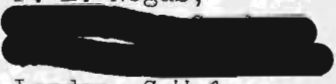


THE
CONCHOLOGISTS' NEWSLETTER

No. 19

December 1966

Compiled by: P. E. Negus,


London, S.W.1.

Produced by 'The Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland'

SECRETARIAL THOUGHTS

In reviewing the Society and its work, it is perhaps true to say that the kind of enthusiasm which leads someone to study a slightly unusual subject such as shells will in most cases lead him to join the society principally dealing with that subject. The more popular your choice of study, the less likely you are to join the relevant society. You can get most of the information you need to maintain an enthusiasm for British Birds, for instance, or Rose Growing, by buying or borrowing a selection of the torrent of books which pours continually from the World's presses, and by talking to your neighbours, who are quite possibly interested in the same subjects. This does not, of course, prevent the national associations dealing with these matters from being very large and powerful, but whereas National Rose Societies, with about a hundred thousand members, may well represent only about ten percent of those seriously interested in the subject, I believe that our own Society, with under four hundred members, probably covers at least ninety percent of British Conchologists - and even then it must be remembered that a third of our membership lives abroad, scattered over the World, and representing practically every nation there is.

Apart from catering for those already interested, any society to remain vigorous must try to create interest, in other words to make 'converts', and this process works in various ways, either through existing individual members or through publicity of one kind or another. Almost every popular article or radio talk on shells, most of them by a member, will bring in a trickle of letters of enquiry; and no doubt some of those who read this may remember their own introduction to the subject as having resulted from an impulse of the kind. Once a preliminary interest has been aroused sufficiently for a letter of enquiry to be written, it is up to the Secretary to sustain it, and to encourage the feeling that the new-found study will be at least as interesting as first impressions suggested. My own powers in this direction are somewhat limited, and in any case one comes to a realisation that not all enquirers are potential (or even desirable) members. Correspondence includes a surprising number of letters from people who wish to know the best way to stick shells on boxes with the object of making money. At one time, when I tried to give helpful answers, I almost decided to get out a leaflet on the subject so as to save time on individual answers, but since I discovered the said answers never once resulted in a note of thanks, I thought it better to devote my flagging energies for our own members.

Aside from sticking shells on boxes, the Society really includes people, both professional and amateur, with an extraordinarily wide range of interests. Rose growers no doubt, understand each other perfectly, but how much is there in common between the specialist in snail-borne tropical diseases and the connoisseur of Japanese shell-carving? Is the man who monographs mesozoic ammonites or he who dissects Patagonian freshwater bivalves well understood by someone else whose principal delight is skin diving for shells, or collecting old illustrated books on the mollusca? The answers are apparently yes, since the Society claims all such types, and many more, as members. The Society itself started with a strictly scientific outlook, and as time went on, this tended to develop into a predominantly professional outlook which has served its 'image' well. Its primary aim is, and must continue to be, scientific, and its reputation continues to depend largely on the quality of the Journal, which prints papers from amateur and professional alike, underlining the point that only in this country is any considerable amount of amateur research done on the mollusca. At the same time the Society is proud to number among its members many people who have no scientific aspirations whatever, but who have joined because of the fascination they feel for the shapes and colours and textures of the odd world of shells - the same fascination which drew who knows how many top-ranking scientists to study the self-same subject.

The Society then, brings together people of the most diverse and specialised

interests possible to imagine, and mixes the professional's love of his work with the amateur's enthusiasm for his chosen hobby. A common interest or a common aim effectively draws people together, and the atmosphere at a typical meeting is proof enough that there must be something in common between most of the members. The point is, that the more you study a facet of a subject the more you need to know about the surrounding facets, and this is where a Society such as ours can really help. Within our scope we represent the other man's - or woman's - point of view.

Meetings - both indoors and out - seem popular these days, and attendance at them has risen more rapidly than the increase in membership. Meetings can provide good value, too, for members living in England, but what about those abroad? It might reasonably be thought that to them we are no more than a publishing society, providing them with a journal. A considerable number of libraries and institutions do indeed subscribe to have the Journal sent to them, but we like to think that our distant members are entitled to more than this, which is one primary reason for launching the Newsletter, and for circulating to all members the extraordinarily useful student papers. Many members however, look on the Society as something more, and do not hesitate to write (at least I hope they don't), if they need information or wish to be put in touch with a specialist. The extent to which this happens may be gauged by the size of my correspondence; I note that apart from formal orders, receipts, etc., this amounted to 344 letters received and 388 written during the first half of 1966. Although much of this is on the Society's business and Council matters, quite a large proportion of it is concerned with members at home or abroad requesting information on some aspect of our subject, offering comments on the literature they receive, or just reporting progress on their own activities. Some of the people who keep in touch in this way, I suppose I shall never meet, and I confess it is occasionally an effort of will to get down to serious letter writing in the evening after a day's work; nevertheless I treasure the correspondence as I feel it has made me some real friends, and I would here like to thank the people who write to me from afar off now and then, and provide a pleasant side to a task which is sometimes exacting, and which has involved me (with the Council of course) in two lawsuits and a lot of contract arrangements of the dullest kind. With the extension of the Society's activities, the work of the Council continuously increases and at times tends to bear rather heavily on some of its voluntary officers. Council meetings sometimes overrun, and people anxious to start the ordinary meeting have occasionally been kept waiting and have wondered what on earth the Council can find to talk about. The only explanation one can give, with an apology to the impatient members, is embodied in the (very terse) annual report, with the assurance that the business which has to be dealt with seems to increase steadily in spite of everybody hoping that things will reach equilibrium. Council has even had to start holding summer meetings, which has never occurred before, and it is supposedly evidence of a thriving and growing organisation that so many things arise to demand attention. One day no doubt, things will simmer down and let us turn our attention more to the shells themselves.

I suppose I should finish, in sending cordial good wishes to all members, by saying that these notes do not necessarily represent anyone's views but mine.

Will all members please note that Volume 23, nos. 6 - 7 (the British Non-marine Census number) has now been reprinted by The Johnson Reprint Co. and is available at £ 1. 1. 6d. The same price is now payable for Vol. 25, no. 7, also reprinted. A reduction of 20% is made to members of the Society and orders claiming this reduction should be made through the Hon. Sec.

Back issues of the Journal, Vol. 24 and earlier, are now being handled by the same company and cost 7/6d. per number, with a reduction to members of 10%. Numbers in Vol. 25 (except 2 and 7) cost £1 each to the public and 10/- to members. Orders should be made through the Hon. Sec.

The Johnson Reprint Co. are reprinting some of the very early volumes of the Journal and will probably continue to do so if the demand justifies it. Details are available from the Company at:- Berkeley Square House, London, W.1.

SHELL COLLECTING IN THE LIMESTONE CAVES OF BORNEO

In Sabah (North Borneo), limestone occurs in isolated outcrops, some forming hills and cliffs, others embedded in the mountain ranges. These outcrops are often widely separated and tend to develop individual species especially in the Families of tiny limestone-dwellers which include *Opisthostoma* and *Hydrocena*.

Most of the caves are difficult of access and some of them are estimated to house as many as a million of the small swifts whose nests, made from inspissated saliva, have for centuries been exported to China for the preparation of that expensive delicacy "Birds' Nest Soup". These caves are communally owned by native groups occupying nearby villages. The collection and sale of the nests is strictly controlled and visitors are not allowed during the collecting seasons when the men must climb frail bamboo ladders and poles to reach the cave domes, sometimes several hundred feet high, from which the nests must be dislodged.

In most of these caves, as many bats as birds make their homes and at dusk the foraging bats and returning swifts fill the air for the "rush-hour" of their two-way traffic. Their accumulated droppings form rich deposits of guano, many feet thick, below the nesting-places and give off a very powerful stench. Guano is collected from some of the caves, such as those at Niah, in Sarawak where the sacks have only to be carried for about two-and-a-half miles over a track of logs laid over trestles through swamp-jungle to the river. But in most cases the caves are too remote to make guano-collecting a practicable occupation so it just goes on piling up.

The first caves I was able to visit were the well-known group at Gomantong on the East Coast of Sabah some twenty miles to the south of Sandakan. Gomantong is an isolated hill of limestone about half-a-mile long and 700 ft. high, with a sheer cliff-face, riddled from bottom to top with a vast complex of passages and caves. To reach it one must first make a ten-mile crossing of the Bay from Sandakan. This can be done in an hour or so by speedboat if the weather is favourable but is a rather chancy procedure because Sandakan Bay is like a small inland sea, a hundred square miles of water with an outlet less than a mile wide. The tide race, plus a tropical storm which can arrive unheralded from a clear blue sky, may make the return journey hazardous if not impossible. So it is desirable to take a sturdy launch if one wishes to be sure of returning on the same day.

The landing place is a couple of miles up a small river and from there, until recently, one had to continue on foot for some eight miles to the Caves. This part of the trip is now much easier in dry weather as an earth road has been constructed and the Native Chief of the District has acquired a Land Rover which may be available provided the battery is not flat. The earth road winds through timber workings and virgin forest, crossed and re-crossed by the tracks of elephant who seem to like to congregate on the road-trace during the cool hours of the night. I was never early enough to catch a glimpse of them though their footprints might still hold water not yet dried out by the sun.

At the end of the track is the wooden shack which is the warehouse and temporary sleeping quarters of the nest collectors, raised on piles and thatched with palm leaf. It is not advisable to sit anywhere except on the ladder-steps because the whole place is hopping with the fleas which inhabit the nests and are inevitably carried in with them.

Behind rises the sheer face of the cliff, silvery limestone gleaming through its veil of forest trees and creepers. The largest cave is at the bottom, only half-a-mile along a damp and narrow path where leeches lie in wait, as I discovered to my cost the first time I went through and had to pull off no less than twenty-seven of them (all but one before they had got a good hold!).

This cave is Simud Hitam, which means "Black Mouth" and higher up is a series of caves called Simud Putih "White Mouth". The names are believed to refer to the different types of swifts which nest exclusively in one or the other. Among the

stones and rubble on the sloping floor of Simud Hitam, wherever chimneys or vents let in some daylight, were many landshells, particularly species of *Pterocyclus* and *Alycaeus* which appeared in large numbers, but it was on the path up to Simud Puteh that I first saw a live *Opisthostoma mirabilis*, that truly fabulous tiny mollusc whose shell must surely be the most fantastically elaborated of all. I had sat down on one of the rocks which form this steep and slippery track, to catch my breath for a moment, and there he was, clinging to the moist underside of a boulder right beside me. Compared with the physical pleasures of marine collecting, this chasing of land shells is certainly "doing it the hard way"; but from that very moment, I was resigned. *Opisthostoma hailei* was also found at Gomantong, but dead specimens only; live ones we found later, in quite another district.

The next cave, first visited in 1963, was a much smaller one only a few miles by road from Lahad Datu on Darvel Bay (also on the East Coast of Sabah). It is entered by a sort of "hole in the ground" only a few yards from the roadside and is particularly interesting because it has been recently "re-discovered" while secondary jungle was being cleared for the planting of oil-palm. I say re-discovered because the relics of ancient "boat burials" prove that it was known to the local people of long ago. Here we were able to spend more time and there were more eyes for the search, for my husband was there, also our two children who were out from school in England for their summer holiday with us and not at all pleased to be dragged away from the marvellous islands and reefs and the Pearl-Culture station on the Bohaydulong lagoon, where we had been staying.

Collecting such tiny shells (1-3 mm.) alive is not an easy task. The light is dim and often flickering with the movement of leaves; the rocks are damp and slippery and one has to cling to the ledges and crevices while holding both a collecting vial and a Chinese paintbrush, which we have found to be much the best implement for dislodging the delicate creatures without damage. (The Chinese brush, set in a bamboo holder, is very finely pointed and flexible, yet much firmer than the "western" type).

Most *Opisthostoma* species, and all the *Hydrocena* species we have found were living on the rock faces in places where there was some shade, some daylight, moisture seeping down consistently and small moss-like plants and lichens growing. At the Lahad Datu Cave we found *Opisthostoma crespigny*, *Hydrocena williamsi* and a new species *H. scalinella* (van Benthem Jutting 1965, *Journal of Conchology* 26:39-41).

Mid '64 we moved to the Interior Residency, to Keningau, and although it was frustrating not to be allowed, due to "Confrontation", to visit caves near the Indonesian border, it was possible to make two expeditions to a limestone outcrop which is embedded in the Crocker Range mountains to the west of Keningau Plain.

From Keningau there is an earth road to the North which goes for fourteen miles as straight as a die across the Plain... the only straight road I know of anywhere in this mountainous land. At the ninth mile one takes a rough track to the west and can drive by truck or Jeep to the foothills of the mountains. At the end of the track a narrow footpath winds steeply upward through the forest, skirting the shoulders of the ridges. Local men bound up and down like chamoix but I am content to negotiate the steepest bits on all fours, thankful that, on a forest track, there is always something to cling onto ... a root, a branch, a jutting piece of rock ... and that sheer drops on either hand are mercifully screened by the thickness of the vegetation. After some two-and-a-half miles of this, one quite suddenly rounds a huge sandstone boulder and plunges straight into a deep gorge of limestone. The caves are only a short way down and as we stopped right there, we never did discover just how far the limestone extends.

In these caves we found Opisthostoma hailei Solem, the first live-collected specimens I believe. It was interesting to note that this species, unlike the other Opisthostoma does not appear to live on the rock faces, but were found on damp leaves, twigs and debris in the crevices of the rocks. Among the debris were also many tiny Diplomatina gomantonensis. On the rock was another new species of Hydrocena, H. saulae (van Benthem Jutting 1965, Journal of Conchology 26: 39-41).

In June of this year, while working in the Sarawak Museum, I was able to make a short trip to a range of limestone hills and visit a cave at Janbusan near Bau some twenty miles from Kuching. Several members of the Museum staff accompanied me and in less than two hours we collected twenty-five species including

Opisthostoma everetti, O. austeni, O. busauense and a species of Hydrocena which is not yet identified. We were lucky to be able to visit this area which is near the Indonesian border and has been restricted until recently.

Below I append a list of some of the species found in the areas described. For these identifications I am mainly indebted to Mrs. W. S. S. van Benthem Jutting, to whom my most grateful thanks.

<i>Alycaeus congener</i> (Smith) B.	<i>Alycaeus fultoni</i> (Mollf.) G.
<i>Alycaeus fultoni</i> var. <i>degenerens</i> (Fulton) G.K.	
<i>Alycaeus globosus</i> (Ads.) B.	<i>Alycaeus</i> cf. <i>rechilansis</i> (Austen) L.
<i>Amphidromus martensi</i> (Bttgr.) G.L.	<i>Bradybaena similis</i> (Ferussac) L.
<i>Chamalycaeus everetti</i> (God. Aust.) G.	<i>Chloritis kinabalensis</i> (Kobelt) L.
<i>Coneuplecta microconus</i> (Mouss) G.K.B.	<i>Cyclophorus</i> cf. <i>metcalf</i> (Issel) G.
<i>Cyclophorus perdix borneensis</i> (Metc.) B.	<i>Diplomatina gomantonensis</i> (Smith) K.
<i>Dyakia hugonis</i> (Ffr.) L.	<i>Dyakia regalis</i> (Benson) B.
<i>Eurybasis alexis</i> (Smith) K.	<i>Eurybasis whiteheadi</i> (Smith) G.L.
<i>Gastroptychia adversa</i> (H & A Adams) B.	<i>Helicarion rugosus</i> (Fulton) K.
<i>Helicina martensi</i> (Issel) G.	<i>Hemiplecta densa</i> (Ads.) B.
<i>Hemiplecta humphreysiana</i> (Lea) G.	<i>Hemiplecta schumacheriana</i> (Pfr.) G.K.L.
<i>Huttonella bicolor</i> (Hutton) K.	<i>Hydrocena saulae</i> (van Benthem Jutting) K.
<i>Hydrocena scalinella</i> (van Benthem Jutting) L.	
<i>Hydrocena williamsi</i> (God. Aust.) L.	<i>Lagocheilus barbatum</i> (Pfr.) B.
<i>Lagocheilus conicus</i> (Smith) K.	<i>Lagocheilus jucundus</i> (Smith) L.
<i>Lagocheilus keppeli</i> (God. Aust.) G.	<i>Lamellaxis clavulinus</i> (Pot. & Mich.)
<i>Lamellaxis gracilis</i> (Hutton) B.	<i>Landouris</i> cf. <i>winteriana</i> (Pfr.) G.
<i>Leptopoma nitidum</i> (Sow.) G.L.	<i>Leptopoma sericatum</i> (Pfr.) L.
<i>Leptopoma signatum</i> (Pfr.) L.	<i>Leptopoma</i> cf. <i>undatum</i> (Met.) G.L.
<i>Liardetia angulata</i> (Issel) G.	<i>Liardetia busauensis</i> (Smith) K.
<i>Liardetia indifferens</i> (Bttgr.) G.	<i>Liardetia moluensis</i> (Smith) K.
<i>Microcystina gratilla</i> (van Een. Jutt.) K.	
<i>Opisthoporus biciliatus</i> (Mouss,) B.	<i>Opisthoporus iris</i> (Aust.) L.K.B.
<i>Opisthoporus rostellatus</i> (Pfr.) B.	<i>Opisthostoma austeni</i> (Smith) B.
<i>Opisthostoma busauense</i> (Smith) B.	<i>Opisthostoma crespigny</i> (Ads.) L.
<i>Opisthostoma everetti</i> (Smith) B.	<i>Opisthostoma hailei</i> (Solem) K.
<i>Opisthostoma mirabilis</i> (Smith) G.	<i>Paludromus latens</i> (Ads.) L.
<i>Philalanka carinigera</i> (Tap. Can.) G.K.	<i>Pupina</i> cf. <i>artata</i> (Benson) G.L.
<i>Pupisoma orcula</i> (Benson) K.	<i>Pterocyclus brevis</i> (Mont.) G.
<i>Pterocyclus latilabrum</i> (Smith) G.L.K.	<i>Rhinocolchis nasuta</i> (Met.) B.
<i>Sabulina octona</i> (Brug.) G.L.	<i>Sulfurina martensi</i> (Issel) K.
<i>Trochomorpha bicolor</i> (Mts.) L.	<i>Trochomorpha crassicarinata</i> (Fulton) G.L.
<i>Trochomorpha frogatti</i> (Iredale) K.B.	<i>Trochomorpha planorbis</i> (Less.) G.L.
<i>Xestina belangeri</i> (Desh.) L.K.	

Capital letters following names indicate the localities:

G - Gomantong (Sabah); L - Lahad Datu (Sabah); K - Keningau (Sabah);
B - Bau (Sarawak).

MARY SAUL

VENUS (MERCENARIA) MERCENARIA L. AT BUTLEY CREEK, SUFFOLK

Whilst collecting molluscs near the oyster tank at Gedgrave on Butley Creek in the middle of July this year I came across several dead shells of Venus mercenaria L. at low water and collected 5 examples. An hour later in Orford, I noticed a bowl containing live shells in the fishmonger's shop. I assumed that they lived in the tidal waters locally.

However, on enquiry, I found that Mr. Richard Pinney, who owned the shop and oyster beds, was supplied with live mercenaria L. by a dealer in the Isle of Wight. These he kept in his oyster tank near Gedgrave till required at the shop. I asked him if he was trying to establish a breeding colony, he said he was not. Even so there is always the possibility that the species may do so of its own accord.

Mr. Pinney imports oyster spat from Portugal for his oyster beds (which I was not able to visit) so there is also the possibility of species not native to British waters turning up in this area. Conchologists collecting hereabouts should keep an eye open for introduced species as well as checking on mercenaria to see if it has succeeded in colonising the locality.

FIELD MEETING TO WARRINGTON, LANCASHIRE, 7th. MAY 1966

Leader:- G. Whitfield

Mr. Gary Whitfield, a junior member of the Society, led an excursion in search of Lymnaea glabra (Müller) which he had recently taken. Three members met him at the gate of Warrington cemetery, and were conducted to a field behind the cemetery. Here the following species were found:

<u>Discus rotundatus</u> (Müller)	<u>Arion intermedius</u> Normand
<u>A. subfuscus</u> (Draparnaud)	<u>Oxychilus cellarius</u> (Müller)
<u>O. alliarius</u> (Miller)	<u>Retinella radiatula</u> (Alder)
<u>Agriolimax reticulatus</u> (Müller)	

Following the path through the field a stagnant ditch was reached, in which L. glabra was found in considerable numbers. It was pleasing to see this species in such a flourishing state; with the exception of the leader none of the party had previously seen it living, although some had sought it for many years. It was accompanied by L. palustris (Müller) and Planorbis leucostoma Millet.

Further across the field was a flowing stream, and in it were taken:

<u>Physa</u> sp.	<u>Lymnaea peregra</u> (Müller)
<u>Sphaerium lacustre</u> (Müller)	<u>Pisidium subtruncatum</u> Malm (determined by Mr. A. W. Stelfox)

FIELD MEETING TO PENDLETON, LANCASHIRE, 21st. MAY 1966

Leader:- Marjorie Fogan

Four members, one junior member and one friend met at Pendleton Station, and after some difficulty succeeded in obtaining access to the towpath of the Manchester, Bolton and Bury canal. This canal is disused and is now divided into two widely separated lengths. The Radcliffe portion was examined on 3rd. July 1965. The Pendleton section is cleaner than the other and is in fair condition despite a certain amount of tipping of rubbish.

The canal was first examined near Pendleton Station (O.S. 3389) and the following species were taken:

<u>Valvata piscinalis</u> (Müller) dead shells only	
<u>Bithynia tentaculata</u> (L.)	<u>Lymnaea stagnalis</u> (L.)
<u>L. auricularia</u> (L.)	<u>L. peregra</u> (Müller)
<u>Planorbarius corneus</u> (L.)	<u>Planorbis carinatus</u> Müller

P. vortex (L.)

P. albus Müller

Anodonta anatina (L.) dead shells only

Sphaerium corneum (L.)

S. transversum (Say) dead shells only

S. lacustre (Müller)

Pisidium henslowanum (Sheppard) determined by Mr. A. W. Stelfox

It was disappointing that S. transversum could not be found living, as I had taken it here in 1965.

The party then proceeded in the direction of Agecroft (O.S. 3480) where the following species were obtained:

B. tentaculata

L. stagnalis

L. auricularia

L. peregra

P. carinatus

P. vortex

P. albus

Planorbis crista (L.)

Segmentina complanata (L.)

S. corneum

S. lacustre

P. henslowanum

FIELD MEETING TO EARLESTOWN, NEAR NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS,

LANCASHIRE, 23rd. JULY 1966

Leader:- J. H. Cooper-Poole

Five members met on 23rd. July to continue the study of the molluscan fauna of the canals in the Manchester area. A stretch of about a mile of the St. Helens canal westwards from the swing bridge and lock at Grid Ref. 566948 was examined as well as a stretch of a few hundred yards to the east of that point. This canal is disused and badly overgrown.

The following species were taken:-

Potamopyrgus jenkinsi (E. A. Smith) (living, scarce)

Bithynia tentaculata (L.)

Lymnaea peregra (Müller) frequent

L. stagnalis (L.) large, frequent

L. auricularia (L.) one or two

Planorbis carniatus Müller

P. vortex (L.)

P. albus Müller three

Sphaerium corneum (L.) fairly plentiful

S. lacustre (Müller) one

Pisidium sp.

The waste ground beside the canal yielded:-

Retinella radiatula (Alder)

Arion circumscriptus

A. hortensis Ferussac

A. ater agg.

Agriolimax reticulatus Müller

FIELD MEETING TO SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL, NR. CHESTER,

20th. AUGUST 1966

Leader:- J. O'N. Millott

Five members, one junior member and one visitor met in Chester and proceeded to the bridge where the A41 Chester - Birkenhead Road crosses the Wirral section of the Shropshire Union Canal, south of Backford. Examinations were made of the molluscan fauna of the canal and of the grass verges and hedgerows bordering the canal for some distance both to the east and west of the bridge. In contrast to some sections of the Shropshire Union Canal at the present time aquatic mollusca were plentiful. It was noted that there appeared to be a scarcity of Pisidium spp.; one dead valve only was found. The following species were obtained:-

East of Bridge (O.S. 3347)

Canal

Viviparus viviparus (L.)	Planorbarius corneus (L.)
Valvata piscinalis (Müller)	Planorbis carinatus Müller
Bithynia tentaculata (L.)	Planorbis albus Müller
Bithynia leachi (Sheppard)	Ancylus fluviatilis Müller
Lymnaea stagnalis (L.)	Succinea pfeifferi Rossmässler
Lymnaea auricularia (L.)	Anodonta anatina (L.)
Lymnaea peregra (Müller)	Sphaerium rivicola (Lamarck)
Physa fontinalis (L.)	Sphaerium corneum (L.)
Physa heterostropha Say	

Grass verge and hedgerow

Cochlicopa sp.	Arion ater agg.
Hygromia hispida (L.)	Arion hortensis Ferussac
Discus rotundatus (Müller)	Agriolimax reticulatus Müller
	Oxychilus alliarius (Miller)

West of Bridge (O.S. 3337)

Canal

Viviparus viviparus (L.)	Physa heterostropha Say
Valvata piscinalis (Müller)	Planorbarius corneus (L.)
Bithynia tentaculata (L.)	Planorbis vortex (L.)
Bithynia leachi (Sheppard)	Planorbis albus Müller
Lymnaea stagnalis (L.)	Ancylus fluviatilis Müller
Lymnaea peregra (Müller)	Sphaerium corneum (L.)
Physa fontinalis (L.)	

Grass verge and hedgerow

Cochlicopa sp.	Discus rotundatus (Müller)
Helix nemoralis L.	Arion ater agg.
Helix aspersa Müller	Retinella nitidula (Draparnaud)
Hygromia hispida (L.)	Agriolimax laevis (Müller)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES

"COMMUNICATION IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES"

With the support of the Biology Group of Aslib and the Biological Council, the Institute of Biology is arranging a conference on "Communication in the Biological Sciences" on 14th. and 15th. December 1966. The aim is to enable librarians, editors and research biologists to discuss the problems of information exchange and to express views which can help those responsible for the provision of various services. A programme is obtainable from the Institute of Biology, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

EXCHANGES WANTED Mrs. Lorna Harmer of [redacted] South Australia is keen to make contact with members who would like to exchange shells. She has many interesting and attractive specimens to offer, fully labelled and mostly 'live' shells. List sent on request. Any correspondents please?

FOR SALE A Beck Microscope, late 19th. Century, many objectives, modest price asked. Anyone interested please write to Rev. H. E. J. Biggs, [REDACTED] Bromley, Kent.

THE COMPILER wishes to thank members who have sent in reports, notes and various other items. Please accept this as a general acknowledgement - it will save the Society's postage bill!

PAPERS FOR STUDENTS

No. 1.	"Introducing Junior Membership" (H. E. J. Biggs)	3 pages	Free
No. 2.	"Collecting Non-Marine Mollusca" (L. W. Stratton)	3 "	6d.
No. 3.	"Key to Land Shells of Great Britain" (A. E. Ellis)	9 "	2/-
No. 4.	"A Short Glossary of Molluscan Terms" (T. Pain)	9 "	2/-
No. 5.	"Preparation of the Radula" (D. Claugher)	8 " (Illus.)	2/-
No. 6.	"Post-Pliocene Fossil Mollusca (Land and Freshwater)" (P. Cambridge)	8 "	2/-
No. 7.	"Literature on British Molluscs" (S. M. Turk)	14 "	2/6d.

Whilst supplies last, these papers can be obtained from Rev. H. E. J. Biggs (Editor), [REDACTED] Bromley, Kent. The prices include postage. Cheques or Postal Orders should accompany order and be made in favour of the Society; to save time and expense to the Society, the receipt of the paper or papers ordered should be considered as acknowledgement of the payment.

A DISPLAY OF LAND AND FRESHWATER SHELLS OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

by B. M. Thistleton (Junior Member)

For the past five or six years, during the month of August, the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society have put on an exhibition at Brook, Isle of Wight. The exhibition is called "Local Look" and the displays are designed to show some of the natural history of the Island. This year I was asked by the society to put on display a collection of Isle of Wight land and freshwater shells.

The display consisted of three large panels (2'6" by 4'0"), hinged together to form a small bay, on which the shells, mounted in transparent plastic boxes, were stuck. The shells were arranged in the habitats in which they are found on the Island. It was stressed in the introduction that many species are of course found in more than one habitat, and that in the display each species was placed in the one in which it most typically occurs in the Island.

The following is a list of the species in the categories in which they were placed:-

LAND MOLLUSCS

1. CALCIFUGES (SPECIES THAT DO NOT LIKE CHALK)

Zonitoides excavatus (Alder)

2. CALCICOLES (SPECIES THAT NEED CHALK)

A. Downland Species

Helicella virgata (da Costa)
Cochlicella acuta (Müller)
Abida secale (Draparnaud)

Helicella caperata (Montagu)
Pupilla muscorum (Linne)

B. Species of Woods and Hedges

Helix aspersa Müller
Cepaea hortensis (Müller)
Hygromia striolata (C. Pfeiffer)
Helicigona lapicida (Linne)
Ena obscura (Müller)
Vallonia pulchella (Müller)
Lauria cylindracea (da Costa)
Carychium tridentatum (Risso)

Cepaea nemoralis (Linne)
Monacha cantiana (Montagu)
Hygromia hispida (Linne)
Marpessa laminata (Montagu)
Acanthinula aculeata (Müller)
Vallonia costata (Müller)
Pyramidula rupestris (Draparnaud)
Pomatias elegans (Müller)

3. SPECIES INDIFFERENT TO CHALK

A. Species of Woods and Hedges

Arianta arbustorum (Linne)
Discus rotundatus (Müller)
Oxychilus alliarius (Miller)
Euconulus fulvus (Müller)
Cochlicopa lubrica (Müller)

Vitrina pellucida (Müller)
Oxychilus cellarius (Müller)
Retinella nitidula (Draparnaud)
Clausilia bidentata (Strom)
Cochlicopa minima (Siemaschko)

B. Water Loving Species (Hygrophiles)

Zonitoides nitidus (Müller)

FRESHWATER MOLLUSCS

1. SPECIES FOUND IN PONDS AND RIVERS

Potamopyrgus jenkinsi (E. A. Smith)
Lymnaea truncatula (Müller)
Planorbis albus Müller
Pisidium casertanum (Poli)

Lymnaea peregra (Müller)
Planorbis carinatus (Müller)
Sphaerium corneum (Linne)

2. SPECIES FOUND IN PONDS ONLY

Lymnaea stagnalis (Linne)
Planorbarius corneus (Linne)
Planorbis leucostoma Millet

Lymnaea palustris (Müller)
Planorbis crista (Linne)
Acroloxus lacustris (Linne)

3. SPECIES FOUND IN RIVERS ONLY

Valvata piscinalis (Müller)
Lymnaea auricularia (Linne)
Anodonta anatina (Linne)

Physa fontinalis (Linne)
Ancylus fluviatilis Müller
Pisidium amnicum (Müller)

References: BOYCOTT, A.E., 1934. The habitats of land Mollusca in Britain.
Journal of Ecology, 22 (1):1-38.

BOYCOTT, A.E., 1936. The habitats of freshwater Mollusca in Britain.
Journal of Animal Ecology, 5 (1):116-136.