

Circular No. 61.

Will those members who did not receive their February Circular please let the Secretary know, as a great many seem to have gone astray and we want to take up the matter with the Post Office.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. R.Kilburn, Cory House, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

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EXCHANGE WANTED.

1. Mr. Carl C.Withrow, 2010 Dalehurst Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A. wishes to purchase or exchange very good specimens of the following Volutes:- bullata, ponsonbyi, queckettii, africana.
2. Mrs. Thora Whitehead, The Glen, Chapel Street, Farnhurst, Nr.Haselmere, Surrey, England, formerly of Tanzania has a good selection of shells from that coast to exchange for South African. She writes that all her examples are excellent.
3. Ross Quick, Geelong College, Newtown, Geelong, Victoria Australia.
4. Mr. Vermote Jérôme, 18 Roemer Visscherstraat, Antwerp, Belgium.
5. Patrick Anseeuw, Rue de la Métairie, 74 Courtrai, Belgium. Patrick is 18, a beginner, and anxious to get some S.A.Shells. He is joining the Society.
6. Eileen Deicke, Box 264, Proserpine, N.Queensland, Australia. Also a beginner, but has only live-taken shells to exchange.

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THE LIBRARY.

We hope to have the Library cupboard at the Museum ready for our next meeting. On checking the books we find the following have not been entered. Will the members who have borrowed them please return them without fail on Tuesday, 20th.

- No. 15, An Illustrated Handbook of shells from Japan-Hirase
- " 109, World Wide Sea Shells - Maxwell Smith.
- " 112, "Gloria Maris" Schelpen - Shell pictures.
- " 113, Illustrated Handbook of Japanese Shells - Hirase.

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GENERAL NOTES.

Cypraea guttata, Gmelin 1791.

By. D.H.Kennelly.

Joyce Allan lists this shell, which is rare, and states there are less than a dozen specimens known, the majority of which are Museums. Members may be interested to learn that recently another three examples of guttata have been found near Rabaul, New Guinea, and are in possession of Mr.C.L. Van Eck of Rabaul.

This news item has been extracted from the Australian Newsletter (Malacological Society of Australia) No. 48 of the 31st. Jan 1965, recently received by the writer.

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The Knowledge we can Share with Each Other.

P.Elston.

Recently the writer had the pleasure of a visit from our fellow members Rene and Les. Cock from Natal, and amongst other specimens they had collected showed me Argonauta bottgeri Maltzen. To my great surprise I found that what I had thought to be A.hians Dillwyn in my own collection (ex pisces) was the same which I had wrongly identified.

This egg cradle according to Sowerby, Ponsonby and Joyce Allen is extremely rare, and, so far, has been found only on the Australian, South African, New Zealand and China coasts. Collectors are extremely lucky to come across them.

It is in this way that we increase our knowledge of our most attractive hobby and in spite of what Library one has, there is always some species or sub-species not noted or illustrated.

Description of Argonauta bottgeri Maltzen

Very like hians Dillwyn but has more numerous ribs often uniting in twos or threes half across the shell. Tubercles on the keel are very prominent, almost twice as long as those on hians. Colour ochre yellow, when fresh, more deeply shaded in the first, or curled in part, than the remainder of the shell. Surface of the shell is finely granulated, especially where it coils into the opening. A beautiful little specimen in the Australian Museum collection has the top of every tubercle on the keel, except the innermost few on the curl of the shell where it turns into the opening, neatly opened, similar to the opening of the ear shell. (Haliotis) These openings are so evenly and smoothly cut that they may serve as additional exists for the young.

Ref: Joyce Allen - Australian Shells. 1959.

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BORDER NOTES.

By D.H.Kennelly.

There is little to write about from this quarter, as we are waiting for Easter and the advent of Ed. Dee, plus his fellow skin divers and collectors, who are making a trip from Durban. They will be operating at Kei Mouth and Haga Haga for shells, and local members are keen to know in due course what has been obtained.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Ackermann called upon the writer on their way to Kei Mouth, where they hope to spend Easter.

Under these circumstances there may be an "unofficial" meeting of members at Kei Mouth, at which the writer hopes to be present.

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Cape Notes.

By C.M.Connolly.

Agulhas news. 1.4.65.

Over three exhausting days I put in some ten hours lowtide shelling and ten hours afternoon beachcombing. This resulted in more than the ordinary bends but feel my table of shells was worth it all.

First of all I checked up on the Turbo sarmaticus barnacle borer and found all the very old shells full of them.

Then I searched for the Agulhas cone, Conus scitulus. A dear old granny uses these cones for legs for her coons and calls them coffee shells. Has anyone heard this name before?

Conus scitulus are extremely hard to find but eventually I found their habitat and had to dig each one out. First remove layer of large rocks, then clear all the sea urchins, then just rake out all the small pebbles and in the muddy bottom, one cone may be found. As I saw a lot of cases I kept at it and eventually I took "mother" cone with her new eggcase. For the record I also

took/.....

