

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 56

AUGUST, 1964
(Re-printed 1978)

Page 1

MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Lecture Hall of the South African Museum on Tuesday, 18th August at 8.15 pm.

Mrs Connolly will display shells from Kommetjie and answer questions about them. The shell family for display and exchange will be Cassis, South African and foreign. In future, more time will be provided for members to examine the shells on display, as the film will be shown after the tea interval.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FIELD DAY.

This will take place on Monday September 7th, below Slangkop Lighthouse. Low water is at 10.02 am. Go to Kommetjie, then branch off onto the gravel road and stop at the lighthouse gate. Make your way down to the rocks, where there is very good shelling. We expect more members to turn up than last time as this is not a Sunday. Bring the usual equipment. A stout stick is useful on the rocks.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Meeting at the Museum, 21.7.1964

Apologies were received from Mrs Kittel and Mrs Prior who were away on a trip to Paradise Island; Miss Stocker and Dr. Talbot. Mr C. Swaneveld took the Chair. There being no circular as yet for July, the minutes were promised for the next circular. (See circular no. 55)

Mr Elston commented on the last Field Day and said it was a great pity so few had attended. The next Field Day was discussed and it was left to the Council to decide a venue. Master Brian Horne, 11 Leno Mansions, Rosmead Avenue, Kenilworth, was elected as a Student member of the Society.

The following new members were proposed:-

Mrs A. Ritter	proposed by J. Weakley	seconded by L. Kerr
Mrs Horne	" " P. Elston	" " P. Pickstone

The secretary was asked to find out from the Division of Fisheries whether there were any restrictions regarding the collection of shells and if a permit were necessary.

Two films, "Fish Out of Water" and "Australia's Coral Wonderland" were shown.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will take place on 20th October, 1964 and according to our Constitution, nominations for new Council members are now called for. Please make certain that your nominee is willing to stand. Nominations in writing should reach the secretary as soon as possible.

The retiring Council is as follows:-

President	Prof. J.H. Day
Vice-president	Dr. F.H. Talbot
Secretary	Mrs L. Kerr
Treasurer	Miss M.G. Kempthorne
Members	Mrs C.M. Connolly
	Mr P. Elston
	Mr D. Freeman

Country Members	Mrs H. Boswell	Transvaal
	Mr L. Cock	Natal
	Mr D.H. Kennelly	Border

Nominations are required for every member of the Council.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

DR. F.H. TALBOT

It is with regret that we say farewell this month to Dr. Frank Talbot who is leaving on 21st August to take up a post at the Australian Museum, College Street, Sydney. Dr. Talbot has served on the Council for the last five years and has willingly given his time and help to the Society. He will be greatly missed.

We wish him and his wife and family every success in their new country. We will not lose touch with them as Dr. Talbot has now become a Life Member.

"Tot siens, Frank and Sue!"

XXXXXXXXXXXX

A NEW BOOK

With pride, we announce the publication this week of a new book on South African shells. It is by our old friend and faithful contributor, Mr D.H. Kennelly and is called "Marine Shells of Southern Africa", published by Nelson at R2.00. We congratulate Mr Kennelly very much on his achievement and are sure that all members will rush to obtain a copy. The book contains many photographs of shells and two colour plates. The names, with author, of our commoner shells are given, together with description and range. The first part of the book contains much useful advice on our hobby and will make a valuable addition to your conchological library.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

MR JOHN GRINDLEY

We welcome back Mr John Grindley from his study leave at Cambridge and congratulate him on his appointments of Acting Director and Acting Assistant Director of the South African Museum. He will assume these duties when Dr. Talbot leaves.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

CIRCULARS

Back numbers of Circulars 1-40 may now be had at 5 cents each. Nos. 41 onwards are 10 cents. The Index to 1-40 is free.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Change of Address

Mrs Jean Ward, 6 Kenworth Court, 1st Avenue, Kenilworth, C.P.
Mrs M.F. Theron, (68 Molopo Road) P.O. Box 370, Makeking C.P.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

GENERAL NOTES

Voluta (Volutoconus) grossi Iredale, 1927. D.H. Kennelly

Although this is an Australian shell, some notes of interest thereon have come to the knowledge of the writer. In the June issue of the Hawaiian Shell News, generously loaned to the writer by Mrs Hazel Jefferies, there is a photo of 59

live collected specimens of V. grossi, trawled in 27/33 fathoms at Tin Can Bay, South Queensland. These shells are available for exchange.

The article continues as follows:-

"Approximately 100 shrimp boats (trawlers) worked over the Tin Can Bay area for about seven months, bringing in about 150 live grossi. This season some 80 boats have brought in only two specimens, one live and one dead."

The foregoing reveals a shocking case of over fishing for shells and it would appear that the Tin Can Bay area is completely denuded so far as Voluta grossi is concerned. The shell will in all probability revert to the state of being a rarity, as it was when first discovered in 1927.

XXXXXXXXXX

BORDER NOTES.

D.H. KENNELLY

Shell collecting in this area has been very disappointing earlier this year, but matters have improved considerably since June.

We were very pleased to see Mrs Clarice Connolly again, and to hear of her successful collecting in the Cintsa area. Clarice is certainly lucky for she obtained a shell on the beach - tentatively identified as Clavatula taxus Chemnitz - which may have been ejected by a fish in the neighbourhood. Border members will be glad to learn the positive identification of this find and also details of other shells collected (How about a note for the Circular, Clarice?)

One keen member, Mrs Maimie Rix of Bonza Bay, has had some successful collecting just recently. The highlight of her efforts was the finding of some six or eight specimens of Lamellaria perspicua Linn., intact with animals. These shells are usually found at Bonza Bay in April, but this year they turned up in July as well.

These notes would not be complete without a reference to our leading clooector, Mrs Hazel Jefferies, of Kei Mouth. Hazel has maintained for a long time that there is always something new to be found at Kei Mouth and promptly proves this to be correct. We suggest that a card be written - Ex Kei Mouth aliquid semper novi - and placed on one of Hazel's cabinets. During the winter school holidays, one of Hazel's keen-eyed grandsons brought in a couple of specimens of a bivalve, which "Grannie" recognised as a new find. The find was promptly investigated and some of the specimens - all live taken - have been sent to Dr. K.H. Barnard for identification. A further note on these shells will appear in a future circular.

In addition to collecting at Kei Mouth, Hazel finds time to exchange shells with a collector in Europe and has recently obtained some very good material ex West Africa from this source.

With all the above, plus shells from East Africa sent to Hazel by her daughter (also a member), the cabinets are now just about bursting at the seams and there seems no doubt that Hazel owns the best private shell collection in the Border area.

XXXXXXXXXX

CAPE NOTES

L. KERR

Mrs Jean Ward, who has moved back to Kenilworth from Hermanus, showed me a perfect specimen of Astrarium taylorianum which she found alive on the beach at Hermanus, near the lagoon. There was also a damaged dead one. These shells are usually trawled near Mossel Bay. Has any other member found one on a beach so far south?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX