road. On the return journey our admiration was rather diminished by the road party engaged in widening and re-making this forest section. Graders and a bull-dozer, with a couple of heavy lorries, combined with three days of rain, had made the section a nightmare to motorists. A grader driver gaily waved us to proceed, and we lurched, bumped and slid over the repaired portion on the far side.

Rain followed us to the Bashes River, and we finished the day's trip in a thunderstorm. The road to this point was better, but about 25 miles from Elliotdale, we met a road party at work. There the car became well and truly bogged down in heavy mud while crossing to the remade part. Much to our relief, a bull-dozer was close by and pushed us out to the hard surface.

Bashes River was the only place visited of which we have cause to complain. Enquiry about the shell localities met with a most misleading and discouraging reply. This coupled with the next morning after eating two of the doing any collecting, and we left the next morning after eating two of the worst meals served up during the trip.

At Elliotdale on the return journey, we obtained the correct information/.....

information on shelling grounds at the Bashee, and details may be obtained from the writer by any member proceeding there.

Bashee River is also a locality which warrants further detailed investigation by collectors with time to spend.

Kei Mouth was our next objective, and here we were very pleased to contact our member, Mrs Hazel Jeffries, who had just returned from a trip collecting to the coast of Kenya.

Auntie" Hazel has a fine collection, including some rare species from the tropics. It was a real pleasure to view the specimens, and the writer was able to assist with a little of the nomenclature. Mention must be made of 11 year old Pam Holland. This enthusiastic little girl, possesses a small but very good collection of shells from the Transkei coast. Pam is being coached in shell lore by "Auntie Hazel" and it was a great pleasure to see Pam's specimens and supply the names.

To conclude this account of the journey, many good shells were obtained, and a lot of useful data noted with regard to the range of various species. It was most unfortunate that bad weather curtailed the trip to nine days, instead of the anticipated fortnight, and also prevented us from visiting two or three other localities .

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BORDER NOTES AND NEWS. by D.H. Kennelly

October brought the usual crop of visiting Collectors, chief of whom was our enthusiastic Percy Elston and his good wife. The writer spent a week at Bonza Bay with Percy, and we indulged in what proved to be a fruitless search for the elusive Cypraea amphithales. Hope has not been abandoned.

Our roaming collector friend - F. Steiner of the "Robin Mowbray", called in on his return trip. Judging by the specimens he generously handed in for the East London Museum, "Franz" did very well in his collecting while up the East Coast. In conversation with Franz, it is learnt that he contacted a collector at Poto Amelia, Mozambique, who has been gathering shells for the last 14/15 years. The bulk of the specimens have been taken alive, and now total 2500 species. Most have been identified, but there are a number still to be named, and it seems possible that this collector has come across some new species. It is quite possible that when Steiner gets back to the U.S.A. and spreads this news, it will not be long before the big American Museums send over a couple of collectors to conduct further investigations.

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CAPE NEWS. by L. Kerr

In spite of arriving at Muizenberg before dawn, there are very few live shells to be found at this season. The beach is always interesting though, and the writer is hoping to gather data on beach conditions, wind, tide, sea-weed, shells etc.

We are sorry to report that Mrs M. Pinkham is in hospital and wish her a speedy recovery.

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SECRETARY.

Mrs L. Kerr,
Ryde Villa,
Kenilworth Road,
Kenilworth.

Phone: 77-5369

TREASURER.

Miss M. Kempthorne,
3 Alvanley,
Main Road,
Kenilworth.

Phone: 77-7138