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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X
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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, 17th November at 8 p.m., sharp. As this is the Annual General Meeting we hope that all members will make a special effort to attend. Please bring the Agenda with you.

Mrs. Mary Kuttel will give us a talk on her trip to Paradise Island with Nancy Prior, and the shells they collected will be on view. The shells for display will be the Spondylus, a most colourful family.

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AGENDA.

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes.

3. Brief reports by the Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian.

4. Amendments to the Constitution.
   (a) Rule 8, Fees. - delete ...."upon being elected." Substitute ...."on application for membership". Add, after the words Corresponding Members,...."payable immediately after election."
   (b) Rule 16 - Existing wording to be preceeded by the words "Should any of the three ordinary members of the Council residing in Cape Town, fail to attend two consecutive Council meetings, they shall be considered as having resigned from the Council."
   (c) Rule 17. - The first sentence to read:- "The Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Council during the last six months of each calendar year."

5. The new Council.

	Present Council	Proposed New Council.
President	Prof.J.H.Day	Mr.D.H.Kennelly.
Vice-President	Mr.P.Elston.	Mr.P.Elston.
Secretary	Mrs.L.Kerr.	Mrs.L.Kerr.
Treasurer	Miss M.Kempthorne.	Miss M.Kempthorne.
Members.	Mrs.C.Connolly.	Mrs.C.Connolly.
	Mr.D.Freeman.	Mr.D.Freeman.
		Mrs.H.Bodinnar.
COUNTRY MEMBERS.		
Transvaal	Mrs. H.Boswell.	Mrs. H.Boswell.
Natal	Mr.B.L.Cock.	Mr.B.L.Cock.
Border	Mr.D.H.Kennelly.	Mrs.H.Jefferies.

6. Proposal of new members of the Society.

7. Any other business.

8. Tea Interval and examination of shells.

9. Talk by Mrs. Kuttel.

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RESOLUTIONS FOR THE A.G.M.

Any resolutions to be put to the A.G.M. must be sent in Immediately to the Secretary.

FIELD DAY.

The next outing will be on Saturday, November 21st, at Melkbosch. Low water is at 10.12 a.m. Meet on the rocks as early as you like, and bring the usual shelling equipment. We will rendezvous on the grass at noon to examine our finds.

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MEETING AT THE S.A.MUSEUM 20.10.1964.

Mr.Elston was in the Chair. Apologies were received from Mrs. Pinkham, Miss Leers, Mrs. v.d.Velde, J.Grindley, G.Ivy and S.Kruger.

Owing to a misunderstanding by the Museum, the Soil Association meeting had been booked on the same evening as ours. However, everything went off very well, Mr.Elston spoke to a packed hall, and we saw some very interesting films.

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

1. Mrs. M.Adam, 37, Newport Road, Parkwood, Johannesburg.
2. Master S.Cairns, 307 Stephen Hill, Central Ave. Iffovo, Johannesburg.
3. Mr.P.de Brogles, P.O.Box 10, Stanger Natal.
4. Mr.H.Fincham, 51 Dennekamp, Wynberg, Cape.
5. Master B.Naus, Alameda Hotel Talana Road, Claremont.
6. Mr.P.Pickford, Flat NO.4, 100 High Level Road, Green Point.
7. Mrs.M.Smith, 40, Newport Road, Parkwood Johannesburg.
8. Miss V.Spencer, E.1.Alma Court, High Level Road, Green Point.
9. Miss B.v.d.Velde, Van's Villa, Avonduur 57, Chrismar Ext.2, Bellville.
10. Mrs.C.v.d.Velde, " " " " " " "

Mr. P.Elston then told us about Mauritius and its shells. He had brought along some fine shells, including two specimens of the exceedingly rare Lambis violacea which he had found on Mauritius. Unfortunately, owing to the combined meeting, there was no time to show his slides, but he has promised to let us see them at a later date. Mr.Elston's talk was very interesting and informative and much appreciated by the large audience.

After tea, the Soil Association showed four very fine films, which had nothing to do with soil.

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DECEMBER MEETING.

We don't usually have a meeting in December but this year, Mr.E.Dee of Durban will be here so we have roped him in to address us. We are letting you know early, in case any up-country members will be down on holiday. The meeting will be at the S.A.Museum on Tuesday, 15th December, at 8.15 p.m.

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Natal Group

The next meeting of the above Group will take the form of a full day's outing at Indian Beach, Park Rynie. Shelling will take place in the morning, and after a picnic lunch on the beach, there will be a "get together" for informal discussion, exchange of shells, etc. Members are requested to bring their own lunch, and to meet at the B.P.Garage, at the entrance on the Durban side to Park Rynie at 9 a.m. All will then proceed to the Indian Beach, an excellent shelling spot. Low tide is at 10.47 a.m.

Arrangements will be made for those requiring transport, and members will be advised of such as soon as completed.

Make a note of the date now --- Sunday 6th December.

All those who are interested are welcome even though not members of the Society.

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Meeting of the Natal Group. by Les Cock.

The Usual bi-monthly meeting of the above Group was held on Saturday afternoon 17th Oct. at the headquarters of the Durban Undersea Club.

Although apologies were received from Dr. and Mrs. v.Bruggen, Miss Wilson, Miss Lambert and Mr. Kilburn, there was still quite a fair attendance, nine signing the register. We were particularly pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Brunette from Amanzimtoti, who were paying us a first, but we feel sure not a last visit.

It was a great shock to most of those present to hear of the sudden passing of Dr. Barnard when announced from the chair. For his outstanding research work, writings, and help Dr. Barnard will always be remembered; and also for his having put conchology in Southern Africa on a sound basis.

Unfortunately, the speaker whom it was hoped would address the meeting, was out of town on a business trip, so it was left to the chairman to give a short talk on the various ways and means of Collecting, from beach-combing, dredging, etc. to exchanging as a means of augmenting one's collection.

A copy of "Marine Shells of Southern Africa" was tabled for the benefit of those who had not seen a copy.

After tea, members indulged in discussions on various matters pertaining to shells and the hobby in general.

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ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY.

No. 148 Handbuch Der Systematischen Weichtierkunde - Thiele 2 Vols. (not on loan yet)

No. 149 How to know the American Marine Shells - R. Tucker Abbott. (Paper-back, kindly presented by Mr.B.L.Cock)

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Mr.D.H.Kennelly, 13, Steyn Ave., Rosemount, EAST LONDON.

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GENERAL NOTES.

1. Notes on S.A.Patellidae - D.H.Kennelly.

There are eleven species of Patella recorded as living on our coast, of which two - P. granatina and P. compressa - are confined to the cold Atlantic in the West. The remaining nine species are widely distributed round our coast.

It is well known that the coast formation varies considerably between the West and the East, a factor which has considerable effect upon the formation of the shells, and to a certain extent the colour thereof.

The three species which seem to puzzle many collectors, are Tabularis, Barbara and Longicosta, particularly if specimens have been gathered from localities which are widely separated, even if these are "fresh dead" examples.

Colouring of the shell is not absolutely reliable for identification, though it is a convenient partial guide.

An interesting variety of Barbara has been found, which lives on the test of Pyura stolonifera - "Red Bait" - and the shell is in consequence much more convex, with more numerous ribs, and the mouth curves to fit the cylindrical test of its host.

A very reliable guide for identification of the Patellidae, is the colour of the body of the animal, which is constant.

In order to assist our members, and extract is appended from a "Review of the South African Patellidae, by H.J.Koch, 1949," published in the Annals, Natal Museum, Vol. XI, part 3 - a source of reference which.....

which is not readily accessible to all collectors.

This extract gives details of the body colour of the animals of all the South African species, and it is hoped it may be of some assistance.

Patella argenvillei Krauss	Colour of animal:- Sole of foot dull grey mud colour, side of foot black or flecked with black. Dorsal surface of head blue black, snout and tentacles bright yellow.
Patella barbara Linn	Colour:- Foot yellow, sides of foot flecked with black. Junction between the foot and mantle, tentacles and lips, yellow. Head black.
Patella cochlear Born	Colour:- Foot, side of foot and mantle, yellow. Tentacles and top of head, green. Neck much longer than that of any other species of Patella fitting into the elongation of the shell.
Patella compressa Linn	Colour:- The body, foot, tentacles and head, all dark mauve. The shape of the shell is unmistakable as the animal lives on the stripes of large kelps.
Patella granatina Linn	Colour:- Sole of foot, Brown-grey, sides grey. Portion between foot and mantle pale yellow when extended, but less yellow when contracted. Top of head and tentacles black. Underside of head pale. Tentacles light at the base.
Patella granularis Linn	Colour:- Underside of foot yellow. Sides flecked with black around the posterior half. Head above blue-black, mouth yellow, tentacles blue-black above, white below.
Patella longicosta Lamarck	Colour: Body of animal uniform yellow throughout.
Patella miniata Born	Colour: Animal generally dark, underside of foot grey mud colour, and sides of foot slightly paler. Edge of mantle flecked with Purple, where cells depositing colour are located. Tentacles purple, head above blue-black, neck pale grey.
Patella oculus Born	Colour: Foot muddy grey. Head above and tentacles black. Remainder of body grey.
Patella tabularis Krauss	Colour: Whole animal bright yellow in colour.
Patella variabilis Krauss	Colour: Foot a dark dirty grey colour. Sides of foot, head and rest of body, pale dirty grey. Tentacles slightly darker than head.

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2. (a) Cymatium Pileare - P.Elston.

Further to our good friend Mr.D.H.Kennelly's notes on Cymatium pileare Linné and aquatilis Reeve, Spry's illustration in the "Sea Shells of Dar-es-Salaam" is certainly aquatilis. I have both species ranging from the Red Sea to Natal and Guam, Marianas Is. Similarity is in epidermis and shape only, except that aquatilis seems to be, on the average, smaller.

Cymatium pileare has the same row of double teeth on the outer lip but in addition a row of longer single teeth within the aperture which is scarlet, plait and interstices scarlet, operculum oval and nucleus apical. Sculpture. The striae are much finer than aquatilis and less nodose. There has been, and still is confusion between the two species, and I hope this explanation may help, I am at all times willing to identify the two species for any members who care to send any to me, but please state from where the shells have been collected and the authority from which the name is based, this is a great help.

Note:- Sowerby "Marine Shells of South Africa" 1892. states "Triton Pilearis - Lamarck Natal Coast, Triton aquatilis - Reeve -" Krauss quotes this as a variety of T.pilearis" (evidently both shells were not examined together! !)

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2. (b) Cymatium pileare, Linn in South Africa. by E.T.Haywood.

I have read D.H.Kennelly's note entitled "Cymatium pileare, Linn. in South Africa" appearing in Circular No. 58, of October, 1964, at p.4, and would like to make certain observations thereon.

It has been my great pleasure to have been closely associated with J.F.Spry in Dar-es-Salaam, and the two of us frequently went shell-hunting together. As he acknowledges in his booklet "The Sea Shells of Dar-es-Salaam," he makes no pretence at being an expert in the field of conchology and his identification of the shells dealt with by him "is based largely on Mrs. S.P.Kaicher's invaluable booklets Indo Pacific Shells" and certain other sources of information.

As far as Cymatium pileare is concerned, it is to be noted that in the relevant booklet by Mrs. Kaicher she only illustrates Cymatium aquatilis, and observes that Cymatium pileare is "very similar, but generally darker in colour (sic), with a higher spir and finer sculpture." It is understandable, therefore, that if Spry has erred in his identification, it may well be through not having specimens of each of these shells for comparison.

I have collected, in Dar-es-salaam, Tanganyika, what I have always regarded as Cymatium pileare, and with all respect to Spry I think he may have erred in his identification of this shell. Without a specimen, authoritatively identified, of Cymatium aquatilis for comparison, however, far be it from me to assume the role of adjudicator on the subject.

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3. CIRCULAR NO. 58. October, 1964. by.D.H.Kennelly.

In this Circular (Pages 7 & 8) there is an extract from a letter written by our Member, Mr.E.Dee of Durban.

In a footnote to the above, our Editor mentions that owing to the death of Dr. Barnard, she had been unable to check Mr. Dee's Notes, and as the writer was not altogether familiar with some of the species of Cypraea mentioned, reference was made to available literature for further information.

The result is detailed below, and the writer hopes these notes will be accepted as an effort to slightly clarify the already involved nomenclature of the genus Cypraea, as far as those species mentioned by Mr.Dee are concerned.

Cypraea ethnographica, Rochebrune, 1884.

Joyce Allan (Cowry Shells), Page 100 states this species is a synonym of C.Moneta mercatorium Rochebrune, 1884, a Samoan race, which apparently does not occur on the African Coast.

It seems possible that Dee's specimen may be C.annulus camelorum, Rochebrune, 1884, of C.annulus scutellum Schilder & Schilder, 1937 - see Joyce Allan, page 102.

Cypreea depressa, Gray 1824.

There appears to be a difference of opinion with regard to this species, and its occurrence on the African Coast.

Joyce Allan (Page 83) states this to be a Central Pacific shell, and no mention is made of its occurrence on the African Coast.

J.F.Spry (Shells of Dar-es-Salaam) mentions depressa, but regards it as being an ecological variety of Cypraea arabica histrio Gmelin, 1791.

B.Verdcourt in his "East African Cowries", also lists Depressa but appears to be a little uncertain of its status as a species on the East African Coast. He states he has seen intermediate specimens connecting depressa with histrio.

Dee's shell obviously belongs to the variety mentioned from East Africa, but it may - or may not be - the depressa known from the Central Pacific region.

Cyprea helvola, Linn.

This is one of the most widely distributed of the Cypraea, and has been split into seven races ranging through the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Joyce Allan remarks that only very minor differences account for this splitting.

On the African Coast we already have two - argella - and meridionalis - with a third - mascarena - from Madagascar.

To the dismay of the writer, friend Dee hopes he has found two more which differ from those now mentioned.

Is it not possible these shells are prehaps the form of C. helvola - the type? Reference to Joyce Allan (Page 95) reveals there is a difference of opinion as to the type locality of helvola, and it seems quite possible that C. Helvola may be found on our coast.

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4. Cypreea. Article No.3 The Animal by P.Elston.

It is clear that any advance in our understanding of CYPRAEIDAE must in great part be based on increased knowledge of the soft parts of the animal. The poeple who can do most to help in this are those who can collect living cowries. The information can be obtained in four ways.

1. Description of the living animal.
2. Colour photography of the animal.
3. Examination of the radula.

4. Preservation of the complete animal for specialist examination.

Description of the animal.

A generalised sketch of the animal was shown in the last circular. On the left, at the front end, can be seen the cephalic tentacles, which are probably organs of touch. On them near the base are two eyes. between them and slightly above the tentacles is the siphon, which takes in water for conveyance to the gills; there the oxygen is sifted out, and the used water is then expelled through an opening at the rear of the shell. Below the tentacles and only occasionally visible, is the buccal bulb. This can be extended or withdrawn at will. It contains the radula, a horny file-like ribbon which contains many rows of sharp teeth, seven in each row. When the animal needs food the radula is rubbed against coral or bryozoa and the small pieces thus broken off are conveyed to the stomach. As the front end of the radula is worn away, it is replaced by the next part of the ribbon.

In the sketch the lower part of the shell is covered by the mantle. This can cover the whole shell or be entirely withdrawn. On the underside of this thin membrane are the glands which manufacture and deposit the material for construction of the shell. On the outer side of the mantle are the mantle papillae. These may be branched, like a fir tree (multidigitated), unbranched (simple), or, as in Notocypraea, may just be hemispherical projections rising only slightly above the mantle surface. The function of these papillae is not yet known. They may be organs of touch, or they may have some function in connection with water sampling or oxygen absorbtion. It is certainly true that the mantle and its papillae serve in some environments to give a degree of camouflage to the cowry. Below the shell is the foot, on which the animal moves in a similar way to most univlaves either marine or terrestrial.

The above was writting in colaboration and with the approval of Lt.Col.R.J.Griffiths, author of "The Cowry", New South Wales, Australia. Methods of preserving and photography will be given in the next issue.

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5. "Tit Bits" from colloectors abroad. by Les Cock.

"Isn't shelling a wonderful way to make friends; exchanges I mean". Such were the sentiments expressed in the opening lines of a letter which recently came to hand from Australia.

Going through some of the correspondence received from collectors in various parts of the Globe the truth of these few simple words was forcibly brought home. Noticeable also was the amount of news giving an insight into conditions and as to how collectors operate elsewhere.

"We have access to the Great Barrier Reef; my sons are skin divers, have a boat and do a lot of dredging" --writes Mrs."X". "Went down to our local beach, and with three other women and myself as skipper, went out to the Reef about 1½ miles out, where we can go when the weather is rough, seems to be protected there; but I always make sure my husband tries out the engine before we go, otherwise it would be a rowing job".

Dredging seems to be popular in the Gulf of Mexico, as from two different sources was written --- "My husband and I own our own boat and dredge, and go out as often as we can" and "We get quite a lot from the Gulf of Mexico, where we do quite a bit

of/.....

of dredging from a boat."

Very little mention is made of diving in particular, but the beaches seem to be rich hunting grounds at times, though some, like our beaches here, are almost denuded of shell.

"The first two weeks in June the Strombus alatus Gmel. started coming in on the sand bar at the north end of Mullet Kat, Boca Ciega Bay. These are very colourful and I know you will like them" --- so writes Mrs. "A" of Florida. Another offered "Cypraea Zebra-L., the Measled Cowrie, which we collected at night by lantern light". "There were eight of us out looking for Voluta caroli last weekend, but two was all that we found, so you can see that they are not too plentiful" --- wrote Mrs "Y".

A rather sad note was struck by another correspondent when he wrote prior to going on holiday --- "We are going there mainly for the warmth and a complete rest. The beach is played out, and so are we. Diving and trawling now are almost essential to shell collecting, and it is hard to gather live shells at our age. I am 80 and my wife is 87".

The social side of exchanging was touched on by an American collector who said in one of his many letters ---- "It seems to be a social time for me. Two weeks ago some Australian collectors dropped by for a visit. It's really nice to meet people like this; we had Isreelis, New Zealanders and a South African drop by also at other times. Shell collectors do get around."

I was rather keen to know something about the Shell Societies or Clubs elswhere and made some enquiries regarding same.

"You ask about our Shell Club. The "N.C.S.C. has over 700 paid-up members and our meetings (4 per year) are always well attended, 75 to 100. Considering that our State is over 450 miles long and many of the members have to come 200 miles or more, especially to our meetings in March, May and October, which are held at the coast, we think this is evidence of real interest." (Incidentally the writer is the President of this particular club.) In another letter received only this week was the following --- "Spent a week attending the Annual Meeting of the "American Malacological Union" in New Orleans. Among others there were Dr. Tuker Abbott, Mrs. Germain Warmke from Puerto Rico, who with Dr. Abbott wrote "Caribbean Sea Shells", Dr. Clench and serveral others from the United States Musuem etc. It was great fun and New Orleans is quite a city with its very old "Vieux Carre", the old French quarter; its famous restruarants, bars and "hanky tonks." They topped it all off with a banquet at Arnaudes, with baked snails "a la Arnaud on the Menu, and a moonlight boat trip on the Mississippi River. Even the moon co-operated."

From Queensland, Australia, comes news of a shell club there. "We have about 35 members, and hold our club meetings each month. At each meeting a different shell is chosen for identification. We also have a small raffle to raise funds for the club. Each month one of our members gives a shell or shells, and tickets are sold at 1/- each which isn't very much. I was the lucky one in one draw and won a nice Murex ramosus Africa, and that was my first shell from there. After the meeting we have quite a nice supper, which is very enjoyable. We also have shelling trips out each month to a different Reef. We had a very nice day last week; went out by launch to one of the islands in the "Whitsunday Group". --- The cones I am sending you are from there. We have to travel 50 miles to get to the launch, leaving home about 6.30 a.m. and returning about 9.00 p.m., so you can see it is quite a long day, but don't mind as long as we get something."

From another source also near the Barrier Reef, but name of club not given ---- "Our club went out to"Feather Reef" last Wednesday under trying conditions. The seas were rising with winds up to 30 knots, --it was terrific. We had hired a boat about 40 feet in length and off we set. Wasn't long before my tummy was turning --- boy was I sick, --- just as well I had a bucket close handy. Nearly all the women on board were sick, and I was wishing they would turn back, but was well

rewarded/.....

rewarded and found a rare cone, and a fine Cypraea talpa L. was also a good find."

Besides the many personal pleasantries contained in the letters, oddments here and there help make the reading more interesting.

"Did we send you some specimens in small plastic boxes?" "Fairly inexpensive and ideal for displaying small shells." That little exert from a letter from the U.S.A. certainly does convey a very useful tip as the boxes are ideal for the job recommended, and am awaiting further particulars.

Another friend wrote as follows re the shells he had sent --- "The Melongenas in their natural state are filthy and covered with periostracum. First we boil them in water and then pull out the animal. Then we soak the shell for a few hours in a Chlorine Bleach as used for wash purposes. We then wash well with running water and that does it. A drop of mineral oil is rubbed onto the surface and then wiped off with a soft cloth, and you then have a fine specimen."

A collector from Florida writes --- "I have a large collection of Pliocene fossils which are most beautifully preserved for their age, six to eleven million years old."

That there is more than just the exchange of shell is illustrated by the following extract from a recent Australian correspondent. "Let me know if you have a 35 m.m. Projector, and if so will send you some colour slides." I am sending under separate cover a colour folder showing views of the Reef."

Such are just a few of the interesting sidelights we have experienced in our small exchanges.

There is much more to it than just the routine exchange of shells if conducted in the right friendly spirit; lasting friendships can be made, and also make the hobby so much more interesting.

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CAPE NOTES by L.Kerr.

Report from Mrs. Connolly:-

We are very grateful to Mr. Percy Elston for his donation of R4.00 towards our reference collection cupboard. He received Western Province cones for this amount.

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