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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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CIRCULAR NO. 96.

MAY, 1968.

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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, 28th May, 1968 at 8.15 p.m. Dr. Barry, the Director, has consented very kindly to give us a talk on the Museum, its work and future plans. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Barry in giving up his valuable time to us and hope members will turn up in full force. The shells for display will be about twenty of your best Volutes, South African and Foreign.

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Minutes of the Meeting held at the S.A. Museum, 40.4.1968:

Mr. Freeman welcomed members and friends. Apologies were received from Mr. & Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Lowry, Miss Leers and Mrs. Carlsson.

The Following were elected as Members:

1. Mr. A.F.B. Hawkins, c/o P.O. Box 7020, Empangeni Rail, Zululand.
2. Mr. L.K. Kapp, 9 Stratford Way, Meadowridge, Cape.
3. Mr. N.L. Lewis, 52 Leafmore, Kenwyn, Cape Town.
4. Mrs. V. Meyer, 21 Stirling Cres., Durban North, Natal.
5. Mr. G. Mostert, Vrymoedig, Laurier Road, Rondebosch, Cape.
6. Mrs. G. Mostert, Vrymoedig, Laurier Road, Rondebosch, Cape.
7. Mrs. V. Pugsley, P.O. Box 132, Cape Town.

Miss D. Gould was proposed by Mrs. E. Giles as a new member and seconded by L. Kerr.

A discussion then took place about what we should do to celebrate our tenth birthday. Mr. Jock Dichmont suggested that we should have a Perlemoen Supper at the Underwater Club House under Wynberg Bridge. This would cost only 50 cents per head, as against four times as much for a formal dinner. Will members in favour of the Perlemoen Supper please phone L. Kerr at 77-5369 between 6 and 7 p.m., as we want to know the numbers. Those wanting a formal dinner could also let me know so that we could judge which is the more popular. The event would take place about the middle of June. (More details at the May Meeting).

There were many rare, unusual and beautiful Cypraea on display. Elizabeth Kinloch, Max Ackermann, Nancy Prior, Percy Elston, Jock Dichmont and Leila Kerr spoke about their exhibits. Elizabeth Kinloch told us how she had scratched about in the Salisbury Collection in England and found her rare Cypraea nivosa.

Amongst the rare cowries on display were three Cypraea aurantium, 2 C. mus, C. nivosa, C. surinamensis, C. marginata, C. tessellata, C. saulae, C. catholicorum, C. vanusta sorrentensis, C. friendii, C. decipiens, C. camelopardalis, etc. etc.

After tea, slides were shown. We would like to have more in our slide library, so if any member would care to donate slides of shells, with data, we would be truly grateful - 35 m.m. or 2 1/4 x 2 1/4.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mr. D. Bosman, P.O. Box 197, Mossel Bay.  
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Exchange wanted/.....

EXCHANGE WANTED:

1. Mr. E.D. Willis, 460 Queen St., Auckland C.I., New Zealand, offers trawled N.Z. shells for S.A. shells.
2. James Porter, 4112 Grandview Blvd 17, Los Angeles, California (90066) U.S.A. Would like to exchange with a beginner.
3. Mme. Kermarree-Labisse, 3 rue de l'Yser, Ostende, Belgium - an advanced collector, interested in Buccinidae, Aporrhais, Turridae, Pectinidae and Muricidae.
4. Mr. Philip L. Hano, 1598 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10028, U.S.A. General.
5. Mrs. L.M. Gurr, 140 Hastings St., Christchurch 2, New Zealand, will exchange N.Z. and Tonga shells for South African species.

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NATL GROUP:

by E. Dee.

Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Young for a very pleasant afternoon at their home on Saturday, 27th April. Members had a great time discussing their latest finds and seeing some of Mr. Young's collection.

The May meeting will be held at the D.U.C. Club House at 2.30 p.m. on 18th May. Shells to be discussed will be the Bursidae. Please bring all your examples of this family, so that we can compile a list of living specimens to be found on the Natal Coast. We offer our best wishes to the newly formed Transvaal Group:

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BORDER NOTES:

by Maimie Rix.

Our meeting, held at the Manor Hotel on Sunday, 28th March, was a pleasant one.

A very warm welcome back was extended to Mr. Kennelly. He was his usual cheerful and interesting self, though we all realise that it will be some time before he is quite strong enough to go galavanting on Field Days.

Ten members were present and apologies were received from Miss Latimer, Mr. Cook and Master Peter Watson.

Good shells were exhibited by Rita Scott and Adeline Gilmer and discussions on what we'd been doing and finding since our last meeting were interesting and in some cases exciting.

The pending visit of Mr. and Mrs. Giles was discussed and everyone is looking forward keenly to meeting them. They will be bringing some interesting English shells to show us at our next meeting, also to be held at the Manor Hotel, as the Museum Lecture Room will not be available.

We are lucky to have Dick Kilburn as one of us now, and he is very helpful, despite the fact that he is kept very busy at the Museum.

Our next meeting will be held at the Manor Hotel on Sunday, 28th April.

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GENERAL NOTES:

by F.A. Schilder.

Further Record on Cypraea algoensis Gray

This morning I read Mr. D.H. Kennelly's "Notes on Cypraea algoensis, Gray, 1825" in Circular No. 94 (March, 1968). His records of specimens may be supplemented by my card registry of all cowries examined personally for forty-eight years.

coll./....

coll. Schilder (Halle/Saale)	9 from various localities.
mus. Halle/Saale	1
mus. Dresden	8
mus. Marburg/Lahn	1
mus. Hamburg (destroyed)	5 leg. F. Kraus
id.	3 various sources
mus. Budapest (destroyed)	1
mus. Brussels	4 coll. Dauzenberg
mus. Tarvuren (Belgium)	1 "Banan, leg. Cattoor 1945" (false)
mus. Leiden	5 leg. Reinwardt
British Museum (Natural History)	2 coll. Gray (cotypes)
id.	5 coll. Ponsonby
coll. Schelechoff (Brisbane)	2 one from Cape Agulhas
coll. Mrs. Ackermann (Cape Town)	1 Gansbaai (monstrosity)
	Total 48

Mr. C.N. Cato (Los Angeles, California) possesses the maximum known specimen of 30 m.m.

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BURSA (Species?):

by D.H. Kennelly.

On reading Natal Group notes (Circ. 95, page 3) the reference given relative to an unnamed species of Bursa appears incorrect.

Plate 2, figure 7 (Cernohorsky) is Bursa cruentata (Sowerby 1835) and is described on Page 42.

The shell described by Cernohorsky which "appears to be a nameless species", is illustrated on Plate 1, Figure 2, description Page 46.

The range of this nameless species is given as being throughout the Tropical Pacific, and the precise locality from whence the shell came is not given.

The Family Bursidae covers a large number of species which are widely distributed throughout the Indo/Pacific region, and therefore the ecological conditions in a particular locality may produce a variation in the shell of a well known species, leading a collector to assume the specimen may be new to science.

In instances of this nature, a positive identification can only be given after an authority on the Family Bursidae has examined the bodies of the animals of apparently "nameless species", and is able to make a comparison with those of established species.

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CASSIS RUFA, LINNE. ON THE CISKEI COAST?

by D.H. Kennelly.

A recently joined member of our Society, Mrs. Falkner (Border Group) submitted a shell for identification, which was found in the Gonubie area.

The specimen, slightly beach worn, measures approximately 50 m.m., is a species of Cassis, and has been identified, tentatively, as a juvenile of Cassis rufa Linne.

Positive identification was not possible, owing to the lack of a series of specimens showing the growth stages of the species.

Should the tentative identification prove to be correct, this appears to be the first record of C. rufa on this part of the coast, where it seems to be rare.

Members should be on the alert in seeking for further examples.

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CYPRAEA WITH ATTACHMENTS.

by P. Elston.

The fascination to a Conchologist is that we find something new relating to Mollusca at frequent intervals. A letter from a collector friend of the writer in California, U.S.A. gives us all something else to study, and I hope we may be able to help him. The gist of the letter is as follows:-

"Several/...

"Several months ago I sent Dr. Schilder six Cypraea annettae Dall for study. These had Crepidula incurva Lesson attached, which made them unique as I had never seen this before.

This attachment of Crepidula has raised many intriguing questions. Does the mantle of the Cypraea ever close completely over the attachments, if so, why are the Crepidula not enamelled over by the Cypraea?

How does the Cypraea lay on its growth layers if it does not completely close its mantle? Does the Crepidula exude a fluid or some other repellent to prevent the Cypraea from enclosing it?

In this particular section of the coast the attachment is a common occurrence and I am now searching other areas to ascertain if this happens in other parts. Some Cypraea have as many as four Crepidula attached and from observation of the indentations they seem to have attached themselves when the host was in the bulla or juvenile stage".

The writer has never come across any Cypraea in Cape, Eastern Indian Ocean nor the Western Indian Ocean Islands with any attachment whatsoever and is hoping that members will communicate with him should they have any information on the subject, which will be sent to our informant and Dr. Schilder.

(Mr. S. Fenwick told me that he had collected a live Cypraea arabica immanis with a barnacle attached - Editor)

A SENSATIONAL FIND AT KWELEGA, NEAR EAST LONDON.

by D.H. Kennelly.

Within the last month, a Border Group member - Miss Rita Scott - proceeded to Kwelega about 20 miles from East London, and collected some shells.

Later after returning home, these shells were being examined by Rita and a fellow collector, and it was then discovered that a SINISTRAL specimen of the well known Marginella ornata Redfield, was among the Kwelega shells. This specimen has generously been donated to the East London Museum, where it is regarded as a conchological treasure. The shell is in good condition, and average size (about 25 m.m.).

Collectors all over the world know that the chance of finding a sinistral specimen of a normally dextral species of marine shell is about one in a million, and such a find is one of the rarest of rare shells.

All members of our Society will join in congratulating our member, Rita Scott, on her outstanding discovery.

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PERSONALIA

by D.H. Kennelly.

Members of the Border Group will be glad to learn that our member, Miss Daphne Vice, has returned to East London.

Daphne has been away for upwards of twelve months, undergoing treatment in hospital in Cape Town, and we all hope that she will soon be able to resume her attendance at our monthly meetings.

So much interest has been roused here in East London over the finding of the sinistral example of Marginella ornata (reported elsewhere), that it appears opportune to append the following:-

They seek it here,  
They seek it there,  
Collectors seek it everywhere.  
Is it in heaven, is it in hell?  
That demned elusive left hand shell.

(With apologies to the Author of "The Scarlet Pimpernel").

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ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Mrs. L. Kerr,  
37, Kenilworth Road,  
KENILWORTH, Cape.

Phone: 77-5369.

LIBRARIAN:

Mr. R.O. Carlsson,  
18, Tacoma Way,  
PINELANDS, Cape.

Phone: 53-1536.