

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 14

OCTOBER, 1960  
(Re-printed 1977)

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MEETING:

Members are invited to our next meeting which will be held on Thursday, October 13th, at 8 p.m. in the lecture room of the S.A. Museum, Cape Town.

The family for display and discussion will be the FASCIOLARIIDAE, which includes Fasciolaria, Fusus, Latirus and Peristernia.

Agenda:-

- (1) Minutes of the last meeting
- (2) Matters arising out of the minutes.
- (3) Election of members
- (4) Proposal of members
- (5) Any other business
- (6) Prof. Day will speak about the shell survey of False Bay.
- (7) Tea interval
- (8) Films: (a) "The Revealing Eye" showing the use of the camera in scientific research.  
(b) "Story in the Rocks", a paleontological film, in which some fossil shells are shown.

During tea there will be an opportunity of discussing the displayed material as well as for exchange of shells.

At our next meeting on November 8th, the families for display will be PLEUROTOMARIIDAE, HALIOTIDAE and FISSURILIDAE (See pages 119 - 122 of Barnard's book), as this will be our Annual General Meeting, it is hoped that Members will make a special effort to attend. Further details in our next Circular

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ABOUT MEMBERS:

Proposed Member: At our last meeting, Mr John Grindley was proposed by Mrs L. Kerr and seconded by Mr C. Swaneveld.

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MEETING HELD AT U.C.T. ON 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1960

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed and new members elected and proposed. Items in the General Notes of Circular No. 13 were discussed. Commenting on the article on Cones by Mr le Roux, Christopher Walker said that after handling some Cape cones he found pimples between his fingers, seemingly indicating a certain amount of poison present. Mrs Connolly found a *Conus lavendulus* at Gonubie Mouth, East London, 10.7.60, eating a thais, which was still in perfect condition. The cone's proboscis was pushed well in behind the foot of the thais. Also observed were some *Conus elongatus*, taken alive at Fish Hoek, 15.2.60. After placing in formaldehyde, each of these was found to have a 2" portion of worm folded in the lip - presumably spat out on retraction. This worm is *Pseudonereis variegata* and is used by fishermen. *Conus elongatus* taken alive at Kommetjies, 4.9.60, found with 15 cemented egg bases plus one with the cone containing 10 eggs. *Haliotis parva* was reported to be quite common at Saldanha Bay.

Mr Walker suggested that members should bring to meetings the shells mentioned in the General Notes of the latest circular, for the benefit of those to whom the shells were not familiar. He also suggested that members who go on shelling trips should send in information about shells found at that particular spot, if any, so that others need not waste time in going to an unsuitable place.

The Shell Survey list was discussed - see Prof Day's article and list in our next circular.

Mr Frank Talbot, Marine Biologist of the S.A. Museum, then

gave a most interesting and informative talk on deep sea trawling, illustrating with slides, mostly of fish, and some specimens of trawled shells.

During tea interval, the shells on display, Buccinidae, were examined and discussed.

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GENERAL NOTES:

Mrs Joyce Barnes has forwarded us the following addresses of people wanting to exchange shells:-

Mrs Ellie Durbridge, Point Lookout, Stradbroke Is., via Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Miss C. Mackness, Clump Point, El Avish, Queensland, Australia.

Mrs C.M. Connolly, who has suffered all her life from "bait rash" after jelly from very small anemones on bait or rocks has been on her hands for an hour or so suggests that anybody who suffers from the same complaint, should carry a small bottle of vinegar to treat the hands after having touched such stinging anemones.

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IDLE THOUGHTS OF AN IDLE COLLECTOR:  
(With apologies to Jerome K. Jerome)  
by D.H. Kennelly.

The heading is not quite correct, for in reality the keen shell collector is never idle. Usually his - or her - spare time is allotted to the collection, and is filled with sorting, re-arranging, labelling, or looking up references in books about Mollusca generally.

This week my thoughts turned to collecting places, and there are many small localities on our coast, which have never been properly explored for shells.

One such place is Cape St. Francis, where the lighthouse is situated. Many years ago this locality was very difficult of access - you used a bullock wagon, or rode on horseback to get there.

With the advent of motor transport, the road to the lighthouse has been improved sufficiently to enable a car to be used.

This is a locality worth a visit, and shells should be in profusion. Even the possibility of a new discovery is present.

In the vicinity of Port Alfred there are several places worth attention, such as Kariega, Kasouga, Riet River and the Three Sisters. Possibly our colleague - Mr J.S. Hutt - could supply further detail.

The late W.H. Turton mentions in his book that he was told of a species of large Clam occurring near the mouth of the Great Fish River. I have never seen a specimen, but if one is found it may prove to be a species of Tridacna?

The Transkei and Pondoland coasts cover an interesting area for shell collecting, particularly the small camping localities.

There are many species to be found, some of which do not occur further south. Several shells - new to science - were collected and described in the Journal of Conchology about 50 years ago, all of which came from the area mentioned.

I would suggest that members endeavour to investigate one or more of the localities listed, and may good fortune attend their efforts.

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A HINT FOR COLLECTORS:

by D.H. Kennelly.

The following treatment is recommended for all specimens of *Conus*, *Cypraea*, *Oliva*, *Ancilla* and other genera of smooth shells.

It also applies to bivalves such as *Tellina*, *Macra*, and kindred genera.

Dampen a small piece of flannelnette - or other soft material with a good Mineral Oil, the well-known household "3 in 1" Oil is excellent for the purpose.

Thoroughly wipe the surface of the shells with the oily material, and you will be surprised how the specimens shine and the colours are freshened. Do the same to the interior of large univalves such as *Cheronia* and *Haliotis* etc.

This treatment not only brings out the natural colour of the shell, but it protects the shell against the action of the air and your specimen will look fresh for many years if kept away from direct sunlight.

Do NOT use Shellac, Vaseline, or Vegetable Oil on your shells you are looking for trouble if you do.

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