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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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CIRCULAR NO. 75. JUNE, 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, 21st June, at 8.15 p.m. The shells for display will be those on page 67, Plate VI of Barnard's Beginner's Guide. The film will be "The Great Barrier Reef", kindly obtained by Mr. P. Elston.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This will take place on 23rd August, 1966 and according to our Constitution, nominations for new Council Members are now called for. Please make certain that your nominee is willing to stand. Nominations in writing should reach the Secretary as soon as possible. The retiring Council is as follows:-

President:	Mr. D.H. Kennelly.
Secretary:	Mrs. L. Kerr.
Treasurer:	Miss M.G. Kempthorne.
Members:	Mrs. H. Bodinnar. Mrs. C.M. Connolly. Mr. P. Elston.
Country Members:	Mrs. H. Jefferies - Border. Mr. B.L. Cock - Natal. Mr. G. de Gersigny - Transvaal.

Mr. Kennelly, Mrs. Connolly, Mr. P. Elston and the Country Members are all willing to stand for re-election. Dr. Grindley's term as Vice-President continues for another two years. Mrs. Kerr is resigning as Secretary, but is willing to be a member of the Council. Miss Kempthorne and Mrs. Bodinnar are resigning from the Council.

The state of the Council then at the A.G.M. will be as follows:-

President:	Mr. D.H. Kennelly.	(For re-election).
Vice-President:	Dr. J. Grindley.	
Secretary:	-	
Treasurer:	-	
Members:	Mrs. C. Connolly.	(For re-election).
	Mrs. L. Kerr.	" "
	Mr. P. Elston.	" "
Country Members:	the same.	" "

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AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

It was proposed by Mr. Kennelly on behalf of the Border and Natal Groups to add Rule 25 to the Constitution as follows:-

"Circulars: Should any article or note, submitted for publication, contain anything of a nature which, in the Editor's opinion, is adverse to the welfare and progress of the Society, or likely to cause dissatisfaction among members, the Editor is empowered to refuse to publish such article or note. Further, in the event of any article or note submitted for publication, containing any remark or remarks of a derogatory nature about any member or members of the Society, named or unnamed, the Editor is empowered to delete all such remarks from the article or note before publication. In every case requiring the Editor to exercise these powers, a letter shall be sent by the Editor to the author of the article or note, advising what action has been taken and giving the reason for the action."

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Minutes of the Meeting held at the S.A. Museum 24.5.66.

We were privileged to have with us our President, Mr. D.H. Kennelly from East London. Dr. John Grindley, in the Chair, welcomed him. Apologies were received from Miss Leers, Mrs. Lowry, Mr. Ackermann and Mr. Giles.

The minutes published in the last circular were taken as read and adopted.

Master P.J. McGregor, P.O. Kei Mouth, via East London was elected as a Student Member of the Society.

The following were proposed as new members:-

Mr. R. Carlsson	proposed by	L. Kerr	seconded by	J. Dichmont.
Mrs. M. Dewar	"	"	"	" L. Kerr.
Mrs. E. Germond	"	"	"	" B.L. Cock.
Mrs. A. Grant-Thomson	"	L. Kerr	"	" D.H. Kennelly.
Mrs. J. Pearce	"	D.H. Kennelly	"	" B.L. Cock.

Mr. Kennelly then gave an informal talk on C.S.S.A. matters, which was much enjoyed by the members. He stressed the importance of encouraging Student members and appealed to them to contribute items to the circulars. These items need not be scientific but should give, in their own words, information about their finds.

Mrs. Kerr spoke about her shell exhibit, followed by a talk by Mr. Dichmont on his treasure-hunting dives in Table Bay. He showed us some of the old coins, including gold ones, that he had found. Mr. Elston also spoke on his shells. We were pleased to see that Mrs. Giles, who is a beginner, had an excellent display of Plate IX. We hope this will encourage more beginners to exhibit.

A very good film, "The Sea" was shown. This had a shot of a huge Cassis cornuta crushing a sea-urchin by walking over it, then eating it.

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A MEMORABLE OCCASION.

By Hazel Jefferies.

On 14th May, 1966 a special gathering met in the Marine Gallery of the East London Museum, for the unvailing of a plaque dedicating a Seashell display case to Mr. D.H. Kennelly in appreciation of all he had done for the East London Museum in the four years he had been a member of the staff.

The Director, Miss Courtenay-Latimer opened the meeting, then Mr. B.W. Watson, a trustee, made an excellent speech, giving an outline of Mr. Kennelly's work in the Museum, and mentioning that the collection he had donated to the Museum was his third collection; the first one was given to the Albany Museum and the second to the Port Elizabeth Museum. Mr. Watson stressed the point that Mr. Kennelly had sorted, classified and named all the shells in the display cases as well as the reference collection in the Conchological Office, a truly stupendous job. He also mentioned the book written by Mr. Kennelly, "Marine Shells of Southern Africa" as well as several lists he had compiled.

Mr. Watson then unveiled the handsome plaque, which stands on the display case containing Mr. Kennelly's favourite family, Cymatidae.

Mr. Kennelly made his answering speech in his usual, easyflowing style, and expressed his appreciation of the honour done him by the Chairmen and the Board of Trustees of the East London Museum. He stressed the fact that Miss Courtenay-Latimer had helped him a great deal with her co-operation, and that he had received help also from many of the members of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa of which Society he is President.

Mr. Kennelly then introduced Mrs. Leila Kerr, our beloved founder of the Society and Editor of our Circular for many years. She made a short speech in reply and mentioned that of the 74 Circulars already published, only two had no article by Mr. Kennelly.

The gathering consisted of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. G.G. Smith and Mrs. Smith, six of the Trustees and some of their wives, eight of the staff, most of the Border members and some visitors. Everyone was surprised and pleased that Mrs. Kerr had been able to come all the way from Cape Town to be present. Mr. Tony Kennelly came from Port Elizabeth and Mrs. Lester from East London, these two being Mr. Kennelly's son and daughter.

After the speeches and unveiling of the plaque, everyone repaired to the Lecture Hall for a sumptuous tea and a general chat.

On Miss Benson's invitation some of us had a very pleasant lunch at the Carlton Hotel, nicely rounding off an enjoyable morning.

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EXCHANGE WANTED.

Mr. Matthew Regine, 458, East Elkhart Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19134, desires to exchange recent and fossil shells from his collection, for South African species. He is particularly interested in Cypraeidae, Conidae, Olividae and Marginellidae.

Mr. Walter J. Eyerdam, 7531, 19th Avenue, N.E., Seattle 15, Washington, U.S.A. is a collector of wide experience, who some 25 years ago exchanged shells with the writer to our mutual satisfaction. Mr. Eyerdam now wishes to re-establish an exchange contact with South Africa, and offers marine shells from Alaska, Mexico, Panama, Solomon Is., New Zealand and Japan. Also from Central America, Peru, Chile, Patagonia and Haiti. In return the following are requested:- Conidae, Cypraeidae, Dentaliidae, Volutidae, Xenophora, Siphonaria, Trivia, Marginellidae and Turridae.

This is a chance for one or more of our skin-diver members to obtain shells from little known localities, more so as Mr. Eyerdam would welcome dived or dredged specimens.

D.H. Kennelly.

Mr. B. Roest, Marnixstraat 419 hs, Amsterdam C, Holland, collects all molluscs, land, fresh-water and marine. Suitable for a beginner.

Mrs. F. Hodge, 24 Rotomahana Tee, Remuera, Auckland S.E.2, New Zealand.

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FIELD NOTES - May, 1966.

by C.M. Connolly.

Some cones have been taken from Kommetjie, Atlantic ocean, that have been called simplex. These cones are narrow very dark forms and we hope to have some more information on these soon. A rare find is a seven valve Callochiton castaneus. Also reported is another Tugalia barnardi found at Kommetjie.

STARFISH THE TRUE CULPRITS?

by C.M. Connolly.

We know that the starfish in False Bay feed on most molluscs, but does he use strength or poison? After partially smothering his victim and possibly using some fluid that is an irritant, causing swelling and paralysis, it would be quite simple. The greatest predator of bivalves in my field observations has been the octopus. We know the octopus uses poison to paralyse his victims. Shells are never broken, which would happen in frail bivalves if the outside strength and the inside strength were greater than the strength of the shell structure.

The only two boring molluscs I have ever observed feeding directly through a hole on another mollusc are the Natica genuana and the Thais cingulata. Thais dubia, Thais capensis, Fasciolaria lugubris, Vexillum and Marginella rosea, all use poison to paralyse molluscs, and the swelling caused makes it a simple matter for them to feed on the living Turbos and Patellas, etc. I have twice observed our big-mouthed Sucker Bully swallow Patella oculus. Red Roman too feed on molluscs.

REFERENCE COLLECTION.

Some new additions have come in and I hope to send out lists of shells still not in this collection so that other members may be able to exchange for new material for their own reference collections. For instance, I would like a Cymatium tabulata and would offer Thais wahlbergi.

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NOTES ON S.A. CONES.

by J.A. Marsh.

(Author of "Cone Shells of the World").

In Circular No. 72, Mr. D.H. Kennelly raised some points about cones. I feel that a few comments will not be amiss.

1. Conus gilvus Reeve.

The specimen figured No. 11 Plate 3 C.S.O.T.W. is misleading as a guide to the supposed South African shell for two reasons. Firstly I think it may only be the Australian form of the species, and secondly, the specimen figured in C.S.O.T.W. is unfortunately not typical of the Australian shell, which normally has no more spine than Reeve's figure. Reeve's figure suggests no relationship to C. caffer.

2. Conus algoensis Sowerby.

Kohn accepts algoensis as a valid species though I think Barnard is correct in associating the species with tinianus as there is at least a strong generic relationship between the two.

3. Conus scitulus Reeve.

There appears to be a great difference of opinion on this shell by various authorities; Kohn says that this species is synonymous with aurora, while Turton links it with pictus. For members' benefit it must be noted that Reeve's original figure is accompanied by a line indicating that the species has a total length of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

5. Conus simplex Sowerby II.

Reference to the bibliography in C.S.O.T.W. will show that Tomlin's "Catalogue of recent fossil Cones" is credited for all bibliographical abbreviations. Errors in type localities in this authoritative work are a matter of early record, and not within the province of anyone to correct. In cases like this I have made the contradiction in C.S.O.T.W. in the brief descriptions which state the known limits of distribution of the species affected.

6. Conus inflatus Sowerby II.

Fig. 16 Plate 17 of C.S.O.T.W. does not represent C. lautus although many South Africans know it as such. Reference to the enclosed fig. and description of lautus will correct this long established error of identity. I regret that my personal library does not contain a description of inflatus. During compilation of the classification of species for C.S.O.T.W. I had to make a visit to the Australian Museum Library in Sydney. In this case the relevant work containing the original figure and description of inflatus is to be found in Sowerby II "Conchological Illustrations."

7. Conus lautus Reeve.

Study of the description alone of Reeve's species should convince the reader that there is no error in Fig. 10 Plate 18, C.S.O.T.W. which illustrates C. lautus. The excellent illustration from Kiener merely adds final proof. For the relevant information on inflatus refer to the preceding paragraph.

8. Conus informis Bru.

Once again the official type locality is in error regarding informis and this species is undoubtedly an endemic species to South Africa. The enclosed illustration is from Kiener, as all authorities agree that Reeve's figure of informis is actually an illustration of simplex, which is

probably why many people today regard simplex and informis as synonymous. If the reader will compare Fig. 11 Plate 18 C.S.O.T.W. with the enclosed print of informis from Kiener I think that it will be agreed that each figure represents the same shell. This species is definitely South African, the figured specimen on Plate 18 C.S.O.T.W. having been supplied by Mr. Cohen from Simonstown, S.A.

9. Conus mozambicus Bru.

Reeve in his 'emendations' June 1849 considers elongatus Chem and mozambicus Bru to be the same shell, but since final compilation of the list for C.S.O.T.W. 4 years ago I have seen specimens of a long slender shell from the West Coast of the Cape which suggest to me that mozambicus and elongatus may after all prove to be separate and distinct species.

Tomlin, who must have devoted years of research to his monumental work 'Catalogue of recent and fossil Cones' gives Mozambique as the type locality of C. mozambicus.

10. Conus bairstowi Sowerby.

I cannot defend this species as I have never seen a specimen. Fig. 2 Plate 22 C.S.O.T.W. is a reproduction taken from a colour slide by D. M'Michael of a specimen in the British Museum.

Additional comment.

I feel sure that there is a fund of fascinating research to be done on the South African cones, which to my mind have not received the attention they deserve. For instance, I have specimens of three species from South Africa which I have been unable to identify from existing literature in the Australian Museum.

(Mr. Marsh forwarded photographs of all these cones, but unfortunately we are unable to print them.

Editor.)

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CONCHOLOGICAL REMINISCENCES.

By D.H. Kennelly.

It is curious, but none the less true, that a writer will describe a shell new to science, and figure it, but beyond recording the name of the finder - if known - no details as to how the new shell came to light are ever mentioned.

Perhaps I have been more lucky than I realized, for I became rather intimately involved with the discovery of three shells in South African waters. One was new to science, and the other two were extensions of the known range to our coast.

One day in April, 1939, I visited the Port Elizabeth Museum, then housed in the old building in Bird Street and found the Director, Dr. J.A. Pringle, very busy with two or three very large milk cans. On enquiry, I was informed that arrangements had been made with the P.E. branch of Irvine & Johnson, to obtain specimens of deep sea fish required for the Museum collection. The milk cans contained the usual mixture of formalin and water, in which the fish would be preserved until the return of the trawler to port.

I suggested to Dr. Pringle that he should ask for specimens of deep sea shells to be included with the fish. The worthy Director replied he had overlooked the fact that shells would come up with the trawl in addition to fish, but, as the idea was good, he would take the necessary steps.

About three weeks later I again visited the Museum, and found the Director in a very gleeful mood. He informed me that he had received some shells from the trawler, which he wished me to examine as he admitted he had never seen any of these specimens before, and the Museum had nothing like them.

Dr. Pringle and I went through all the then available literature, without a definite result. I told Dr. Pringle that in my opinion the one lot of shells - some eight or nine in number - were Volutas, and in all probability a new find. Further, that as one of these shells had the animal inside the shell, it would considerably assist further investigation.

The other shells were white in colour, some retaining a certain amount of hairy periostracum. I could not give a more precise name beyond saying these were probably a new species of Buccinum, which should also be further investigated.

The Director was very pleased, and said he was going to forward the shells to Tomlin in England, for examination and report. The gentleman in England was the late J.R. le B. Tomlin of London, then working extensively on Mollusca at the British Museum (Natural History).

Months afterwards, towards the end of 1939 - I think the Second World War had already started - Dr. Pringle received a letter from Mr. Tomlin about these shells, the contents being very interesting. In this letter Mr. Tomlin said the one lot belonged to the Volutidae, was a new discovery, and would be named Afrivoluta pringlei. The other shells were also a new discovery, and the name would be Fusitriton algoensis. Naturally Dr. Pringle was tremendously pleased, and I the same, for my tentative identification of the one as being a Volute proved to be correct, while the Fusitriton later proved to be a synonym of F. murrayi Smith, now placed under Argobuccinum, so I was very nearly correct in saying that the shells I saw might belong to Buccinum. This proved that the range of F. Murrayi extended from the Cape Peninsula to off Cape Recife.

World War Two upset everything, and Tomlin's report on these two species was not published until 1947.

In 1958, when I was living in Uitenhage, I received a parcel of two or three large shells obtained by Mrs. Helen Boswell from a trawler operating off the coast of Zululand for crayfish. In her covering letter Helen Boswell asked for my report, and possible identification.

In due course I returned these shells and advised that I identified these examples as being Ranella (or Gyrina) gigantea Lamarck, known as occurring in the Mediterranean Sea.

Later on Helen Boswell, in collaboration with Dr. Pringle, who had been appointed to the Natal Museum, sent several specimens of these Zululand shells to the British Museum for examination and report.

Mr. S.P. Dance of the British Museum (Natural History) published his report in the Journal of Conchology, Vol. 24, No. 10, Dec. 1959, and stated these shells to be Gyrina gigantea Lamarck - a hitherto unknown extension of its range, and a new addition to the Marine Fauna of South Africa. I was very pleased at having my identification of these shells in 1958 confirmed, but the honour of having brought these specimens to light belongs to our member, Mrs. Helen Boswell, whose name was recorded by Mr. Dance in his report.

While on a visit recently to Kei Mouth, I told Mrs. Hazel Jefferies most of the details mentioned in this article. Hazel promptly said I should write it out in full for the Circulars. I objected on the score that I would be blowing my own trumpet, but was over-ruled by Hazel.

I only hope that this somewhat lengthy account proves to be of interest to those who read it.

(Note - Gyrina gigantea is now known as Ranella olcarium Lin.
See Circ. No. 46, p. 5. Editor.)

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THE MAXIMUM SIZE OF SOME SOUTH AFRICAN MARINE SHELLS.

By D.H. Kennelly.

An interesting side-line emanating from the study of our Marine shells, is the recording of size of the largest specimen, or specimens, found of all genera occurring in South African waters.

This paper presents the data recorded during the past couple of years, and is very far from being complete.

The measurements in this list are above average size, but should not be regarded as the absolute maxima. Further investigation while collecting may reveal the existence of larger examples of the species here recorded.

Members will often come across large shells of many different species, which are bleached and not worthy of space in a cabinet. Provided such shells are not broken, they should be measured for record of the size, and the locality where found.

For convenience the shells have been listed in alphabetical order of Genera, and where the quoted size is followed by (Plus ?), it indicates that the measured specimen has lost the nuclear whorl or whorls.

<u>Ancilla obtusa</u> Swainson.	50 m.m.	Locality, Bonza Bay. (Collection Mrs. M.A. Rix).
<u>Clavatula kraussi</u> Smith.	38 m.m.	Locality Jeffreys Bay. (Collection A. Kennelly, P.E.)
<u>Colubraria alfredensis</u> Bartsch, 1915.	46 m.m.	Locality Nthlonyana, Transkei. (Collection Ed. Dee).
	46 m.m.	Locality Haga Haga. (Collection B.L. Cock).
	45 m.m.	Locality Haga Haga. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Conus tinianus</u> Bruguiere.	70 m.m.	Locality Jeffreys Bay. (Collection East London Museum).
<u>Conus natalis</u> Sowerby.	58 and 55 m.m.	(Two specimens). Locality ex Pisce, 30 fathoms, 10 miles from Port Natal. (Collection Percy Elston).
<u>Conus infrenatus</u> Reeve.	45 m.m.	Locality Bonza Bay. (Collection East London Museum - Donor Mrs. M. Rix).
<u>Cypraea helvola meridionalis</u> Schilder & Schilder.	37 m.m.	Locality Bulugha. (Collection E.L. Museum - Donor Mrs. P. Ogilvie).
<u>Cypraea capensis</u> Gray.	35 m.m.	(Two specimens, one immature). Locality Bonza Bay. (Collection Mrs. M.A. Rix).
<u>Cypraea citrina</u> Gray.	33 m.m.	Locality Bonza Bay. (Collection Mrs. M.A. Rix).
<u>Cymatium klenei</u> Sowerby.	45 m.m.	(Plus ?). Locality Haga Haga. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Cymatium dolarium</u> Lamarck.	53 & 55 m.m.	(Two specimens). Locality Bonza Bay. (Collection D.H. Kennelly).
<u>Haliotis midae</u> Linn.	210 m.m.	Locality False Bay. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies). (This shell is 10 m.m. in excess of the largest quoted in literature).
<u>Helcion dunkeri</u> Krauss.	35 m.m.	Locality Kei Mouth. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Janthina prolongata</u> Blainville.	35 m.m.	Locality Kei Mouth. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Patella compressa</u> Linn.	134 m.m.	Locality Olifants Bos. (Cape Point). (Collection Mrs. C. Connolly).
<u>Patella tabularis</u> Krauss.	140 m.m.	Locality False Bay. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Patella miniata</u> Born.	127 m.m.	Locality Bonza Bay. (Collection Mrs. M.A. Rix).

<u>Patella variabilis</u> Krauss.	50 m.m.	Locality Bonza Bay. (Collection Mrs. M.A. Rix).
<u>Patella oculus</u> Born.	110 m.m.	Locality False Bay. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Patella argenvillei</u> Krauss.	94 m.m.	Locality Hangklip (Cape). (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Patella barbara</u> Linn.	105 m.m.	Locality Bonza Bay. (Collection Mrs. M.A. Rix.)
<u>Scala coronata</u> Lamarck.	45 m.m.	Locality Kei Mouth. (Collection Mrs. Hazel Jefferies).
<u>Thais capensis</u> Petit.	65 m.m.	Locality Gonubie. (Collection Mrs. M.A. Rix).
<u>Tonna variegata</u> Lamarck.	150 x 125 m.m.	Locality, trawled off East London. (Collection East London Museum).

The writer will be very pleased if members will join in this new "Shell game", and send the recorded data, i.e. size of shell, scientific name, and locality, direct to him. This will enable a further list of interest to all, to be compiled and published in a Circular. There are many more Genera to be recorded - this paper is merely the start.

Please check through your collection; you may be surprised at what you find.

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A NOTE ON THE FAMILY HARPIDAE.

By D.H. Kennelly.

This Family of beautiful shells, universally referred to as the "Harp Shells", are greatly admired by all collectors.

For the benefit of those of our members who possess examples, I append a list of the known species with the names now accepted, and the synonymy.

<u>Harpa amouretta</u> Roding. Range, Indo/Pacific.	(Syn. <u>H. minor</u> Lamarck).
<u>Harpa costata</u> Linn. Mauritius.	(Syn. <u>H. imperialis</u> Cheanitz).
<u>Harpa davidis</u> Roeding. Range, Indo/Pacific.	(Syn. <u>H. articularis</u> Lamarck and <u>H. conoidalis</u> Lamarck).
<u>Harpa doris</u> Roeding. West Africa.	(Syn. <u>H. rosea</u> Lamarck).
<u>Harpa harpa</u> Linn. Philippine Islands.	(Syn. <u>H. nobilis</u> Rumphius).
<u>Harpa major</u> Roeding. Range, Indo/Pacific.	(Syn. <u>H. ventricosa</u> Lamarck).

Reference: Maxwell Smith, 1948. Triton, Helmet & Harp Shells.

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