

RESIGNATIONS.

Will you please delete the following from your list, all of Cape Town :-

Mrs. J. Florence, Mr. A. Hirst, Mr. K. McNamara, Mrs. G. Pelletier.

We regret that these have resigned since the list was compiled.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

From the 1st May, Mr. P. Elston's address will be :-
6 Tees Lodge, Hope Street, Gardens, Cape Town.

Mr. R. Pollard, 19 Tudor Gardens, Pine Road, Kenilworth.

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GENERAL NOTES.

Shells on Postage Stamps. By J. Drijver, The Netherlands.

Besides the two stamps mentioned by Dr. van Bruggen in Circular No. 48 I can add many more. Most of these stamps have been issued in the last few years.

<u>Algeria</u>	1952,	15 F	Ammonite
<u>Comores</u>	1962,	0 F 50	Cypraeacassis rufa
		1 F	Harpa conoidalis
		2 F	Murex ramosus
		5 F	Turbo marmoratus
		20 F	Pterocera scorpion
		25 F	Charonia tritonis.
<u>Côte Française des Somalis</u>			
	1962	8 F	Meleagrina margaritifera (Linné)
		10 F	Tridacna squamosa (Lamarck)
		25 F	Strombus tricornis (Humphrey)
		30 F	Trochus dentatus (Forsk.)
		60 F	Rostellaria magna (Schröter)
		100 F	Lambis bryonia (Gmelin)
<u>Cuba</u>	1958	8 ¢	Polymita picta (landsnail)
		30 ¢	Ammonite
	1961	1 ¢	Polymita picta fuscolimbata
		1 ¢	P. p. fulminata
		1 ¢	P. p. roseolimbata
		1 ¢	P. p. nigrofasciata
		1 ¢	P. s. flammulata
<u>Israel</u>	1963		First day cover with design of Murex, Stamps depicting Red Sea fishes.
	1963		On tabs of other stamps depicting Red Sea fishes.
		I £0,03	Cymatium
		I £0,06	Pterocera
		I £0,08	Turbo
		I £0,12	Terebra
<u>Maldives</u>	1961		51arees Various shells
<u>Nouvelle Calédonie</u>			
	1962	20 F	Nautilus pompilius
<u>Nouvelles Hébrides</u>			
	1963	30 cents.	Nautilus pompilius

Travancore/...

<u>Travancore</u>		Various stamps with sacred Chank (<i>Xancus pyrum</i>
<u>Turka & Calicos Islands</u>		L.)
1957	6 d.	<i>Strombus gigas</i>
<u>Wallis & Futuna</u>		
1962	0 F 25	<i>Charonia tritonis</i>
	1 F	<i>Mitra episcopalis</i>
	2 F	<i>Cypraecassis rufa</i>
	4 F	<i>Murex tenuispina</i>
	10 F	<i>Oliva erythrostroma</i>
	20 F	<i>Cypraca tigris</i>
	50 F	<i>Harpa ventricosa</i>

I hope that with this list I have given some more information on the subject.

Holiday on the Wild Coast. By M.M. Pinkham.

The "Wild Coast" is the name by which the strip of coast between Port St. Johns and the Kei River is generally known, that is to say, the coast line of the Transkei.

Roads: Only the national Transkei road is macadamised. The winding roads through the "koppies" down to the sea (about 50 miles or more at various points) are of local shale and gravel. The natives' idea of road mending is to cover any depressions left by rain or usage with sharp pointed shale and leave whatever traffic passes to smoothe it down. During the rainy season the roads are often impassable and woe betide the fisherman who slips down to the coast from Umtata, Eliotdale or some trading station or farm for a week-end's fishing if he has not chains for the wheels of his car. The roads become greasy messes with little streams crossing the track from the hillsides. The driver, even in the drier season, must take the curves very slowly for he is likely to come suddenly upon cattle, donkeys, horses, pigs, goats, dogs, chickens, and piccanins standing, squatting, or even lying down in the middle of the only piece of level ground anywhere around - the road. Stop the car and look about you: hills, hills, nothing but hills surmounted with scattered huts.

Transport: The natives' only means of transport^{for} goods is a kind of sledge made of 6-9 inch tree-trunks having a kind of basket work of liana woven over and into a framework. To this two or four oxen are spanned. The general rule is that the sledge must keep to the grass at the side of the road, however, where this is not adhered to, the damage to the surface of the track I leave to your imagination. I have been trying to persuade my husband to pay another visit to that area, but his moans about the state his car was in at the end of the trip drown all my pleas. Anyway, we were luckier than some others who ended up with broken axles and springs.

At places like Xora mouth (gutterally Klogga), Cintza, and Coffee Bay, fishermen have built holiday bungalows or rondavels, similar in style to the conical native hut, which they use on their weekend fishing trips. Only at Coffee Bay, Mazeppa Bay, Kei Mouth, Haga-Haga, and Queensberry Bay, is hotel accomodation to be had. We stayed in both hotels and rondavels and when in the latter we were often the only whites for miles around. Native cattle wander everywhere and it is not unusual to hear them wandering round the huts during the twilight hours and the early morning. Indeed it was quite a feature to come round the corner of the hut and face to face with a huge red ox, having tremendous horns, which refused to budge to let you pass, or to look up and find one staring through the glass of the enclosed porch. Perhaps the change from the usual black face to the white fascinated them.

Shells:/.....

Shells: Reports from the fishermen, or more often from their wives, who spend much of their time wandering the beaches while their menfolk fish, told of wonderful shells found on this coast. We went to investigate and found a plentiful supply of dead beach material but very little live molluscs of any description. Every Monday seems to be beer-drinking day and natives can be seen converging on some or other hut where much beer-drinking hospitality is being extended. Here the women have been busy round the cooking pots since early morning. On Tuesday they feel a need for a protein meal but no cattle are slaughtered except on very special occasions for this would impoverish them far too quickly. Instead the women folk recourse to the coastal strip where enamel basins are filled with every conceivable mollusc ranging from the tiniest $\frac{1}{8}$ inch patella to octopi and red bait. This we have seen time and again and finally believed the moans of the fishermen about the scarcity of bait of any kind even at the lowest tides. This, from the point of view of the shell collector or fisherman is very disappointing to say the least. Once this fact is grasped you will readily understand the short supply of live material from the South African coasts. We have ascertained that at such seaside towns as Mossel Bay and East London the authorities are taking preventive measures, but as the Transkei is now Bantu territory I doubt if such measures will ever be in force there. Up to now no one seems to have known much of this area as far as conchology is concerned, owing no doubt to its inaccessibility. Too late we have become conscious of its potentialities. In our three months of wandering along this coast I found alive only one Cyp. ravitrona helvola, and 1 Epitonium coronatum, several dozen of the common Neritas (3 varieties), several small Turbo coronatus, several Trochus nigropunctatus, 1 Conus minimus, several Barbatia alfredensis, several dozen Kraussina rubra, and dozens of Janthinias: not a great many molluscs for one day, and very disappointing for three months' search. However, I found many good condition Cypraea and the best beach specimens of Voluta africana I have yet come across. This last is valued even as beach specimens as they are impossible to find unless taken from the stomachs of trawled fish. The few good specimens in museums were obtained from that source. I have made contact with a trader and have since received two boxes of beach Cypraea. These are still glossy but many have a minute puncture showing that the mollusc had been killed by another predatory creature. I have about half a dozen Cypraea marginalis which I found at Bshee River mouth. These are rare and I have already parted with two.

The Pondoland coast, between the Transkei and Natal, has been explored with better results by the Natal conchologists, but even this is now Bantu territory and access will not be as easy as formerly. These two coastal areas constitute the most delightful climatic regions in the winter months. They enjoy a certain amount of rain all the year from the south-east trade winds, but the wind is stronger in summer and their rainy season is therefore spoken of as a Summer one. Their winters are very mild.

Judging from beach results I think the following areas may prove profitable for future exploration:

Haga-Haga - Cypraea capensis.

Kei Mouth - Epitonium coronatum.

Bashee Mouth (to right of Hotel) - Cypraea marginalis, Cypraea carneola, Cypraea chinensis.

Coffee Bay - Cypraea vitellus, Cypraea ravitrona helvola.

Kora Mouth - For every species to be found on east and south coast including Voluta africanum, Cypraea citrina, Cypraea vitellus, Cyp. helvola, Cyp. arabica, Cyp. moneta, and Tonna variegata. I think this should prove the most profitable during the winter months of July and August.

At these/....

At these places I have found good condition dead shells of such a variety and in such quantities that I am convinced that, in spite of the Bantu preference for shellfish in the area, there yet awaits a good collecting ground where many species, which now supposedly exist only further north, could be found alive in worth-while quantities. These good shells could not be there by accident (as is supposed when only a single specimen is found); nor could they be washed ashore from other areas (as is generally thought to be the case at Jeffrey's Bay) where the shells might well have come from a long distance for they have lost their gloss and are almost invariably imperfect. The shells of Kora Mouth are of good quality and glossy which would not be the case if the currents were to carry the empty shells over long distances. It may yet be possible to prove this if the territory remains open to visits by the whites, and if access to the coast for purposes of fishing and shelling will be granted.

Border Notes. By D.H. Kennelly.

It is most regrettable that the long week end at the beginning of April, was marred to a certain extent by wet weather on the Monday. Due to this - and other reasons such as the arrival of unexpected visitors - the attendance was very small at the gathering of the Border members.

Mrs. Hazel Jefferies continues to add to her collection, and the recent additions of East African shells - together with three or four species from Peru, South America, are very interesting.

Border members are notified that another attempt will be made to hold a gathering at the Haga Haga Hotel, Haga Haga, during the next long weekend, 30th and 31st May and 1st June. Please make a note of this date, and another reminder will be published later in the next Circular.

The March issue of the Hawaiian Shell News is very interesting, as it has a contribution from Mrs. Helen Boswell - illustrated - about the species of shells in her famous collection which have been found ex Pisce. The list of these species is lengthy, and has taken our Helen some fourteen years of collecting to obtain them.

It was interesting to see an illustration of Helen's discovery - Pironella boswellae Barnard - a new species for the South African Marine fauna. There are in addition photos of what seems to be a new Melapium and a Murex, and we await an article from Helen for our Circular giving further detail.

Mrs. Rix of Bonza Bay has been investigating living specimens of Fissurella, and we are waiting for details in order to list the species for the benefit of Collectors generally.

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