

THE CONCHIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 68.

OCTOBER, 1965.  
(Re-printed 1977)

PAGE 1.

Edited by Leila Kerr.

Meeting.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday, 19th October at 8.15 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the S.A. Museum. There will be a general discussion and a film. Bring along new finds etc. and any shells for exchange.

Subscriptions.

All un-paid 1965-6 subs are now due. R1.50 plus 5 cents exchange on cheques. P. O.s to be made payable to Newlands Post Office and not crossed.

As you had no circular last month, we have given you an extra month's grace. If you receive none after this, it means you still owe your sub!

NATAL GROUP.

By B.L. Cock.

The next meeting of the above group will take place on Saturday afternoon, 16th October, at 2.30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Natal Museum, Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg. If you have any interesting shells bring them along and let all the members see them, also any you may have for exchange or naming- there may be somebody there who can help or tell you what to do about it.

Mr Cock will give a short talk on "The naming of shells and the origin of some scientific names."

Bring your friends along and lets have a good old "get-together"

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - 24. 8. 1965

Mr P. Elston in the Chair, welcomed members and friends. The minutes of the previous meeting of July 21st were confirmed. Proposed by Mr R. Pollard. Seconded by Mr P. Pickford.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November, 1964 were read and confirmed. Proposed by J. Walker. Seconded by R. Pollard.

The Hon. Secretary then read her report:-

The Secretary's Report for the Period ending 30th June, 1965.

In this seventh annual report, we record that the membership of the Society at the end of June, 1965 was 161. This was as follows:- 117 Ordinary members, 2 Honorary members, 7 Life members, 17 Students and 18 Corresponding members. Although 31 new members have been enrolled during the past year, there have been several resignations and some members have had to be suspended owing to non-payment of fees.

Twelve evening meetings have been held and three Field Days. The evening meetings on the whole have been well attended, especially of late. Mrs. Connolly is still adding to the Reference Collection which now comprises roughly 700 species and is of inestimable value to members.

Since June, 1964, Circulars 55 to 65 have been published with a total of 65 pages. Here I would like to appeal to members to send in more articles for publication. If it were not for our faithful contributor, our President, Mr D.H. Kennelly, where would we be? In our seven years of existence, only the first two circulars have not contained an article by Mr Kennelly and I would like to propose a special vote of thanks to him.

The Border and Natal Groups of the Society continue to flourish under the able leadership of Mrs Hazel Jefferies and Mr B.L. Cock.

Last August, Mr Kennelly's book, "Marine Shells of Southern Africa" was published and has been very well received, both here and overseas. We are hoping it will run into a second edition soon. The Check List of Natal Shells compiled by Mr B.L. Cock is almost ready and will be available shortly.

We would like to record our thanks to the Director of the S.A. Museum for making this hall available to us for our meetings and to his staff for their courteous assistance, especially Dr. John Grindley who procures and shows the films.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Chairman and my fellow members of the Council for their help and support during the last year.

L. Kerr (Mrs) Hon. Secretary.

The Hon. Treasurer presented and tabled the Financial Statement.

Financial Statement as at 30.6.1965.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Balance at		<u>Secretary's Expenses:</u>	
Natal Building Society		General	R 22.13½
as at 1.7.64	R117.94	Sundries	18.85
Interest from N.B.S. R 5.26		Meeting Expenses	75
Donations	<u>22.60</u> 27.86	Bank Charges	1.40
Entrance Fees	22.00	Postages	27.49½
<u>Subscriptions:</u>		Circular Expenses	149.37
in arrears	2.00	Membership Fees	10.00
1963-64	10.00	Library	91.18
1964-65	101.40	Donation Refund	5.00
1965-66	32.62	Balance at N.B.S.	
Prepaid	2.00	30.6.65	99.64
Life Members	<u>50.00</u> 198.02		
	<u>R425.82</u>		<u>R425.82</u>

The Hon. Librarian then read her report.

Librarian's Report.

During the year we have added 5 books to the library and joined the Hawaiian Malacological Society, receiving their interesting Hawaiian Shell News every month.

Through the kindness of Mrs H. Bodinnar, a cupboard was given to us and after certain repairs is now in the Museum housing our books. Before the books were removed to the Museum, they were covered in plastic and I should like to thank Mr Raymond Pollard for his help.

The missing books have not yet turned up.

L. Kerr. Librarian.

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Mrs CM Connolly reported that she had received in all R45.00 towards the reference collection from members and had now, through shortage of further specimens, decided not to accept more donations, and would endeavour, in the near future, to obtain a suitable cabinet to house the collection in the South African Museum for study.

The Chairman thanked her for her work on behalf of the Society.

Matters arising: The Treasurer's report- Mr C. Swaneveld suggested "That the Council consider the advisability of requesting the two scrutineers to issue a statement on the Treasurer's Financial Statement at future Annual General Meetings."

Additional rules to Constitution: (Please add to your copy)

After amendment, the following was carried:

New Rule 23. That is all matters of a controversial nature or of more than ordinary importance, on which a vote must be taken, use of the Postal Vote must be observed. This right shall be exercised by all members in the Republic who are unable to attend the meeting at which a vote on the subject is taken.

A minimum of four Country members is empowered to request a Postal Vote on any point. Otherwise the Council will decide which of the Society's business will be subject to the above procedure.

New Rule 24. The following was carried:

The Council is empowered to appoint an Identification Sub-committee which will co-opt a Scientific Adviser for supplying and/or checking identifications of Marine and Non-Marine Mollusca, and the Council shall be entitled to make, and enforce conditions for the Sub-committee's operations.

The following were elected members of the Society:-

Mrs E.K. Giles, 2 Flora Court, Flower St., Gardens, Cape Town  
 Mr M.C. Giles, " " " " "  
 Mrs H. Verster, 4, Links Drive, Pinelands, Cape  
 Master R. Luyt, 5, Leno Mansions, Rosmead Ave., Kenilworth, Cape

The following were proposed as new members:-

Mrs H.A. Abbott	proposed by D.H. Kennelly	seconded by L. Kerr
Mr D.W. Aiken	" " "	" " M. Kempthorn
Mrs T. Carlsson	" " H. Jefferies	" " L. Kerr
S. Miss D. Dooley	" " N. Smit	" " "
S. Miss E. Lammers	" " L.Kerr	" " P. Elston
Mrs P. Ogilvie	" " D.H. Kennelly	" " C. Connelly

The retiring Chairman expressed his gratitude that the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer had, under certain conditions, withdrawn their resignations, and he had pleasure in stating that the Election of Council for the ensuing year could now proceed.

A motion, proposed by Mr J. Walker and seconded by Mr N. Ackermann, was put and carried as follows:-

That, as a matter of urgency, Rule 22 be suspended for this Annual General Meeting, to allow a Council Election for this year. If carried, this proposition not to be considered as a precedent.

The Council was elected as follows:-

President: Mr D.H. Kennelly  
Vice-President: Dr. J.R. Grindley  
Secretary: Mrs L. Kerr Treasurer: Miss M.G. Kempthorne  
Members: Mrs H. Bodinnar, Mrs C.M. Connolly, Mr P. Elston  
Country: Mrs H. Jefferies (Eastern Province)  
 Mr B.L. Cock (Natal) Mr G. de Gersigny (Transvaal)

General.

The Secretary and Treasurer were thanked for their services during the previous year, as was the retired Vice-President.

During tea, members had an opportunity of admiring Max Ackermann's magnificent display of Volutes. We were very pleased to see Mrs Hannah Ackermann and Emerentia of the Round House and hope they will come again.

The meeting closed with a short film.

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Minutes of Meeting held at S.A. Museum 21.9.1965

Dr. J. Grindley in the Chair, welcomed 24 members present.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Miss V. Spencer, Mr P. Pickford, Mrs L. Kerr, Mrs E. Lowry, Mr D. Freeman

The Chairman brought greetings and good wishes from Dr. A.C. van Bruggen of the the Natal Museum who had been on a short visit to the South African Museum and his apology for not being able to stay for this meeting.

The following were elected as new members:-

Mrs H.A. Abbott, 16, Lennox St., Kimberley  
 Mr D.W. Aiken, 18 Pieter Raath Ave., Lambton View, Germiston, Tvl.  
 Mrs T. Carlsson, 18, Tecoma Way, Pinelands, Cape  
 S Miss D. Dooley, 23, Kinloch Crescent, Durban North, Natal  
 S Miss E. Lammers, 35, Rottingdean Road, Camps Bay, Cape  
 Mrs P. Ogilvie, 74a, 2nd Avenue, Parktown North, Johannesburg

The Chairman wished Mr R. Pollard every success for his forthcoming journey to the United Kingdom and entry to St. John's College, Cambridge, and the assurance that this Society would keep in touch.

The Chairman then called a recess for members to view shells brought by members.

Mrs C.M. Connolly - reference collection  
Mrs CM Ackermann - a selection of Albino shells, very interesting  
Mr P. Elston - Ex pisces and Xenophora

The Chairman then projected two films:-

- 1 Certain paintings and works of South African Artists in other media
- 2 Film on Elsa the Lion

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MEMBERS LIST.

Owing to a printer's error, we regret that under the heading East London, the name Mrs H. Jefferies, Hotel Florence, P.O. Kei Mouth was omitted and also the name Mrs J. Mason, Hotel Florence, P.O. Kei Mouth. Please add them to your list.

Under Cape Province, Mrs A. Theron, should read Mrs M. Theron. Cross out Miss J. Gould as she is now married and is Mrs J. de Klerk, 4, Weidenhof Flats Weidenhof St., Stellenbosch, Cape. Congratulations Jill! Miss P. Ismay now lives at No. 1, Lover's Walk, Kenilworth, Cape.

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NEW SHELL LIST.

We have pleasure in announcing the publication of yet another shell list from the pen of our President, Mr D.H. Kennelly. This is "A List of Marine Mollusca Taken Alive on the "Wild Coast", South Africa" It is obtainable from The Director, East London Museum, East London. Price 20 cents plus 2cents postage and packing.

This list takes us a step further up the East Coast and follows on the previous one. Local members may order their copies from the Secretary. Every member should have one of these in their library.

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CORRECTION.

Will all members please note that in Circular No. 67, page 5, Eastern Provinces Border Notes, there is an error in the name of the Cymatium collected by Mrs C.M. Watters. The correction should read Cymatium retusum Lamarck.

D.H. Kennelly.

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Most people including a lot of collectors are not aware that a license is required to collect live shells on the Natal coast, and the following appeared in the "Natal Mercury" of the 10th June.

Mussel Poachers Could Be Gaoled.

Natal coastal conservation officials are concerned at the extent of peaching of shell life, particularly black mussels, from the Natal coast.

Mr M. Brokensha, a fisheries officer, yesterday warned the public that the maximum penalty for removing mussels - completely protected in Natal since 1916 was a fine of R100 or six months' imprisonment or both.

He said that non-Europeans and Continental people who considered the mussels a delicacy had denuded large areas on the Natal coast.

Under the Natal Coastal Fisheries Conservation Ordinance, No. 19 of 1958, all shellfish, with the exception of crabs, crayfish, and oysters under licence were protected on the Natal coastline.

The director of the Natal Parks, Game and Fish preservation Board, Mr John Geddes-Page, said that there were areas along the Natal coast where the denudation of inter-tidal rock life was causing considerable concern. Remarking that his Board wished to perform conservation services, rather than act as policemen, he appealed to visiting anglers and holidaymakers to co-operate in the preservation of Natal's coastal wild life.

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NATAL GROUP.

FIELD DAY: REUNION ROCKS.

by Les Cock.

August 15th dawned a lovely day and it was with eager anticipation that members and friends gathered at Reunion on the north side of the canal just after 9 a.m. There we were joined by a few members of the "Study Group" of the "Durban Undersea Club."

All were soon busy searching the many pools and crevices in the rocks looking for what might be something new for his or her collection.

One of the keenest members was young Aldo Berruti who in no time had a fine

Cypraea lynx, as well as a Conus miles and a Strombus mutabilis, the latter showing his displeasure at being caught. The keenness and interest displayed by this lad at all times speaks well for the future of the Society.

Another who had a good bag was Mr Brunette, husband of member Mrs Brunette. A fine specimen of Cypraea vitellus, as well as C. felina, C. carneola and a annulus among others noted. In fact he did so well that an application is to be made for membership - nice work.

Among the species I remember seeing being collected during the day were: Conus ceylanensis, C. sponsalis, C. lividus, Mitra litterata, M. limbifera, Scala coronata, Cymat. aquatilis, Pinctada natalensis, Bursa pusilla, B. siphonaria, Drupa elata, Hydatina physii, Bullina undata, Heliacus variegata, Latirus turritus, Charonia pustulata, and many others. A picnic lunch was eaten on the rocks and after a final look around a tired bunch of collectors returned to the cars.

The next meeting will be held on October 16th at the Museum, Maritzburg. Members will be reminded in due course of the nature of the meeting etc., but make a note of the date now. Time as usual 2.30 p.m.

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#### EASTERN PROVINCE/BORDER NOTES.

by D.H. Kennelly.

After a regrettable, but unavoidable lapse of time, the Eastern Province/Border Group held a meeting on the 8th September in the Lecture Room of the East London Museum.

Eighteen members and friends were present, and the Director, in a neat speech of welcome made everyone feel at home and the offer of the use of the Lecture Room for further meetings was greeted with applause.

The occasion proved to be a memorable one, for in addition to the President, there were three other members of the Council present - Mrs Hazel Jefferies (E.R./Border), Mr Les Cock (Natal) and last but by no means least our Secretary and Founder, Mrs Leila Kerr.

The writer occupied the Chair, and pointed out to members and their friends that they all were in reality very important cogs in the wheel of science. Through their enthusiasm in collecting data of the range of shells on this coast, their unselfish donations of specimens, our members have been of great benefit to the Museum, and the collections and records today reflect the good work they have done.

Both Leila Kerr and Les Cock spoke of the need for more regular meetings for the group and Les has certainly set everyone an example by coming all the way from Natal, with his wife Rene, to attend this meeting. After a short discussion it was decided to hold a Field Meeting at Gonubie during the long week-end October 9/11th and the Chairman was entrusted with the issue of reminders to all members in good time, giving full details of the time and place of assembly.

During the tea interval, those present took the opportunity to look at the excellent colour photos taken by Leila Kerr of specimens of the Murex family in Helen Boswell's famous collection.

After tea, Mr G.G. Smith, Chairman of the Museum Board, very kindly showed a number of colour slides of shells from the Museum collection, upon which the writer gave a running commentary.

Everyone present enjoyed the meeting, which closed with a hearty vote of thanks to our hostess (Miss Latimer) for the tea and delicious eats, for the use of the Lecture Room, and to Mr G.G. Smith for showing the colour slides.

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#### CAPE NOTES.

by L. Kerr.

Your Secretary is pleased to be back on the job again after a wonderful holiday at Kei Mouth, of which more anon.

Remember those Marginella capensis that Jock Dichmont found in such numbers? Well, some live ones were given to Clarice Connolly for her tank and she very jubilantly told me that they are laying eggs!

Careful notes are being taken and we are hoping for a happy event in the near future.

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FROM HERE AND THERE.

by D.H. Kennelly

We hear it said that:-

Our Founder, Leila, received V.I.P. treatment on her arrival in East London, an honour which she has certainly earned.

THAT it is hoped the recent meeting of Eastern Province/Border members will prove beneficial, and rouse more enthusiasm.

THAT speakers at the meeting stressed the importance and necessity of encouraging more students to become members. Remember that the old hands cannot last forever.

THAT more literature covering Natal shells and those of the Border area, will shortly become available to our members.

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GENERAL NOTES.A NOTE ON VAN NOSTRAND'S STANDARD CATALOGUE OF SHELLS.

by D.H. Kennelly.

The publication of this catalogue has roused much interest in the ranks of our members, for it contains a great deal of information which is of use to collectors.

However, the preface clearly states that this is not a scientific textbook and therefore any new names for shells and other amendments to the existing nomenclature, should be left alone for the time being.

There seems little or no doubt that confirmation or otherwise, of amendments now published, will be mentioned in future issues of "Monographs of the Indo-Pacific Mollusca" by D. R. Tucker Abbott, which of course rate as standard recognised scientific records for reference and quotation.

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CATALOGUE OF LIVING CYPRAEIDAE. by WALTER O. CERNOHORSKY, JULY 1963.

by D.H. Kennelly.

This is a recent publication, full of information and extremely useful for reference by all collectors who are making a special study of the Family Cypraeidae.

Errors in previous works are rectified and many rather obscure points are clarified.

The catalogue is obtainable from Lt.Col. R.J. Griffiths, Sea Acres Sanctuary, R.M.B. 7, Tacking Point Road, Port Macquarie, N.S.W., Australia and the price is 18/- (Eighteen shillings), Australian currency per copy.

Used in conjunction with Cowry Shells of World Seas, by Joyce Allan and Vol. 1 of "The Cowry" edited by Lt.Col. R.J. Griffiths (7 numbers issued to date), this new catalogue is of great assistance in keeping all interested up-to-date with the nomenclature of the Family Cypraeidae.

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