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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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CIRCULAR NO. 73. APRIL, 1966. PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting of the society will be held in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 19th April at 8.15 p.m. Unfortunately, last month, Mr. Kennelly was unable to be present, but he hopes to be here for this meeting, so rally round and make it a success, even if it rains! In honour of our President, the family for display will be the Cymatiidae (see Kennelly page 66) S.A. and Foreign. This is Mr. Kennelly's favourite family. There will be a film too, and general discussion and of course, bring along any new finds. Friends are welcome.

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CONGRATULATIONS.

To our President, Mr. D.H. Kennelly, on the honour done to him by the East London Museum. At their recent A.G.M. he received a special vote of thanks for his work on conchology during his four years as a member of their staff. It was decided to affix a plate to one of the cases in the public collection to read: "This case is dedicated to D.H. Kennelly, Esq., in recognition of his work in conchology at this Museum." Mr. Kennelly chose the case containing Cymatiidae. The dedication will be held in May at a public ceremony. We hope that all Border members will be present.

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Minutes of Meeting held at the S.A. Museum 22.3.1966.

Dr. J. Grindley was in the Chair. Apologies were received from Mr. D.H. Kennelly, Mrs. Connolly, Mr. and Mrs. Pickstone, Miss Stocker, Mr. Swaneveld, Mrs. Lowry, Mr. J. Dichmont, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Louw and Mr. and Mrs. Giles. We were specially pleased to welcome Mrs. Pinkham and Padre who had come in all the way from Wolsley on a pouring wet night to be present. The minutes published in Circular No. 72 were taken as read and adopted.

The following were elected as members of the society:-

- Mr. J. Lench, 33, Bompas Rd., Dunkeld, Johannesburg.
- Mr. F.V. Descroizilles, 22C, Anderson St., Curepipe, Mauritius.
- Mr. A.B. Jenner, 63, Clinton Rd., New Redruth, Alberton, Tvl.
- Miss S. Kleynhans, 27, Struben Ave., Discovery, Tvl.
- Mr. J.F. Louw, Fairfield Hotel, Aliwal Rd., Wynberg, Cape.
- S. Miss D. Louw, " " " " " "
- S. Miss N. Louw, " " " " " "
- Mrs. A.L. Olivier, 18, Schoeman's St., Rheeders Park, Welkom, O.F.S.

The following were proposed as new members:-

- Mr. G.C. le Roux, proposed by L. Kerr, seconded by C. Connolly.
- Mrs. B. Smith, " " " " " P. Elston.

Mrs. Kerr then spoke about the poor attendance at the Field Day at Kommetjie on 20th March. There were only three members present. In spite of this, some good shells were obtained, notably Conus elongatus, Marginella rosea, Thais dubia and Fasciolaria lugubris.

Mr. Elston showed us a collection of slides on Mauritius, giving a commentary, which was very interesting.

After tea, the shells on display were examined. As usual, Max Ackermann had brought an outstanding exhibit of Strombus.

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N.B. Just a reminder that the Society will be requiring a Secretary and Treasurer within three months and that, so far, no member has signified his or her willingness to accept these vitally important offices. It must be realised that the Society, now eight years old, cannot function otherwise. The Constitution calls for nominations to be published two months prior to



the Annual General Meeting and surely no member wishes the position to be as it was in August, 1965 when the present Council faced the fact that the Society had to cease and unselfishly decided to withdraw their resignations on the understanding that it was for ONE YEAR only.

P. Elston.

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EXCHANGE WANTED.

Richard E. Petit, P.O. Box 113, Ocean View Drive, South Carolina, 29582,  
U.S.A.

Mr. Petit has recently taken over the business of John Q. Burch and has a large selection of excellent shells either for sale or exchange and at the moment wants the following - Cancellariidae: imbricata-Watson (Jeffreys Bay to Cape Point), bifasciata-Deshays (Natal), producta-Sowerby 11 (Natal), faveolata-Sowerby (Natal and Eastern Province), lamellosa-Hinds (Natal) and semidisjuncta-Sowerby (Eastern Province) and any others of the same Genus. Should any member wish to have his present list, I will, with pleasure post it or an application direct to Mr. Petit will bring one by immediate Air Mail.

Mrs. R. Perry, Secretary, Perth Shell Club, 65, Clark Road, Morley, Perth,  
Western Australia

is only too willing to include the name of any of our members in their news sheet. My correspondent tells me that some of their members are getting Cypraea friendii and venusta, so here is a chance for those two rare shells.

Mrs. E. Jansen-Morèl, Gorinchem, Prins Bernhardstr. 47, Netherlands.

Miss Cheryl Ranslow, 444 Woodtick Rd., Wolcott 16, Connecticut, U.S.A.  
Miss Ranslow is a beginner, so here is your chance, all new members.

A member of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland - Mrs. Betty M. Smith, East View, Birdham, Chichester, Sussex, England - needs South African shells. British and foreign shells are offered in return.

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A MESSAGE OF THANKS AND FAREWELL.

We will leave South Africa on 6th April, so that I will be able to take up my new appointment at the Department of Systematic Zoology at Leiden University. Unfortunately it is impossible for us to go and say goodbye to all our widely scattered friends; please accept our gratitude for your interest, assistance and co-operation during the past years. My work on the terrestrial molluscs of Southern Africa will be continued and maybe even expanded in the near future; some major works are in preparation or in the press and we expect to keep contact as well as possible. If anybody ever wants any help or advice which cannot be obtained in South Africa, please do not hesitate to call on me; my literature resources will be very good indeed. My new address will be featured in the Circulars among the usual changes of address.

A.C. van Bruggen.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

A.C. van Bruggen, biol. drs., Department of Systematic Zoology,  
c/o Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Raamsteeg 2, Leiden, Holland.

Mrs. E. Kinloch, Ridley House, Ridley Hill, Kingsmead, Devon, England.

Miss I. Jakobsen, Y.W.C.A., Long Street, Cape Town.

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BORDER GROUP MEETING.

By D.H. Kennelly.

A very successful meeting of the Group was held on Sunday, 13th March, at the residence of Mrs. C. Hulley, attended by about half of the members. As a gale of 60 m.p.h. was blowing, this probably contributed to the small attendance.

Greetings and best wishes for the meeting were given on behalf of Les Cock and the Natal Group, and an apology for non-attendance from the Border Council Representative - Mrs. Hazel Jefferies - whose famous "Match-box" car had blown a gasket, which effectually prevented the trip of 60 miles being undertaken.

Miss Benson, who has been away for the past three months, returned from Jo'burg in time to attend, and it is a pleasure to record the presence of the Director, East London Museum - Miss M. Courtenay Latimer - who found time to attend.

The Genus for display was Conus, on which a short talk was given. Specimens on view were from the collections of Mrs. Hulley, Mrs. Rix and Mrs. Gillmer, all of which were much admired, and drew favourable comments.

A decision was made to hold the next meeting of the Group at Gonubie toward the latter end of April. As this will be an all day Field Meeting for collecting, it is hoped the attendance will be 100%.

At the tea break, the table fairly groaned under the delicious "eats" provided by our hostess, Mrs. Hulley ably assisted by Mrs. Rix. It is quite evident that while the Border members are enthusiastic collectors, they are able to show their skill in pastry cooking as well.

After tea there was a general discussion, during which Mrs. Hulley exhibited her collection of really fine shells, and some of the items shown made those present open their eyes.

The meeting terminated at 5 p.m. with a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks to our hostess, Mrs. Hulley, for the use of her home for a very interesting meeting.

#### BORDER GROUP - GENERAL NOTES.

By D.H. Kennelly.

The extremely windy weather, which has held sway for the past month or more, has not deterred our Border members from their steady persistent collecting.

At the recent March meeting of the Border Group, Mrs. Maisie Rix reported the finding of Cancellaria foveolata Sowerby and Conus tinianus Brass, alive, which has added to the existing records of "Mollusca taken alive on the Wild Coast." In addition, Mrs. Rix found a specimen of Cymatium durbanense at Bonza Bay, a new locality for this species, the range of which extends from Natal to Jeffreys Bay.

Mrs. Hulley was fortunate in collecting a good example of Haliotis queketti at Gonubie, and another specimen of this shell was given to the writer by a non-member friend who found it at Mahoon. H. queketti has been reported as occurring at Port Alfred (Turton), also in Natal on which coast it is reported by Les Cock as being rare. The finding of two specimens in the vicinity of East London is of great interest, and a good lookout is being kept in the hope of finding live specimens. Mrs. Hazel Jefferies has reported this shell as occurring at Nthlonzana, Transkei, hitherto the nearest locality to East London.

Individual collections have also benefited recently - that of Mrs. Hazel Jefferies by another parcel from Shimoni, East Africa, and Mrs. A. Gillmer has received a parcel from Angola, Portuguese West Africa. Mrs. Gillmer has just returned from a visit to Mauritius, where contact was made with collectors there. We hope Mrs. Gillmer's collection will benefit in the near future as a result of this visit.

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#### CORRECTION.

In Circular No. 72, Page 7, Mr. E. Des mistakenly referred to Mr. Darroll Smith as being a member of Dr. Boshoff's party. This was not so, the expedition to Porto Amelia was organised and financed entirely by Mr. Smith and his friends and had no connection with Dr. Boshoff, who, as far as he knows, has not been to Porto Amelia.

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GENERAL NOTES.AFRIVOLUTA PRINGLEI TOMLIN, 1947.

By D.H. Kennelly.

At the present time there appears to be some difference of opinion in the ranks of our members, as to the exact position this species should occupy in a List of South African Marine Mollusca.

These notes are written in an endeavour to clarify matters.

In 1947 in his report, Tomlin stated this shell to be allied to the Volutidae, but was not a Volute (in sensu stricto). Therefore Tomlin erected a new Genus - Afrivoluta - in which to place this new species.

Dr. Barnard in 1959 (Annals South African Museum) reduced Afrivoluta to the status of a Sub-genus and gave the correct name as Voluta (Afrivoluta) pringlei Tomlin. Dr. A.C. van Bruggen (Annals Cape Provincial Museums, Vol. 3, August 1963) followed Dr. Barnard's amendment of the name.

In 1963 our well known member, Mrs. Helen Boswell, sent another example of this species, with the animal, to Dr. Barnard. This enabled Dr. Barnard to carry out a further investigation, based on the late Mr. Tomlin's report of 1947.

A report on this latest investigation by Dr. Barnard, was published in the Journal of Conchology, Vol. 25, No. 5, October 1963. In this report Barnard stated that while there was some evidence of this shell being allied to the Volutidae, as stated by Tomlin, he (Barnard) had found concrete evidence that this species was far more closely allied to the Family Marginellidae.

Therefore Dr. Barnard restored Afrivoluta as a full Genus, under the Family Marginellidae - the removal of the species from the Volutidae being justified by the latest investigation.

The correct name for the shell is as written at the head of these notes, and in a collection, specimens of A. pringlei should be placed with specimens of Marginella, and not with specimens of Voluta.

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THE NAMING OF SHELLS AND THE DERIVATION OF SOME OF THEIR NAMES.

By B.L. Cock.

When we speak of names, and a name with which we are acquainted is mentioned, a mental picture of the subject referred to is generally conjured up in our minds. All persons or things are given names or numbers and the works of nature are no exception. Each in its own special group, the names in the animal kingdom are controlled by "The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature."

The group of soft-bodied and boneless animals called "Molluscs" consists of approximately 120 to 150 thousand species, being surpassed in number only by the insect kingdom. The name "Mollusca" was given to the group or phylum as it is called, by the French naturalist, Cuvier, and is derived from the Latin word "mollis" meaning soft, as this describes the soft-bodied animals in the shells.

This group or phylum is further divided into five classes, namely: Peleceopoda, Gasteropoda, Scaphopoda, Cephalopoda and Amphineura.

In the early days shells were named by long Latin descriptions, or in the vernacular and there was much confusion and overlapping until 1758 when Linnaeus completed and introduced his "Systema Natura" (10th edition) which is still in use today.

It is now known as the "Binominal System" as it embodies two names, firstly the generic, denoting the genus, while the second denotes the specific or species name. Thus we have Conus coronatus. The author's name and date of publication (the latter necessary to establish priorities of names) follow the first two names, so we now have Conus coronatus Gmelin 1791. Many of the large groups have been sub divided and the

names of the sub-genera are added after the name of the genus, but put in brackets, thus we have Cypraea (Laponia) edentula Gray 1825.

Should a shell at a later date be changed to a different genus, the author's name is then placed in brackets as Clanculus miniatus (Anton) which was formerly known as Trochus miniatus Anton.

The first name given to a shell, after 1758, is the official name, while other names given subsequently to the same shell are called synonyms. An example of this shows Conus rosaceus Dillwyn 1817 is a synonym of Conus aurora Lamarck 1810.

In naming shells it will be noticed that all the names are given in Latin, the reason for this being that Latin can be used in all countries of the world and is thus used for names in the sciences and in medicine. This obviates the vast number of differences that would arise should each country use its own language to describe its shells. Local vernacular names when translated into different languages become far too confused, and there are even differences in different districts of the same country, as shown in this country where Turbo sarmaticus is known as "Arikreukel" in the Cape Peninsula, as "Pericale" at Knysna and at East London as a "Cockle".

Learning the names of shells enables the collector to understand his or her shells. Many of the names reveal such characteristics of the shell as shape, markings, colour, etc. and so are fairly easy to recognise and remember.

Thus we have the generic names such as Conus, Turbo, Cardium, etc. which indicate cone, turban or heart shaped.

It is not possible to enumerate all the various terms used so I will have to give just a few examples of the different classes.

Rosea (rose coloured), aurantium (orange or gold) are colour names, as is that quite rare S.A. shell Cypraea fuscorubra meaning brownish-red, while shape is indicated by such names as cylindrica (cylindrical), ventricosa (swollen), globulus (spherical), or ramosus (branched). Some names indicate special features and two well known S.A. shells in this category are Cypraea edentula, the cowry without any teeth, or Cypraea fuscodentata which tells us that the teeth are brown. The markings on the shell itself are at times described in the name and here we have such names as maculata or punctata, both signifying spotted. Costata (ribbed), cancellata (cancellated) and Nodosa (knobbly) are other names in this class.

Often shells are named after a person and here a definite procedure may be adopted in distinguishing between male and female. When the suffix -ae is added to the name of a person, it indicates that the person was a lady, as in Pirenella boswellae Barnard, named after Mrs. Helen Boswell of Pretoria. When the suffix -i is added it indicates that the person was a man, as in Voluta ponsonbyi, Voluta pringlei, or Latirus elstoni after Mr. P. Elston, the well known Durban and Cape Town collector. This procedure is followed when the genitive case (i.e. of the person) is being used. Sometimes the name of the person is given an ending which agrees with the generic name in number, gender and case, so that it is used as an adjective. This is usually done if the Christian name of the person is used, in which case it will probably be apparent from the name whether the person was a man or a woman.

Often the suffix "-ensis" is used and this indicates "of that place" as in Turbo natalensis and Cypraea capensis.

Finally the names of some shells are associated with a story, and perhaps the best example is the legendary tale of the Argonauta argo - the paper nautilus, the shell which comes floating in on our shores at times. The argonauts were the crew of the Argo, which was commanded by Jason, who, mythology informs us, went in search of the "Golden Fleece". This we now know was the byssus of the Pinna, that golden brown silky type of thread with which it attaches itself to the rocks, and which is capable of being knitted into fine articles.



These are just a few of the interesting sidelights which may be solved when making a study of the origin of the names of some of our shells, and from this very brief survey it will be seen that a study of this nature is not only interesting and instructive, but is necessary for the serious collector.

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LETTER RECEIVED FROM GEORGINA LAMBERT.

I have found a Cypraea chinensis tertirostris Sowerby. If your February circular had not arrived a day before the shell was found, I am sure we would have just thought it to be a very small, mature specimen of Cypraea chinensis, but according to the description in your circular the shell definitely is Cypraea chinensis tertirostris. You can imagine the excitement when we discovered what the shell really was. In fact, when I found the shell, I did not take a close look at it, thinking it to be Paulonaria fimbriata durbanensis, and it was not until we arrived home that we discovered it was not a durbanensis after all!

The shell is elongate, deep in colour. It is 16 mm. long, 9 mm. wide, 7 mm. high, the teeth are strong, eight (8) on the outer lip, and eleven (11) on the columella. The rest of the description in your circular applies most accurately to the shell. It was found on Wednesday, 16th February, 1966, in approximately five feet of water on a neap tide, at Vetch's Pier, Durban. I think this is about the most wonderful thing that has ever happened.

And, just to whet the appetite, today, my mother found a most beautiful Palmadusta zigzag zigzag Linné. It is 16 mm. long, 9 mm. wide and 8 mm. high. Its markings are very clear and bright, a most perfect specimen. An alive, and nicely marked Lavitrona citrina was found by myself today. Both specimens were found at Vetch's Pier.

It has been a very lucky week for us.

A further find that might be of interest to your Society is appended:

Blasicrura hirundo (Linné) Sub-sp. Francisca (Schilder).

Found: January, 1963. In live stag's horn coral, 3' water at low springs. Mbwakuni island, about 8 miles out to sea from Bagamoyo, Tanzania.

Description: Very similar to Blasicrura kieneri - elongate, greyish colouring over back with a central speck of brown and below this an untidy line of base colour, margins slightly thicker, thickly covered with brown freckles base white, teeth strong 14 and 15 on columella, 2 dark brown dots on apex and dorsum. Mantle pale yellow. Foot also a paler yellow. 8 mm. high. 9 mm. wide. 18 mm. long.

Collector: Miss Ann Lambert.

(To my knowledge this has not yet been recorded off the E.A. coast).

Ann Lambert.

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UNDERWATER EXPEDITION TO PORTO AMELIA JULY/SEPT., 1965.

By Maureen Smith.

My husband, Darroll, arranged and led our 16 member party to Porto Amelia which is in Northern Mocambique about 1,200 miles north of L.M. My husband and our two sons aged 12 and 11 years, myself and 5 friends travelled by ship from L.M. while the rest of the party flew up. We travelled on the ship "Angola" and had a very pleasant 8 day trip up the coast. We travelled mostly by night and were in port most of the days which gave us time to sight-see. We were very disappointed in Beira but delighted with Mocambique Island. We went sightseeing here and also skin-diving over some very beautiful coral reefs but found very few shells. This is due to the fact that the natives dive for them and sell them to



tourists and also to the cameo-factory. We eventually found this factory in one of the small streets and it turned out to be just a large room where an Italian made all the cameos by hand himself out of mainly Cy. Cassis rufus, but also Harpa ventricosa and a very large black mussel. Large piles of these shells were on the floor awaiting their fate - a sad sight for a collector! But I must admit we found the place very interesting. This Italian makes most of the cameos to be found in L.M. and Beira and also exports them to Italy. We spent a day at Nacala where we went swimming over more beautiful corals but did not find many shells.

We camped at Porto Amelia about 500 yds. from the sea in a coconut plantation. The beach in front of the camp was very white and sloped to a rock shelf which led out to the corals and deeper water. During low tides, both by day and night, Darroll and I did a lot of collecting on these rock shelves which were exposed at low tides. During the day a swarm of native women and small children would descend upon these rocks at low tide and with old spoons and knives scrape the area bare, collecting a small species of Haliotis and mussel and Strombus mutabilis which must be their main meal for the day. Under rocks at night we obtained Conus geographus and tulipa, and Cyp. arabica, histris, tigris, cribaria, teres, lynx, helvola, large carneola and 1 diluculum. These are the most interesting finds although there were many, many more species. During the day we would dive amongst the corals in from 6' to 30 feet of water and here we obtained many species of Lambis, i.e. arthritica, scorpius, lambis, crocata, millepeda and truncata, also Strombus aurisdianae and lentiginosus, Cy. cassis rufus and a bit further out on the sandy bottom in between 50' to 80' of water Darroll dived out many Cassis cornuta. One day at 75' he very proudly surfaced with our very first living Murex tiremus - a great moment to at last find something for which we have searched for so long. After that he made a small dredge and we were able to get a couple more of this wonderful shell - mainly very small ones were dredged.

Of course, our biggest find of the trip was the Conus clytospira, or milne edwardsii. This we were able to obtain from the Captain of a small French trawler which was doing research work for a prawn factory. He wanted some "big and pretty shells" to take back to his family in France when he returned so we gave him some Cassis cornuta and Lambis truncata in exchange for a small box of rotting shells which had come up in the nets on their last trawl, and amongst the treasures we found in this net, some of which we are still unable to identify were our 4 Conus clytospira. The largest is 140 mm. and was dead, but the other 3 are all about 65 mm. and all perfect with the bodies of the animals still in them but in a bad state of decay, and so were unsuitable for preserving.

At a nearby beach outside the village every Sunday morning, swarms of little natives gather with grubby piles of shells which they have collected and cleaned during the week, and there the local shell-collectors come on Sundays to buy for their collections. Many people do all their shell-collecting this way instead of collecting for themselves. One collector we met there was wanting some Conus ebraeus very badly. He lived just 100 yds. from a rocky beach full of this shell but rather than collecting and cleaning some himself, was waiting for an unfaan to appear with some of these cleaned and ready for sale! He had been waiting over 6 months for some when we left! I purchased for about 1½c a new shell for my collection - a Cy. depressa, otherwise we had collected for ourselves all the kinds they had for sale there.

I have tried to list all the shells I collected or obtained on this trip but I still have over 30 more to classify. To date I have discovered that I have 84 new species as a result of this trip, but I expect the final figure to be nearer to 100 when I have finished sorting out and classifying the rest of the shells.

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SECRETARY:

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LIBRARIAN:

Mr. S. Kruger,  
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