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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO. 36

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Edited by Leila Kerr.

MEETING.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 23rd October in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum at 8.15 p.m. This will be a film, general discussion, and exchange evening. Shells for display will be S.A. Chitons. Beginners are advised to bring along a pencil and paper so that they can name their specimens.

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NOMINATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL.

Nominations have now closed and as none were received, the Council have put forward their own nominations. As these are unopposed, there is no necessity to vote. The names of the full Council will be published after the Annual General Meeting.

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ABOUT MEMBERS:

Meeting at the S.A. Museum. 18.9.1962

Mrs Mary Kuttel gave a very interesting talk on shelling at St. Helena and Ascension. With her usual generosity, Mary brought along some Patella caerulea for the members to help themselves. A film on Fuchs in the Antarctic was shown.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

- Mrs V.S. Boulton, Lynedoch, Cape.
- Mrs H.F. Brunette, 39 Lewis Drive, Amanzimtoti.
- Mr A. Hirst, 120 Milner Road, Claremont.
- Mrs M.A. Rix, P.O. Box 443, East London.
- Mrs P. Robertson, The Homestead, Little Brak River, C.P.

The following were proposed as new members:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed by:-</u>	<u>Seconded by:-</u>
Mrs D. Jeffes	L. Kerr	M. Kempthorne
Dr C. Vivier	B. Richards	L. Kerr

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EXCHANGE WANTED.

Mr R. Laurent, 82 Avenue Besme, Brussels 19, Belgium.

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GENERAL NOTES:

CONUS AURORA LAMARCK, WITH ABNORMAL TURRITED OR SCALARIFORM SPIRE

by D.H. Kennelly.

While collecting recently at Bonza Bay, the writer was given a specimen of the above, with a spire of 14 m.m.
The shell measures 50 x 23 m.m. and is coloured with a variegated red and white scheme.

Later among a number of aurora from Jeffreys Bay, a second shell was discovered showing a spire of 11 m.m.

This latter shell is mottled with light brown and white, and measures 41 x 20 m.m.

Dr. Barnard/.....

Dr. Barnard (Annals S. African Museum, Vol. XLIV Part IV, July 1958). mentions three examples of this abnormal form, and the "Freaks" would therefore appear to be fairly rare.

The Bonza Bay specimen mentioned above, was collected by Mrs M.A. Rix, who has generously presented the shell to the East London Museum.

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A TANK OF MOLLUSCS IN THE LOUNGE !!!!

by C.M. Connolly.

The writer is very fortunate in having the use of a tank and aerator which has been lent to her by the University of Cape Town. This tank will enable her to make notes on the biology, including the mating of living molluscs. The writer's field work has covered forty species of molluscs with their eggs and she hopes to add Cymatium dolarium to this list very soon. For the last month special attention has been paid to eight Cymatium dolarium, five Argobuccinum argus and six Demoulia abbreviata. These all feed on pieces of fish or mutton. Three Cymatium have actually mated in the tank. Seven are the adult form of Cymatium dolarium called C. africanum but both have the same body and radula. A male C. africanum mated with a female C. dolarium.

To amuse the family two crabs were kept for a time. One was a red "Daddy-long-legs" who had double-jointed knees with horns and a horn on his head, so arranged that when he retreated into a crevice all the horns faced forward to protect him. The other was an orange hairy "Baboon". He only had two pairs of legs and his hair appeared to stand on end. He was always ready to perform and walked forwards.

The most decorative molluscs for a tank are Lima rotundata. These could only remain a night in the tank but were a wonderful sight. Usually they have orange fringes but some were collected at Glencairn with white fringes and pink bodies and some with mauve bodies. The lovely Godiva quadricolor was kept for ten days. This nudibranch does not lay the usual ribbons but threads of eggs in curls.

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SHELLING NOTES

by D.H. Kennelly

In Circular No. 35 Mr P.J. Le Roux has not only reported his success in collecting live specimens on the Natal and Transkei coasts, but has drawn attention to the wholesale destruction of our Mollusca, and it is felt that all members will be in agreement with any steps taken by the Society for the preservation of our Marine fauna.

Regarding the suggestion that in future only reports on shells taken alive should be included in the Circulars, such a procedure would reduce Circulars to issues of one page only. Further it should be recognised that all members are not fortunate enough to be skin divers, and so secure living specimens. In fact many collectors - owing to advancing years, are not sufficiently active to undertake wading while seeking specimens.

It is well known that reports of the discovery of "Fresh dead" shells at a locality are accepted as proof that the species mentioned actually lived in that vicinity. It is then open to more active members to further investigate these reports. The remarks in the article in Circular No. 35 having an indirect reference to what has been written by members in the past savour somewhat of sarcasm and cannot be regarded as written in very good taste.

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BORDER NOTES

by D.H. Kennelly

East London appears to be rapidly becoming the Mecca for shell collectors. Visitors requiring information, or identification of their shells, are on the increase. In order to assist I would be glad if the

following/.....

following points would be noted by intending callers:

1st. Please keep shells in separate containers, according to their localities, and if possible have the shells sorted into their respective genera as far as possible. This will materially assist in the identification of the specimens, and lessen the time required to answer the enquiries.

2nd. With the increase in the work, it is not possible to identify more than a maximum of twenty species at any one time, should more information be required, arrangements can be made to renew the visit later.

PERSONALIA.

During the last month we had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs M. Pinkham of Durbanville, Cape. This lady met with a considerable amount of success in her collecting trip up the "Wild Coast", and has promised to write up her experiences in the Circulars.

A flying visit was made by our old friend, D.W.J. Ackermann of Camps Bay, who put in a hurried collecting trip to Bonza Bay. It is regretted that "Dirk" could not make a longer stay, as there is always much of interest for discussion with visiting members.

Our Durban Council member - Percy Elston - passed through East London on his way to Cape Town, and has promised to stay a little longer here on his return trip. Both Percy and the writer are very relieved at the locating of the "Missing" specimen of the "Harpa" genus.

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CAPE NOTES by L. Kerr.

During the last fortnight, we have had the pleasure of a visit from two of our Country Council members, Mrs Helene Boswell and Mr Percy Elston. While they were here, we were able to have a Council meeting, and many informal "shell talks" in Helene's caravan. All her many conchological friends rallied round to hear of her recent trip to the East and overseas. We hope to have an article for the Circular in the near future.

Dirk Ackermann has acquired a perfect specimen of the rare Cypraea amphithales while on his recent trip to East London. Good work, Dirk !

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