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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO 61

FEBRUARY, 1965.

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Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

Our first meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, 16th February at 8.15 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the S.A.Museum. Mr.P.Elston will show some slides of Mauritius and Natal shells. The shells for display will be those on pages 89 and 107 of Dr. Barnards Beginner's Guide. We hope that more members will exhibit this time, no matter how poor the collection. We are there to help beginners, so bring along your shells.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all Members of our Society, for electing me as your President.

This honour is all the more appreciated as it was unexpected.

I would also wish my fellow members of the Council, and all members, a very happy and prosperous New Year, with good shelling.

D.H.Kennelly

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VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Under Rule 18 of the Constitution The Council hereby gives notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting on March 23rd, 1965, prior to the Ordinary Monthly meeting.

The only business will be an AMENDMENT to RULE 8. FEES. which, at present, reads:- The Annual subscription to the Society shall be R1 for ordinary members and 75 cents for Corresponding members.....

The amendment is "shall be R1.50 for ordinary members and R1.50 for corresponding members....."

The voting shall be by ballot paper which is included in this Circular and ALL members are requested to use this form. Should any member be unable to attend the meeting they are asked to post the ballot form in time to reach the Secretary prior to the March ordinary meeting. Should a member not return the ballot form in time his or her vote will be taken as in the affirmative.

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The Treasurer reports that the Society has R142 on hand, with 35 members' subscriptions outstanding, which could be expected to bring in about another R25 before 30.6.65. The monthly circulars - the "Life-line" of the Society - had cost R96.40 for the six months ended 31.12.64, inclusive of postage, etc., roughly over R2 per page. These higher costs meant that the circulars were costing R1.40 per member per annum, which exceeds the current subscription rate.

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD in the S.A.MUSEUM, 15.12.1964.

Mr. Elston, in the Chair, welcomed members and friends and read out greetings and good wishes from our President, Mr.Kennelly, Mrs.H.Boswell, Mr.B.L.Cock and Mrs.H.Jefferies. Apologies were received from Mrs.F.Kuttel, Mrs.N.Prior, Messrs Freeman, Grindley and Ivy.

The following were elected as members of the Society.

- Mrs.J.Goodman, 4 Armia Flats, Ocean View Drive, Sea Point.
- Mrs.G.W.Hounsell, P.O.Box 25, Trappes Valley, C.P.
- Mrs.E.Kinloch, C/o The Secretary, British Field Sports Society, 137, Victoria Street, London.S.W.1. ENGLAND.

Master P.Jurgens was proposed as a new member by D.Wilson and seconded by B.L.Cock.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Society, thanked Mrs.H.Bodinnar for her effort in procuring two redundant bookcases for the Society from the Sailors' Home. These had been put into immediate use for storing the Library Books, old circulars, papers etc. at the Secretary's home.

A gavel for the Society's Chairman was presented to Mr.Elston by Mrs.Kerr. This had been made by her husband.

Mr.E.Dee, a Natal member, then took the floor and immediately organised a "Name this shell" competition, which was won by Mrs. Connolly. The Society benefited by 60 cents. Mr.Dee gave a talk on diving and spoke about the shell he had brought with him. He was thanked by the Chairman for his instructive and illuminating address.

While tea and cakes were being consumed, Mrs.Elston and Mr.Dee judged the competition for the best Christmas table decoration made with shells. Mrs. Max Ackermann was a popular winner with a most ingenious Xmas Tree while Mrs.Connolly came second.

After tea, the film "Mysteries of the Deep" was shown and the meeting closed with good wishes all round.

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DR.K.H.BARNARD.

The obituary and tribute of the late Dr.K.H.Barnard will be published in the British Journal of Conchology issue of June 1965 and our Vice-President Mr.P.Elston has been informed that he will receive 20 reprints for distribution to relatives and friends.

As most of these have already been allocated, should members wish to receive a copy, will they please write to Mr.Elston within a fortnight of receiving this circular. His address is 6 Teza Lodge, Hope Street, Gardens,C.T.

BOOK BARGAIN.

Mr.P.Elston has a copy of G.B.Sowerby's Marine Shells of South Africa with Appendix (1892-7). This cost him R15.50 and he is prepared to offer it to the highest bidder. Any excess over the original cost will be donated to the Society. This offer remains open until March 31st. (This book is NOT in our Library - any offers?)

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Miss M.Kemphorne, 15 upper Whelen Street, Newlands, Cape, as from 1st March, 1965. (Miss Kemphorne is selling her duplicate shells before moving.)

- Mr.K.Sprighton, 53,Anacabri, St.Andrew's Street, Durban.
- Mr.P.Coates, "Trovato", Harshel Walk, Wynberg.C.P.
- Mrs.C.Granville, P/B533, Hectorspruit. Eastern Transvaal.

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BORDER NOTES.

By D.H.Kennelly.

During the past two months, it has been a pleasure seeing Miss Peggy Kempthorne (our Treasurer), whom the writer had not had the pleasure of meeting before.

Mr.E.Dee of Durban also called, and his collection of Natal shells was of great interest. No doubt those fortunate enough to be at the meeting in Cape Town, were also interested in seeing these specimens.

After a lapse of some years, the writer was indeed pleased to receive a visit from Mr.Jack Walker and his wife.

Our enthusiastic members - Mrs.M.A.Rix of Bonza Bay, and Mrs.Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth, also called in. Both are doing well in steadily adding to their respective collections.

The writer has been taking notes of the more unusual specimens which these members have been fortunate enough to find, and a detailed report thereon will appear in the Circulars in due course.

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NATAL GROUP NOTES.

Les Cock.

Our December meeting took the form of a "Field Day" at Park Rynie where we were joined by some members of the "Study group" of the Durban Underwater Club. The water was unfortunately not too clear as a result of the recent rains, with the rivers coming down in flood and our hopes for some good finds were not realised as visibility in the water was not good for the divers. However those of us who could not dive got busy on the rocks, and even though some Cypraea arabica, C.felina, C.isabella and C.erosa as well as Conus ebreus, C.ceylonensis and C.lividus were taken among others, the finds over the day were disappointing, but that is the way things go sometimes.

It was good however to have the opportunity of members meeting each other and discussing "shelly" matters, as a number of us not being resident in Durban only meet our fellow collectors at our meetings.

The next meeting will be one of interest to all collectors and everybody should make an effort to be present.

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GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES ON SOUTH AFRICAN VOLUTIDAE.

By D.H.Kennelly.

A study of the distribution, or range, of two species of Voluta occurring on our coast, is of interest. It also proves again the necessity of collectors keeping an accurate record of the locality where specimens have been found.

Voluta africana, Reeve, Sowerby (1892) lists this shell from Port Elizabeth (Coll.Bairstow). Turton (1932) also lists this species from Port Alfred, and other records reveal that africana may be found all along our coast from Port Elizabeth to Natal.

There appears to be no other record from further north - as far as the writer is aware. MacNae & Kalk (1958), do not list any species of Voluta as occurring at Inhaca Island, P.E.Africa.

The best beach specimens seen so far were collected at Bonza Bay by Mrs.M.A.Rix. No specimens taken alive have ever been reported.

Voluta bullata, Swainson. The range of this species appears to be less than that of africana. The best beach specimens are to be found at Jeffreys Bay, where the keen collector may find examples from juveniles to adult. Broken shells have been reported from Port Elizabeth, and one worn specimen taken at Port Alfred.

As far as the writer knows no live example has ever been taken.

FURTHER NOTES ON VOLVA VOLVA IN SOUTH AFRICA.

by D.H.Kennelly.

Readers are referred to Circular No 48, in which issue is a report of the finding of a beach specimen - at Bonza Bay. Later Mrs. Rena Cock reported having found an example at Morgan Bay, and still later in 1964 our keen member - Mrs. M.A.Rix - found two more shells at Bonza Bay.

This month (January)1965) Miss J.D.Kitchener of Kimberley, very generously presented a good beach specimen of Volva volva to the East London Museum. This shell was found at Qora Mouth (near Mazoppe Bay, Transkei).

Literature consulted states the range of Volva volva to be right through the Pacific from Japan to parts of the Australian coast. The Indian Ocean is also mentioned but no locality is quoted, and it would appear that the taking of five specimens mentioned above from localities on the "Wild Coast", constitute the first records of the occurrence of this species in South Africa.

It is of course quite possible that other examples have been found by non-conchological visitors in the past, of which no record has been made, but the recent discoveries should awaken a renewed interest in our Border and Natal members towards shells of our "Wild Coast."

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CYMATIUM (LAMPUSIA) PILEARE, LINN.

by D.H.Kennelly.

In Circular No 58 there is a paragraph relative to this shell.

Literature available to the writer reveals that modern writers appear to have expressed the opinion that C.pileare is the same as C.acquitile, Reeve, olim. Reeve gives the common name of the "Rippled Triton" to his acquitile, and the literature gives the range of the latter as the Pacific Ocean. It seems possible that when Reeve in 1844 described acquitile, he may have had an ecological variety of pileare, Linn., which occurs in the Pacific only.

Dr.D.F.McMichael of the Australian Museum, quotes the two species as being one and the same. Vide Queensland & Great Barrier Reef Shells by Rippingale & McMichael, 1961.

This question will not be finally settled until there is a detailed anatomical examination of the living animals of these two species, and there the matter must rest for the time being.

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