

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 16.

DECEMBER, 1960
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A very HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all Members!

As so many members will be away over the holidays, there will be no meeting this month.

During 1961, we hope to hold evening meetings on the third Thesday in the month, unless we have a field day, so the January meeting will be held in the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, January 17th, 1961 at 8 p.m. At this meeting we will choose the shells to be displayed at the Zoological Society Convesa- zione, (see Circular No. 15) so will members please bring along their most beautiful Western Cape shells, not necessarily the rarest, Shells must be named, with locality, date and exhibitor's name. Those members whose collections have the honour to be chosen, will be invited to aytend the Administrator's Cocktail Party on Monday, 13th February, which is for Scientists, Council Members and Exhibitors only. Please try to bring as large a variety as possible.

ABOUT MEMBERS:

At our meeting on December 4th, the following was elected:-

Miss J. Williams, Herschel School, Clarement.

Proposed Members:-

Mrs L.E. Green proposed by Mr Elston, seconded by L. Kerr
Mr E. Dee " " " " " " " "

FIELD DAY AT DAWIDS KRAAL ON DEC. 4TH.

A disappointing number of members turned out for this meeting. Those who came, however, spent a very enjoyable day in perfect weather. Some very good specimens of Turbo cidaris and Marginellas were found, amongst others. After lunch, we decided mot to go to Hermanus, but tried the lagoon at Kleinmond, with little success. Our next field day will be nearer home, and it is hoped that more members will take advantage of it.

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We regret to advise the resignation of Miss Kennelly of Uitenhage from the Society.

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Our MEMBERSHIP CARDS are now ready and will be enclosed with this circular. We thank Miss Anne Schweitzer of the S.A. Museum for the drawing of the shell - Neptuneopsis gilchristi

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A form for the introduction of new members will be found also. It is hoped that members will use it. The seconder must be a Council Member. More may be had on application.

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We will also send you a list of members, up to October, 1960.

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We wish Miss Natalie Evans "Bon Voyage" when she sails on December 30+ We are indebted to her for so ably typing the stencils for the shell survey and Circulars No. 15 and 16.

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SHELL MUSEUM

On Saturday morning, 10th December, a very pleasant ceremony was held at the historic Round House at Camps Bay. The Shell Museum of Mr Dirk Ackermann was opened by Councillor Booth at 11 a.m. Mr Booth gave a short history of the Round House then went on to say what an asset the Shell Museum would be to Cape Town. Mr Ackermann has been collecting for fifteen years, and has a representative collection of world-wide shells as well as South African species. They are beautifully displayed in the cellar of the Round House. After the opening, a sumptuous tea was provided by Mrs Ackermann. About fifty people were present, including many members of the C.S.S.A. Congratulations to you, Dirk!

Next year we hope to arrange a visit to this Museum.

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GENERAL NOTES

SKIN DIVING AT MILLERS POINT - by Dennis Greef

On Sunday, 4th Decemer, I was fortunate to get in several hours of diving at Millers Point, Simonstown. I say fortunate, as the water in False Bay is not often as clear as it was on Sunday. The shells were found about 200 yards off shore in approximately 18 feet of water. As I was not equipped for shelling at the time, once my hands were full, I went ashore. The specimens collected were:-

- (a) 4 Fasciolaria lugubris. These were found feeding on a large Turbo cidaris, through the aperture.
- (b) 2 Fusus vericularis. Both found on the sandy sea-bed. The larger one measured 5½ inches, and when picked up, had its long red proboscis burried several inches in the sand, presumably feeding on its prey.
- (c) 2 Pupillaea aperta found near the surface, clinging to rocks. Large black animals, with orange underneath.
- (d) 4 Argobuccinum argus found about 10 ft. down, on rocks.
- (e) 2 Patella compressa on kelp near the surface.
- (f) 1 Cymatium africanum found 20 ft. down on the sandy sea-bed. A beautiful specimen, measuring 3½ inches.

In addition to the specimens collected, I observed several patellas, Haliotis sanguineum, Haliotis midae, Turbo sarmaticus, Turbo cidaris (in large numbers), sea-slugs, dog-whelks and various other small shells.

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