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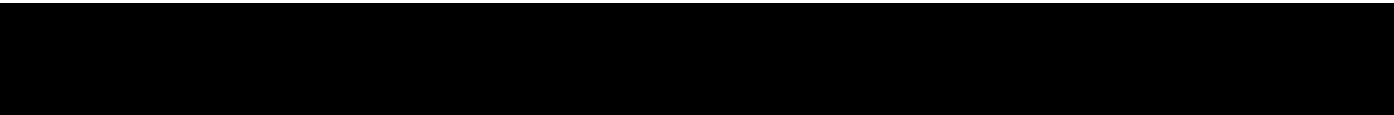
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COLLECTIONS HANDLED BY CONCHOLOGY, INC.

Guido T. Poppe
July 21, 2005



COLLECTIONS HANDLED BY CONCHOLOGY, INC. THE DAWN AND MICHAEL MEYER COLLECTION

Guido T. Poppe

email: guido@conchology.be

The collection of South African marine molluscs was formed over 35 years of collecting by Dawn and Michael Meyer. Both Dawn and Michael started collecting during their early years. After some years collecting worldwide shells, they decided to specialize in the molluscs of the South African region.



Later when Dawn & Michael were married, they collected extensively on South African shores, travelling over 10,000 kilometres each year to new and past collecting grounds.

Specimens were exchanged and purchased to fill in the missing gaps. Deep water shells were acquired from trawler men and dredgers.



VOLUTIDAE - *Lyria ponsonbyi*

Smaller collections were purchased and incorporated in the main reference collection. Large numbers of specimens were kept in the reference collection to show variety in colour and shape and often when new species were named a search through the collection would yield a specimen.

In 1993 Dawn and Michael opened their Sea Shell Museum at Shelly Beach on the south coast of Natal, South Africa, which displayed their worldwide collection. It became a major tourist attraction on the coast.



TURBINIDAE
Bolma andersoni

Due to the worsening crime situation in South Africa they relocated to Australia in 2001 where they still operate their Sea Shell Museum at Hervey Bay on the Queensland Coast. Dawn and Michael still collect, but specialize only in Mother of Pearl and are building up a world class collection of antique artefacts that were made of, or were carved from mother of pearl.

Conchology, Inc. was very happy to purchase their outstanding collection in 2003. Shells are filmed, documented and offered to the public. Later, a database will be put online, including as well the sold as not sold items, so that this huge collection, a lifetime's work, becomes a major tool for students on South African shells.

Many items are an addition to the existing literature. Together with the important bibliographical books on this region (Kensley (1973), Kilburn & Rippey (1982) and Steyn & Lussi (1998) all of us get a better understanding of this strange fauna which saddles two oceans and covers as well a cold as a subtropical area.

COLLECTIONS HANDLED BY CONCHOLOGY, INC. THE PHILLIPE MARTIN COLLECTION

Conchology, Inc. got the privilege to acquire one of the better aesthetic collections of Belgium: the Philippe Martin Collection.

Philippe Martin started collecting in the early seventies and purchased shells up till very recently. He travelled abroad regularly and occasionally collected himself. His passion went definitely to the *Cypraeidae* of which he could acquire a very complete set. Because of his long-term enthusiasm the collection became rich in Australian *Zoila* fished by the Taiwanese, the early South Africans and the many obscure small species and forms seldom offered. He succeeded in impressive sets from different localities for many of the common cowries. Apart from *Cypraeidae* there is a nice set of the more famous *Conus*, a collection of *Trivia* and *Ovulids* and many aesthetically attractive shells. He also wrote some papers on cowries and described among others *C. stolidus kwajaleinensis*. Because the shells purchased with the Martin collection have not been fished on order of Conchology, Inc., we can occasionally offer the species he owned that are now partly protected in the Philippines.

Philippe disposed of his collection to invest more in another one of his passions: the study of the history and discovery of the Arctic and Antarctica, a subject on which he also wrote a booklet recently.

COLLECTIONS HANDLED BY CONCHOLOGY, INC. THE A.R. ARTHUR COLLECTION

Alex Arthur started collecting shells in the 1970's while living in Rome. Early on in his collecting, he met and became friends of Mario Angioy and Kety Nicolay, publishers of "La Conchiglia" magazine. This friendship and meetings with many other collectors from the S.I.M (Società Italiana di Malacologia) encouraged him to build an important collection of European shells and some families worldwide.

In the 1980's he wrote the bestselling book : *Eyewitness Shell*, and advised on the *Eyewitness Handbook* written by S.P. Dance. He was also editor of *Pallidula*, the Newsletter of the British Shell Collector's club and worked with Guido Poppe on his first volume on European Shells.

As a field collector, Alex concentrated on European shells, but as a worldwide collector, he moved through *Cowries* and other popular groups, to a much more esoteric selection of families, creating important study collections of *Nassaridae*, *Architectonicidae*, tropical *Buccinidae* and some other small families. His main interest and knowledge lay in the *Ranellidae*, and his collection finally found a home in a New Zealand Scientific institution under the custodianship of Alan G. Beu.

During his studies he encountered several new taxa and notably described two : *Nassarius adami* (Arthur and Fernandes) and *Cymatium* (Septa) *mixtum* (Arthur and Talavera). Other taxa have been named in his honour, for example, *Cymatium sinense arthuri* (Beu).

The remaining collection of European and none-European shells which will be sold over the coming months, contains many rare, obscure and exceptional 'specialist' shells... for the connoisseur and with meticulously collected data.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT Philippe Poppe
DIRECTOR Guido T. Poppe

ADDRESS Conchology, Inc.
Cebu Light Industrial Park
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu 6015
Philippines

**DESIGN &
GRAPHICS** Dulce Rose P. Lada

TELEPHONE NO. +63 32 495 9990
FAX NO. +63 32 495 9991

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

All Authors Are Invited

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Conchology, Inc.
Cebu Light Industrial Park,
Basak, Lapu-Lapu City
Cebu 6015, Philippines
website: www.conchology.be
email: philippe@conchology.be
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