

In view of the fact that glass topped boxes - rectangular or circular - of various sizes are the best, but too expensive, the following are used by the writer as substitutes and are a success.

Match boxes, either shallow or deep, will accommodate most of the smaller shells. Reverse the tray so that the label is below. Draw a rectangle on the box leaving a margin of about a quarter inch. Then with a razor blade or similar instrument cut out the centre portion leaving a "window".

Cellophane from cigarette boxes or other sources is then pasted over the window, and the edges trimmed when dry. Jewellex has been found to be one of the best adhesives for cellophane as it lasts. Specimens are then placed in the tray with cotton wool below, so that the shells just touch the cellophane when the box is shut. Place an adhesive label on the bottom of the box, and put a second folded label inside with the specimens. This preserves the data in case the outer label is destroyed later. Cigarette boxes, either 50's or 25's, with a hinged lid are of a suitable size and depth for shells too big for match boxes. Method of use and labelling the same as for match boxes. The advantage of this system is that a box of specimens may be taken up for examination, and when turned upside down to read the label, the shells do not fall out. Shells too large for cigarette boxes may be exhibited in cardboard trays of suitable size without a cover. It has been found while cotton wool is the best for small, smooth and/or fragile shells, it is advisable to use very soft tissue paper (such as Ponds Tissues) for shells with a rough surface or with spines and other projections. Rough shells tend to become tangled up with the fibre of cotton wool. Coloured cotton wool should be used for white shells, which will show up the specimens.

Labelling Specimens. The most important thing is to record the exact locality where the shells were found. Many of our South African shells have a restricted range, so that Table or False Bay gives too wide an area for actual locality. A specimen found at Sea Point may perhaps occur at Robben Island or the Blaauwberg beach. A label should read:-

Patella,
compressa. Linne.
Sea Point - Table Bay.

The name of a shell can always be ascertained, but lose the exact locality and the specimen becomes valueless as a scientific record.

Large Shells. These may have the label placed in the aperture, and wedged with tissue or other suitable paper. The Ear Shells - Haliotis - if very large can have the label attached to the inner surface with a couple of small strips of cellotape.

Important. Shells too large for a cupboard are usually displayed on book shelves, or in display cabinets. Care should be taken that such shells are shielded from direct sunlight, otherwise the colour will fade in time, and cannot be restored. The writer has a shell dredged in the Gulf of Mexico in 1872. It has been kept in subdued light and the colour is still good today.

The next lot of notes will be devoted to details of suitable cupboards for storing a collection.

GENERAL NOTES:

Mrs. J. Barnes, Rosemead, Natal, North Coast, would like to exchange shells with other collectors.

Mrs. C. Dunningham is presently staying at the following address:- P.O. Sedgefield, dist. KNYEMA.

Mrs. Kerr has received a letter from Mr. Yves Jongelard, Mahebourg, MAURITIUS, who is interested in selling shells from that island. In his letter he offers the following species at the prices which are indicated behind each name:-

Harpa imperialis 50/-, Harpa ventricosa 15/-,
Volute's (only black ones) 4/-, *Comus* ~~maculata~~ 6/-,
Comus fuscatus 1/3, *Comus* ~~subas~~ 4/-, *Comus*
tesselatus 3/-, *Cymatium chlorostoma* 1/-, *Nitro*
episcopalis 2/-, *Vascularis trapezium* 1/3,
Scorpion shell 3/-, *Terebra maculata* 2/-, *Comus*
arenatus 3/-, *Cerithium nodulosum* 1/3, *Charonia*
tritonis 1/-.

Mr. D.H. Kenelly has made some very successful exchanges with a collector in Japan. The name and address is as follows:-

Mr. Ryozo Tanaka
c/o Seiichi Tanaka
43 Funadaikumachi
Dojima, Kitaku,
Osaka, JAPAN.

Mr. Kenelly also tells us that he made some very good exchanges with:-

Mrs. N. Jackson
282 Anzac Parade
Kensington, N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA.

When writing to any of these addresses, please mention Mr. Kenelly's name as introducer.

Prof. Day received a letter from Mrs. Geo. M. Stephens who is interested in exchanging and who is offering shells from Cuba and Florida. Her address is:-

Mrs. Geo. M. Stephens
3-B Arthur Sawyer
Key West, Florida
U.S.A.

Mrs. C.M. Conolly, 40, 3rd. Avenue, FISH HOEK, has some *Cassis schatina* and also *Achatina zebra* from East London for exchange.

Mrs. M. Kuttel has an extra copy of the July 1949 issue of the "National Geographic Magazine", which she would like to exchange for a copy of the January 1957 issue which contains an article on Australian shells.

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