

The Strandloper

BULLETIN OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Strandloper 264

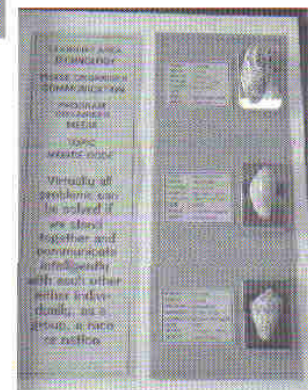
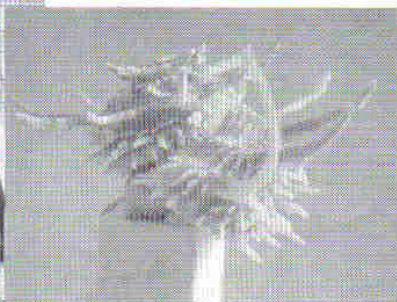
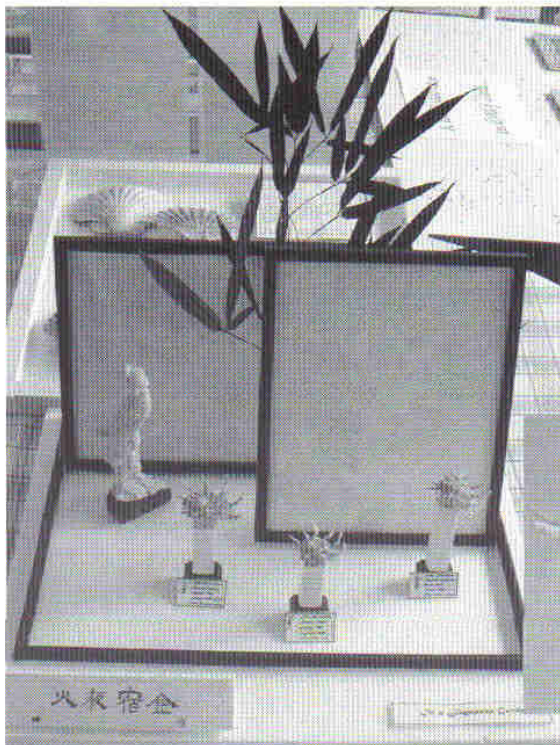
June 2001

Page 1

Conch Soc AGM May 2001

The AGM of the Society was held on 5th May this year at the house of Susan and 'Vellies' Veldsman, in Pretoria. Although the weather was unexpectedly unstable, the day was thoroughly enjoyable, and was marked by an absolutely splendid exhibition of shells, a very sumptuous meal, and, for many of those present, a memorable scratch for terrestrial molluscs in trays of leaf litter specially collected for the occasion. The Presidential report and the Minutes are located on pages 2 and 3.

The theme of the exhibition was 'Three Shells that Tell a Story'. Some of the displays are shown here.



President's Report 2000-2001

The year 2000 has passed in a flash. It is AGM time again and we look back over the past year. Thanks to all who are still interested in the activities of the Society. It was a pleasure to see, hear and experience so many positive remarks and contributions from all over the country and even from our shelling friends abroad. Welcome to the new members who joined this year. Hope you enjoy the Society's activities. As mentioned last year, we are being pressurised by ever-increasing costs, so thanks for the prompt response from members who donated money and shells to boost our funds.

We are sad to record the death of our Hon. Life Member Richard Carlsson who gave devoted service to the Society. He edited and published 86 issues of the *Strandloper* from 1969 to 1978. During those years he and his wife were also responsible for the general administration of the Society.

2000 was a year of change. On the conchological terrain there have also been changes. The experts changed the well-known South African *Trivia oryza* (Lamarck, 1810) to *Trivirostra poppei* Fehse, 1999. *Trivia globosa* (Sowerby II, 1832) became *Niveria (Cleotrivia) coletteae* Fehse, 1999 and so on. Everybody asks – is this really necessary? If it is – then we would also like to change the names in our collections. Collectors generally feel lost in the world of name changes.

Collectors normally read of these name changes and newly described South African species long after they have been described in overseas publications or in price lists years many later. The overseas magazines are very expensive and we can't afford to buy them. We have received many requests to publish newly described shells and changes in the *Strandloper*. Members have asked if our Patron, Dr. Kilburn, could help by informing the Management Committee or the

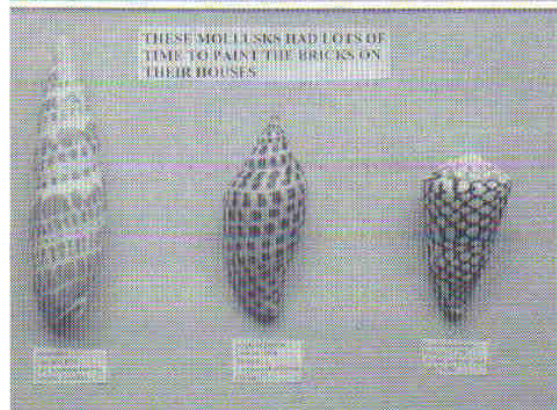
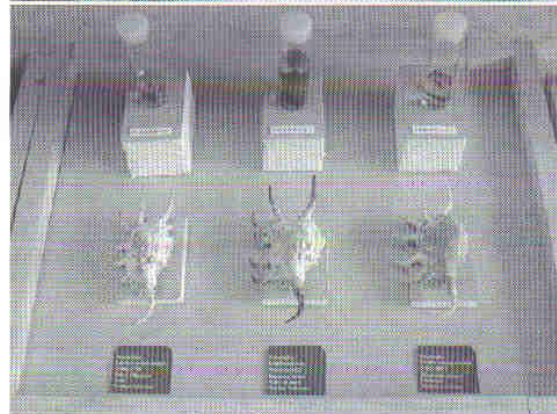
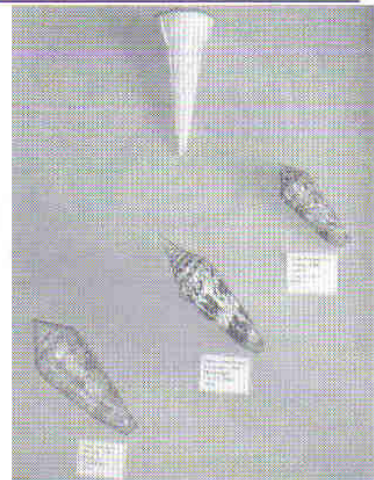
Editor of these name changes and also of newly described shells from our waters.

Your Management Committee has tried to make contact with as many Groups and members as possible. Thanks again to the Border Group who invited me to judge their Shell Show during August 2000. It was very enjoyable as were the many hours Susan and I spent shelling around East London.

Let us enjoy our very interesting hobby. If we are to survive we need support for all our activities. Promote the Society and try to increase our membership. Please send us notes, news, articles etc. for our *Strandloper*.

At this point I would like to thank all the members of the Management Committee for their help and support. A special word of thanks to Medea and to Danny Spengler who now retire as Treasurer and Vice President respectively. Medea, I will always remember the long hours we spent discussing Society matters and dreams beside a braai. I also want to thank Susan who had to supply me with love and coffee while I battled with the administration of the Society.

'Vellies'
Veldsman



Minutes of the AGM held on the 5th May 2001 at the house of Vellies Veldsman, Waterkloof Glen, Pretoria

1. Welcome

- a. The President welcomed all members of the Conchological Society of Southern Africa present at the AGM. He thanked the committee for their support, especially Medea for her work as treasurer. (Present 16 members, 2 apologies, 12 proxy vote forms)

2. Approval of minutes of the AGM held on 9th August 2000

- a. The minutes were read by Jelle Lammers, proposed for approval by Laurie Smith and seconded by Bill Kruger.
b. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

- a. None.

4. President's Report (see page 2)

Mr Vellies Veldsman read the President's Report.

5. Financial report

- a. The financial report was read by Medea Evans.
b. Kobie du Preez, seconded by Jeannie Willemse, proposed it for approval.
c. The financial report was accepted by the meeting.

6. New Matters

- a. **Life Membership:** A request was received from Lana Kruger (seconded by Jelle Lammers) that Life Membership status (being a member for more than 25 years) be reinstated, but only as a form of recognition to those members for their longstanding loyalty. They will still have to pay subscriptions as in the past. This means a change in the Constitution and will be addressed

in the proper way by the new committee.

7. Election of new for Committee

- a. The nominations received and published in *Strandloper* 263 were proposed by Mike Cortie and seconded by Laurie Smith. No objections were received by the committee concerning nominees and the nominations were accepted by the meeting. The new committee will be:

President: Vellies Veldsman

Vice-President: Jelle Lammers

Secretary: Kobie du Preez

Treasurer: Christelle Deysel

Editor *Strandloper*:

Mike Cortie

Additional members:

Jeannie Willemse,

Maurice Evans,

Stephan Veldsman

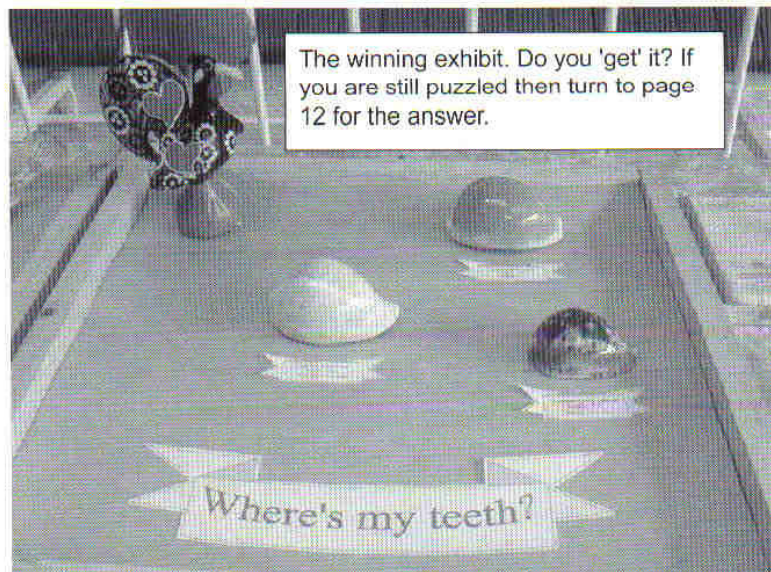
8. Exhibition

- a. The theme of the exhibition was 'Three shells that tell a story' and was enthusiastically portrayed by several members.

- b. The winner of the CSSA AGM Trophy, a silver *Afrivoluta pringlei*, was Susan Veldsman for 'Where's my teeth?'.
9. **General**

9. General

- a. Signing rights on financial issues was granted to Vellies, Kobie and Christelle. Two of the mentioned persons have to sign on cheques.
b. Maurice thanked Susan and Vellies for providing their house on short notice when the proposed venue wasn't available any more and for the delightful catering.
c. Medea thanked Vellies for the work done as President of the Society.
d. Vellies thanked Mike for the editing of the *Strandloper* and for providing leaf litter for the morning's land snail hunt.
e. Bill thanked Medea for her work as treasurer.

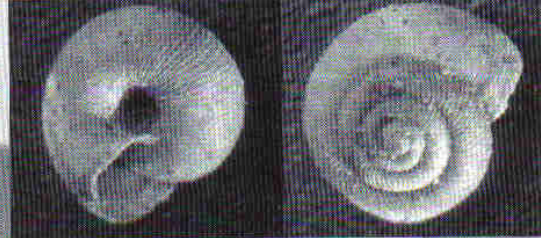
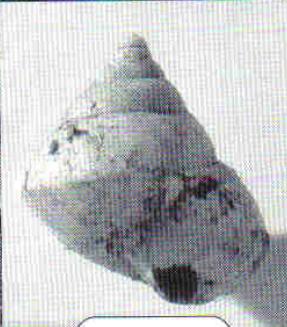


The AGM's Great Backyard Landsnail Hunt





Above - *Opeas lineare*
 Right- Iorrie Evans
 Below- Laurie Smith
 Bottom- Maurice Evans
 Top right- *Gulella xysila*
 Centre right - Linda Swart
 and Christelle Deysel



Edouardia mcbeaniana
 (H= 13 mm)



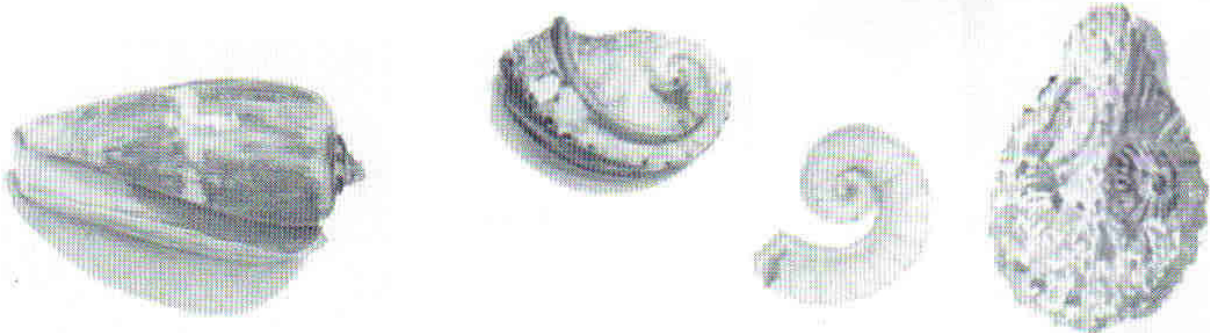
Above, on right- *Trachycystis ordinaria* (D=3 mm),
 Above - Kobie du Preez and Jelle Lammers

A good day's shelling at the Groenkant Private Nature Reserve



Aan die einde van 'n 'ope dag' vir lede van die Skulpkondevereniging by Groenkant Privaat Natuurreservaat in Suid-Kaapland in Desember 2000 het Henriëtte Botha van Kleinmond (links) en Jeannie Willemse van Pretoria handevol skulpe gehad. Regs in Joh Groenewald.

Henriëtte Botha of Kleinmond (left), Jeannie Willemse of Pretoria (centre) and Joh Groenewald of Pretoria (right) with handfuls of shells at the end of an 'open day' for members of the Conchological Society at the Groenkant Private Nature Reserve in the Southern Cape (December 2000).



EXPO VIR JONG WETENSKAPLIKES SEPTEMBER 2000

Vellies Veldsman

Jaarliks word daar landwyd 'n kompetisie vir Jongwetenskaplikes gehou. Die kompetisie begin by die skole, daarna 'n Streeksuitdunne en laastens 'n Nasionale kompetisie. Die oogmerk van die Expo is om jong wetenskaplikes aan te moedig om navorsing in een of ander wetenskaplike rigting te doen. Op die Nasionale kompetisie is daar gewoonlik in die orde van 800 wetenskaplike projekte. Die Skulpkundervereniging het hier 'n geleentheid gesien om die vereniging te adverteer onder ons jeug. Inligting word byvoorbeeld deur die Nasionale bestuur van die Expo vir Jong wetenskaplikes verskeie kere per jaar na skole regoor die land versend.

Die Bestuurskomitee van Die Skulpkundervereniging het besluit om 'n kontantprys vir die beste mariene projek op die Nasionale kompetisie te gee. Die President het 'n donasie van R100 gegee, Die Vereniging 'n verdere R100 en Jelle Lammers 'n trofee.

Die toekenning in 2000 is gemaak aan drie dogters naamlik Jo-Carlin Diedericks, Earimine Benjamin en Lucinda Kleinsmidt van die Hawston Sekondêre skool Hermanus, van die Stellenbochstreek. Hulle projek was *Perlemoen-ons lewe, ons Bestaan*. Hulle het nie net biologies die *Haliotis midae* behandel nie, maar het veral aandag gegee aan die moontlike aanwending van die skulp en so-doende moontlike werkskeppings geleenthede vir hulle gemeenskap te identifiseer. Hulle was baie bekommerd oor die huidige groot stroping van perlemoen wat daar plaasvind langs ons kuslyn.

Die Vereniging wil hulle weereens gelukwens met 'n baie goeie projek waarmee hulle 'n bronsmedalje verower het. Geluk en sterkte voren-

toe. Ons hoop ons sien hulle volgende jaar weer by die Nasionale Expo.

Waar is ons ander leerders? Kom en neem deel volgende jaar, dalk wen julle nie net 'n medalje nie, maar ook 'n paar rand sakgeld. As julle raad soek met betrekking tot Die Expo vir Jong Wetenskaplikes, kontak Stephan, hy is bereid om te help. Stephan het tydens sy skoolloopbaan sedert Graad 7 verskeie medaljes op die Nasionale kompetisie gewen, hy tree as beoordeelaar op die laaste 4 jaar, was gekies om Suid-Afrika in Portugal, gedurende 1998 te verteenwoordig by 'n Internasionale kompetisie en is tans lid van die Nasionale Bestuur van die Expo. Sy E-posadres is stephan.veldsman@rocketmail.com.

Kom neem deel.

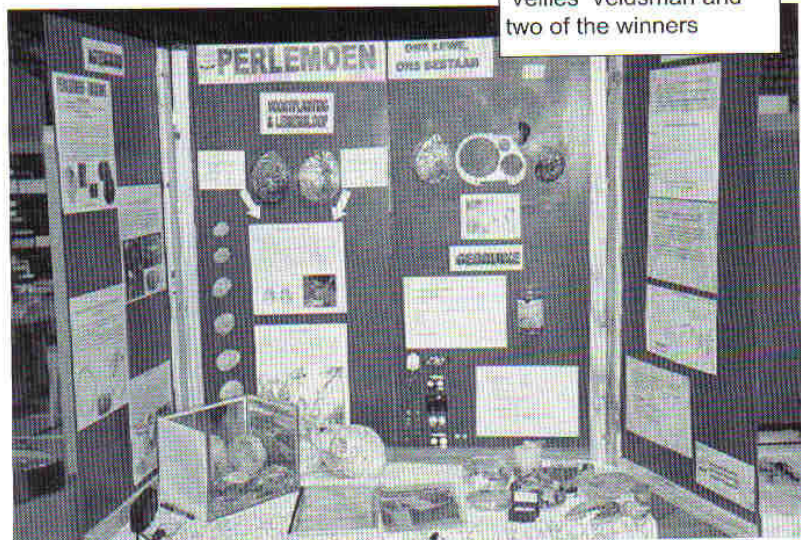
SUMMARY

South Africa's annual Science Expo competition for high schools presented an opportunity for the Society to promote an interest in marine biology amongst scholars. The President donated R100 towards a special prize which was matched by the Society. Jelle Lammers donated a trophy. The special award for 2000 was won by Jo-Carlin Diedericks, Earimine Benjamin and Lucinda Kleinsmidt of the Hawston Secondary school in Hermanus. Their project was concerned with conservation of the 'perlemoen, *Haliotis midae*.

Contact Stephan.veldsman@rocketmail.com for more information on the Expo.



The Society's President, 'Vellies' Veldsman and two of the winners





Dutchbook drawings 1991
Broken shells from Port Macquarie, N.S.W.

Shell Collector

Here's to the sunburn, the sprain
in your back,
The windburn, the chill, the
weight in your sack,
The bottles and the bags, the
unpackable gear,
All strapped around you and
banging your rear.
Here's to the barnacle gash and
the bruise,
The salt in your eyes, the sand in
your shoes.
Here's to the stink in the cottage
at night,
The boiling, the cleaning and
scrubbing just right.
The searching through crud 'till
your eyes dull with pain,
For the needed elusive unspellable
name.
Here's to the polishing, boxing,
arranging,
Consulting, re-sorting, re-naming
and changing.

Here's to the weariness, lameness
and cuts,
And to all the people who think
we are nuts.

We go on collecting foul weather
or fair,
Not minding at all with a glassy
eye stare,
For the sane of this world who
look on in surprise,
We keep right on looking for that
wonderful prize,
For the shell with a bump, some
spots or a twist,
Ah! This shell is best and hard to
resist.
So you keep right on walking, or
diving or dragging,
By now are sagging, and lagging
and bragging,
It's time to head back and on your
return,
You still look for more, you'd think
you would learn.
So you stumble along, keep
collecting and pray,
That tomorrow will bring another
good day.

With thanks to the unknown author.

Flotsam

From the Internet.....

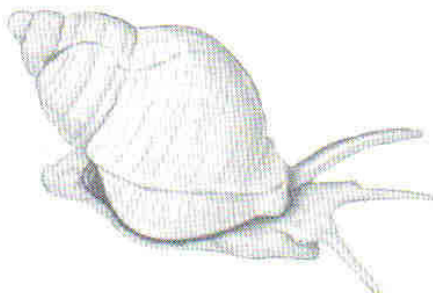
I found this little tidbit of "Bizarre news"

Welsh Professor's Mussel Stressed

University of Wales - The previously prestigious University of Wales has spent thousands of dollars examining the question whether mussels can suffer panic attacks. Yes, that's right, some professor decided this was an important question to answer so researchers placed dog whelks, which eat mussels, in a tank and monitored the mussels' heart beat. The results? Mussels' heartbeats increased for up to 24 hours even after the dog whelks were removed.

I hope you all enjoy it!

Thomas Clenche
Low Tide Crafts
Petley, Random Island, Newfoundland



Both items on this page 'trawled' off the 'Net by Kobie du Preez

Obituary : David Freeman

by Victor Millard

David Freeman died on 1st June 2001 of an heart attack. He was 72 years old, an item of information we discovered after his death, as he always kept it a secret. He did not want to undergo the bypass surgery that would have prolonged his life. I met David in 1973 when I joined the Conchological Society and he was always a source of constant inspiration and encouragement. His knowledge of Latin, plants and shells was very wide. He became editor of the *Strandloper* in 1978 when he took over from Richard Carlsson. He seconded me to help him. We were a wonderful foil for each other and his meticulousness is evident in the *Strandloper* articles, which he edited, co-authored or wrote. He could never just write an article because of his incredible attention to detail and his desire to have it right the first time.

Some of my earliest associations with shell collecting are the many shelling trips that we made. He would make flasks of coffee and the most incredible chicken sandwiches and we would go to areas such Betties Bay, Cape Point and Kommetjie. He was also the first person to "rediscover" *Trivia costata* on Queens Beach in



Photos : December 1979.



Sea Point after it had not been seen for 100 years. His advice on looking for this shell was "think pink". He also found the *Trivia millardi* before it was named, but the elusive animal was only found later. He brought to the attention of the Society such interesting finds from Sea Point as large *Haliotis parva*, *Pandora dissimilis* and a few other species that should not have been found there. David also coauthored the *Cones of South Africa* in 1979 on the 21st anniversary of the *Strandloper*. This was the first colour article in the *Strandloper* and was the beginning of a number of great articles, which were produced. The example that he set would be difficult to surpass. With his great knowledge he advised and checked for such books as Burgess' second cowrie book and Bill Liltved's *Cowries and Their Relatives*. In recognition Bill requested that the new *Primovula* from his first book be renamed as *Primovula freemani*.

All new publications that I bought or received were taken to him for his wonderful reviews, which were so insightful and useful. There are two new books that I have just received, and which were on my desk to be taken over for reviews, which we will unfortunately not have the privilege to read. He has corresponded with many overseas visitors over the years, especially those who got to know him through the Conchological Society. There were some who were circumnavigating the world in their yachts. He often used to visit the yacht basin in Cape Town to see what yachts had come in and made friends with many shell collectors in this manner. We were often invited on board and even taken dredging in Langebaan (see *Strandloper*s 199 and 200). He has made a special request that his ashes be scattered on one of his favourite collecting beaches at Cape Point, where I in particular will say goodbye to a great friend and mentor.

The Classic Freeman Style

David Freeman was a precise man, who disapproved of sloppy writing or reporting. Here is a letter that he wrote to the *Cape Argus* in 1965, in response to a somewhat excitable article that they had run on 'killer' sea shells having been 'discovered' on the east coast of Africa.

Poisonous sea shells

To the Editor, *The Argus*

SIR, — The sensational article about a poisonous sea shell found at Zanzibar (*The Argus*, February 25) is generally misleading as to the impression it gives and specifically inaccurate as to facts.

The article implies that this was a new discovery, whereas this species of *Conus* shell is well known to inhabit the tropical coast of Africa and, in fact, many parts of the Indian Ocean.

The correct name of the shell is *Conus geographus* and not as quoted in *The Argus*.

SUPERSTITIOUS

A number of the *Cones* are poisonous to a greater or lesser degree and the only surprising thing about the incident is that Dr. Thorp, who is presumably a marine biologist, was foolish enough to pick the creature up with his bare hands. He must have known what it was.

Any amateur conchologist would recognize it and would treat it with the utmost respect. Many shell collectors have specimens, even here in Cape Town.

The Native fishermen on the east coast have a great fear of most of the *Cone* shells as they know the danger of careless handling but, being somewhat superstitious, they carry their fear to ludicrous lengths....

D. FREEMAN

Bantry Bay

East London Museum receives a boost

by Mary Bursey

Noggs Newman recently donated his entire shell collection, the product of over 20 years of collecting, to the East London Museum and we are deeply appreciative of this honour.

Noggs Newman was born in 1914 and has always lived in East London. At the time of his birth his father was reading Charles Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby* and there was a character named Newman Noggs, so he gave his son the name Noggs Newman. His real names are Nevill Edwin Millar.

Noggs comes from a family with a history of public service. His mother, Clarissa Newman, is well known for her work as a City Councillor in East London and with Child Welfare. Noggs was honorary British consul and he received an OBE for services rendered to the Crown. He has been married to Doro for 62 years and they have three daughters, Mary, Angela and Bobbie, 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Noggs' working life was spent in the family business of shipping and forwarding. His company was an agent for Clan Line Shipping Company. He



Noggs and Doro Newman with Mary Bursey at the opening of an exhibition of his collection at the East London Museum

worked in London for the company for three years to gain experience. Cayser Irvine of Clan Line bought the Union Castle, and Noggs was director of Cayser Irvine (South Africa) for five years.

Noggs was in the Navy during World War II. He was involved initially with convoy duty in the North Atlantic from Nova Scotia to Britain. He was then in the Eastern Fleet based at Mombasa, which protected the African coast against invasion by Japan.

The love of shell collecting began when Noggs and Doro stayed with friends at Bashee Mouth, after his retirement. Their friends told them about some people whom they had met who were passionate about shells and even knew all their Latin names! Noggs had always casually picked up shells, but he started taking great interest in his finds and bought a shell book so that he could identify them. Both the Newmans were bird lovers, but as Noggs explains he began to prefer identifying shells because "shells don't fly away when you are trying to identify them!"

Shell-collecting became a most rewarding hobby which has given Noggs the greatest pleasure. Apart from the beauty of the shells he has made lasting friendships with scores of people all over the world. He learnt a great deal initially from the late Pat Palmer. Noggs is a long-standing member and past president of the East London Rotary Club. With the aim of contacting shell collectors in other countries he wrote about 60 letters to chairmen of Rotary Clubs all over the world. Some happened to be shell collectors or passed his letter on to shell club members in their towns. Many of the specimens in his collection were acquired through exchange with these contacts.

Noggs' shell collection contains a comprehensive selection of species from South Africa as well as fine specimens from all over the world. He collected extensively himself, both in South Africa and in recent years a shelling destination that became a favourite with Noggs was Benguere, Mozambique. Noggs and Doro's first visit was for fishing, but the shelling was so good, that Noggs returned

Strandloper

The editor welcomes original articles, news, shelling reports, feedback, advertisements (rates on application) and any other material likely to be of interest to members of the Society. Illustrations are especially welcome. Please send to

Dr M.B. Cortie,
P.O. Box 1664,
Ferndale, 2160
South Africa

or e-mail me at
achatina@iafrica.com



Noggs Newman and Border Shell Club member D-J Hodgkinson in his shell room

several times to visit the friends he had met and do more shelling. He did much swapping with the contacts he had made mainly in Australia, Japan, Germany, Chile, USA and Canada. Unlike many collectors with impressive collections, he bought very few shells for his collection.

There are several specimens in Noggs' collection that are of particular scientific value, irrespective of whether their names are valid or not. These are paratypes of four species named by Felix Lorenz, viz. *Limacina clarissa* (named after Noggs' mother), *Cypraea miharti*, *C. fultoni massieri* and *Ocenebra newmani* (named after Noggs). When a new species is named, examples are deposited in several collections – these are called paratypes. Also of particular interest is a sinistral *Marginella ornata*.

Noggs has been an active member of the Border Shell Club for over 20 years and has made an enormous contribution to this society. He was

one of the loyal members who saved the society when various problems almost led to its demise in the late 1980's. He received Honorary Life Membership in 1992.

Noggs joined the Board of Trustees of the East London Museum in 1985 and served until 1997. The director describes his contribution as dynamic and innovative. Apart from serving the interests of the museum at all times, he also inaugurated the East London Museum Trust, a body separate from the Board, which holds and raises funds for cultural and educational projects. Noggs has always put special effort into the Malacology Department. He has given

much assistance and encouragement to Mary Bursey and her predecessor, Sandy Muller. He donated many shells over the years, as well as several cabinets. It was through his efforts that the important Nolan Webb collection was donated to the EL museum. Noggs prepared a display of a selection of these shells from the Pondoland coast, which is a popular display in the marine gallery.

One of the most special features about this collection is that it is a very personal collection. Because it was put together by collecting and exchange, it tells many stories of places Noggs and Doro have been to, and of people he has been friends with. Noggs displayed his collection on boards and kept all these in cabinets in a special shell room where he could enjoy their beauty every day.

Exchange wanted

Mr Zvi Orlin, of 2 Yavne Street, 26382 KIRYAT MOTZKIN, ISRAEL wishes to exchange shells of diverse families with South African collectors. He is also looking for the Dierdre Richards and Kilburn & Rippey books, for purchase or swap.

A man of many names

by Mike Wrigley,
East London

I had often wondered why von Linne's name was sometimes written Linné and sometimes Linnaeus. Some people told me that Linnaeus was just a Latinized form of Linné. But then why was only Linné's name Latinized and not the names of all the other authors? So when I acquired a hundred-year-old set of Encyclopedia Britannica (the 9th edition), I decided to see what it had to say. In it I learnt that Carolus Linnaeus was born on the 13th May, 1707. In 1761 a patent of nobility was granted to him, antedated to 1757, from which time Linnaeus was styled Carl von Linné. From the above I think we should honour him with his title and call him von Linné. What do other members think? An interesting sidelight is the quotation below taken from the encyclopedia:-

'Linnaeus was sometimes called upon to assist the physician by writing the prescriptions, but as he wrote a bad hand, he was frequently sent away again. In those days physicians wrote legibly'.

A base for Border shelling

For those interested in 'bundu' camping, Mike Wrigley is offering a caravan site with water and ablutions at his farm between Cintsa and the main N2 road to Kei Bridge. It is within easy reach of all the East London East Coast resorts plus Marsh Strand, Morgan Bay etc.

Contact Mike on 043-738-5125, or write to him at PO Box 11098, Southern Wood 5213.

PHILLIP W. CLOVER

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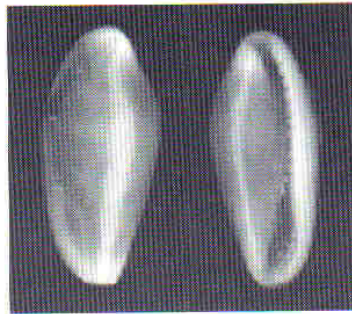
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Interesting finds along the Natal South Coast by 'Vellies' Veldsman

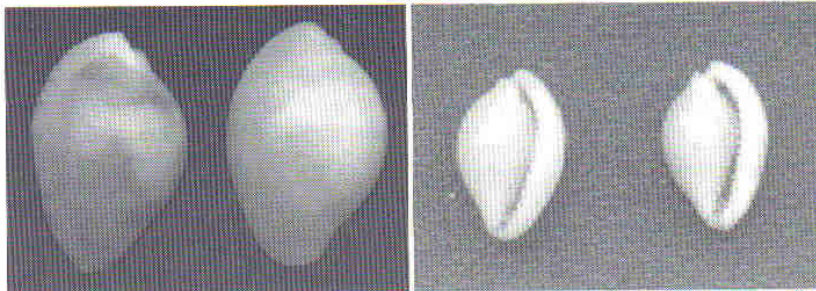
The sea off the Kwazulu-Natal South Coast continues to throw up all sorts of treasures and puzzles

(Right) What is my name? I am 12 mm long. Please help.

(Right) Am I *Crenavolva* (*Crenavolva frumentum* (Sowerby, 1829) Ovulidae? If not what will you call me? The length is 5 mm and the width 3 mm.



(Below) *Pseudocypraea exquisita* Petuch, 1979. The specimen illustrated was first recorded in the first (1989) edition of **COWRIES AND THEIR RELATIVES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA** by W R Liltved, under the name *Pseudocypraea adamsonii* (Sowerby II, 1832). The new (year 2000) edition of the book carries the revised name with an explanation of the change. The length is 10mm.



Answer to puzzle on page 3: 'As scarce as hen's teeth'

Coral bleaching update

by Mike Cortie

A previous article in *Strandloper* 262 has already mentioned that some scientists are concerned that chemical changes in sea-water caused by global warming will have a negative effect on corals by 2050. In fact, we don't have to wait that long. Already corals the world over are 'bleaching'. This happens when a live coral colony expels its symbiotic algae, in the process losing its colour and significant nutritional benefits. According to an article in *Nature*¹ about 27% of all coral reefs have been effected, but the situation is especially bad in the Indian

Ocean where 57% of all coral has been effected.

Why do the coral colonies expel their algae? According to the latest theories, it is because the increase in water temperature has rendered their particular culture of symbiotic algae non-optimum. By expelling it they stand a chance of 'picking up' a new strain of algae, better adapted to the new temperature - or die, of course.

1. Pockley, P. *Nature*, vol.407, 26th Oct 2000, p.932.

Conchological Society of Southern Africa

Founded 1958

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