

XX
X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
XX

CIRCULAR NO. 99. AUGUST, 1968. PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 27th August, 1968 at 8.00 p.m. N.B. The usual Monthly Meeting will be held first, followed immediately by the A.G.M. The shells for display will be the S.A. Patella (Limpets), two of each, for which a prize will be given for the best collection. Points will be allocated for number, naming, display and condition. This competition is for newly joined members and beginners, so we hope to have a large entry.

There will also be a display entitled "What is it?" to which you are invited to bring along any S.A. shells that you want identified. These must be mounted on a card with a space left for the name. The experts will try to fill in the blanks. Please bring a pencil to write names and a rubber to erase the wrong ones!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

A G E N D A for the A.G.M.

1. Minutes as published in Circular No. 89 for adoption.
2. Matters arising from the Minutes.
3. Discussion of the Reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian.
4. Adoption of these reports.
5. Voting on the Amendment to the Constitution.
6. Any other business.
7. Vice-President's address.
8. Election of new Council.
Tea.
9. Judging of Patella Competition.

The Council.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| <u>President</u> | - Mr. D.H. Kennelly. |
| <u>Vice-President</u> | - Mr. D. Freeman. |
| <u>Secretary</u> | - Mrs. M.C. Giles. |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | - Mr. M.C. Giles. |
| <u>Librarian</u> | - Mr. R. Carlsson (Co-opted in place of Mr. Elston.) |
| <u>Editor</u> | - Mrs. L. Kerr. |
| <u>Member</u> | - Mrs. C.M. Connolly. |
| <u>Country Members</u> | - Mrs. M. Rix, Border.
Mr. E. Dee, Natal.
Mr. A. Jenner, Transvaal. |

All these members have been nominated.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Secretary's Report/.....

Secretary's Report for 1967-68:

In this tenth annual report we record that, in Cape Town, eleven monthly meetings and two Field days have been held, and an exhibit put on in the Hall of Science at the Cape Agricultural Show. The Society's Stand, with the invaluable help of Shell South Africa Ltd. and Messrs. Frye Starck, attracted much attention and favourable comment.

The Society took another step forward with the formation, in March, of the Transvaal Group. We congratulate Mr. A.B. Jenner and his enthusiastic supporters on this achievement and wish the Group every success.

The Border Group is very active and has made some very interesting finds lately, while the Natal Group has almost doubled its membership this year. Congratulations to them and to their leaders Mr. Kennelly and Mr. Dee.

Eleven Circulars were published during the year, as well as the 'additional List of S.A. Marine Shells found on the Natal/Zululand Coast' by the late Mr. B.L. Cock. In addition, the Society bought a number of copies of Mr. Kennelly's 'Supplementary List No. 1 of Marine Mollusca taken alive on the Wild Coast' which was published by the East London Museum, and a larger number of Cock's original "Natal List". There has been a fair demand for these, but not for back numbers of the Circular. All publications are still available.

We are very pleased to note that there has been a good response to our President's appeal to members in his address last year to contribute articles and notes for the Circular.

The Reference Collection in Mrs. Connolly's care grows steadily, but more new specimens are needed, especially from Pondoland and Natal. It is hoped that a suitable cupboard in which to keep this collection will shortly be obtained and housed at the S.A. Museum. The aim is to acquire for reference a specimen of every shell found in the waters of Southern Africa, and the Society is greatly indebted to Mrs. Connolly for her work in this connection.

The Membership shows a larger increase this year, the number of new members exceeding those resigned or lapsed by 35 as at 30.6.1968. The number of student members, however, remains the same, and it is hoped that more young people will join this year. Corresponding members overseas number 29.

Honorary Members	2	At 30.6.67 ...	180
Life Members	7	Gained	<u>53</u>
Ordinary Members .. 132 old & 46 new	..178		233
Student Members .. 21 old & 7 new	.. 28	Lost	<u>18</u>
	215	At 30.6.68 ..	<u>215</u>
Resigned ... 5 adults + 0 students	5	
Lapsed 6 adults + 6 students	12	
Died	<u>1</u>	
			<u>18</u>

We wish to thank the Director and Staff of the S.A. Museum for the use of the Lecture Hall, for obtaining films and showing them at meetings, and for their unfailing helpfulness in many other ways.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for their help and support during the year, and all those members whose kind assistance with the Society's exhibit at Goodwood made it such a success.

Treasurer's Report/.....

Treasurer's Report:

I give below a statement of the accounts of the Society for the year ending 30.6.1968.

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
	R c.		R. cc.
Balance at N.B.S. 18.7.67	363-29	Printing of Circulars	116-06
Entrance Fees	48-00	Postage on circulars	20-36
Subscriptions 1967-8	143-50	Sundry expenses	21-16
Subscriptions 1968-9	53-50	Stationery	31-68
Interest on N.B.S. A/c.	16-41	Publications	67-00
Donations	18-57	Membership Fees	14-40
Sale of Publications	28-99	Library Expenses	7-73
Xmas Sale of Shells	98-48	Goodwood Show	42-73
Library	1-25	N.B.S. Debit to be adjusted	5-00
Sundries	2-27		
		Bal. at N.B.S. 30.6.68	439-80
		Bal. of Petty Cash	8-34
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	774-26		774-26

NOTE: At the end of last year the Society had a balance of R363-29 but due to the late closing of the books this included advance subscriptions of R111-95. The true balance was therefore R251-34. This year there is a balance of R448-14. This includes advance subscriptions of R53-50 leaving a true balance of R394-64. The true gain for this year is therefore R143-30.

The books have been scrutinized, found to be in order, and signed by Mrs. H. Bodinnar and Miss K. Leers.

Librarian's Report for 1967/68:

During the period July 1967 to June 1968 our library was once again very active. Twenty books were sent away on request to country members and fifty-five books were issued to Cape Town members at our monthly meetings.

The following books were added to our collection during the year:-

- No. 176 Pelecypoda of Inhaca Island, Mocambique - P.H. Boshoff. Presented by the Author.
- No. 180 Supplementary List No. 1 to Marine Mollusca from Wild Coast - D.H. Kennelly.
- No. 173 An Additional List of Marine Shells recorded from Natal and Zululand Coasts - B.L. Cock.
- No. 159 Marine Shells of the Pacific - Walter O. Cernohorsky. Donated by the publishers. Pacific Publications (Pty) Ltd.
- No. 177 Puik Avonture - P.M. Boshoff. Presented by the Author.
- No. 184 Monographic Review of Mollusca of Lake Nyasa - Crowley, Pain and Woodward.

Members are reminded that our Library Regulations permit them having two books at a time for a period of one month, thereafter there is a fine of 10 cents per week per book; so once again you are requested to return books on due date to save yourself a fine and to enable other members to borrow those books.

The Council has decided to alter rule 1 of the Library rule to read "Members may borrow not more than two publications at a time from the Library. Cape Town members must return their books at the following monthly meeting, country members must return them within six weeks from date of despatch.

LIBRARY NOTES: - New Additions.

- 185. Annals of the S.A. Museum. Deep Sea Mollusca.
- 186. Shells of Japan by Takashi Okutani & Yoshio Takemuri. This is an excellent Paper Back with Japanese text and Latin names. The colour photographs show the living animal as well as the shells.
- 187. Collecting Sea Shells by F.D. Ommaney, presented by Leila Kerr. Dr. Ommaney, a formidable authority, gives an outline of collecting, preserving and mounting methods and then describes, in easily understood words, the main families and genera of Mollusca in the world. We thank Mrs. Kerr for this gift.
- 188. Coquillages Marins by Par J. Arrecgros. Professor of Natural Science. This is a very good little book giving colour photographs and descriptions of 193 Specimens of Pelecypoda and Gastropoda from the Atlantic and Mediterranean. The text is in French with Latin names. This book was given to us by our member Mrs. Betty Smith of England on the occasion of our tenth birthday and we take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Smith for her kind gesture.
- 189. Division of Sea Fisheries, Investigational Report No. 67. Growth of the S.A. Abalone, Haliotis midae by G.G. Newman. Kindly presented by Mr. C. Swaneveld for which many thanks.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Minutes of Meeting held in the S.A. Museum, 30.7.1968

We were pleased to welcome back Mr. Freeman in the Chair. Apologies were received from Mrs. Kinloch, Mr. Swaneveld, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. le Roux, Mrs. Pugsley, Mr. Elston, Mrs. Gaynham & Mrs. Lowry.

The following were elected as Members:

- 1. Mrs. J. Meaker, P.O. Box 925, Salisbury, Rhodesia.
- 2. Mrs. A. Wilson, 283 Silver Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria.
- 3. Dr. C.G. Hall, Soete Inval, Truter Street, Robertson, C.P.

Proposed new member:

Mrs. D.L. Daneys, proposed by Graham Ivy, seconded by E.K. Giles.

Mr. Freeman stressed the importance of attending the A.G.M. (Please note, everybody). He spoke about the difficulty of obtaining suitable films and as there was none that evening, members could discuss the shells in the Reference Collection - which they did, with great advantage.

Mrs. Kerr gave a short talk on her collection of Olives - 64 species.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Celebration Dinner to Mark the Society's 10th Anniversary by Elizabeth Kinloch.

A most enjoyable evening was had by the Members who attended the Society's 10th Anniversary Dinner on 20th July. This big milestone in the Society's history was celebrated at the Radnor Hotel, Green Point, Cape Town, which is owned by Mrs. Prior. Nancy is one of our keenest members, and had taken a great deal of trouble over the occasion, for which she kindly laid on an excellent dinner at a very nominal sum per head. The food was delicious, and the table was decorated with sprays of flowers arranged in the large shells of Lambis lambis. Leila Kerr had spent many hours making most attractive name place cards, each one suitably decorated with a motif typical of, and appropriate to, each individual person!

The first toast of the evening was proposed by our Treasurer, Mr. Giles, who asked us to drink to the future prosperity and growth of the Society. This was followed by Mr. Jack Ackermann, who proposed the health of our President, Mr. D.H. Kennelly. We all wished he could have been with us for the occasion. We also greatly missed another of our Founder members, Mr. Percy Elston, who is at present in Woodstock Hospital recovering from a major operation. We drank his health, and wished him a full and speedy recovery.

After a/.....

After a slight pause for the refilling of glasses, Jock Dichmont made a brief and amusing speech expressing members' appreciation of the many years hard work put in by our Founder, Leila Kerr, whose unflagging energy, unflinching cheerfulness and boundless help to all and sundry members of the Society have contributed so greatly to the success of the Society to date. He concluded by calling on all present to drink the health of our Founder, and present Editor, Leila Kerr.

Jock then proposed a vote of thanks to Nancy Prior for all the trouble she had taken over the evening, and the great generosity of Nancy and her husband Alan who had welcomed us with several rounds of drinks "on the house" before dinner. No sooner had Jock sat down than Jack Ackermann was on his feet, proposing another toast to Nancy Prior ... and after a few more moments Bruce Kinloch had another good idea ... a toast to Nancy Prior! Not to be outdone, Bob Kerr then decided that it was time we all drank one more toast, this time to ... Nancy Prior!!

As can be imagined, the party was a great success; coffee and liqueurs were served in the lounge, and I noticed a great reluctance on the part of the members present to be the first to leave! However, all good things must come to an end, though it was not far off midnight when the last guest had said goodnight. Let's hope that the next ten years in the Society's history will be even more successful.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

IMPORTANT: Have you posted that voting paper yet? Remember it must reach us by 20th August, otherwise it is invalid.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

1. Mrs. H. Bodinnar, 501 Protea Glen, Glenhoff Road, Newlands, Cape.
2. Mrs. M. Kuttel, 1 Montreal Flats, Molteno Road, Oranjezicht, Cape Town.
3. Mr. P. Mills, 8 Nerina Avenue, Fish Hoek.
4. Mrs. T. Whitehead, 214 McManus Street, Edge Hill Cairns, North Queensland, 4870, Australia.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EXCHANGE WANTED:

1. Mr. G.L. Parker, 15 Atkin St., Henley Beach, South Australia, 5022. Gasteropods and Bivalves - list given.
2. Mr. M. Meyer, 21 Stirling Crescent, Durban North, Natal. Offers Natal shells for Cape Cypraea and Conus.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

BORDER NOTES

by H. Rix

We had a very pleasant and successful meeting on the 30th June. Eleven were present and apologies were received from Dick Kilburn, Miss Latimer and Rita Scott.

Mr. Kennelly gave a very interesting talk on how shells started to be collected in South Africa and particularly on the Transkei and Eastern Province Coasts.

Mr. Kennelly gave us the news that Percy Elston was over his operation and on the road to recovery. This news made everyone happy and I was asked to convey best wishes to Percy and Valda from all present.

After our usual pleasant tea, Adeline Gilmer displayed some fabulous shells from various places all over the world, including a lovely specimen of Notohaliotis from Lae Ju Island, South Korea and a Phalium strigata from Mal Island, West Korea.

Adeline brought a lovely box of shells for members to help themselves to, and the remainder to go to 'Dick for the Museum. I fear the Museum came off second best!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

ALSO IMPORTANT!

As our next Circular will be No. 100, will contributors please make it a bumper one!

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

GENERAL NOTES:

The Meaning of Latin Cowry Names.

by P. Elston.

It may be of interest to our members to know the meaning of some scientific names of our Cowries. Professor F.A. Schilder in 1965, was kind enough to publish most of the names, some derived from the ancient Greek, but mostly from the Latin and a few which the author, at the time of naming, had incorrectly spelt. The writer is confining this list to South African only, and only those in his own collection. The Greek derivation is marked with an asterisk.

Most names refer to character of the shell also to the colour, others to the markings and some names (none of the South African cowries) named after the discoverer of the shell.

amphithalis - surrounded by flowers (spots), annulus - ring, arabica - marked by arabic figures, arabica immanis very large, carneola - carnelian, capensis - Cape (South African) cicercula - small chick pea (cicer) citrina - lemon coloured, caputsarrentis - head of snake, caurica - cowry (badly latinized) acribarria - seivelike, clandestina - hidden (amongst Linnaeus collection), adentula - not denticulate, erosa-eroded, errones - erroneous (confounded with stolidus), fimbriata - fringed (by spots), felina - cat-like, fuscocubra - brownish red, fuscodentata - with brown teeth, isabella - isabel yellow, globulus - small sphere, helvola - yellowish red, limacina - like a slug (limax), labrolineata - with (chestnut) lines on lip, moneta - money, marginalis - margined, onyx - onyx (jewel), pallidula - rather pale, subviridis - rather green, staphylasa - grape like, teres - oblong, talpa - mole, tigris - tiger (spots), tortirostris - with tortuous beak, vitellus - yolk, ziczac-a (barbarous word for zigzag).

Often, the writer has observed collectors taking Chitons off rocks and when returning home finding these curled up. There are two methods to preserve these as collected. The first well known, and that is to immediately tie the specimen to a narrow piece of wood, a piece of fruit box will do. This keeps the animal in its natural shape. The other, which is well worth trying was given me by an old friend, a Malachologist in the United States of America, and that is, Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salts) placed in a jar as dry crystals, and then mixed with SEA water, this makes a fine "knock out" solution for Chitons without worrying about tying them down.

A third method which I use, is to put the Chiton outside on cement and pour some sea water over it. The Chiton will uncurl after a few hours and die flat. L. Kerr.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Cypraea with Attachments:

by A. Jenner.

Whilst shelling on one of the reefs off Magaruque Island, Mocambique, in September, 1967, I came across and collected a live specimen of Cypraea arabica histrio - Gmelin, measuring 52 mm. in length, on the dorsum of which 2 barnacles were attached.

They were sited close together on the left hand side of the shell and astride the dorsal line at an angle of $\pm 25^\circ$, not quite opposite but near the apex of the dorsal hump (to be precise 27 mm. from the roof of the anterior canal opening and 34 mm. from the roof of the posterior canal opening).

The barnacles, both of about the same size, have base diameters of ± 5 mm. and top diameters of between 1.5 to 1.7 mm. and have been so completely enveloped in the deposit of polish medium that they are fused to the dorsum.

From the appearance of the shell I get the impression that the shorter mantle lobe was damaged, presumably by the sharp edges of the barnacle rims, in the process of "enamelling-over" the intruders, since the otherwise beautifully clear and perfectly formed pattern of the specimen has become blurred, with traces of what appear to be bubbles and the "enamel" also has a curtaining effect in the region covered by this lobe.

It occurs to me that if Crepidula have the same ability of movement as Patella this may be a possible reason why they appear to resist "enamelling over", since any movement could hinder adhesion of the "enamel" deposit.

Cypraea with attachments:

by E. Ralph.

During a recent visit to Cape Vidal on the Zululand Coast I came across a specimen of Cypraea arabica immanis Schilder, 81.5 x 51 mm. which has a barnacle growing (or adhering) to the shell.

The barnacle is 10 mm. diameter by 5 mm. high. It is located 25 mm. from the anterior end on the sulcus. The barnacle is fully covered by the enamel.

From the fact that A.B. Jenner has also found a similar shell it appears that this phenomenon is not as rare as has been thought.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Beach Shells:

by P.J. le Roux.

Looking through a catalogue of shells by Richard E. Petit - the successor of John J. Burch and publisher of the Directory of Conchologists I was very disappointed to see that all the South african shells are listed as beach shells. Does this not mean that South Africans and perhaps members of our Society are collecting these beach specimens by the thousands and selling them in America? What will other Countries think of South Africa? Is it not time to stop collecting and reporting on finding the very fresh, just dead fine condition but still beach shells?

We may even copy Dr. William Turton - A conchological Director of the British Islands 1819. All shells examined in a living state he marked v.v. (vidimus vivam) and those which were examined in a dead state (beach shells) v.m. (vidimus mortuam).

Do let us leave the beach rolled shells for the children to play with.

Lately I was informed that numerous shells not previously known in our vicinity at Kleinmond were found on our local beach - Oh such perfect specimens etc. etc.

Unfortunately I was the culprit. At a low tide I emptied a few bags containing large numbers of shells - collected over many years all over Africa - on our local beach.

First the children spotted the shells then the mothers followed and mini skirts became too long. Anyway I gladdened the hearts of many treasure seekers. Please do not blame our late friend Dr. Barnard if East African shells are found at Kleinmond - are not listed in his writings.

by L. Kerr.

Comment on Above

As Mr. le Roux so rightly remarks, our "shell" image should be improved overseas. Unfortunately, we have no control over the shells sent abroad, but the writer is sure that very few of our members, if any, send beach specimens in their parcels, unless they are unobtainable alive. The classic examples, of course, are the shells from Jeffreys Bay, which for many years have been found dead only. Even some of these are now being skin-dived alive along the Wild Coast. We can assure overseas readers that most of the shells in our collections are live-taken. Of course the trawled shells are scarce and hard to come by, but in any case, they seldom wash up on the beach. We hope that if beach shells are included in parcels, they are clearly labelled as such. Members should endeavour to send only shells taken alive.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SECRETARY

Mrs. M.C. Giles,
2, Flora Park,
Flower Street,
Cape Town.

Phone: 45-3070.

TREASURER

Mr. M.C. Giles,
2, Flora Park,
Flower Street,
Cape Town.

Phone: 45-3070.

LIBRARIAN

Mr. R.O. Carlsson,
18, Tecoma Way,
Pinelands,
Cape.

Phone: 53-1536.