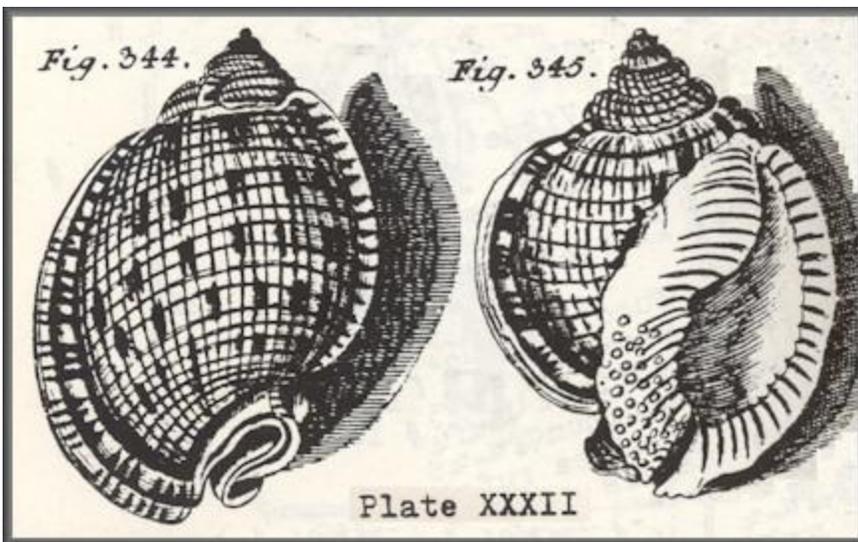




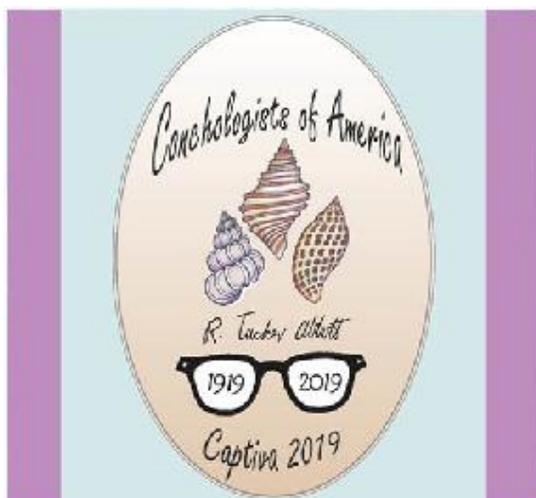
May-June, 2019 _____ Volume 60 (no. 3)

Upcoming meetings

The **May** meeting of the Jacksonville Shell Club (JSC) will be held at the usual venue, the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library <<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jacksonville-public-library-southeast-regional-jacksonville>>, on the **fourth** Thursday (the **23th**) in Function Room **D** at 7:00 PM. Rick Edwards will present the shell-of-the-month, *Semicassis granulata granulata* (Born, 1778), the Scotch Bonnet, iconotype on [L]. The official State Shell of North Carolina, it is almost as revered by beachcombers in Florida. Paul Jones, our peripatetic peninsular peregrinator in pursuit conchological perfection, will share the booty from his most recent trip to the lower Florida Keys as the main program. As Paul has demonstrated in the past, he has a keen eye for beauty and novelty, so there will be plenty of new shells into



which the audience can sink its teeth.



The JSC meeting-after-next will be on the customary fourth Thursday, **June 27**. We'll convene at the usual time, 7:00 PM, and place, **Room D**. Paul Jones will discuss the Giant Atlantic Cockle, *Dinocardium robustum* ([Lightfoot], 1786), which lives throughout the Carolinian (Sub)Province and even straggles into Virginia. It is easily found close to (and on) the shores of most of our state and is one of the largest species of its family. Harry Lee will report on the 48th annual COA Convention, to be held from June 17-23 at The Plantation on Captiva Island, FL. Highlights are expected to include people, parties, lectures, auctions, books, and the world-famous bourse. Rick Edwards will be the official JSC photographer.

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This club meets monthly at the Southeast Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida <<http://jpl.coj.net/lib/branches/se.html>>. Please address any correspondence to the club's address above. Annual membership dues are \$15.00 individual, \$20.00 family (domestic) and \$25.00 (overseas). Lifetime membership is available. Please remit payment for dues to the address below and make checks payable to the Jacksonville Shell Club. The club's newsletter and scientific journal, the *Shell-O-Gram* (ISSN 2472-2774) is issued bimonthly and mailed to an average of 15 regular members and friends by specific request and no less than ten scientific institutions with permanent libraries. An electronic (pdf) version, identical except for "live" URL's and color (vs. B&W) images, is issued the next day and sent to about 200 individuals who have demonstrated an interest in malacological research. These pdf's (ISSN 2472-2782) have also been posted to <<http://jaxshells.org/letters.htm>> since November, 1998. We encourage members and friends to submit articles for publication. Closing date for manuscript submission is two weeks before each month of publication. Articles appearing in the *Shell-O-Gram* may be republished provided credit is given the author and the *Shell-O-Gram*. As a courtesy, the editor and author should receive a copy of the republication. Contents of the *Shell-O-Gram* are intended to enter the permanent scientific record.

Spotlight on JSC members: Gary & Earlene Gordon

I was always interested in sea life, but I really got started while I was working for the Boeing Co. on Guam in 1969. The jungle and ocean led to a number of adventures. Back then you could still find nice seashells by snorkeling in the ocean or walking the reefs at minus tides. The island had some superstars in the shell world like Merle and Joyce Stone, Bruce Compton, and others. All were fun to visit with or accompany on shelling trips. Tom Montgomery had a shell shop there, and you could get a real giant Philippine helmet shell for only \$7.00. Tom read in a newspaper that a collector had found a rare large Glory-of-the-Seas Conesnail. Tom paid \$1,000.00 - a lot of money in 1969 - for it and displayed it in his shop.

Shelling in Washington State was loads of fun. I joined the shell club in Seattle and met Tom Rice. He was a big chiton collector, and we went on many shell trips together. I liked the big minus tides up there. The water would drop so much that you would find yourself walking around big rocks higher than your head that had been under water most of the time. It was great fun poking around all the sea growth for specimen shells.

In 1972 we had moved to Georgia, where I met Henry Close, and we started the Georgia Shell Club in Atlanta. In the following years we enjoyed shelling and camping at the T.H. Stone Memorial State Park on the St. Joseph Peninsula, FL. When you camp there, it's just a few steps to the bay or the beach on the Gulf. So you can swim off the beach or snorkel in St. Joe Bay.

In the 1970's my wife Earlene, our three daughters, and I attending, later competing in, the Jacksonville Shell Shows in the Flag Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach. I won several blue ribbons in the "Most Beautiful" category there and elsewhere over the years.

The Jacksonville Shell Club was full of fun-loving people, and all worked hard to help have a super club and



show. I have always believed that shell clubs are a super place to bring your children or grandchildren. The field trips teach them to enjoy the great outdoors. They learn to meet people and have fun studying shells. My advice to all club members: don't be afraid to invite a neighbor or friend to come with you to a shell meeting.

There are plenty of people who would like to find a fun hobby. Even today, my grown children love shells and the ocean and still talk of those shell trips we took together so many ears ago.

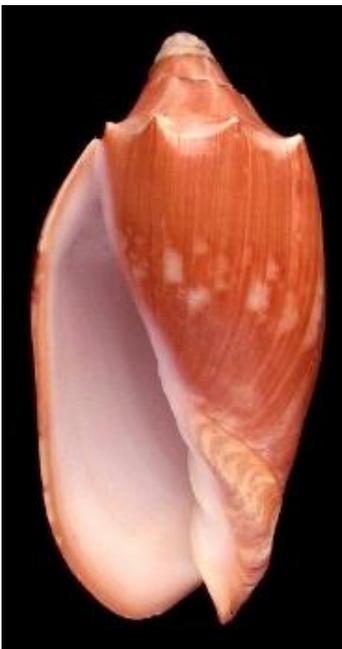


Ed. note: Gary sent along some pictures he took not long ago. **Above** is Earlene with their exhibit of worldwide tunsnails at the 2016 Gulf Coast Shell Club annual show in Panama City Beach, Florida. On the **left** is a large *Euglandina rosea* (Férussac, 1821) just outside the Gordons' front door in Warner Robins, Houston Co., GA., by far the northernmost record for the state, where it is less common than in our state (Hubricht, 1985: 144, map 340). A shot of a corner of his shell room

can be seen **below**. As is apparent, he exploited his time in Guam well - collecting cones and other large species of marine shells.



First record of a sinistral *Cymbiola aulica* (G.B. Sowerby I, 1825) reported by its erstwhile owner



Your editor, while “window-shopping” at dealers’ concessions during the Sarasota Shell Show three months ago, struck up a conversation with Paul Lamb, a veteran shell vendor, who resides near the venue. Since I suspected he was unaware of my preoccupation with reverse coiling in snails, I oriented him. He responded with a tantalizing chronicle about his receiving a left-handed *Cymbiola aulica*, known as the Princely Volute, among several normal ones, from a supplier with no indication, tacit or explicit, of its unusual symmetry. For fun, A **faux** [“photo-shopped”] approximation of his specimen is figured on the **L**. Paul set it aside and eventually sold it for a tidy profit. He was unable to recall further details, so the **future** investigation of its metadata must enter “cold case” status.

The undetermined fate of Paul’s southpaw shell notwithstanding, the species has a noteworthy **past**. The name *Voluta aulica* was first applied sans indication to a unique shell auctioned from the estate of the Dutchess of Portland ([Lightfoot], 1786: lot 4021). The very same specimen was sold at auction as part of the Earl of Tankerville’s Collection 39 years later, when the name was made [cont. on page 8]

The marine shells from the diverse and interesting **Phyllis Diegel Collection** were placed at auction on April 20, 2019. Her collection contains many of the more popular families and well as the lesser-known but equally interesting groups. It includes thousands of individual shells of marine gastropods, bivalves, cephalopods, and some chitons. The largest concentration of species and shells are in the Muricidae, Cypraeidae, and Conidae, with additional concentrations on regional locations including Florida/Caribbean and Panamic Province species. Multiples, forms, variations and freak specimens of many species are the highlight the marine collection. A number of rarities are included. There are also hundreds of books on marine, fossil, & land shell topics included in the offering. Terms of the sale of the latter are not entirely clear, but contacts are provided, and these should be easily worked out

For all details, go to <<https://diegelcollection.weebly.com>>, and read the auction format completely and carefully to understand how the collection is going to be made available and other information pertinent to making a PURCHASE OFFER (bid). Note that the shells are offered in groups, e.g., family. **Offers can be made through midnight on Saturday, June 15, 2019.**



Phyllis Diegel, pictured above with her significant other and fellow collector, Richard Duerr, was a respected figure in the Florida shelling community for many decades as well as an abiding member of the Jacksonville Shell Club despite her living at the other end of the state.

JSC club banner and lots of shells need new home

Long-time active JSC member Claire Newsome has been dutifully conserving JSC memorabilia and other property for a score or more years at her home. No longer able to fully participate in club activities, she would like to pass these properties on to an appreciative recipient(s). A highlight is the JSC banner, fabricated by the late JSC stalwart, Elma Lee Geoffrey and measuring about two or three feet by eight feet. Although a prominent part of our club heritage, it hasn't been put to use since our last shell show (July, 2014). Another bit of memorabilia is a group of three shadow boxes populated by informatively-labeled Florida seashells. These were used as a traveling educational exhibit and have circulated among Jacksonville public libraries and elementary schools over the years. Finally, there are also thousands of shells, mostly the inventory of our shell show "sand fleas" concession, that are in need of a good home. Please contact Claire at (904) 400 1456. Her address is 3875 Copper Circle East, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Three new sinistral specimens of *Cymbium* from west Africa

Dr. Pete Stimpson of Loudon, TN recently had the good fortune of acquiring three more specimens of left-handed volutes. Certainly that's a spectacular feat in itself, but all three are **different species** ... and, get this, two appear to be the **only of their kind** reported in the literature specializing in such oddities, which dates to the nineteenth century: Fischer & Bouvier (1892), Sykes (1905), Ancey (1906), Pleseneer (1920), Dance (1972), Lee, (1982), Caillez, (1987), Lee (2009), Lee (2015), and pp. 4-8 of this issue.

- ***C. cymbium* (Linnaeus, 1758)** 103mm W Africa [TYPE of *Cymbium* Röding, 1798 by absolute tautonymy]
- *C. marmoratum* (Link, 1807) 153mm Senegal
- ***C. pachyus* (Pallary, 1930) 80.3mm Cameroon**

With the previously-listed ***Cymbium cucumis* (Röding, 1798)** <<http://jaxshells.org/cucu.htm>>, also a unique specimen, these addenda propel *Cymbium* (4) past *Melo* (3) into third place among volutid genera for the most (sub)species known in the sinistral condition. Of the total 29 (sub)species of volutes known in the mutant sinistral condition, first place goes to *Cymbiola* (11), and *Amoria* comes in second (Lee, 2015: 7 [appendix]).

The undisputed leader among collectors of sinistral volutes is Dr. Stimpson, who can now boast eleven sinistral species (5 genera) in his cabinet.

Photographs taken by Dianna Stimpson of the three specimens are reproduced on the next page. Image editing performed by ed. and Bill Frank.

Ancey, C.-F. 1906. Mollusques gastéropodes sénestres de l'époque actuelle. *Bulletin scientifique de la France et de la Belgique* 40: 187-205. <<https://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/10730675>>

Caillez, J-C., 1987. Left-hand corner: Even a bivalve can turn anti clockwise. *Hawaiian Shell News* 35(5) [new series 329]: 1, 4. May.

Dance, S. P., 1972. Abnormal sinistrality in marine gastropod shells. *La Conchiglia* 4(36): 13. Feb.

Dautzenberg, P. 1914. XXI^{me} assemblée générale annuelle (presidential address). *Bulletin du Société Zoologique de la France* 39: 50-60. <<https://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/3119121>>

[bibliography concludes on p. 8]

Peter Stimpson's sinistral *Cymbium*



Cymbium cymbium (Linnaeus, 1758) 103mm W Africa & juxtaposed with a larger dextral specimen (L)



Cymbium pachyus (Pallary, 1930) 80.3mm Cameroon.

Cymbium marmoratum (Link, 1807) 153mm Senegal

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- Sykes, E. R. 1905. Presidential address. Variation in Recent Mollusca. *Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London* 6: 253-271. <<https://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/15176384>>

**First record of a sinistral *Cymbiola aulica* (G.B. Sowerby I, 1825) reported by its erstwhile owner
(cont. from p. 4)**

available by G.B. Sowerby I (1825) by his provision of an illustration in the company the binomen. The topical specimen (the holotype, natch), changed hands a few more times, ending up in the British Museum (now NHMUK) in 1837. Three years later it lost its unique stature in 1840, when the nonpareil Hugh Cuming returned from the South Seas with a large suite of *Voluta aulica* in hand.

As with the shell of Paul Lamb, who, like all the other players in the chronicle, happens to be English by birth, *sic transit gloria Britannica*.

Dance, S.P., 1969. *Rare Shells*. University of California Press, Berkeley. (1)-128 + 24 plates. [For elaboration, see: <<http://jaxshells.org/rare.htm>>]

[Lightfoot, J.], 1786. *A catalogue of the Portland Museum, lately the property of the Dutchess Dowager of Portland, deceased, which will be sold at auction by Mr. Skinner and Co. on Monday the 24th of April, 1786, and the thirty-seven following days at twelve o'clock Sundays, and the fifth of June, (the day his Majesty's Birth-Day is kept) excepted, at her dwelling-house in Privy-Garden, Whitehall*. Mr. Skinner & Co., Aldersgate St., London, viii + pp. 1-194. <<https://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/43260590>>

Sowerby, G.B. I, 1825. *A Catalogue of the shells contained in the collection of the late Earl of Tankerville, arranged according to the Lamarckian conchological system; together with an appendix containing descriptions of many new species*. G.B. Sowerby, London, vii + 92 + [Appendix] xxxiv pp., 9 pls.
<<https://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/27372421>>

Membership Dues are payable in September each year.

If you're not paid up, please send in your dues: Individual \$15.00; Family \$20.00, to

Harry G. Lee, Treasurer, JSC

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