



SEA BONES #4

A Newsletter on Southern African conchological matters from the desk of Roy Aiken.

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“ Shake one, and it awakens, then apply
It’s polished lip to your attentive ear,
And it remembers its august abode
And murmurs as the ocean murmurs there. “ - **Walter Savage Landor**

A shelly welcome to the fourth Sea Bones.

The winter has proved harsh for many of us in South Africa, but the semi-hibernatory time has provided opportunity to find solace from the season’s vagaries by immersing oneself in evenings of shell-related things that are so very therapeutic.

Fire (red/orange shells or shells with flammules/flames)

Ice (white shells)

Please be inspired to bring anything possible to the meeting, as all exhibits really add atmosphere to the day.

The major purpose of this edition is to announce that the Annual General Meeting of The Conchological Society of Southern Africa will take place once again at the Lapa at Laerskool Uitsig, 46 Yelande street, The Reeds, Centurion, on **Saturday 10th September** from **10h00**. 2011 is a voting year, so to that end, we attach for your attention, a nomination form which we request be completed and returned as soon as possible. We ask that all able bodied folk who have a passion for shells, please make a concerted effort to attend.

The theme for exhibits this year is broken into two categories:

- **“Authors”**
A display of shells whose author is either K.H. Barnard or R.N. Kilburn.
- **“Four elements of nature”**
Earth (brown shells)
Water (blue/purple shells)

‘WATER , SALT , AND SHELLS’

There is, in so many of us, a deep-seated affinity for water. We depend so much on it for our existence, and it is plausible that we have been born of it, so to speak. Water, combined with salt, is the essence of life. Fascinating, that the essential energy for creation of life is a ‘sole’ (solay), a solution of salt and water. This word has a direct connection with ‘soul’. Amniotic fluid, from which we are born, is a sole. The now famous Dr. Masaru Emoto set about proving how water, which is actually crystalline in structure, can store and carry information. The blood that heals us continuously, and the tears we cry are also a sole, in the same saline ratio as the sea. From this solution are our beautiful Molluscs created that keep us captivated in this hobby.

The ancient shamanic healers of Hawaii have taken the shell to another realm, in the belief that it is possible to use what they

feel is an inherent energy in its form, to be used in the maintenance of health. They consider the ocean as a 'Mother', from which shells can be 'born'. Hence, Sea Bones. They see a feminine aspect in the beauty, colour and structural harmony of seashells. Notwithstanding their breathtaking beauty, they are also in crystalline mineral alignment, meticulously deposited over time.

So the ancients separated basic types, such as 'radiant' shells .i.e. bivalves, especially Pectens and Tellina's. Their pattern is forever outwards in radial lines or grooves. Next are noticeably spiral shells like Mitra's, Terebra's, Architectonica's, and many others, to firstly indicate an energy concentrated to a single point at the apex, which is used to heal in various ways. Secondly, these very spiral creations are synonymous with movement, representing continuous circulation, being the life principle. Cowries are separated as being particularly special. They are found in many colours, and are a lot like the egg, the inner spiral conveying the idea of a womb, associated with nurturing. Their shiny surface renders them ideal for all over body massage, especially if slightly warmed. The Grandmothers of Hawaii teach that cowries represent the four phases of life:

1. Beginning, gestation, purity
2. Separation, growth
3. Empowerment, maintaining vision
4. Fulfilment, self-realisation, getting back to source.

Finally, the Conch, probably a species of Triton, is used with the removal of the apex, to allow a powerful, pure sound to be produced, involving the call to many kinds of ceremonies. I hope that the above will enable you to see your shells in yet another light.
Yours in Conchology,

ROY AIKEN

Nomination Form
Conchological Society of Southern Africa
AGM 10th September 2011

Send by post to The Secretary CSSA, P.O Box 1855, Rooihuiskraal, 0154, South Africa or fax to Christelle Deysel, 012 320-6385 or e-mail deysel@worldonline.co.za

I nominate

.....

..... to serve on the Committee as

(position is optional extra).

Signed:Name:.....Date:.....

Proxy Vote
Conchological Society of Southern Africa
AGM 10th September 2011

Send by post to The Secretary CSSA, P.O Box 1855, Rooihuiskraal, 0154, South Africa or fax to Christelle Deysel, 012 320-6385 or e-mail deysel@worldonline.co.za

I a voting member of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa, hereby authorize to vote on my behalf at the forthcoming AGM for all matters arising which include the election of new Committee Members.

Signed:Name:.....Date:.....