

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 66

JULY, 1965

PAGE 1.

(Re-printed 1977)

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING:

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday 20th July at 8.15 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum. Our Vice-President, Mr P. Elston will show a film on Mauritius (see minutes of last meeting) and Jock Dichmont has some slides for us to see. The shell family for display will be S.A. Cypraea (from Natal to the Cape). If time allows there will be a film too.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The Treasurer respectfully reminds you that your 1965-66 subscriptions of R1.50 are now due. Country members please add exchange.

You have three months in which to pay, then no more circulars!

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MINUTES OF MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM 22.6.1965.

The Chairman, Mr Elston, welcomed the large number of members and friends who turned up, but noted with regret that no student members had brought any exhibit of S.A. Shells for the competition. The book prizes, therefore, would be kept for another occasion.

Apologies were received from Dr Grindley, Miss Leers, Mr Pollard and Mrs Weakley.

The Chairman announced that Mr J. Grindley had obtained his Doctorate(Ph.D) and congratulated him. This was warmly applauded by the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read on a motion by Mr Pickford, seconded by Mr Ackermann.

Proposal of New Members:-

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| Miss Benson | proposed by | D.H. Kennelly | seconded by | L.Kerr |
| Miss I. Jakobsen | " | " V. Spencer | " | " L. Kerr |
| Mr A. Kennelly | " | " D.H. Kennelly | " | " P. Elston |
| Mr H. Moseley | " | " H. Jefferies | " | " L. Kerr |
| Mr S. Robertson | " | " C. Connolly | " | " L. Kerr |

The Chairman urged members to consider very seriously the nominations of new Council Members as several vacancies have to be filled.

The Juniors were reminded to attend the Field Day.

Next Meeting: The Chairman announced that he had obtained a film made in Mauritius by a friend of his during a visit and that members would probably find it of interest as it has a conchological theme. Mr Elston would himself be giving a commentary.

Three films shown at the meeting were well received.

The S.A. Conidae on display were examined, discussed and much admired by the company, most of whom realised that they still have a lot of local collecting to do before they can retire. Members were heard to remark that the longer period allowed for examining the shells on display was an improvement.

The accessibility of the Library is also a big improvement, and more use is now being made of it.

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THE LIBRARY:

The new Librarian is Mr Steve Kruger, 26 Kloof Rd., Tamboerskloof, Cape Town, so will members please write to him for books in future.

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FIELD DAY AT ST. JAMES. 30.6.65.

The weather was perfect, one of the loveliest days we have had this winter. Add this to an exceptionally low, calm, New Moon tide and eight small boys, all eager to learn and you have bliss- four hours of it! These Juniors soon learned to put back damaged shells, juveniles and old and calloused specimens, to turn back rocks and not to over-collect.

At the end of the morning we had 14 live Conus elongatus among various Patella, Haliotis sanguinea, Turbo sarmaticus etc.etc.

A very good time was had by all.

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ATTENTION JUNIORS!

As an evening meeting seems impossible for you, we have arranged your Competition for a Saturday afternoon, 14th August in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum, at 3 p.m. This will give you plenty of time to get your shells ready after the holidays, if you have been away.

The prizes, three autographed copies of shell books, will be given to the best collections of S.A. shells.

Will those intending to enter please drop me a line, or ring 77-5369, as we want to know how many tables to provide. There will be tea for the seniors too

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CONGRATULATIONS -

to Mr Dick Kilburn of Rhodes University, for having a new terebrid named after him, Terebra kilburni R.D. Burch. Spec. nov.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs H. Bodinnar, 2, Edison Rd., Rondebosch, Cape

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GENERAL NOTESLOOKING BACK.

by D.H. Kenney- President

In May of this year our Society became seven years old, and it appears to be an appropriate time to review the past.

In order to establish the Society a preliminary meeting was held in Cape Town in May 1958 and the title chosen was "The Conchological Society of Southern Africa".

This inaugural meeting was organised by our energetic and enthusiastic present secretary- Mrs Leila Kerr and the same month Circular No. 1 was issued listing a membership of 31, the first Chairman being Prof. J.H. Day and the late Dr.K.H. Barnard was elected first Honorary Member.

During the ensuing years the Society experienced the usual "growing" pains, but difficulties were gradually ironed out, and the membership grew in number.

A list of members issued in January 1964 showed a total of 159, and a fair estimate now (1965) would be approximately 170- scattered all over Southern Africa, and a few overseas.

With the growth in membership the governing Council co-opted three members to represent the Eastern Province/Border, Natal and Transvaal Groups on the Council.

A number of members have done excellent work in conchology, among whom mentioned Mrs Helen Boswell, Mrs Clarice Connolly, the late D.W.J. Ackermann, Mrs Bobby Richards, Edward Dee, Percy Elston, R.N. Kilburn, Chris Walker (Student member), Mrs Hazel Jefferies and Mrs Maimie Rix. Also at all times the Society enjoyed the support and invaluable advice of the late Dr. K.H. Barnard.

In addition there are many other members whose contributions to conchology are to be found in the Circulars issued to date.

Within recent years copies of our Circulars were sent to the Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland. This resulted in the institution of a quarterly newsletter by the British Society and the formation of a Junior Section on the lines of our student members.

The Newsletter publishes accounts of Field meetings and other items of interest for which there is no room in the noted scientific Journal of Conchology and is edited on the lines of our own circulars.

Contributions by the Society to conchological literature are the publication of the "Check List of Mollusca from False Bay" (Nov. 1960), "Families and Genera of Marine & Estuarine Mollusca known from South Africa" (Aug. 1962) and a "Key to South African Ehitons" (June 1963),

It is also pleasant to record that many members have made scientific records by bringing to light not only live specimens which establish the species as undoubtedly living on S. African shores, but also many fresh dead shells have been found of species hitherto unknown as occurring on our coast.

With these achievements behind us, it is felt that the Society will undoubtedly carry on with the good work, and continue to enrich science with further records.

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A NOTE ON COLUBRARIA ALFREDENSIS, BARTSCH.by D.H. Kenne~~tt~~y.

As most of our members are aware, this is one of our rare shells.

The type localith is Port Alfred, where the late Col. W.H. Turton collected two specimens and the species is described in Bulletin 91 (1915) of the U.S. National Museum, by Paul Bartsch.

Dr. Barnard records two specimens ex Port Alfred, held in the South African Museum, while the East London Museum also has three shells ex Jeffreys Bay, and E.C. "Ginger" Wicks obtained another at this latter locality.

The latest discovery has been made by Mrs Hazel Jefferies of Kei Mouth, who found a specimen at Haga Haga, thus establishing another locality for this rarity. We congratulate Hazel on her good fortune.

As far as the writer is able to ascertain, there are now nine recorded specimens of Colubraria alfredensis.

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NATAL GROUP NOTES.

by Les Cock.

The second birthday meeting of the above Group took place at the Durban Under-Sea Club house on Saturday afternoon 12th June. There was an excellent attendance of 14 members and visitors. The writer welcomed all those present and offered apologies from Dr. & Mrs. Bruggen, Miss Wilson and Mr and Mrs Brunette.

A wire of congratulations from Leila Kerr, Secretary of the Cape Town Society was read as well as greetings from Percy Elston, a foundation member of the group.

Business matters were soon disposed of and there was no opposition to Mr Cock to again represent the group on the Council, when nominations were called for.

Mr E. Dee then took the floor and members heard a talk on some of the Cypraea found on the Natal coast. Certain specific identifying features were pointed out in each of the species exhibited. Mr Dee stated that over 50 species of this Genus have been collected in Natal waters.

Mr Cock in thanking Mr Dee for his interesting talk, said that we are inclined to think that the shells from distant waters are wonderful and beautiful- and they are- but we too have some in the waters around our own coast. We should devote more time to collecting and studying South African shells.

Tea was then served and a Birthday cake made by Renee Cook, and decorated with two candles, helped to make it a pleasant afternoon.

Tongues were soon wagging discussing this and that. while a few of us were kept busy helping the younger members identify some of the shells they had brought along.

Altogether a happy day and may the next year be as bright as that just passed.

Our next meeting will take the form of a "Field Day" to be held at "Region Rocks" on August 15th. Reminders will be sent out well in advance.

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