

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 67

AUGUST, 1965

PAGE 1.

(Re-printed, 1977)

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING:

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 24th August at 8.15 p.m. sharp. As this is the Annual General Meeting, we hope that all members will make a special effort to attend. Please bring the Agenda with you.

The shells for display will be the Volutidae both S.A. and foreign. We hope to show a film.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

As your Secretary will be away on leave in September, there will be no Circular. However, Cape Town members will meet as usual on 21st September, so please make a note of this.

JUNIOR COMPETITION:

This was to have been held on August 14th, but owing to lack of support by the Juniors, it has been cancelled.

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AGENDA for A.G.M.

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Brief reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian.
4. Amendments to the Constitution.
 - (a) Rule 23. "That in all matters of a controversial nature or of more than ordinary importance, on which a vote must be taken, use of the Postal Vote must be observed. This right shall be exercised by all members resident in the Republic, but outside the Cape Town district. A minimum of four Country Members is empowered to request a postal vote on a certain point to be taken, otherwise the Council will decide which of the Society's business will be subject to the above procedure.
 - (b) Rule 24. "The Council is empowered to appoint an Identification Sub-Committee which will co-opt a scientific adviser for supplying and/or checking identifications of marine and non-marine mollusca, and the Council shall be entitled to make and enforce conditions for the Sub-committee's operations."
5. The new Council.

(At a recent Council meeting, after discussion of the serious position of the Society in view of the absence of nominations to fill the vacancies on the Council, the Secretary and Treasurer agreed to withdraw their resignations. The retiring Chairman (Vice-President) agreed to remain as an ordinary member of the Council.)

Present Council:

President. Mr D.H. Kennelly
Vice-President Mr P. Elston
Secretary Mrs L. Kerr
Treasurer Miss M. Kempthorne
Members Mrs H. Bodinar
Mrs C. Connolly
Mr D. Freeman

Country Members

Transvaal Mrs H. Boswell
Natal Mr B.L. Cock
Border Mrs H. Jefferies

Proposed New Council:

Mr D.H. Kennelly
Dr J.R. Grindley
Mrs L. Kerr
Miss M. Kempthorne
Mrs H. Bodinar
Mrs C. Connolly
Mr P. Elston

Mr G. de Gersigny
Mr B.L. Cock
Mrs H. Jefferies

6. Election of new Council.
7. Election of new members of the Society

- 8. Proposal of new members of the Society.
- 9. Any other business
- 10. Tea interval and examination of shells.
- 11. Film.

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RESOLUTIONS FOR THE A.G.M.

Any resolutions to be put to the A.G.M. must be sent in immediately to the Secretary.

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THE CIRCULARS.

Articles for the Circulars should reach the Secretary before the end of the preceding month, i.e. articles for October must be in before September 30th.

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MINUTES OF MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM : 20.7.65

Apologies were received from Miss Stocker, Dr Grindley and Mr Pollard. The Chairman, Mr Elston, welcomed members and friends. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and adopted.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

- Miss M. Benson, Woodholme Hotel, East London.
- Miss I. Jakobsen, c/o Breakers Private Hotel, St. James, Cape.
- Mr A. Kennelly, 6 Trude Mansions, Havelock St., Port Elizabeth.
- Mr H. Moseley, Sunwich Fort, P.O. Anesley, Natal.
- Mr S. Robertson, c/o Mrs Cunningham, 12 Hockey Road, Pinelands.

The following were proposed as new members:-

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| Mrs E.K. Giles, | proposed by L. Kerr, | seconded by P. Elston |
| Mr M. Giles | " " " | " " " |
| Mrs H. Verster | " " " | " " " |
| Master R. Luyt | " " C. Horne | " " L. Kerr |

The Chairman commented on the lack of response from Junior members to the invitation to attend the meeting at the Museum on Saturday afternoon, 14th August. Parents were asked to encourage their sons and daughters to attend and to inform the Secretary in advance so that all those who attend can be accommodated.

The Chairman reported that nominations for vacancies on the Council had not yet been received and that it might be necessary for him to adjourn the A.G.M. sine die, should no new Council be available. This would have the effect of virtually suspending the Society's activities indefinitely, a situation to be avoided at all costs.

An urgent appeal is therefore made to members to make themselves available to serve on the Council and to notify the Secretary without delay.

After a break for tea and an inspection of the Cypraea on display, Mr Jock Dichmont entertained the meeting with some slides and two films.

Notable among the slides, which included a redoad of his recent trip to Luanda, was one remarkable picture of a live Argonauta argo in its egg-case. This was photographed in a white plastic bucket which very effectively diffused the light for the camera.

Two cine films were the film on Mauritius obtained by Mr Elston, which had a long sequence of under-water scenes on the reefs showing the coral and fish, and a short but memorable film taken by Mr Dichmont when he and a fellow diver "inspected" a Right Whale at close quarters in the vicinity of Simons-town. This is the first time that a "wild" whale has been photographed under water and the vast animal appeared to have no objection to being touched by the divers. Congratulations, Jock, on taking this unique film.

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NATAL GROUP.

A reminder of your Field Day at Reunion Rocks on 15th August.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

These are due now and are R1.50. Please do not forget to add exchange on cheques. There are roughly 100 up-country members and if we have to pay exchange on all cheques - well, work it out for yourselves!

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GENERAL NOTES.A NEW RECORD FOR THE MARINE FAUNA OF SOUTH AFRICA. by D.H. Kennelly

Some months ago Mrs Maimie Rix - our very keen member at Bonza Bay - donated a specimen of Lamellaria to the East London Museum, which in due course was submitted to Dr A.C. van Bruggen of the Natal Museum for examination.

Dr van Bruggen has identified the shell as Lamellaria mauritiana Bergh, and we are very grateful for his assistance in this matter, as it constitutes the first authentic record of this species found living on our coast.

We also congratulate Maimie as being the discoverer of this shell at Bonza Bay, and hope that her good fortune may continue.

There are now two species of Lamellaria on record as found alive at Bonza Bay, which would appear to be a favoured locality for the genus.

References: Circulars Nos. 41 and 42.

Annals South African Museum, Vol.XLVII, Contributions by Dr K.H. Barnard, Part 3.

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SHELLING ON THE PONDOLAND COAST.

by Hazel Jefferies

It was arranged that we meet in the late afternoon of Friday, 9th July at Eliotdale, Les and Rene Cook from Manaba Beach, Ed Dee and his fiancée Hettie de Jager from Durban, Pam Holland (one of our junior members), her parents Mr and Mrs O. Holland, brother Donnie and myself from Kei Mouth. We were then to proceed to a seaside house at a place with an unpronounceable name (les Cook can only say it when he has a mouthful of apple). We were being led by Mr Donald Beckermann and after having travelled some distance, he indicated a sharp turn left. Being next in line, I indicated the same, but owing to the dense dust, Les and Edward had fallen back and missed my signal and the turn, and proceeded on to "The Haven". Fortunately, Mr Beckermann realised what had happened, turned about, and fetched the erring crowd back on to the right road.

Our host and hostess, Mr and Mrs L. Beckermann (pam's grand-parents), were there to welcome us and give us a grand supper. Here, I would like to thank them very much indeed for their wonderful hospitality, and for the grand weekend we spent with them.

Saturday, we shelled all along the South side of the Mthlonyana and collected many shells. Sunday, we left the house after an early breakfast as we had to cross the Mthlonyana river, which is tidal, to get to the north side. We shelled all morning and Hettie did a bit of diving and goggling but hadn't much success in collecting live specimens. We had a grand picnic lunch, shelled all afternoon, then proceeded slowly back to the river bank where we had to wait for the tide to recede sufficiently for us to wade across. Edward, Pam and her young cousin, Ann, made a huge bonfire which was very cheery and warming. With the aid of torches, we managed to get across at about 6.30 p.m. As the water was nearly hip high, we certainly got a bit wet. I would like to draw attention to how useful towels can be on a shelling expedition. Hettie had on "stove-pipes" so could not roll them up. Nothing daunted, she slipped these off and wrapped a towel around her hips! I am sure Rene, too, remembers a towel being very useful when she had to use one in lieu of a skirt which had got very wet in the rain on a Haga Haga trip!! On the other side we were picked up by a very welcome Landrover and were glad to get back to dry clothes and a sumptuous hot meal.

In the evenings we checked on the shells we had found, compared notes, had some lengthy and very satisfactory discussions.

The shells we found are too numerous to mention here, but these are some of them:

18 different kinds of Cypraea - caputserpentis, erosa, citrina, edentula, isabella, marginalis, helvola, meridionalis, felina, chinensis, olandistina, staphylaea, fimbriata, lynx, teres, carneola, vitellus and contaminata distans, Volva sowerbyana (the largest I have seen); Conus aurora, natalis, minimus, infranatus; Haliotis queketti, speciosa and one unidentified; Vasum truncatum,

two still with periostracum on; Nerita polita, plicata, albicilla and umlaasiana; Vexill vexillum; Marginella ornata, mosaica, piperata, alboloneata, piperata strigata, keeni, and a large one not identified; Voluta africana; Mitra; Murex cancellaria; Turbo; Scala; Cerithium; Natica; Cymatium; Pyrene; Peristernia; Ancilla; Bursa; Euthria; Fasciolaria; Fusus; Charonia puatolata; Hydatina; Bulla; Bullina; Melapium; Calliostoma and many more.

Monday morning we regretfully bid farewell to our host and hostess and set off with the intention of going to Coffee Bay. My poor little Mini Minor has been called "the upholstered roller-skate", also "Mini minus everything", well before getting back to Eliotdale she decided to live up to the latter name. First a shock absorber broke and ruined a tyre, then the exhaust parted from the manifold, and lastly the brakes failed. This decided me that home was the best place. What a trip! The noise was terrific, and having no brakes had to travel on compression when going down hill!!!

Edward and Hettie went on to Coffee Bay, Rene and Les came back with me, and stayed three days at Kei Mouth. We went into East London and visited Mr Kennelly at the E.L. Museum and had a long talk with him. The following day we spent at Haga Haga beach, but other collectors had been there before us, so we did not find very much. Les and Rene returned to Manaba Beach on the Thursday.

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AN EXTRACT FROM "THE COWRY", VOL.1, NO.7.

by D.I. Kennelly.

In the previous issue of "The Cowry", No. 6, will be found three short articles on species of Cypraea occurring in South Africa, and Prof Dr F.A. Schilder has now written his additions and amendments in the current number. Details of these are given below, as some of our members have not ready access to issues of "The Cowry".

Cypraea marginalis Dillwyn. Dr Schilder states the type locality to be Natal.

Cypraea helvola meridionalis Schilder and Schilder. The type locality for variety is now accepted as Port Alfred.

Cypraea felina Gmelin. There appears to be some doubt as to the type locality, but Dr Schilder now designates East Africa as the chief habitat, not "South Africa" as stated by Joyce Allan.

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THE INCIDENCE OF MARGINELLA CAPENSIS.

by Jock Dichmont.

Marginella capensis is of course the small apricot coloured shell attaining slightly more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Hitherto whilst diving I had difficulty in finding more than one or two specimens a day.

On Sunday I took the family snoeking at Simonstown - even my five year old caught some incidentally, as the bay is full of them. At lunch time I took the boat into Jafta's Bay where we had lunch. I cleaned the snoek throwing the innards and heads overboard.

After lunch I dived overboard to counteract the drowsiness brought on by the winter and the winter sea soon did.

Underneath the boat the bottom was pockmarked with prawn holes and out of them the Marginella capensis had poured in their thousands (literally thousands) to feast on the snoek entrails. I shook two heads into a bank bag and must have collected a good 400 of them. The scraps of fish were invisible under a seething mass of Marginella and a few Fusus verruculatus. The live Marginella even while feeding were virtually covered in a grey mantle with black spots. I saw only one species - no rosea or nebulosa.

Anyone want some?

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EASTERN PROVINCE/BORDER NOTES.

by D.H. Kennelly.

Members in this part of the country are now thawing out after the recent bitterly cold spell.

We had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs C.M. Watters - formerly of East London, and now living in Port Elizabeth. This keen member has done well up to the present by persistent collecting, and exhibited with pride a lovely Cypraea caputserpentis from one of the P.E. beaches, which constitutes a rare find in that locality.

Mrs Watters also handed over a specimen of Cymatium for positive identification. As far as can be ascertained, this shell is probably Cymatium

retusulam, which occurs at Mauritius and elsewhere in the Indian Ocean. More material is needed to make the name positive, which would establish a new record of locality for the species. Members are urged to keep a look out for more specimens, for, as far as may be ascertained at the moment, this is the first report from the Eastern Province/Border area.

Mrs Clarice Connolly is again with us for the school holidays, and this time is located at Gonubie where she is busy breaking fresh collecting ground. So far, Clarice has obtained two specimens of Volva volva, two of Volva sewerbyana, and a perfect small example of Haliotis parva, in addition to many other.

These three finds are new records for locality, and the Haliotis is so seldom found on this coast, that it may be almost regarded as rare.

Dr John Grindley from Cape Town was also in East London for the past week, attending the Scientific Conference. Owing to the writer's being in town for two days only each week, it is much regretted that he did not meet Dr Grindley.

We were very pleased recently to receive a visit from a Johannesburg collector, Mrs P. Ogilvie, who intends joining our ranks in the Society. Mrs Ogilvie has been staying at Bulugha for the school holidays, and among her finds at this place were four very good examples of Voluta africana, a specimen of Cypraea marginalis, and the largest Cypraea helvola meridionalis the writer has seen to date. This shell measures 37 mm. in length, and it would be interesting to learn if any other examples have been found as large.

Our untiring Country Council member, Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth, has returned from a successful collecting trip, and will be contributing an account thereof for the Circulars. The writer is very glad about this idea, for it is not possible to keep closely in touch with all the members scattered about this part of the country, and to obtain news for publication in the Circulars.

An effort is being made to hold another meeting of the Eastern Province/Border Group, possibly at East London in the Lecture Hall of the East London Museum. Further details will be furnished at a later date.

The projected "Preliminary List of the Marine Shells of Natal and Zululand" is now in the capable hands of Mr Les Cock of Manaba Beach, South Coast, Natal and will record probably over 600 species.

We feel sure our members, and other collectors as well, will welcome this addition to the literature on South African Shells.

Latest news of Mrs Helen Boswell, and her famous collection, is that the latter has been enriched recently by the addition of the newly discovered Australian Voluta (Amoria) guttata, plus rare specimens from the U.S.A., Hawaii and Galapagos Islands. We also learn that in the unfinished papers left by the late Dr Barnard, there are descriptions of two shells named for Helen, i.e. Calliostoma circus, and Turbo boswellae.

All members will join in congratulating this enthusiastic member on this achievement.

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CAPE NOTES.

by L. Kerr

It is with sadness that we record the death of one of our foundation members, Mrs G. Dunningham, on 25th July. She started her hobby quite late in life and had a very fine collecting. Her many friends will miss her. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Muizenberg beach is no longer my happy hunting ground. With the demolition of the old promenade, it is impossible to walk along the beach because of the river. The new promenade over the river is not yet complete, so unless one walks up to the road, a long way round, or gets wet, one has to "stay Put". In any case, there have been few shells this year.

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