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X THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA X  
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CIRCULAR NO. 29.

FEBRUARY, 1962  
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MEETING:

The next meeting will be held in the Lecture Room of the S.A. Museum on Tuesday, 20th February, at 8.15 p.m. Dr G.J. Broekhuysen has kindly consented to show us his film on the Study of Estuarine animals in Portuguese East, while Prof. J.H. Day will give an address on Estuarine animals. We are fortunate indeed to have two such eminent lecturers and hope that members will turn up in full force. The families for display will be Estuarine Shells, e.g. Knysna Lagoon, Langebaan, etc. The Museum will also put out a selection.

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ABOUT MEMBERS:

Omitted from our last Circular - sorry !

At the meeting on 21. 11. 1961, Mr J.L. Staid-Staad, 123 Rue Clovis, Rheims, Marne, France, was elected a member.

The following new members were proposed:-

	<u>Proposed by:-</u>	<u>Seconded by:-</u>
Mrs B.G. Granville	Dr L. Vári	L. Kerr
Mrs T. Baldinger	L. Kerr	J. Walker

MEETING AT THE S.A. MUSEUM. 23.1.1962

This first meeting of the year was very well attended. Apologies were received from Prof. Day and Mr D. Ackermann. The minutes were read and confirmed. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr and Mrs Dirk Ackermann for the very pleasant "braai vleis" at our Xmas Party. Mrs Kuttel suggested that the members might like a shelling week-end at Jacobs Bay, near Darling, where there is a cottage for hire. After discussion, April 6th was put forward as a suitable date and Mrs Kuttel undertook to make enquiries.

The following were elected as members of the Society:-

Mrs B.G. Granville, c/o Lowveld Sisals (Pty) Ltd., P.O. Ofcolaco  
Mrs T. Baldinger, River Oaks, Esme Rd., Newlands, Cape.

<u>Proposed new members:-</u>	<u>Proposed by:-</u>	<u>Seconded by:-</u>
Master R. Pollard	L. Kerr	C. Swaneveld
Master P. Schaff	Dr Talbot	L. Kerr

Members brought along some very fine books on Conchology which were of interest to all.

Three excellent films were shown, for which we thank Mr C. Thorne of the Museum.

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The Secretary has received letters from the following, who wish to exchange shells:-

Mrs L.B. Shy, 3551 West Ave 42, Los Angeles 65, California.  
Mr J.P. Beust, Sedec Detail, B.P. 398 Leopoldville, Congo.  
Mr J.L. Staid-Staad, 123 Rue Clovis, Rheims, France, wants to exchange or purchase recent and tertiary shells, especially small ones, from any part of the world.

Mr R.D. Burch, 510 Hadley Street, Houston 3, Texas, U.S.A. is attempting to compile a colour-plate check-list of the Terebridae on a world basis, and urgently requires specimens

of this family from South Africa and the western Indian Ocean. He has a wide range of duplicates to offer in exchange, and is also prepared to buy specimens in good condition.

He is especially interested in obtaining the following:- Terebra lightfooti, kowiensis, planecosta, thielei, pura, myuros, evoluta, longicosta, circinata, spectabilis, Hastula apicitincta and Diplomeriza fictilis.

A handbook such as Mr Burch proposes will help to fill a long vacant gap in popular literature, and it is therefore hoped that collectors who have duplicates of the species listed above, or any other East Coast Terebras will get in touch with him.

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LIBRARY.

Queensland and Great Barrier Reef Shells by O.H. Rippingale and D.F. McMichael, has been added to our Library. As this beautiful book will be in great demand, members are asked not to keep it more than one month. Members are reminded that overdue books are charged 10c. a week.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Will members please notify the Secretary of change of address, otherwise your Circulars will not reach you.

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ARTICLES FOR CIRCULAR.

We would like to encourage more members to send in articles for publication. As the next Circular will be No. 30, could we make it a bumper one?

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STOP PRESS.

Mary Kuttel informs me that the cottage at Jacobs Bay will not be available, so the field excursuon will have to be postponed to a later date.

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GENERAL NOTES:

ARTICLE NO. 5                      BEACH SHELLS.      by J. & C. Walker

Continuing from our last article covering shells found under rocks, we will now go on to those found on sandy beaches.

The shells found alive on beaches are nearly always bivalves, although at times univalves are washed up, especially after storms. When looking for bivalves you must try to spot a small bubble hole and then dig quickly and you should catch your specimen. Some bivalves can travel very fast and may get away.

Often dead shells are found on the beach, indicating that they must be living fairly close inshore. If you then put on your bathing costume and go in to about waist deep, feeling around with your feet will produce surprising results. A word of warning, however, never venture far into the sea on any sandy beach where there is no seaweed or other flotsam washed up, for this indicates that there is only an outward current which may be dangerous.

During heavy storms, the sea bottom gets disturbed and it is then that deep-sea material may be found washed up. When the sea calms it is worth while walking along the beach. Do not give up hope if you walk one day and find nothing, for the next might produce some valuable find. Go regularly if you want results.

When vast quantities of fine sea-weed appear on the beach, scratch amongst it, turning it over, for it is probable that it has come from far out and there may be interesting shells amongst it.

Do not ignore heavy sea bamboo or red bait that comes up after storms. Break apart the roots of the bamboo and look amongst the pods of bait and you will be pleased with the result.

On most sandy beaches you will find trek fishermen, especially in the Cape Peninsula. When they trek and have removed their fish from the nets, look in the cod end of the net and in the weed they throw out and if you are lucky you will find many fine specimens this way.

Beach shelling is sometimes better at night with less chance of failing. As already stated, shells move and feed mostly at night. In some cases, beaches that have been absolutely barren in the daytime, at night are teeming with shells. (Bullia are usually the most abundant, although other larger shells may appear from under the sand). Always go at low tide for the night shelling, and never by yourself.

To finish off, here are some of the shells found on our sandy beaches:- Argonauta argo, (Paper nautilus) usually in winter, Cassis achatina (Helmet shell), Bullia (Wkelks of several kinds), Donax serra (White mussel), Fusus verruculatus, Tellina and hosts of others.

Finally, when collecting beach shells, rise early, for when they are washed up alive, the seagulls start eating them at first light.

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#### PAPYRIDAE PAPYRACEA (Syn. CARDIUM NATALENSE)

I would like to add to Mr Kennelly's notes on Papyridea natalensis (the paper-like periostracum and light build shows this to be a Papyridea rather than a Cardium). As shown by specimens in the Port Elizabeth Museum, this species ranges north at least as far as Inhambane and Paradise Island; the museum also has a number of fresh specimens from Jeffrey's Bag (leg. I. Biden). It is fairly common in Durban Bay, and also occurs in the Zwartkops estuary.

Nevertheless it was quite a surprise to find such a large and thriving colony in a public swimming pool. The McArthur Pool is tidal, and is fortunately only cleaned out at irregular intervals; it therefore supports a rich community of marine animals, including several that may not readily be collected elsewhere in the bay (a good example is the remarkable Tectibranch, Akera soluta, which is generally considered a rare species in South African waters).

I have a single valve from Durban measuring 61 mm. in length, 59 mm. in height; Algoa Bay shells are not nearly as big. Shape varies quite considerably, and I have also seen some with coarse 'blister-pearls'. Juveniles are very fragile and are pale lemon-yellow in colour, more or less blotched with red; with growth these blotches spread, until in most adults the whole interior becomes deep beetroot-red. Some however are much paler than others, and occasionally show irregular white markings.

In its habits Papyridea natalensis is a typical cockle. It lives on, or just below the surface of clean or slightly



BORDER NOTES. by D.H. Kennelly.

It may be of interest to members to learn that the East London Museum has a very fine specimen of the extremely rare Cypraea (Bernaya) fultoni, ex Natal from the late Mr Bell Marley. This information is given as so many collectors wish to see some of the rarer shells of South Africa, and frequently the enquirer does not know where to visit.

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EASTERN PROVINCE NOTES. by D.H. Kennelly.

As mentioned in Circular No. 27, page 5, our keen and lucky collector - Mr E.C. Wicks - has furnished some details of his collecting trip in December, when he visited various localities in the Transkei.

"Ginger's" initial announcement to the writer was that he had been successful in collecting some 30/40 worthwhile examples of various species, and he had also collected some 120 odd new squeaks and rattles in his car. The latter were the result of the bad roads he had to travel in order to reach collecting grounds.

However at the Umtata River mouth our friend secured an exceptionally fine specimen of Cypraea caputserpentis - alive - and it is one of the largest of the species the writer has seen. In addition were specimens of Monodonta australis, and Thais rudolphi, with more good examples of various species, known from elsewhere.

At Morgan Bay good specimens of Marginella mosaica, and ornata, were secured.

At Jeffrey's Bay more good specimens of both these Marginella were found, together with two or three good specimens of Cypraea fuscorubra.

Readers will note that our friends luck as a collector has not yet deserted him, and the whole trip was well worth while.

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CAPE NOTES. by L. Kerr.

Mrs C. Connolly is building up a reference collection of local small shells that have been collected alive and kindly identified by Dr K.H. Barnard. These will be displayed at every meeting, so bring along your doubtful material with correct locality and date labels, pinned in celophane packets to a sheet of paper and we will try and help identify your shells.

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Some rare shells have been found recently. Mrs Connolly found a sinistral Afritrophon agulhasensis at Olifantsbos 6.1.62 and presented it to the S.A. Museum. Not content with this piece of luck, she obtained a large Tonna variegata (syn. porcellarum) 4 1/2" x 3 1/2", brought in by the Trek net at Buffels Bay, Cape Point. This is the first time this species has been recorded from that area. It is a beautiful specimen in perfect condition.

The writer was given a fine Fusivoluta pyrrhostoma Watson 79mm x 29mm, trawled off Cape Columbine in 250 fathoms. The animal was still inside.

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