

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CIRCULAR NO. 15

NOVEMBER, 1960
(Re-printed 1977)

PAGE 1.

MEETING:

Our next meeting will be a field day on Sunday, 4th December, at Dawids Kraal. Low tide is at 10.00 a.m., so meet on the beach at least an hour before. Dawids Kraal is on the other side of Betty's Bay, about eight miles before Kleinmond, at Picnic Spot No. 1. Bring lunch or something to "braai", also wood. After lunch we will decide whether to go to Hermanus, so as to obtain estuarine shells. If so we will meet at the Green House Café, beyond Hermanus, where the tarred road ends, at 2 p.m.

ABOUT MEMBERS:

At the meeting held at the S.A. Museum on 13th October, the following was elected:-

Mr John Grindley, S.A. Museum, Cape Town.

Proposed members:-

Mr R.N. Kilburn, proposed by Mr Kennelly, seconded by L. Kerr
Mrs Hodgkinson, " " Mr Greeff, " " L. Kerr

MEETING HELD AT THE S.A. MUSEUM. 13.10.1960.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of Prof Day, Mrs Kerr was in the chair. A special welcome was extended to Mrs Helene Boswell of Pretoria and to our Honorary Member, Dr K.H. Barnard, who, for the first time, was able to be present. The minutes of the last meeting were read, and after the following amendment, were confirmed.

AMENDMENT:

In Circular No. 14, Page 2 - *Haliotis parva* is found at Kleinmond and *Bullia digitalis* at Saldanha Bay.

Two very interesting films were shown, "The Revealing Eye" and "Story in Rocks", the latter being especially good. Our thanks to Mr Talbot for procuring and projecting them. During tea, the shells on display were discussed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held at the University of Cape Town on November 8th, 1960. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The following members were elected:-

Mr R.N. Kilburn, Durban House, Western Road, Port Elizabeth.
Mrs Hodgkinson, 35 Dennekamp, Main Road, Wynberg, C.P.

Proposed:

Miss J. Williams, proposed by Mrs Pelletier, seconded by Miss Kempthorne.

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1960

It is with great pleasure that in this second Annual Report we can record a further growth of our Society.

At the end of last year our Society had a total of 98 members. During the period under discussion a further 31 members joined the Society as against two resignations so that on June 30th we had a total of 126 members.

Unfortunately during the past year fewer meetings were held than in the previous year.

Circulars 8, 9, 10 and 11 were published with a total of 14 pages. It is pleasing to note that more and more members are submitting material for these circulars, and we hope that this interest will continue.

Again Mrs Kerr has been the driving force and your Society would not be what it is today without her.

We wish to thank Prof Day and the University of Cape Town for kindly making

rooms available to us as well as the Director of the South African Museum where also several meetings were held.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1960

The Society's finances during the year under review have been satisfactory and with the increase in membership they should continue to allow us to cover our expenses. Furthermore they should enable us to allocate a substantial amount to the library fund so that in the not too distant future the Society should have a good reference library of a number of works on world-wide sea shells as well as most of the publications on South African shells.

The state of our finances on 30th June, 1960 is as follows:-

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand 1.7.59	N.B.S.	£ 54.19. 7.
Balance on hand 1.7.59	Cash	8. 2. 2.
Entrance Fees		7. - . -
Subscriptions 1958/1959		1. 5. - .
Subscriptions 1959/1960		19. 2. 6.
Subscriptions 1960/31/1961		2. 2. 6.
Exchange and interest		- . 4. - .
Donations		2. 2. - .
Life-membership fees		14. - . - .
		<hr/>
		£108.17. 9.
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PAYMENTS:

Postages Secretary		2. 8. 3.
General expenses		6. 5. - .
Expenses for Circulards:		
Circ.No. VIII	- .18. - .	
Circ.No. IX	3. 6. 7.	
Circ No. X	1.18. 7.	
Circ No. XI	2.10. 9.	
		<hr/>
		8.13.11.
Balances on hand 30.7.60		
at N.B.S.	85. 8. 7.	
Cash	12. - . 7.	
		<hr/>
		97. 9. 2.
		<hr/>
		£108.17. 9.
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May I again ask the members to make your Treasurer's task easy by paying their dues without waiting for a reminder.

The ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY of SOUTHERN AFRICA will hold a conversazione on "Zoological Research in the Western Cape" at the new Zoology building at the University of Cape Town, from Monday, 13th February to Saturday, 18th February, 1961. The following Societies will be taking part: Wild Life Protection Society (Western Cape Branch), The Cape Bird Club, The Conchological Society, The Cape Natural History Club, The Department of Nature Conservation, Department of Fisheries Research, Department of Entomology, Fruit Research, University of Cape Town. On the opening night, Monday, 13th February, admission will be by invitation. These will be sent to our members at a later date, together with a programme of lectures and films to be shown. Demonstrations will be arranged on current research work and zoological activities will be set up by individuals, departments and Societies in the laboratories in the new building.

Our Society is putting on an exhibit of Western Cape (Saldanha Bay to Mossel Bay) shells, and this was discussed. Mrs Kerr, Mrs Connolly and Mr Walker were appointed to organise this exhibit. Will members please notify the Secretary as to which shells they would like to exhibit.

A letter was then read from Mr P. Elston, of Durban, proposing that a supplementary circular from the Eastern Province be issued, Mr Kennelly to be Editor. The meeting was pleased at such enthusiasm, and agreed in principle, referring the matter to the Council for further discussion.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

As Prof. Day will be overseas next year for ten months, he could not stand for re-election and his office becomes vacant. Mr Swaneveld was proposed and unanimously elected in his place, thus leaving the Secretaryship open. Mrs L. Kerr was proposed and duly elected. We wish to take this opportunity of thanking Prof Day and Mr Swaneveld for so ably piloting us through our first two years.

The following were elected to the Council:-

President:	Mr C. Swaneveld
Vice-President	Mr F.H. Talbot
Secretary:	Mrs L. Kerr
Treasurer:	Mr J.N. Ackermann
Council Members:	Mr J.N. Ackermann
	Mr J. Walker
	Mr J. Grindley

Prof J.H. Day then gave his Presidential Address on the Mollusca of False Bay, illustrated with slides in colour of the various shells. (See General Notes)

During tea, the beautiful displays of Haliotidae etc. were examined. Mrs Ackermann's *Pleurotomaria hivasei* was much admired, also Mrs Weakley's collection of foreign Haliotis.

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A list of the Shells of False Bay is enclosed with this Circular. Further copies may be obtained from the Secretary, price 5/- or 50 cents each. Additional maps are 2d or 2c each. Back copies of the Circular are 1/- or 10c each

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A new List of Members up to 25th October is now ready, and may be obtained on request.

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Will members please forward all subscriptions direct to the Treasurer.

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It is with regret that we record the sudden death of one of our Junior Members, Miss Peggy Broomfield, aged 15 years, from double pneumonia. Peggy will be sadly missed.

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Congratulations to our Junior Member, Miss Penny Ismay, for gaining First Prize at the recent Hobbies Fair, for her collection of shells.

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Mrs L. Quinn has recently been in hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery after her operation. We missed her ever willing help at the last meeting.

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Mrs Iris Cohen, who is making her leisurely way to teh Italian Riviera, writes from Mombassa:-

"Zanzibar is so different and exciting with its thick-walled old Arab buildings, narrow little streets and beautiful old brass-studded doors that are a feature of the place. We have found clams live here, also Lambis, *Cypraea annulus*, *caurica*, *lynx*, *moneta*, *tigris*, *vitellus*, and *talpa*, huge *Nerita polita*, *Pecten varios* and *Vasums*. We came over to Mombassa in the Sultan's yacht! At Mombassa we collected all the above cowries, *Melongena paradisica*, *Conus tessalatus*, *hebraeus* and *flavidus*, *Fasciolaria trapezium*, *Harpa*, *Tonna* and *Mitra stricta*."

Good luck, Iris! Please let us know of your further finds.

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Mr Jack Walker and Christopher are going on a shelling tour up to the Wild Coast during the school holidays, and intend calling on many of our members on the way. We will be interested to hear of their shelling adventures on their return.

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Mrs Joan Weakley sails for the United Kingdom and the Continent on 9th, December, for ten months. We wish her bon voyage, and happy shelling.

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We regret to advise that Miss M. Cliff has resigned from the Society.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mrs I. Fynn, "Bronte", Baines Ave, Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.

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GENERAL NOTES

THE MOLLUSCA OF FALSE BAY, by J.H. Day, Proffeoosr of Zoology, University of Cape Town.

Many members of the Conchological Society who live near Cape Town and are collecting on the shores of False Bay have asked for a list of the mollusca which live there. They want to know what are the valid names they should use and which of the species that they find are well known from the area and which ones are rare or new. Unfortunately many names have been used for South African shells - some of them because workers have identified their collections incorrectly and others which are synonyms. Then again there are many incorrect locality records due to faulty cataloguing of collectors or the inclusion of dead shells which have been carried long distances by waves and currents. Dr Barnard of the South African Museum is trying to bring order out of the chaos. He is trying to sort out the tangled synonymy and to list the names which should be applied to our shells and indicate the limits of the known distribution of the species he has been able to examine.

The Zoology Department of the University of Cape Town is interested in the same sort of work. We wish to analyse the distribution of all bottom living animals in South African seas - shells, crabs, shrimps, starfish, worms and all the other marine animals. We want to learn how far they extend along our coast, at what depth they live and whether they live on sand beaches or rocky shores or in the muddy bottom of the deep sea. So we have been identifying and cataloguing all the animals we have collected. When we can't identify animals ourselves we send them to experts who can, whether these experts live in England, Germany or Australia or elsewhere. All our molluscs of course go to Dr Barnard.

We have been careful of course to limit our collections to living animals. Any dead shell we dredge up may not have been living where we dredge and might thus give us incorrect information as to its habitat or depth range. So we discard it. Often we have had to throw away most interesting shells for this reason but one must be consistent.

One of the areas in which we have been working most intensively is False Bay. We have collected along the shore since 1932 and more recently we have dredged all over the bay. We have also obtained many specimens by diving and Dr John Morgans who worked here for several years obtained many new records in this way. We have also checked through the literature and added to our lists the records made by earlier workers. In this way we have accumulated in our card indexes an impressive list of the animals which live in False Bay, and I have attached a list of all the living molluscs which are known to occur there, not only the "shelled forms" like Prosobranch Gastropods and Pelecypods, but also the "sea slugs" (Tectibranchs and Nudibranchs) and the "octopi and squids" (Cephalopods). We have marked with a cross those species of which we have named specimens in our collections and have added information in regard to the depth range at which we have collected them, and the type of bottom on which they occur. We have also listed the various synonyms under which they have been described in early lists. These may give a clue to incorrect names which should no longer be used. All this latter information, of course, has been obtained from Dr Barnard who kindly looked through our lists.

We hope that the list may be of use to members of the Conchological Society who are making collections in False Bay. We in turn would be very pleased to have their help. As the lists will show, there are many species recorded from False Bay that we do not have in our collections. There are probably many other

which are still unknown in this area or have only been recorded from deep water, while they are actually living on the shores as well. There is a great deal of valuable work to be done by anyone who wishes to help. But (and this is a big "but") our check list is only of value so long as it does not contain incorrect records. All the records must be limited to living specimens with a careful statement of where it was obtained and the date. Moreover the shells must be identified by an expert. We will be pleased to get any specimen identified that collectors wish to send in.

To be explicit we should like anyone who wishes to help to send in specimens of living molluscs preserved in formalin with a note of the locality and date. We will identify the specimen (or send it to Br Barnard if there is any doubt) and later return it unless it is a new record for False Bay, in which case we would like to keep it and add it to our reference collection.

Should collectors in other parts of South Africa be interested in this sort of work in their own area, I may add that we have similar but much less complete check lists of many localities along our coast, e.g. Saldanha Bay, Port Elizabeth and Durban. If conchologists undertake to work with us we will circulate similar lists of these areas at a later date.

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Secretary: Mrs L. Kerr,
Ryde Villa,
Kenilworth Rd,
Kenilworth, C.P.

Treasurer: Mr J.N. Ackermann,
Dunblane,
Firth Road,
Rondebosch, C.P.