



SHELL-O-GRAM

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JACKSONVILLE SHELL CLUB, INC.

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Harry G. Lee, Asst. Editor

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January Meeting

The Thursday, January 23rd meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the Southeast Branch Public Library at 7:00 PM.

Harry Lee, who will talk on the mollusks of the Hawaiian Islands, will present the month's educational program.

The Shell-Of-The-Month will be the local whelks, genus *Busycon* (Gastropoda: Melongenidae), presented by Jeff Ward, who will provide lots of demonstrative material.

February Meeting

The Thursday, February 27th meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club will be held at the usual time and place.

For the educational program we will have a special treat. Selma Hutchison, with help from Betsy Lyerly and Gertrude Moller, will provide tips on shell craft procedures with emphasis on topiary creations and Christmas ornaments. The ever-useful (and a staple to crafters) Common Jingle, *Anomia simplex* d'Orbigny, 1842 (Pelecypoda: Anomiidae), will be Billie Brown's Shell-Of-The-Month.

The Atlantic Partridge Tun

By Harry G. Lee

One of the more unusual marine mollusk records for northeast Florida waters is the occurrence of the Atlantic Partridge Tun. It is one of a very few locally-collected species on which I personally have never laid a hand, but documentation was secured by Charlotte Lloyd, who came across a living specimen at a depth of 128 feet 45 miles east of Mayport on August 6, 1991. Being conservation-minded, yet wanting to placate skeptics of "(shell)fish stories," she chronicled the encounter on videotape just before releasing the snail!

Aside from Charlotte's unusual *coup*, there is a bit more to say about this critter - partly its natural history, but more so the history of its naming. The unravelling of this paper trail took me through two and a half centuries of literature and provided a few general lessons in the sometimes complex process of taxonomic nomenclature. [Continued on page 3.]

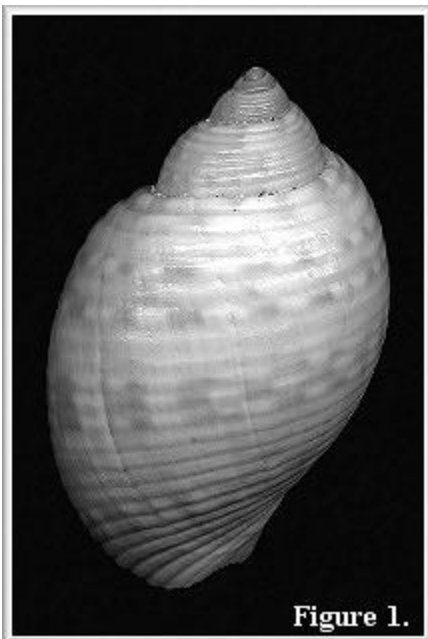


Figure 1.



Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.
1865 Debutante Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32246-8645
E-mail: mrbill@jaxshells.org

www.jaxshells.org

The **Shell-O-Gram** is issued bimonthly and mailed to all regular members. Annual membership dues are \$12.50 individual and \$15.00 family (domestic), and \$20.00 (foreign). Lifetime membership is available.

Send dues to: Charlotte M. Lloyd
1010 N. 24th Street
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250-2883

The club meets each month, excluding December, at the Southeast Branch Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville Florida. Please address any correspondence to the club's address shown above.

Closing date for article submission is two weeks prior to the first of each month of publication. Articles may be republished provided full credit is given the author and this newsletter and one copy of the complete publication in which the article appears is mailed to Editor at the above address.

Last Call For Membership Dues

Jacksonville Shell Club membership dues for club fiscal year 2003 were due for a vast majority of club members on September 1st.

You can determine when your membership expires (or when it expired) by checking the numerical entry that appears before your name on your newsletter mailing label. An entry of "8/02" would indicate that your membership expired on the last day of August 2002.

This will be the last issue of the newsletter for those who are in arrears. Send your dues to the Club Treasurer, Charlotte Lloyd, whose address appears above.

Upcoming Events

March 7th-9th – **Sanibel Shell Show, Sanibel Community Center, Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL. Contact Anne Joffe, 1163 Kittiwake Circle, Sanibel, FL 33957, E-mail: Sanibel@aol.com, Phone (239) 472-3151
March 13th-15th – **Marco Island Shell Club Show XXII, Wesleyan United Methodist Church, Barfield, Road, Marco Island, FL. Contact Jean Sunnheim, P.O.

Box 633, Marco Island, FL 34146, Phone (941) 642-7247

May 3rd - 4th – **Central Florida Shell Show, Central Florida Fairgrounds, Exhibition Hall A, 4603 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL. Contact Phyllis Gray, 1212 S. Eola Dr., Orlando, FL, 32806, Phone (407) 422-0253, E-mail: pgray@kennesaw.lawco.com

May 24th – 25th – **Suncoast Conchologists Shellers' Jamboree, Honeywell MinnReg Building, 6340 126th Ave. North, Largo, FL, Contact Sharlene Totten, 2252 Springflower Dr. Clearwater, FL 33763, Phone (727) 734-2029, E-mail: CEShell@aol.com. Jamboree registration prior to May 1st is \$70. This includes buffet lunch and dinner Saturday and lunch Sunday. The Sunday evening banquet is an additional \$20. The banquet for non-registered guests is \$25. Registration after May 1st is \$75. Registrations forms will be mailed beginning March 5th to those sending a stamped, self-addressed, legal size, long envelope with 83 cents postage to: Roni Mucci, 795 Country Road 1, #199, Palm Harbor, FL 34683, Phone: (727) 787-4968.

Welcome New Members

Lynn K. Lore
74 Madison Road
Pittsgrove, NJ 08318
Phone: (856) 358-8014

Perri Smythe
170 Great Harbour Way #3102
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: 280-7304
jaxxbeach@yahoo.com

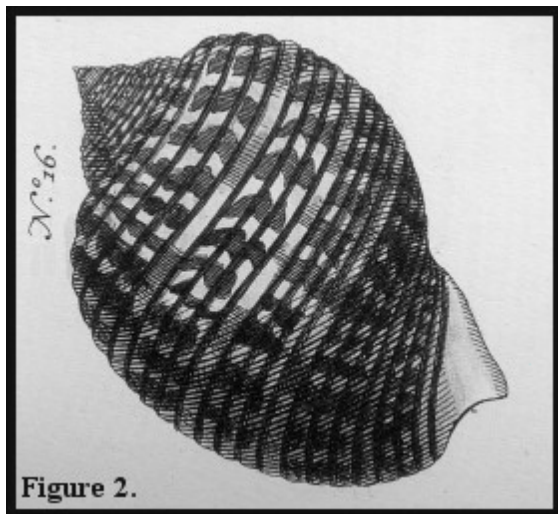
Members Meet For Christmas Cheer

Eighteen Jacksonville Shell Club members and guests met at the home of Charlotte Lloyd on Saturday, December 14th to celebrate Christmas with good friends and shelling companions. The home was decorated throughout with twinkling white lights and the tree was trimmed with shell and sea life decorations. Each person brought a covered dish to add to the celebration and everyone enjoyed the dinner. The Chinese gift exchange created much excitement with a much sought after silver shell wreath. The gift passed through many hands before the exchange was over. It is a nice way for us to conclude our year of club activities and to think about planned projects for the coming year.

We take this time to wish our friends good health, happiness and a wonderful 2003!



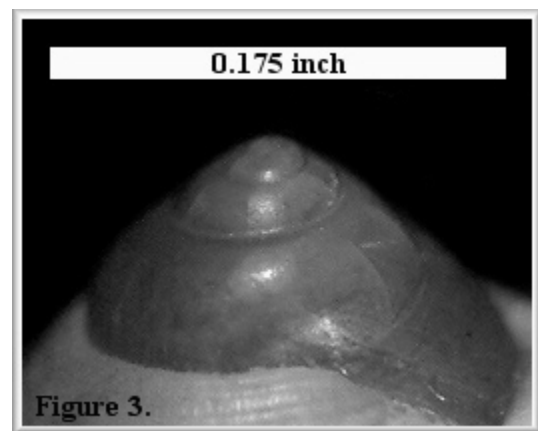
The Atlantic Partridge Tun [Continued]



The Atlantic Partridge Tun* (see figure 1. on page one, a 40 mm. juvenile from Eleuthera, Bahamas in the Lee Collection), is widely known as *Tonna maculosa* (Dillwyn, 1817), a name proposed as "*Buccinum perdx* Variety ... *Buccinum maculosum*." on page 583 of volume 2 of this work (see bibliography for this and other citations). Lewis Weston Dillwyn recorded two references. The first was "Solander [actually Lightfoot, 1786**] lot 3050 p. 136" [sic; error for 137]. In Lightfoot (1786) this entry reads "A very fine variety of *Buccinum maculosum*, S. or spotted Tun, undescribed from New Holland - very rare" [Lightfoot's italics]. The "S." connotes a name in a Daniel Solander manuscript - possibly only on the label appended to the specimen in question. Unfortunately the passage I quoted was all Lightfoot wrote; there is no cited illustration and insufficient text for this to stand as a validly-proposed taxon; ergo *Buccinum maculosum* Solander [Lightfoot, 1786] is a nomen nudum and unavailable for taxonomic

nomenclature (International Code for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) Article 12; Criteria of Availability; see ref. below). How Dillwyn knew what Lightfoot had before him is uncertain, but he may have seen the actual shell, which was to have been sold at auction on Thursday May 25, 1786 according to the "Portland Catalog" (when Dillwyn was in his ninth year of life) at some point. Needless to say, the species is more than "very rare" in New Holland (Australia) as it does not live there.

Dillwyn's other (second) citation was Seba vol. 3, pl. 68, fig.16 (see figure 2., taken from Müsch, I., R. Willman, and J. Rust [eds]). Although the text of the non-binominal Seba work is not available for taxonomic nomenclature, this illustration almost certainly depicts the western Atlantic taxon in question - the editors' misidentification of it as *Tonna perdx* (Linnaeus, 1758) notwithstanding. Dillwyn was correct in recognizing his *Buccinum maculosum* as a new taxon! Unfortunately, however, a quarter century earlier Gmelin (1791, p. 3476, no. 22) applied that same binomen to a different shell, which we now know as the west African *Cassis tessellata* (Gmelin, 1791)*** [*Buccinum tessellatum* op. cit. p. 3476, no. 20]; see Abbott (1968; p. 54). The Dillwyn name is a primary junior homonym of *Buccinum maculosum* Gmelin, 1791 and therefore, until recently (see last paragraph), unavailable for taxonomic nomenclature according to the ICZN Article 52; Principle of Homonymy (ICZN, 1985).



Wait.... it gets more complicated! In looking further into the synonymy in Tucker's *Cassis* monograph (Abbott, 1968; p. 54), I saw that the binomen *Buccinum maculosum* was validly proposed by an even earlier authority, Thomas Martyn (1784)! Because Martyn's *Universal Conchologist* was not a consistently binominal work (like Seba), the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature exercised its plenary powers (Anon., 1957) to declare most of Martyn's names invalid, while conserving the names applied therein to

nine well-known New Zealand marine gastropod species. Among these is *Buccinum maculosum* Martyn; now *Cominella maculosa* (Martyn, 1784). The consequence of this discovery is that *B. maculosum* Gmelin, like *B. maculosum* Dillwyn, would not be available (primary junior homonymy, again; using ICZN, 1985). Since authors hadn't used *B. maculosum* Gmelin, quite possibly because it was reported as a junior synonym of *B. tessellatum* Gmelin by Dillwyn (1817; p. 596, no. 20), who appears to be the First Reviser (ICZN Article 24). It is possible that Dillwyn chose *B. t.* over *B. m.* because it appeared earlier in the Gmelin work (on the same page, two species above it, a convention referred to as "position priority," employed by some taxonomists in the past but never codified by ICZN) or perhaps because he thought the earlier Solander [Lightfoot] (nude) name rendered Gmelin's *Buccinum maculosum* unavailable. Whatever the machination, the outcome is that the cassid (helmet shell), unlike our tonnid (tun shell), nomenclature avoided being threatened with mass confusion by the loss of a such well-travelled binomen as *Tonna maculosa* (Dillwyn), the topic of this discussion.



Wait; there's still more. *Helix sulphurea* C. B. Adams, 1849 (p. 33) was first reported from Jamaica, and the author gave a short description, noted the size (0.175 inch across by 0.16 inch high), and stated; "Perhaps this is a young shell, but probably not of any described species." The next year he returned to this taxon and wrote (C. B. Adams, 1850; page 98): "On page 33 we described *Helix sulphurea* as 'perhaps a young shell.' This opinion was founded on its papyraceous appearance. Mr. Chitty, from whom the original specimens were received, has recently furnished a series,

which shows that this shell, with all the generic characters of *Helix*, is the last embryonic stage of the West Indian variety of *Dolium perdix*!" [his exclamation point]. I believe figure 3. is very much like what C. B. Adams had before him in 1849 (and Chitty somewhat later). This is a photomicrograph of the apex of the same shell as in figure 1. It shows an intact ultraplanktotrophic protoconch reflecting a very long swimming veliger stage, an attribute which no doubt accounts for the wide dispersal of this species and many of its confamilial relatives.* According to Clench and Turner (1950), the type specimen is lost, but, given the quotes above, I don't think anyone would dispute the diagnosis of *Helix sulphurea* C. B. Adams, 1849! As far as I can tell, the first reference to the synonymy of *H. s.* and *Tonna maculosa* Dillwyn, 1817 [*sic*; no parens] is Turner (1948; p. 169).

It appears the next available name for the Atlantic Partridge Tun is *Dolium pennatum* coined by the Danish conchologist Otto Andreas Lowson Mørch (he actually signed this work "Mørch;" see below) from the "Antill." It was published in another public auction catalog - that of the Alphonso de Yoldi collection (its 4,012 lots rivaling the 4,156 of the Dutchess of Portland). Mørch's indication (lot 2058; p. 110) was an illustration in Martini - vol. 3, fig. 1078 (see figure 4). This is interesting because Martini himself called it a juvenile of *Buccinum* [now *Tonna*] *perdix* Linnaeus, 1758 and showed it alongside two adult *T. perdix*! Nonetheless this juvenile shell shows the color pattern of the W. Atlantic species (look at the smudgy pattern on the penultimate whorl in figure 1) - not the Indo-Pacific *T. perdix*, with which it seems to have been confused/associated by many authors. Ergo *Tonna pennata* (Mørch, 1852) refers to the Atlantic Partridge Tun, and the Partridge Tun, *T. perdix* (Linnaeus, 1758) from the Indo-Pacific is closely related - and not just biologically and by its vernacular name: *Pennata* probably means "feathered" in reference to its color pattern, which a century before likely inspired Linnaeus' *perdix*, Latin for "partridge."

Armed with all this information about synonyms, homonyms, availability of nomina, etc., I was getting ready to dismantle the underpinnings of the Atlantic Partridge Tun nomenclature until a very perceptive correspondent of mine, Marien Faber tactfully pointed out the value of "reading the directions" before launching such an ambitious campaign. Marien indicated that the ICZN (1999; fourth edition) contained an important policy change versus between the third (1985) edition. Until 2000 a primary junior homonym (e.g. *Buccinum maculosum* Gmelin, 1791; *B. maculosum* Dillwyn, 1817) was deemed unavailable for taxonomic nomenclature (see end of paragraph four) by the ICZN,

and could only be conserved by petition to the Commission to exercise its "plenary powers." The current (fourth; 1999) edition states (Article 23.9.5): "When an author discovers that a species-group name in use is a primary junior homonym of another species-group name also in use, but the names apply to taxa not considered congeneric after 1899, the author must not [our emphasis] automatically replace the junior homonym; the case should be referred to the Commission for a ruling under the plenary power and meanwhile prevailing usage of both names is to be maintained." Short version: the burden of petition is shifted from authors who wish to conserve (a majority of) primary junior homonyms to those authors who wish to suppress such names. Ergo, until told otherwise, we are legit in using *Tonna maculosa* (Dillwyn, 1817) as did the overwhelming majority of the authors who taught us much of what we know of the Atlantic Partridge Tun.****

*Somewhat amazingly, along with another 40 other marine mollusks we've collected in northeast Florida including the Lions-paw, this Tun is found in the eastern Atlantic as well. See Vermeij and Rosenberg (1993) and Talavera (1982).

**Lady Margaret Cavendish Bentinck, Duchess of Portland, died in 1785 leaving extensive and valuable collections, not the least of which was of shells. The Rev. John Lightfoot (1735-1788), her librarian and chaplain, compiled and annotated a list of her curios. This 194 page, 4,156-lot inventory was printed early the next year and served as the catalogue at the auction of her collections conducted from late that May to June 18 (Lightfoot, 1786; Dance, 1966; Kay, 1965; Rehder, 1967). Allison Kay (1965; p. 10) gave convincing evidence that Daniel Solander, a pupil of Carl Linnaeus (in 1761 ennobled as Carl von Linné), a naturalist who curated material in the collection of the Duchess, first penned many of the names employed by Lightfoot, but only in manuscript form. Until 1965 most attributions for the "Portland Catalogue" *nomina* were to Solander, but, after Kay's report, the consensus among malacologists is that Lightfoot is the proper authority. Although a substantial number of zoological names were validly proposed by Lightfoot in this "Portland Catalogue," only a handful of workers in the 18th and 19th centuries put them to use, often without proper acknowledgement. Even the work of Sherborn (1902; later corrected), which purported to list all the zoological names introduced from 1758 to 1800, listed none of these names. Tom Iredale (1912) was the first to specifically wrest the names from near oblivion. William Healy Dall (1921) investigated the "Portland Catalogue" mollusks and presented selections of the Lightfoot text, which was always brief, but often cited

an illustration in an earlier work or two. A more exhaustive and definitive treatment was provided by Rehder (1967), who edited out 15 species names as *nomina nuda* (nude names) due to lack of rigorous descriptions or cited illustration(s). The author added five molluscan species names overlooked by Dall and proceeded to pare the total (111) as follows: 39 junior synonyms (species validly named prior to the "Catalogue"); three junior homonyms (names selected by Lightfoot but used by prior authors); nine *nomina dubia* (descriptions and illustrations insufficient to diagnose the species) and three *nomina oblita* (forgotten names not employed in the literature between 1917 and 1967; this procedure has become more involved since Rehder's work) see ICZN, 1985. Article 79(c) Suppression of unused senior synonyms and ICZN, 1999. Article 81.2.2 and .3). This reduction left 57 available species and two generic names for Recent mollusks attributable to The Rev. John Lightfoot. Rehder's systematic list at the end of his paper omitted the valid species *Subnivalia undulata* and *Strombus sinuatus*, which were given proper (and favorable) treatment in the text.

***Just to complicate matters a little more, Higo, Callomon, and Goto (1999; G2833, p. 246) listed *Buccinum maculosum* Gmelin, 1791 as a synonym of *Colubraria muricata* (Lightfoot, 1786) [lot 2296, p. 104 of our now familiar "Portland Catalog"]. This is a *lapsus calami* for *Murex maculosus* Gmelin, 1791 (p. 3548, no. 79).

**** Lately revisionists (including Turgeon, Quinn, *et al.*, 1998, who also exalted *Tonna pennata* over *T. maculosa*) have worked hard to render vernacular names in lower case. For a rebuttal see <http://www.jaxshells.org/flatcoil.htm>.

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Russell H. Jensen (1918-2001)*

by Harry G. Lee



Russ Jensen

Russell Helge Jensen lived most of his life in New Jersey, entering the world on October 20, 1918 in Kearny, graduating from East Orange High School, working for Union Carbide, finally owning and operating a nursery and florist business in Bloomfield. Two important excursions from the Garden State, however, created the germ for, and later actualized, a metamorphosis in his life's work.

His enlistment in the U. S. Army shortly after the outbreak of World War II by some fortuitous machination found him billeted on the island of Bermuda. In the process of rising to the rank of Sergeant Major in the Bermuda Base Command, Russ became intensely interested in the collection and study of the island's marine mollusks. His passion proved to be abiding, and it eventually impelled into his fourth, final, and most enduring career.

After the war, he returned to Union Carbide and a chemical technician until he and his wife, the former Dorothy (Dottie) Eleanor Haarde, established their business in 1951.

I had the privilege of beginning a long association with Russ Jensen during the halcyon years of the Garden State Shell Club. With an energetic company including Dr. Grace Eddison, Sam Freed, Dot Germer, Richard Kroczyński, Ethelyn Woodlock, and Jane Zager, we exercised our avocation with a special zeal through most of the 1960's. The combined energies produced regular programs, field trips, and various other educational initiatives. Russ was our point man, carrying his knowledge, enthusiasm, ingenuity, and nonpareil sense of humor on his sleeve. It soon became clear to all of us that Russ was no ordinary fellow. Aside from his affection for, and knowledge of, malacology, he was an epicurean chef, woodworker, lapidarist, silversmith, gardener, and student of pre-Columbian culture. It was during this pivotal decade that Russ became acquainted with Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, who then occupied the Pilsbry Chair of Malacology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

In 1971, two years after Abbott assumed the curatorship of the Delaware Museum of Natural History (DMNH), he finally succeeded in recruiting Russ as his Collections Manager ("Assistant Curator" *per* Abbott to me *in litt.* to me 12/8/72). Aside from managing what was probably among fastest-growing mollusk collections in the world, Russ took his responsibility for public education (and relations) seriously, actively directing volunteers, and helping to raise the profile of the DMNH, placing the institution high on the list of destinations (and donations) for the amateur community. Abbott encouraged Russ to conduct research on Recent Strombididae and to pursue his studies of Bermuda marine mollusks; the latter enterprise producing several new species descriptions and the advancement of this work, his *magnum opus*. *Pari passu* with the research efforts was an intensification of his correspondence and visits with the eminent Bermudian malacologists, Arthur Guest and Jack Lightbourn, which continued well into the 1990's.

In 1977, shortly after Abbott abruptly left DMNH, Russ was appointed Head of the Mollusk Department, a

position he held until 1984, when he was called to serve as Acting Director of the museum for a short stint. He returned to the malacology range until his retirement in 1988, when he was succeeded by Dr. Rüdiger Bieler. He was active for several years as Emeritus Department Head; a position he held until his death on Dec. 29, 2001 in Phoenix, Arizona.

It is clear that Russell Jensen left his mark on the scientific community, but it can be easily argued that his most memorable contributions were to the hundreds of hobbyists who, like the man himself, came to this discipline as amateurs in the classic sense - perhaps a bit daunted in the company of a professional, but no less passionate. In the role of banquet speaker, lecturer, and, most notably in the multifarious services of shell show judge, he brought enlightenment, amusement, and above all, a demonstration, by example, that dedication and hard work could make any of us important to the enterprise of malacology.

*This paper will be included in Russ Jensen's magnum opus: *Checklist and bibliography of the marine mollusks of Bermuda* by Russell H. Jensen and Timothy A. Pearce soon to be published by Delaware Museum of Natural History as Monograph Series No. 5 [Contribution No. 13 of the Bermuda Biodiversity Project (BBP), Bermuda Aquarium, Natural History Museum and Zoo]. This work will be a prodigious and valuable addition to the literature on western Atlantic marine malacology.

Jacksonville Shell Club
1865 Debutante Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32246-8645

