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x THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA x
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CIRCULAR NO. 4

JANUARY 1959.
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MEETING:

The Council wishes all members a happy and prosperous 1959 and good shelling.

We regret the long lapse since our last circular due to pressure of work, the Festive season and absence of members on holiday.

You will be glad to hear that our next meeting will be held in the Lecture Theatre of Shell House, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town on Wednesday, February 4th. at 8.15 p.m. Prof. Day will be in the chair.

Agenda:-

- (1) Minutes of the last meeting.
- (2) Matters arising out of the minutes.
- (3) Election of members.
- (4) Proposal of new members.
- (5) Any other business.
- (6) Films. We hope to shown a coloured film of the Great Barrier-Reef, which has been kindly loaned to us by the Australian High Commissioner's office. Furthermore, we are hoping to obtain a film on molluscs from the Department of Education.

NEW MEMBERS:

The following members were elected at our last meeting:-
(S = Student Member)

Mr. E.S. Bakker	44 Cape Road, Mossel Bay.
Mrs. J. Barnes	"Rosemead", Darnall, North Coast, Natal.
Miss M. Bustin	1 Kloof Flats, Kloof Nek Rd., Cape Town
Mr. B.L. Cairncross	P.O. Box 188, George.
Dr. Morris Cohen	151 Ridge Road, Durban.
East London Museum	East London.
Mr. P. Elston	907 The Gables, Victoria Embankment, Durban.
Mr. A. Gardner Williams	P.O. Box 2413, Johannesburg.
Mr. D. Greeff	"Berneen", Hildalan Road, Claremont.
Mr. Samuel Hirschmann	P.O. Box 4858, Johannesburg.
Mrs. H.C. Hoets	4 Thornhill Road, Rondebosch.
Mr. John S. Hutt	27 Park Road, Port Alfred.
S Miss P. Ismay	"The Cockoo Cloud" Pearson Ave., Kenilworth.
Mr. Graham Ivy	"Nant-Y-DE", Mount Pleasant Road, Rondebosch.
Mr. D.H. Kennelly	5 Fourie Street, Uitenhage.
Mr. P.J. le Roux	P.O. Box 2, Kleinmondstrand.
Mrs. Vernon E. Millar	"Jesmond", 34 Palmyra Rd., Claremont.
S Miss G. Philip	"The Willows", Ascot Rd., Kenilworth.
Dr. Hanna M. Pienaar	Voortrekker Rd., Bethulie, O.F.S.
Mrs. A.G. Richards	P.O. Box 161, Mossel Bay.
Miss E.L. Stephens	"Hazeldene", Belmont Road, Rondebosch.
Mr. F.H. Talbot	"Ashley", Lovers Walk, Rondebosch.
Mr. A.C. van Bruggen	Div. of Entomology, Pr. Bag 134, Pretoria.
Dr. L. Vári	Transvaal Museum, P.O. Box 413, Pretoria.

PROPOSED MEMBERS:

At our last meeting Prof. A. Kipps was proposed as a member by Prof. J. Day and seconded by Mrs. L. Kerr.

At our next meeting the following will be proposed as members:-

	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDER</u>
Mrs. M. Rielly	Miss M.G. Kempthorne	Mr. C. Swaneveld
Mrs. A. Short	Mr. D. Ackermann	Mrs. L. Kerr
The Transvaal Museum	Mr. C. Swaneveld	Mrs. L. Kerr
Mrs. M.B. van Heerden	Mr. D. Ackermann	Mrs. L. Kerr

GENERAL NOTES:

The competition on the best Patella collection which was held at our last meeting was a great success. Several very nice collections were shown, and the judges (Prof. J. Day and Mr. J. Ackermann) awarded the following prizes:-

- (1) Mrs. L. Kerr
- (2) Mrs. M.M. Pinkham
- (3) Mrs. H.M. Duffet.

We express our thanks to the judges and also to Mrs. Ackermann for kindly providing some trawled shells as prizes.

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Miss Peggy Kempthorne, in charge of the Shell Stall at "Treasure Island" Community Chest Carnival again this year, would like members of the Society to know that she has acquired a fine selection of shells for sale for charity.

The Carnival is to be held at De Waal Park on the 27th. and 28th. February, but with the approval of the convenors of "Treasure Island" Miss Kempthorne would like members to have first choice of collector's specimens. With this in view she proposes to throw open her flat to members on the afternoon of the 14th. February, and from 11.a.m. to 5.p.m. on the 15th. February. The address is 3 Alvanley, Main Road, Kenilworth, and it is adjacent to No. 45 bus-stop from Cape Town. Members wishing to purchase shells are requested to bring their own carriers, and those interested in exchanging Florida or Philippine shells for Australasian specimens should bring along their duplicates. The Indian Ocean shells available include fine specimens of Cassis Rufa, Murex Ramosa, Pterocera Aurantium and Chiragra, small Lambis, Cardiums, Conus Textile, Strombus, Harpa Ventricosa, and several species of Cypraea. These were all "live" shells and have been cleaned by Mrs. Kerr and Miss Kempthorne with the able assistance of Mrs. Bodinnar, a very odorous occupation.

There are shells from New Zealand and Australia and a large selection from Japan, these, if the order is properly fulfilled, will include Pecten Swifti, Chlamys Nobilis, Murex Triremis and Trocheli, Spondylus Barbatus, Hemifisus Ternatanus, Guildfordia Triumphans, Phalium Strigatum, Xenophora Exuta, Latiaxis Japonica, Tonna Luteostoma, Amusium Japonicus, Turbo Cornutus, Conus Tesseliatus and Obligni, Turricila Unedo, Chlamys Nipponensis, Ceratastoma Adunca, Liechkeia Alviniae, Collumbraria Pagoda, Rapena Thomaserina, Hippopus Hippopus and six Thatcheria Mirabilis.

The Community Chest Stall originated in 1956 with a fine donation of shells from Mauritius and every year has made a handsome profit for the Fund. This year, besides the shells mentioned above, there will be local shells, shell jewellery made very beautifully by Mrs. Waite of Jeffrey's Bay, and an exhibition of the work done at St. Joseph's Home, Philippi.

Mrs. Rielly of Jeffrey's Bay has made up an interesting collection of shells from that area with the local, very appropriate, names. This will be exhibited to the public at the Stall.

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A correspondent of Miss Peggy Kempthorne, Mr. H.J. Chapman, Waikaraka Park, Ohelunga, Auckland, New Zealand, says that he is actually a carcinologist and would like to contact somebody in South Africa who is interested in crabs, crayfish, etc.

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The Vacuum Oil Company of South Africa (Pty) Ltd. has kindly given us a number of tide-tables for distribution to our members. A copy is enclosed with this circular.

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The Durban Museum has forwarded us contents of a letter received from Mr. J. Guyaux, 141 rue du Prevost, Ixelles, Brussels, from which we note that he would like to exchange recent and fossil European shells for Indian Ocean material.

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From Mr. J. Kennelly we hear that Mrs. N. Jackson, 282 Anzac Parade, Kensington, New South Wales, Australia, wants to exchange shells with collectors in South Africa.

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According to Prof. Day, Dr. McTaggett-Cowan, Head of Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, also wants to exchange shells with South African collectors

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Mr. A. Rombouts writes that Dr. Hans Friedrich, Schneckenburgerstr. 15/1, 13b München 8, Germany, wants to exchange South African land- and fresh- water shells for European material.

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SHELL CABINETS:
by Mr. D.H. Kennelly.

Housing a collection of shells is one of the first problems to be solved by the conchologist, and lucky is the man who has a knowledge of carpentry and/or cabinet making, for he is able to design and make a suitable cabinet.

The writer designed a cabinet years ago, which was made by a carpenter friend. It proved very suitable, but the collection outgrew the space, and the following plan was adopted.

A linen cupboard was purchased, measuring 6 feet by 4 feet by 18 inches approximately. The four shelves were left intact, which gave five spaces counting from the bottom upwards.

These spaces, evenly divided, accommodated four shallow trays each, the latter being one inch in depth with hardboard bottoms.

One tray rests on the shelf, and the other three on narrow wooden runners screwed to the inside of the cupboard. The space between each of the trays worked out evenly at about four inches.

The doors of the cupboard are hinged so that they open fully, and enables a tray of shells to be taken out with ease for inspection.

When completed, the cupboard contained 20 trays, each approximately 4 feet by 18 inches, and the space of 4 inches between the trays accommodates all shells just short of that height.

The advantages of this system is that when closed up all light is excluded from specimens, and very little dust - if any - gets in.

Trays are easily removed for inspection or work on the shells.

Trays may be allotted to different genera, or a country if so desired.

However, the foregoing is meant only as a suggestion or guide to members, for each collector has his - or her - own idea as to the design of a suitable cabinet.

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NOTES ON SOUTH AFRICA MARINE SHELLS:
by Mr. D.H. Kennelly.

Charonia pustulata Euthyme.

Synonyms:- Triton nodifera Lamarck.
Nyctilochus pustulatus Euthyme.
Nyctilochus alfredensis Bartsch.
Gyrina pustulata Euthyme.

This species will always be sought for by collectors, as it is the largest and heaviest of the South African univalves.

Owing to the weight of the shell, large specimens are not often found on the beach. These usually become trapped in rock pools, and may be looked for at low water, especially after heavy weather. Perfect examples are seldom - if ever - found. The tips are invariably broken, due probably to the active life of the animal.

The range in South Africa is from the Natal coast, through Pondoland, the Transkeian coast (East London), Port Alfred, Port Elizabeth, Jeffrey's Bay, Mossel Bay and as far as False Bay.

According to information received from collectors in Cape Town, this species is not found in the cold water of the Atlantic, i.e. Table Bay or northwards past Saldanha Bay.

The following measurements of specimens in the writer's collection are given as a guide:-

One specimen ex Trawler off Bird Is. Algoa Bay in 30/40 fathoms. Length 225 m.m.
width of body whorl 125 m.m.

One shell ex Jeffrey's Bay. Length 170 m.m.
width 87 m.m.

The latter represents the average size of examples so far collected from rock pools at low water. Juvenile shells are smooth, and the nodules do not appear until the shell is about half grown, i.e. approximately 100 m.m.

An orange coloured variety also occurs, which is the shell described by Dr. Paul Bartsch as Nyctilochus alfredensis. Later it was found to be identical with the usual form with the exception of the colour.

The writer has collected several specimens of the form at Jeffrey's Bay, ranging from juveniles to one of 6 inches by 3 inches.

The latter is the largest so far collected or seen.

Dr. Barnard places this species under Gyrina, a procedure which seems to leave much to be desired.

For over fifty years this South African shell was known as Triton nodifera, Lamarck, and it was not until 1932 that Turton changed the genus to Nyctilochus. This latter name is quoted as a synonym of Charonia Gistel, 1848, in "Johnsonia", and Maxwell Smith gives Gyrina Schumacher 1817, as a synonym of Ranella Lamarck 1812.

In addition to South African specimens, the writer has examples from the Med. Sea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand - all placed under Charonia. All these shells bear a very close resemblance one another, and the writer is of the opinion that the South African shell should be under Charonia and not Gyrina, as the latter belongs to the old Ranella group.

The foregoing notes were submitted to Dr. W.J. Clench, Director of Mollusks, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., and this gentleman has advised that in his opinion the South African shells should certainly be placed under Charonia.

Dr. Clench has recently completed a Monograph on the Cymatidae and his opinion is based on his investigations into the group.

- References: "Die Sudafrikanischen Mollusken", F. Krauss, 1848.
"Marine Shells of South Africa", G.B. Sowerby, 1892.
"Marine Shells of Port Alfred", W.H. Turton, 1932.
"U.S.N.M. Bulletin 91, S.African Shells",
P. Bartsch.
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"Beginners Guide to South African Shells",
K.H. Barnard.