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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, 22nd June at 8.15 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum. This will be a competition evening for Juniors and students, the subject being a general collection of South African shells. If there are sufficient entries, our Vice-President, Mr. P. Elston, has generously offered to present books on conchology to the three best exhibits. Points will be given for correct names and localities, number of shells and display. We expect to have a large entry, so come early to arrange your shells.

Members will display S.A. Conidae, so take this opportunity of checking up on the correct names of your cones.

We also hope to have a suitable film, so come along and spend an interesting evening.

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FIELD DAY.

There will be a Field Day for the Junior Members and others on Wednesday, 30th June at St. James. Low water is at 10.12 a.m. Meet on the rocks near the pool any time after 9 a.m. This will be in the holidays so bring your friends too.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This will take place on 24th August, 1965, 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:	Mr. D.H. Kennelly.
Vice-President:	Mr. P. Elston.
Secretary:	Mrs. L. Kerr.
Treasurer:	Miss M.G. Kempthorne.
Members:	Mrs. H. Bodinnar.
	Mrs. C.M. Connolly.
	Mr. D. Freeman.
Country Members:	Mrs. H. Boswell - Transvaal.
	Mr. B.L. Cock - Natal.
	Mrs. H. Jefferies - Border.

Mr. Kennelly, Mrs. Bodinnar, Mrs. Connolly and the Country Members are all willing to stand for re-election. Mr. Elston's term as Vice-President expires at the A.G.M. and he will retire. Mr. John Grindley has consented to be nominated as Vice-President. Mr. Freeman has resigned. Miss Kempthorne and Mrs. Kerr have definitely resigned from the Council and are not willing to stand again.

The state of the Council then at the A.G.M. will be as follows:

- President: Mr. D.H. Kennelly,
- Vice President: Mr. John Grindley,
- Secretary: =
- Treasurer: =
- Members: Mrs. H. Bodinnar,
Mrs. C. Connolly,
- =
- Country Members: the same,

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AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The Natal Group have submitted this proposed amendment:-

"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."

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE S.A. MUSEUM 18.5.1965.

Apologies were received from Miss Kempthorne, Mrs. Bodinnar, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Miller, Miss Kerr and Messrs. Dichmont, Kruger and Swaneveld. Mr. Elston, as Chairman, welcomed back Max and Jack Ackermann who had been away on leave, and their daughter.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and adopted.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

- Mr. P. Anseeuw, Rue de la Metairie, 74 Courtrai, Belgium.
- Miss E. Dunstan, 116, 2nd Avenue, Kenilworth, Cape Town.
- Mrs. C. Hulley, 8, Carisbrook Road, East London.
- Mrs. M. Mumby, 27, Pearsen Ave., Eshowe, Zululand, Natal.

The poor attendance at meetings was discussed. Mrs. Connolly suggested that long films should be hired, but it was pointed out that this would be too expensive. Members were asked to contact another member and bring them along to the next meeting. The circulation of a questionnaire was mooted. Mrs. Connolly suggested that other societies be invited to our meetings. Mrs. Kuttel wanted a sale of shells. All these suggestions would be reviewed by the Council.

Mrs. Connolly especially requested that S.A. Cones be brought to the next meeting. Mrs. Kerr suggested a competition for Juniors, with prizes.

A letter from Mr. Kennelly was read in which he said that he was compiling a list of Natal-Zululand shells. This was enthusiastically received.

A film "Between the Tides" was shown and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Grindley for procuring such an excellent one.

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GENERAL NOTES.Nautilus Long Week-end.

By Jock Dichmont.

I had found a "Nautilus" (Argonauta argo) on St. James' beach the previous week-end, so Anne, my wife, and I decided to go to the Bredasdorp coast for the long week-end in May to do some shelling.

As I had to undergo a particularly painful operation on the following Tuesday, my partners kindly gave me the Friday off, so we had a really long holiday.

A friend and I fished the whole of Thursday and caught some nice ones for the pan. I scoured the beaches near Arniston without success. On the Friday I drove Anne and the children to an estuary about thirty miles away to dig bloodworms for bait. While I dug, Anne went off down the beach and returned with six "Nautilus", three slightly broken ones and one live one.

That afternoon, my friend and I traipsed miles to Galjoengat, where we caught more fish. I then began to think about Anne's "Nautilus", so I grabbed a basket and started trotting off along the beach. After about a mile, I began to find "Nautilus" and the further I went, the more prolific they became. After trotting three miles, I thought I had better turn for home. At the turning point, I counted six "Nautilus" lying clearly visible on the beach. My score so far was 14 perfect and 7 imperfect "Nautilus". On returning to my friend, who had caught a beautiful steenbras during my absence, I picked up an absolutely perfect live "Nautilus" in the surf. This one we took back to the shack with us and placed in a bucket of sea water. For a good two hours we were fascinated by the creature. It covered its shell with a membrane between two tentacles in a shimmering cloak, on which we could see dark brown and spotted blotches appearing, moving and then disappearing. A great siphon, out of proportion to the small size of the "seacat", rhythmically jetted out powerful streams of water. Between the tentacles, at the top of the mouth of the shell, the head could be seen pumping up and down. The two large silver and black eyes glared from under the umbrella of dark brown tentacles. We took photographs and now wait to see how they fare.

On Saturday, a friend took us to Galjoengat by jeep, saving us a four mile trek over the dunes and I did another jogtrot down the beach in the evening prior to our return. Result - 18 perfect shells.

On Sunday, I persuaded my friend to drive Anne and me to Vogelgesang, a distance of about thirty miles from Arniston. It was our intention to walk back from there to Arniston. Save that we thought it was between five and ten miles, we hadn't the slightest idea how far it actually was.

There is no hard ridge to the beach and one struggled along in the soggy sand, but it was well worth it. On occasion we picked up two Nautilus on one stoop and then would only have to take a few steps to pick up another.

In no time our basket was full and we started to fill a plastic fertiliser bag which we had picked up on the beach. On one occasion, looking back on the beach, I saw spurts of water shooting up as though from Red-bait. Rushing back, I found a live shell squirting in the surf.

On reaching Galjoengat, three hours after setting off from Vogelgesang, to our great joy we met our friend with the jeep. He had found about ten shells. The score for our walk was 84 "Nautilus".

We packed in the rain on Monday and came home early to avoid the traffic. The total score for the week-end was one hundred and thirty two "Nautilus" and four live specimens.

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I phoned Jock to enquire about the size of the Argonauta. He informed me that the largest was 8¼ inches long.

Editor.

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Border Notes.

By D.H. Kennelly.

Although the Border Group number less than a dozen, the enthusiasm shown certainly makes up for the deficiency in numbers.

Our untiring Hazel Jefferies recently paid a flying visit to Durban, the official reason was to see "My Fair Lady", but obviously the real reason was collecting. It is understood that Hazel brought back a real mass of specimens, most of which were secured alive with the aid of divers, and a report is awaited for the Circulars.

Maimie Rix has been busy as usual at Bonza Bay, and was lucky to find a live specimen of Trochus nigropunctatus, plus a beach specimen of Sylvanocochlis ancilla. The latter is a fairly deep water species, and it is not often a good example is found on a beach.

The Trochus find has increased our knowledge of the range of the species.

At Gonubie this energetic collector obtained a live specimen of Nerita plexa - another extension of the known range. In addition Maisie found two specimens of Conus, which have been tentatively identified as C. minimus and C. piperatus. More anon about these, as one was taken alive, and it seems that Gonubie is a good place to visit.

We were pleased to have a visit from "Bobby" Richards and her husband, who passed through East London on their annual collecting trip. "Bobby" is the proud possessor of the first live collected specimen of Cypraea amphithales, Melville. This shell was secured by a diver at Cape Infanta, at low water from a depth of five feet. The specimen is a lovely one, and agrees in every detail with the description by Joyce Allan (Cowry Shells).

The writer spent a very pleasant week-end at Bonza Bay recently, and as the weather was grand an attempt was made to do some collecting. Accompanied by the "Crab Catching Canines", who answer to the names "Susie" and "Jerry", we had some luck and obtained a nice assortment of shells which included two good specimens of Voluta africana. There is one particular place at Bonza Bay, where this species seems to always come ashore, and a live specimen is being eagerly sought.

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