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**FAKE SHELLS FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

Guido T. Poppe  
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# FAKE SHELLS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

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Among the latest inventions are ALBINO shells hard to distinguish from genuine ones. Let it be a warning that for the moment a few artists succeed in making albino's on demand.

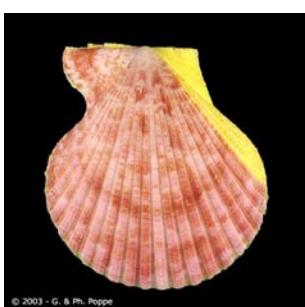
One of the less evident to discover fakes are *mappa* with fake dorsal lines. We here show two genuine *mappa* on the left, and two faked ones on the right. In most cases, natural *mappa* will develop a line around the dorsal line and flecks. In the faked ones, this line is absent. However, exceptions exist...

I suspect this is done by treating the shell with acids and repolishing it completely. Collectors of fakes have one more item to join to the collection.



Fake shells is a new speciality in the shell world. You must be prepared when you buy such shells. They are very hard to dismantle.

Currently, there are 74 fake shells.



*Chlamys senatoria*

Unusual upper valve, very rare colour combination. But the back valve is yellow and glued from another specimen, in order to render a bivalve sample plausible.



*Conus bocki*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light.



*Conus capitaneus*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.



*Conus capitaneus*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus figulinus*

Upper part of the shell polished and smoothed.

*Conus generalis*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus distans*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus distans*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus circumcisus*

This is a great fake. There are several specimen as such existing. We could obtain this one and viewed another example. The bands are probably created by heating (natural colour: search Conchology). The colour change goes into the aperture and the thing looks plausible.

*Conus consors*

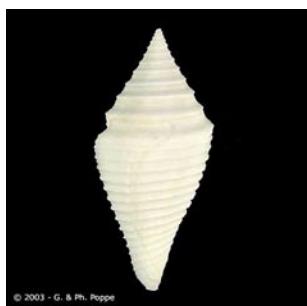
A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light.

*Conus marmoreus*

Cooked and now orange. Also to obtain with microwave oven or just an oven. The real orange marmoreus exists. It is very uncommon in New Caledonia and frankly very rare in the southern Philippines. Less than half a dozen samples have been collected in the Philippines.

*Conus marmoreus*

This fake took lots of hours: the black has been removed between white blotches in order to get this amazingly beautiful specimen. Check sculptures by microscope if the colour of your marmoreus looks TOO beautiful.

*Conus praecellens*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light.

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A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light.

*Conus samiae*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light.

*Conus pergrandis*

An oversized *pergrandis*, made out of giant *Conus leopardus*, then reshaped with fiberglass and painted.

*Conus magus*

Acid treated to obtain this colour.

*Conus magus*

Outer layer removed with acid. This is the result.

*Conus pulicarius*

The spots have been removed by heating. The colour looks plausible, but it's not natural.

*Conus magus*

Outer layer removed with acid. This is the result.

*Conus striatus*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus textile*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus textile*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus textile*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Conus virgo*

The very well done left handed *virgo*. A similar specimen was sold to an experimented dealer one year ago for 400\$. (The price setting should have warned the dealer: local dealers will not sell a real left handed *virgo* that cheap!!) Consists of two parts of different shells glued together, the change well hidden below a fake periostracum.

*Conus virgo*

Upper part of the body whorl heated. Great shell as such.

*Corculum cardissa*

Valves of two different specimen.

*Ctenocardia victor*  
*Polished*

This is an unusual fake and it is the single specimen I have ever seen. Bought this shell on Balicasag Island and it was offered in the real way: between live specimen!! The *victor* has been sand polished to remove the spines and it looks indeed as another species. The fisherman was very proud of his job and got a great smile when I detected the fraud.



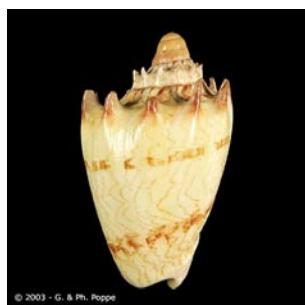
### *Cymatium pileare*

The very well done left handed *pileare*. Consists of two parts of different shells glued together, the change well hidden below a fake periostracum.



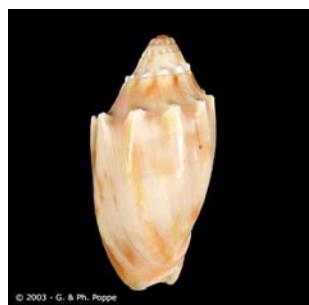
### *Cymatium pileare*

The very well done left handed *pileare*. Consists of two parts of different shells glued together, the change well hidden below a fake periostracum.



### *Cymbiola imperialis*

From Zamboanga: heated and great colour as a result.



### *Cymbiola vespertilio*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.



### *Cymbiola vespertilio*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light. Real natural albino exist, but these are very very rare.



### *Cypraea arabica*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color. This type of fake exists about 3 centuries: the outer layer has been removed and a deep purple dorsum is the result. Linnaeus described a similar shell as *Cypraea amethystina*.



### *Cypraea carneola leviathan*

Top of the game in fakes: we wish this exists in nature, but it doesn't. Heated in a special way this *leviathan* got a great pattern. This reminds us that the same treatment was done on land snails of the genus *Helicostyla* more than a hundred years ago. See Parkinson, Groh and Hemmen.



### *Cymbiola vespertilio*

Magnificent shell with a fake spiral band and superb colour. From Zamboanga.



### *Cypraea arabica*

Good idea to join some pink. Looks very strange.



### *Cymbiola vespertilio*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.



### *Cymbiola vespertilio*

Heated in order to get this rare colour.



### *Cypraea caurica*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Cypraea chinensis*

Heated: a rare colour form.

*Cypraea chinensis*

Heated: a rare colour form.

*Cypraea chinensis*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Cypraea chinensis*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Cypraea errones*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Cypraea errones bimaculata*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Cypraea roselli*

The pink colour on the dorsum of this dead found *rosselli* adds a tinge of fantasy and refers the shell to top kitch.

*Cypraea mappa*

Nice fake with pale colour bands. Dream shell.

*Cypraea mappa*

A much sought after fake, but not often available and rather expensive to buy. A dwarf *mappa* coated with a fake rostration and then painted. Looks almost real. Fortunately the fakers do not know there is no mantle line as such on New Caledonian blacks: their fantasy got wild and they made the fake better and more beautiful than the real thing. Here art starts.

*Cypraea mauritiana*

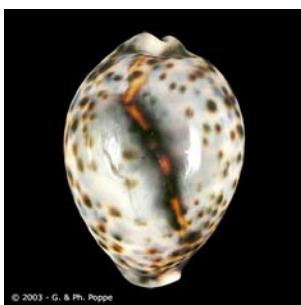
Second of its type: the shape of the base has been cut out in a heavy *mauritiana*. I was once trapped by this fake (having sold years ago the real thing - I thought this was another one). Fortunately, before selling I detected unusual colour in the grooves (caused by the shell layers) and under the microscope the truth was revealed. Sold to me by another European dealer who got the shell from the faker.

*Cypraea leucodon*

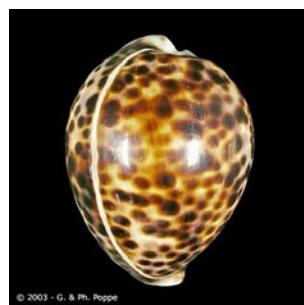
This *leucodon* changed in colour during the year. When we bought it the colour was perfectly olive. A real *leucodon*, coated and repainted. This often happens with dead shells that are virtually impossible to sell. Many collectors got trapped, to the great joy of the local fakers.

*Cypraea miliaris*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light. Natural white specimen exist.

*Cypraea tigris*

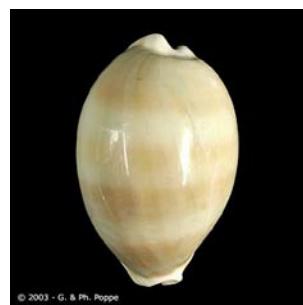
Polishing puts this tiger among the very strange forms.

*Cypraea tigris*

The mantle line has been cut out artificially.

*Cypraea tigris*

Heating caused this splendid orange spot.

*Cypraea vitellus*

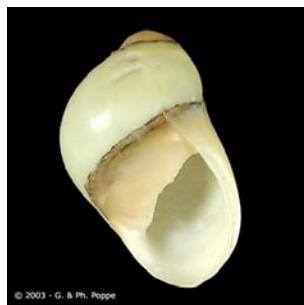
Again, these bands are not natural. Very perfect fake.

*Drupa ricina*

By heating the yellow was removed. The real thing exists.

*Neritina species*

Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Neritina species*

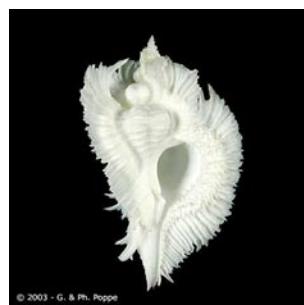
Polished to obtain this exceptional color.

*Malea pomum*

Better than anything natural: great pink.

*Mitra mitra*

Before turning completely white the *mitra* gets bright yellow. They thought collectors may be interested.

*Murex miyokoae*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light. Not to confuse with a similarly shaped rare species from the Solomons!!

*Harpa articularis*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light.

*Harpa harpa*

A pale *harpa*: heating gives this ugly result.

*Oliva annulata*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light. The real albino exists in the Zamboanga area, but we obtained only two naturally white ones in all these years!!

*Oliva lignaria*

Before turning completely white this *Oliva* becomes dirty orange. They thought collector s may be interested.

*Oliva lignaria*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light. The real albino exists!!

*Spondylus multimuricatus*

The few, less than a dozen ever found, YELLOW *multimuricatus* all obtained big prices on Mactan. So, why not give it a try. This shell has an unusual colour, obtained by heating, but the result is far away from the yellow.

*Pleuroloca trapezium*

Polished: so the spiral lines become very attractive.

*Turris cf. hidalgovi*

The fakers thought that some purple on this *Turris* may render the shell what it lost in quality.

*Vasum turbinellum*

Artificial brown *turbinellum*. The real thing exists, but is quite uncommon.

*Volema myristica*

A fake ALBINO shell. First heated to get dirty cream white and then put on the roof as they say on Mactan to get perfectly white through intensive sun light.

*Xenophora granulata*

Most pieces glued.

*Xenophora konoi*

Most pieces glued.

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