

North Carolina Shell Club Oral Auction

6 November 2021

“A Flash From the Past”

Mulberry Park Community Building
Shallotte, North Carolina

Viewing 6 – 7 PM

Bidding Begins at 19:00 Hours (7 PM)



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Pg. 10



Pg. 16



Pg. 19



Pg. 5



Pg. 18



Pg. 11



Pg. 17



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Pg. 14



Pg. 15



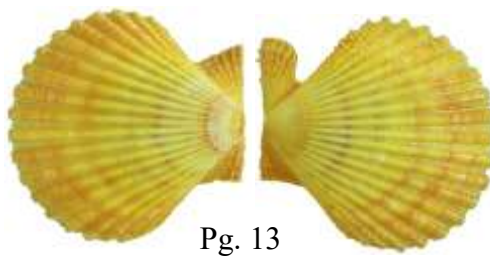
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Pg. 13



I am thinking of this as a flash from the past. The auction features several estate collections which often include species that are increasingly difficult if not impossible to obtain via recent collected resources. Older collections provide renewed opportunities to add many of these shells to one's cabinet. Do not regard "recycled" or previously owned as a negative. The shells have been well cared for.

I have done my best to photograph the shells and present them accurately. However, computer screens and or printers may not accurately present the shells.

In the event of growth mends or other features some may regard as a negative, I try to point them out if is not obvious in the photograph(s). Do take time to examine the shells at the viewing and or have your agent who will be proxy bidding for you do so. I may have missed something and apologize in advance if such incidents are discovered.

Despite feature specific notes I do not provide quality grading.

Commentary is my own opinion. I do not include stories or comment with every lot. Keep in mind that lack of comment does not render a lot less significant. When included it is offered only to help create a better picture of the lot via sharing information that cannot be shown in a photograph.

When there is no collecting source data I record "No data." I include the general worldwide range of such shells. If collecting data is present a specific place is listed but not necessarily all the data known. A complete data tag is included with the shell(s).

When known to me I include the donor. The club has received many donations of shells. Shells featured but without citation as to donor were generously donated to North Carolina Shell Club by, Vicky Wall, Ed Shuller, Jeannette Tysor, Dave Watts and the Bosch family. For those donors I have missed I humbly apologize.

John Timmerman, Auction Catalog



1.

Red Abalone

Haliotis rufescens Swainson, 1822
Oregon – Baja California 223mm

Once a plentiful shell, it is now increasingly scarce due fishing pressure and a mollusk population collapse. The species is now being farmed. This appears to be a wild caught shell from the good old days when hundreds of these shells could be found at processing houses.



4.

Commercial Trochus w/op

Rochia nilotica (Linnaeus, 1767)
No data, Indo-Pacific 103.2 dia. X 96.3 tall

This is a large adult with the laterally flattened body whorl often seen in such shells. One does not often see the operculum saved with this shell.



2.

Roe's Abalone

Haliotis roei Gray, 1826
Moruya, Australia 118.8mm

A commercially eaten species



3.

Neglected Limpet

Scutellastra laticostata (Blainville, 1825)
Breaksea Island, Albany Western Australia 105.7mm
Donated by Sue Hobbs

A super hard shell to photograph, it is much cooler in hand.



5.

Long-spined Star-shell (lot of 6)
Lithopoma phoebium (Röding, 1798)
14.5 – 35.3mm

Be sure not to overlook the smallest specimen. The spines are exquisite.



6.

Girgyllus Star-shell
Bolma girgyllus (Reeve, 1861)
Philippines 42.7mm



7.

Kiener's Delphinula w/op
Angaria sphaerula (Kiener, 1838)
Philippines 55mm



8.

Victor Dan's Delphinula
Angaria vicdani Kosuge, 1980
Philippines 54mm (including spines)



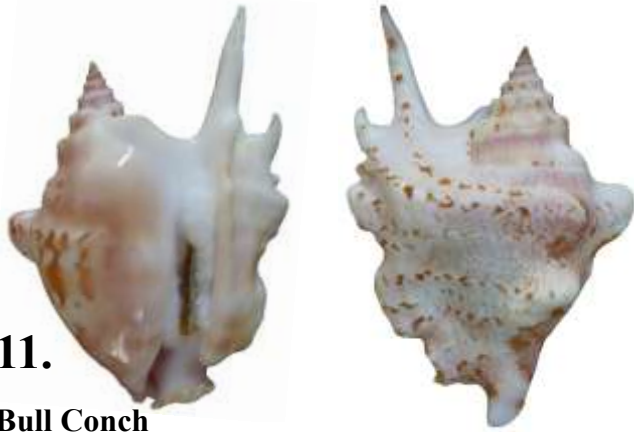
9.

Granulate Carrier-snail
Xenophora granulosa Ponder, 1983
Philippines 54.9mm (not including attachments)



10.

Chinese Carrier-snail (two shells)
Stellaria chinensis (Philippi, 1841)
Australia / Philippines 53 – 92 mm (not including attachments)



11.

Bull Conch

Sinustrombus taurus (Reeve, 1857)

Guam w/op 81mm

Beautiful and clean dorsum, characteristic to this locality



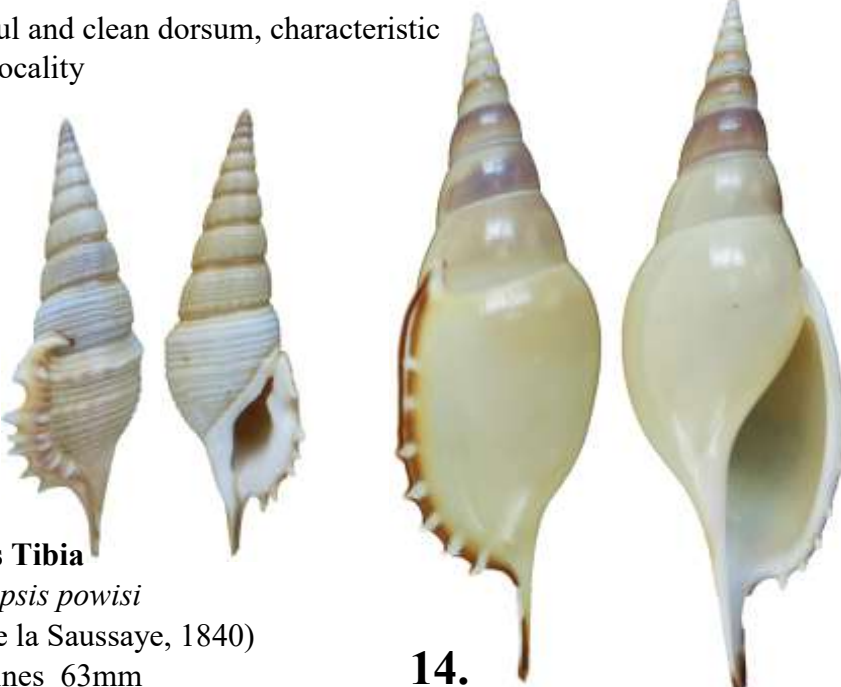
12.

Scorpio Conch

Lambis scorpius (Linnaeus, 1758)

No data Western Pacific 162mm

A very large example



13.

Powis's Tibia

Rimellopsis powisi

(Petit de la Saussaye, 1840)

Philippines 63mm

Growth mend



14.

Martin's Tibia

Tenuitibia martini (Marrat, 1877)

Philippines 114mm



15.

Delicate Tibia w/op

Rostellariella delicatula (G. Nevill, 1881)

India 78mm

16.

Shin-bone Tibia w/op

Tibia fusus (Linnaeus, 1758)

No data, SW pacific 219mm

One seldom sees the operculum preserved with this species.



Shell and Related Books Donated by Dr. Richard Henson

(shell book photographs by Vicky Wall)

17.



“American Seashells”, Second Edition, R. Tucker Abbott

Arguably the best comprehensive reference for North American shells; A must have for any shell library. The Second edition is key. Do not confuse it with First Edition which while a good book includes nowhere near the content of Second Edition.

20.



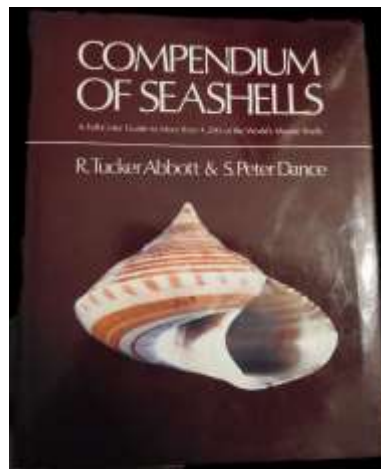
“Conchs, Tibias and Harps” Walls

18.



“Cones, A Synopsis of the Living Conidae” Walls

21.



“Compendium of Seashells” Second Printing, R. Tucker Abbott, S. Peter Dance

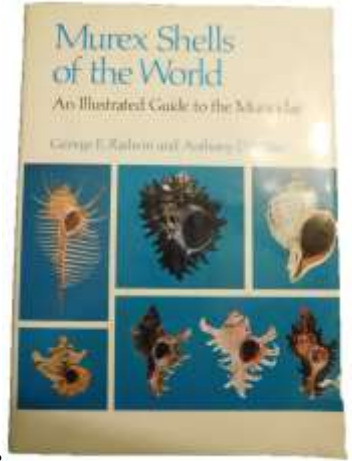
An invaluable reference Research has rendered this and many older books, obsolete per recent thinking on classification. Subsequent printings of this book changed little, only a page with corrections being added at the front. Do not allow an earlier printing discourage your bidding.

22.



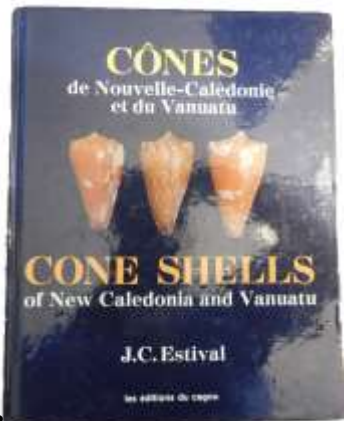
“Monograph of Living Chitons” (4 volume set) Kass & VanBelle

19.



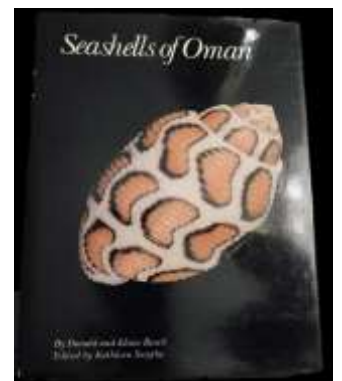
“Murex Shells of the World” Radwin & D’Atalio

23.



“Cone Shells of New Caledonia & Vanuatu,” Estival

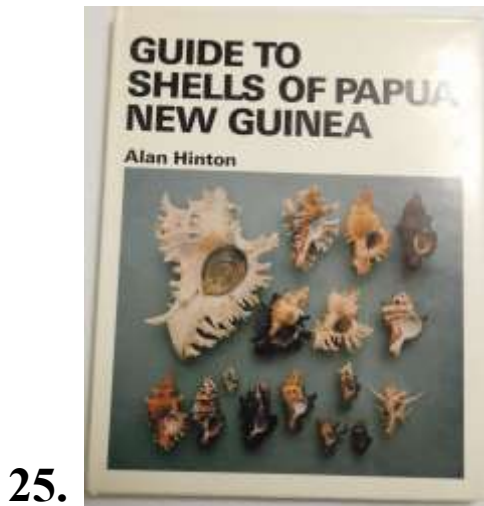
24.



“Shells of Oman” Bosch

Shell and Related Books Donated by Dr. Richard Henson

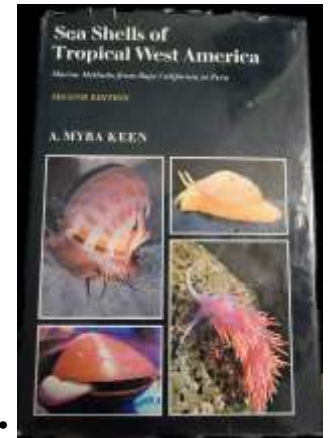
(shell book photographs by Vicky Wall)



25. "Guide To Shells of Papua New Guinea," Hinton



26. "Intertidal Invertebrates of California," Morris, Abbott & Haderlie



27. "Sea Shells of Tropical West America" Second Edition, Keen



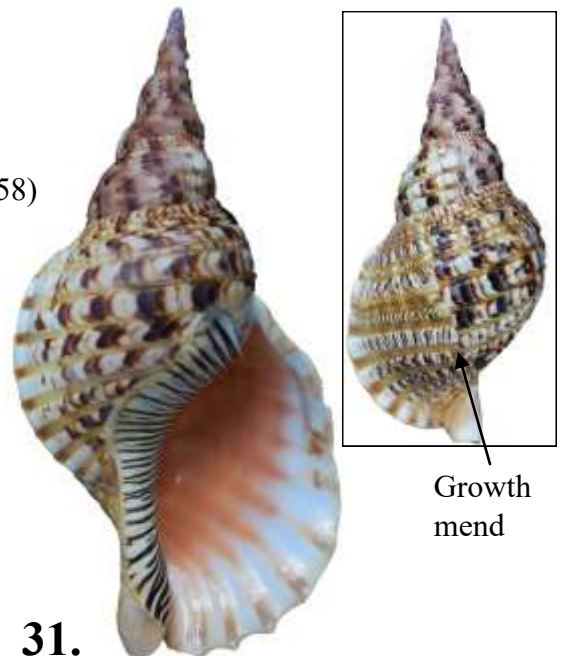
28. "Shells of the Western Pacific, In Color" Vol. 1, Kira



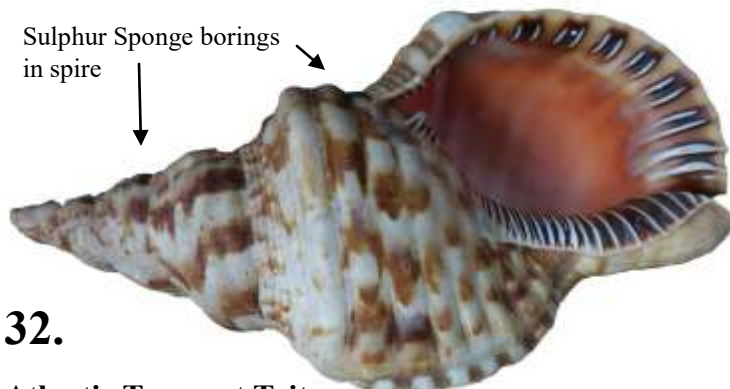
29. Precious Wentletrap
Epitonium scalare (Linnaeus, 1758)
No data Indo-Pacific 58mm
A huge example



30. Magnificent Wentletrap w/op
Amaea magnifica (G. B. Sowerby II, 1844)
Japan 72mm



31. Pacific Trumpet Triton
Charonia tritonis (Linnaeus, 1758)
No data, Indo-Pacific 355mm (14 inches)



32. Atlantic Trumpet Triton
Charonia variegata (Lamarck, 1816)
No data, NC – West Indies 270mm (10 5/8 inches)



33.

Atlantic Trumpet Triton Gold Color Form

Charonia variegata (Lamarck, 1816)

259mm (10.25 inches)

It sounds cliché, but the photographs do not do this shell justice. Much brighter color in hand.



35.

Rehder's Triton

Ranularia rehderi (A. H. Verrill, 1950)

Identification per "American Seashells,"

Second Edition

Cuba to Lesser Antilles (scallop boats)

51mm Rare

The classification on its original data slip is incorrect in my humble opinion. Whatever the winner's determination, the shell is not often seen!



34.

Tiger Triton (juvenile) 2 shells, w/periostacum

Cymatium tigrinum (Broderip, 1833)

Washington Beach, Mexico 27 November 1966

76 - 83mm very scarce species

I stumbled over these in a box of misc. shells I handled as part of one the collections donated to the shell club. A slip with collecting data was tucked in the aperture of one. The slip recorded it as *Cymatium parthenopium*. I already knew it was not this and was encouraged to find the data recording where it was collected. It is a far more scarce shell. Fully adult shells can cost hundreds of dollars, if you can find one for sale. These are juvenile shells which we frown on taking. They were likely taken many decades ago before conservation education moved to the forefront. They should not go to waste. There remains much to learned from such shells. If anything, they are a "space holder" until you can find a fully adult shell.



36.

Ovulidae Collection (6 identified species)

Crenavolva striatula (G. B. Sowerby I, 1828)

Phenacovolva brevirostri (Schumacher, 1817)

Primovolva rosewateri (C. N. Cate, 1973)

Phenacovolva lanceolata Sowerby, 1848 (?)

Phenacovolva rosea (A. Adams, 1855)

Prosimnia semperi (Weinkauff, 1881)

With data



37.

Miniature Cowries Collection (20 lots)
 No ID or data
 A fun weekend project for the student of mollusks



38.

Humpback Cowrie
Maurita mauritiana (Linnaeus, 1758)
 Hawaii, 84mm

The blue and brown dorsum shell I have seen this color in shells sourced elsewhere. I was told by a knowledgeable collector, Hawaii in particular is known for this color. It definitely is less common than the brown ones.



39.

Reticulated Cowrie
Mauritia maculifera Schilder, 1932
 Hawaii, 54mm
 Very mature and heavy



40.

Reticulated Cowrie
Mauritia maculifera Schilder, 1932
 Hawaii, 73mm
 Very mature and heavy



41.

Golden Cowrie
Callistocypraea aurantium
 (Gmelin, 1791)
 Not data, Philippines to
 Polynesia 92mm

Once so rare that even without data it cost hundreds of dollars. Very nice examples such as this retain good value. They grace many more cabinets than they did 50 years ago.



42.

Display Dome (sample shells included)
 Glass and wood
 9.5" diameter (base) ~8" tall
 Even common "give away shells" which is where I sourced the samples, appear to be jewels. Imagine how your shells or any other collectible will look!



43.

Cushion Coral

Cladocora caespitosa (Linnaeus, 1767)
No data, endemic to Mediterranean Sea 165mm
Found only in the Mediterranean Sea.
Donated by Ruth Drye



44.

Staghorn Coral

Acropora cervicornis (Lamarck, 1816)
Puerto Rico 245mm
Collected many years ago by Doug Wolfe
Donated by Doug Wolfe.

New collecting of corals in Puerto Rico is banned.



45.

Giant Tun

Tonna galea (Linnaeus, 1758)
No data, Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indo – Pacific
206mm
Donor the Peggy Wilkerson estate

This appears to be a Philippine shell which was marketed under the obsolete classification of *Tonna olerium* (Linnaeus, 1758) in years past.



46.

Pele's Murex w/op (set of three shells)

Homalocantha pele (Pilsbry, 1918)
Hawaii 45 – 48mm



47.

Venus Comb Murex

Murex pectin [Lightfoot], 1786
No data, Indo – Pacific 149mm

How do the fishermen retrieve these shells without breaking the spines?



48.

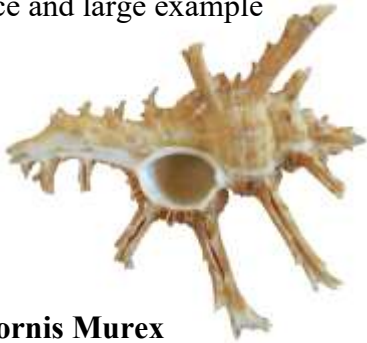
Saul's Murex w/op
Chicoreus saulii (G. B. Sowerby II, 1841)
 No data SW Pacific 106mm
 Very nice and large example



49.

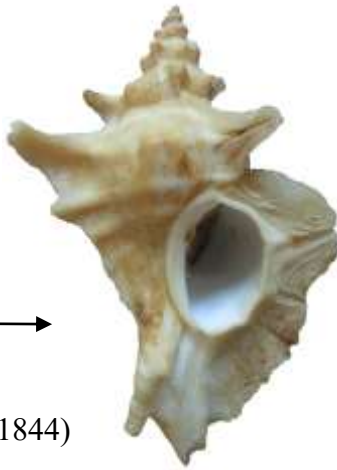
Monodon Murex w/op
Chicoreus cornucervi (Röding, 1798)
 Western Australia 104mm
 Donated by Sue Hobbs

A shell hard to show accurately the beauty of the curved spines



50.

Axicornis Murex
Chicoreus axicornis (Lamarck, 1822)
 No data, Japan to Philippines 63mm



52. →

Centrifuge Murex w/op
Pteropurpura centrifuga (Hinds, 1844)
 Gulf of California 80mm



51.

Nigrite Murex
Muricanthus nigritus (Philippi, 1845)
 No data, Gulf of California
 Extra-large, a nice "deco" shell



53.

Common Crown Conch w/op (set of 3 shells)
Melongena corona (Gmelin, 1791)
 No data, Florida – NE Mexico 58 – 72mm



→ 54.

Lischke's Latiaxis
Babelomurex lischkeanus (Dunker, 1882)
 No data, Japan to New Zealand 40mm



← 55.

True Tulip
Fasciolaria tulipa (Linnaeus, 1758)
 No data, Florida – Texas – West Indies 186mm

Arguably one of the more striking of Western Atlantic shells, this may not be the best around but imagine finding one like this washed up on North Carolina beach! It happens, but not often.



56.

Spindle Shell (2 shells) one with malformed canal

Fusinus longissimus (Gmelin, 1791)

Philippines, 113 – 116mm

One animal suffered an injury and then had trouble regenerating new shell.



57.

Tent Olive

Oliva porphyria (Linnaeus, 1758)

No data, Gulf of California to Panama 79mm

It is one of the most recognizable of the worldwide Olives. No cabinet is complete without at least one. Many collectors include several in their collections.



58.

Red-mouth Olive (5 shells)

Oliva miniacea (Röding, 1798) *saturata*

Philippines 53 – 67mm

Donated by Mique Pinkerton A striking variant.



59.

Red-mouth Olive (6 shells)

Oliva miniacea (Röding, 1798) *marrati*

Philippines 37 – 63mm

Donated by Mique Pinkerton

The “black” variant.



61.

Red-mouth Olive (wide lip)

Oliva miniacea (Röding, 1798)

Philippines 65mm

Donated by Mique Pinkerton

A weird, flared lip.



63.

Black Olive

Oliva vidua (Röding, 1798)

Solomons 57mm

Donated by Mique Pinkerton

Some specimens are indeed black. This gold shell is another of the color variants.



60.

Red-mouth Olive

(3 shells)

Oliva miniacea

(Röding, 1798) *marrati*

Philippines 56 – 57mm

Donated by

Mique Pinkerton

The “black” variant.



62.

Red-mouth Olive (2 shells) extra large

Oliva miniacea (Röding, 1798)

Philippines 83 – 88mm

Donated by Mique Pinkerton

A brace of impressive, very mature examples.

64.



Angled Olive

Oliva incrassata ([Lightfoot], 1786)
No data, West Mexico – Peru 66mm

65.



Oliva sericea (Röding, 1798) (2 shells)
Philippines 79 – 82mm
Donated by Mique Pinkerton



66.

Lettered Olive (golden form)

Oliva sayana Ravenel, 1834
Scallop dumps, Cape Canaveral 55mm

Take the average Lettered Olive, subtract the purple-brown markings and you get the golden variant. Alas it is not that simple. Natural gold variants are very rare. Do not confuse this with a long dead, faded shell.



67.

River Mussel

Sinohyriopsis cumingii (Lea, 1852)
China (full data) 195mm
Donated by Sue Hobbs



An extremely cool and gigantic bivalve from China. A much underrated genera of mollusks, are the river mussels.

68.

American Thorny Oyster (2 specimens)

Spondylus americanus Hermann, 1781
Florida 111 – 119mm (measure includes spines)

This is an immensely variable species. These shells were collected likely from a sunken wreck as evidenced by the bottom valve attachment surface being flat and with residue of iron oxide.

← Hinges are broken
valves are separate



70.

Nobel Scallop (2 pairs, yellow & orange)
Mimachlamys crassicosata (G. B. Sowerby II, 1842)
Japan 81 – 84mm

69.

Honeycomb Oyster (two, joined specimens)

Hyotissa hyotis (Linnaeus, 1758)
Fiji 121mm (total dimension of combined specimens)
Donated by Sue Hobbs



This is a common species but seldom made available to collectors. There are so many other really cool shells to be found and with limited ability to bring prizes home, a large, heavy oyster becomes a no-brainer as something to skip and leave on the reef. Here is a chance to round out your collection with an important and aesthetic part of the mollusk fauna.



71.

Lion's Paw (2 shells)

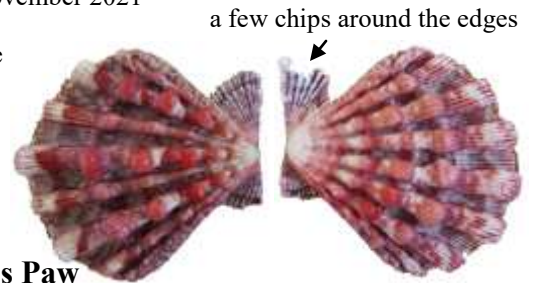
Nodipecten fragosus

(Conrad, 1849)

Scallop boats, off Florida

77 – 101mm

A shell that used to be readily available as bi-catch from the *Argopecten* fisheries. See the discussion of Lot.100 Junonia (Volute), pg. 17.



72.

Lion's Paw

Nodipecten fragosus (Conrad, 1849)

Florida 46mm very knobby – no popped

“knuckles!”

The knuckles are hollow. Not all specimens have well produced knuckles. A specimen with large and not popped knuckles, sets it apart from the pack.



73.

Townsend's Scallop

Mimachlamys townsendi (Sowerby III, 1895)

Oman 121mm

Donated by Sue Hobbs

Never an easy species to obtain, this is not as big as they can come but is a very nice color, often lacking in big examples.

74.



Great Caribbean Tellin

Lacolina magna (Spengler, 1798)

Honduras 68mm



75.

Tellin Collection

Speckled Tellin *Tellinella listeri* (Röding, 1798)

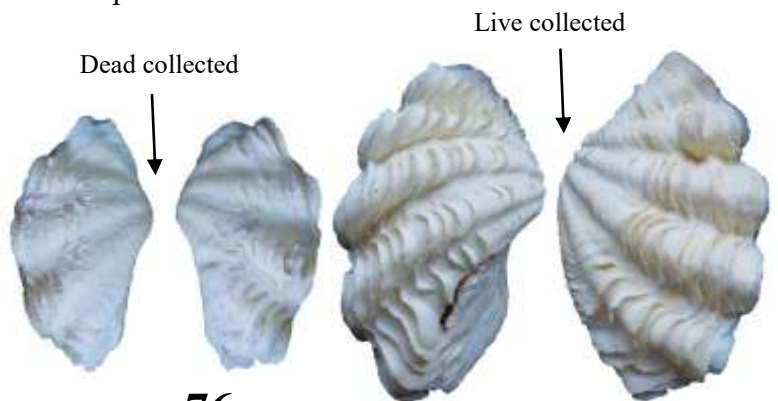
Foliated Tellin *Phylloda foliacea* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Sunrise Tellin *Tellina radiata* Linnaeus, 1758 (3)

Rose Petal Tellin *Eurytellina lineata* (W. Turton, 1819) (4)

Angulate Tellin *Eurytellina angulosa* (Gmelin, 1791)

Size range: 21 – 61mm



76.

Elongate Giant Clam (2 pairs)

Tridacna maxima (Röding, 1798)

Red Sea – Egypt 64 – 100mm

A trade restricted species No new ones are being imported into USA. Doubly interesting to this acquisition is Egypt which presently has very strict export rules concerning shells.



77.

Land Snail

Florida Tree Snail (8 shells)
Liguus fasciatus (Müller, 1774)
 form *elegans* Simpson, 1920
 Florida 24 – 45mm

One of the many forms of this highly variable species



79.

Zoned Miter (2 shells)
Episcomitra zonata (Marryat, 1818)
 No data, Mediterranean – W. Africa 74 – 83mm



81.

David Harp
Harpa davidis Röding, 1798
 No data, Andaman Sea,
 Maldives 84mm

84. →

Turrid
Clavatula taxea (Röding,
 1798) w/op
 South Africa 83mm



78.

Miniature Shell Collection
 30 sets including one to multiple specimens
 Data sheets included



80.

Helmet Vase
Vasum cassiforme (Kiener, 1841)
 No data, Brazil 89mm

A good representative of an often expensive species

82.



Triseriate Auger
Terebra triseriata Gray, 1834
 Japan 82mm

How do they get these cleaned? Worth it just to avoid having to clean it yourself!



83.

Japanese Wonder Shell
Thatcheria mirabilis Angas, 1877
 Taiwan 77mm

A classic architecturally inspiring shell



85.

Chambered Nautilus

Nautilus pompilius Linnaeus, 1758

No data, Philippines 180mm

Trade is now restricted for this shell. They are classified as CITES II which retains the ability for trade but new shells have pretty much disappeared from the market. Estate shells such as this are the primary means to get one for your cabinet. In the mid 1960's this species was one of the first I purchased. As a kid I would rake a neighbor's yard for a Saturday afternoon and earn perhaps 50 cents. A similar shell set me back a princely sum (to a kid), of \$2.50.



86.

Hirase's Slit Shell

Mikadotrochus hirasei (Pilsbry, 1903)

No data, South China Sea 99mm

Dead taken, large specimen. Most specimens I see in the present market are in the range of 80mm for "large" examples. 100mm and above remain very scarce. This is a shell more impressive in hand than the photograph communicates.



88.

Brachiopods (3)

Terebratalia transversa (Sowerby, 1846)

California 35 – 45mm

Formerly classified as a mollusk



87.

North Carolina Collection

By scallop boats off Beaufort, North Carolina

Hexaplex fulvescens (G. B. Sowerby II, 1834) w/op

Tonna galea (Linnaeus, 1758)

Semicassis granulata (Born, 1778) (3)

Conasprella delessertii (Récluz, 1843) (4)

Euvola raveneli (Dall, 1898) (2)

Favarta levicula (Dall, 1889) (3)

Phrontis alba (Say, 1826) (4)

Babelomurex mansfieldi (T. L. McGinty, 1940) (2)

Prunum roscidum (Redfield, 1860) (4)

Recovered, Researched and Donated by Doug Wolfe

Doug met the scallop boats at Beaufort when they returned with their catch of *Argopecten gibbous*. It was an excellent opportunity to acquire North Carolina shells, many of which remain hard to obtain. The North Carolina *Argopecten* fishery collapsed due to over exploitation and the boats move south.

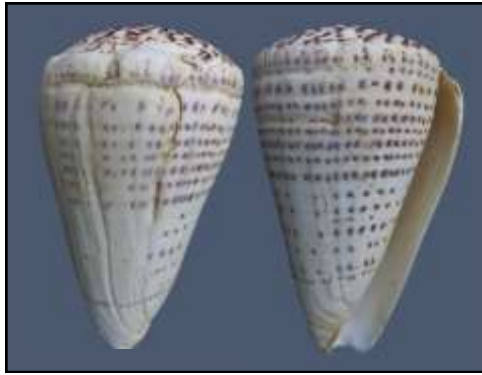


89.

Ampulle Bulla

Bulla ampulla Linnaeus, 1758
Philippines 55mm

Though typical in size for this species, if you are only familiar with the Atlantic species *Bulla striata*, this is eye-popping huge. A conversation piece.



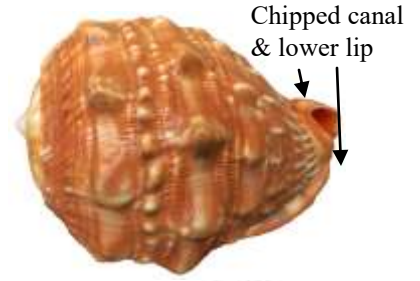
90.

Leopard Cone

Conus leopardus (Röding, 1798)
No data, Indo – Pacific 148mm

many growth mends

A fine example of the almost ridiculous weight the species can attain as it becomes giant. A lot of Calcium carbonate is included in a shell like this. You can help mitigate global warming by preserving a shell like this as the carbon is locked in the shell.



Chipped canal & lower lip

91.

Bullmouth Helmet

Cypraeacassis rufa
(Linnaeus, 1758)
No data Indo – Pacific
137mm

Nice deco shell



92.

Bengal Cone

Conus bengalensis (Okutani, 1968)
Thailand 95mm



94.

Crowned Baler

Melo brodrerippii (Gray 1833)
No data, Philippines 258mm
Donated by Mark Johnson

A nice, fully mature specimen, tastefully cleaned and not polished.



Columella fold, chipped



93.

Glory of the Sea Cone

Conus gloriamaris Chemnitz,
1777
No data, Western Pacific
91mm

Only the tiniest of flaws can be found under close scrutiny of this shell. It came from an old collection, acquired from a gift shop.



95.

Roadnight's Volute

Livonia roadnightae (McCoy, 1881)
Australia 111mm

A fully mature, “dwarf” specimen Most of the time I see this shell touted in the extra-large size in the range of 150mm+ for which many of us have one of in our cabinet. I seldom see them so tiny. The reflected, thickened lip, demonstrates full maturity compared to the thin lip of a juvenile shell, the latter of which may be mistakenly advertised as “dwarf.”



96.

Lightning Volute

Ericusa fulgetrum (G. B. Sowerby I, 1825)
Australia 95mm

A variable species never plentiful, the blonde variant



97.

Norris's Volute

Cymbiola rutila (Broderip, 1826) formerly *norrisi*
No data, Papua to Solomons
71mm

Cymbiola norrisi is an obsolete classification for this variable species. I site it here as an aid for recognition per using an older reference.

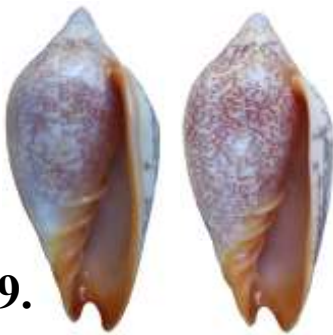


98.

Magnificent Volute

Cymbiola magnifica (Gebauer, 1802)
Australia 171mm

Always a striking shell, this is a sub-adult specimen as evidenced by a thin lip.



99.

Desirable Volute (2 shells)

Amoria exoptanda (Reeve, 1849)
Australia 95 – 97mm

Display ready duo It's often hard to decide which side to display up.



101.

Barnard's Volute w/op
Fusivoluta barnardi Rehder, 1969
South Africa 91mm



102.

American Volute

Odontocymbiola americana
(Reeve, 1856)
Brazil 48mm

100.

Junonia (Volute) (2 shells)

Scaphella junonia (Lamarck, 1804)
Scallop boats Florida 69 – 79mm



Forty years ago this was an easy to obtain shell. I often explained to friends that it was a perfect example of one beauty of shells. It is a stunning shell one could acquire for not much investment equal by visual aesthetic to many much more expensive shells. However, fishing practices have changed and the scallop boats which were a major resource for such shells no longer land this species. Scuba divers sometimes collect shells but they occur at the safe diving limit for this sport. Beached specimens have never been common. Prices paid in recent years appear grossly inflated by comparison to 40 years ago but it is easy to understand the drive in the market to get one. They are a classic rarity and will always be a prized centerpiece to any cabinet.

Live collected

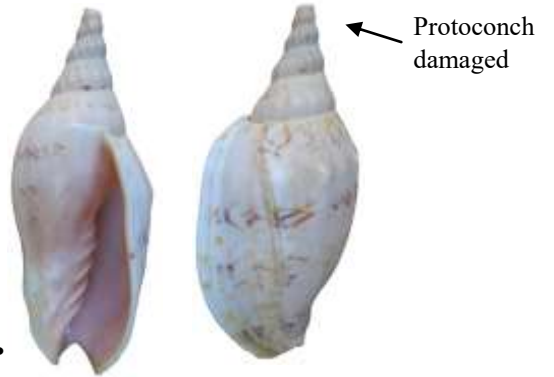
Dead collected



103.

Jansen's Volute (2 shells, one dead col.)
Amoria jansae van Pel & Moolenbeck, 2010
 No data, Australia 113 – 124mm

This used to be classified as *Cymbiolista hunteri*, the deep water form.



Protoconch damaged

104.

Swainson's Volute
Alcithoe arabica (Gmelin, 1791)
 New Zealand, 87mm
 One of the Arabian Volute forms.

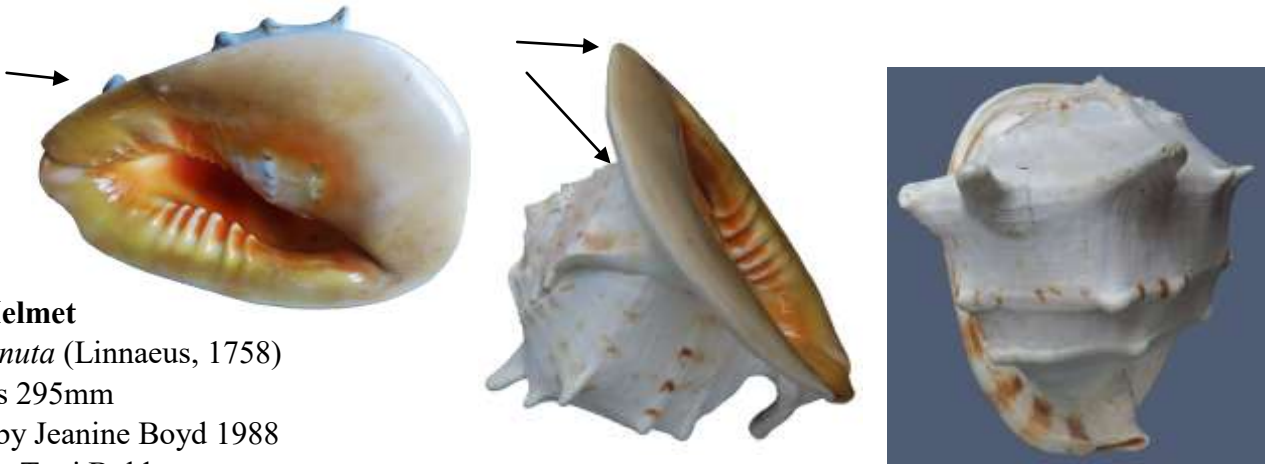


105.

Cameo Helmet
Cassis madagascariensis Lamarck, 1822
 No data North Carolina to Lesser Antilles
 192mm

This is the Caribbean form with larger knobs compared to the *spinella* form often found off North Carolina to Florida.
 "Sardonix" cameos are cut from this shell.

Canal and lip / shield, trimmed



106.

Horned Helmet
Cassis cornuta (Linnaeus, 1758)
 Philippines 295mm
 Collected by Jeanine Boyd 1988
 Donated by Toni Boldy

The "Yellow Helmet" in the commercial trade. Extra-large specimens with collecting data are increasingly difficult to obtain. Many shells can be found for sale on the Internet but the majority are from the commercial trade with no collecting data. It is not so much that they are not offered for sale as there are many estate shells still changing hands but import restrictions have made it difficult to bring new ones in from the Philippines. By result it can be risky to import one from any country as they can be classified a Philippine shell and be confiscated. The large examples with smaller knobs and inflated body whorl are typically female. This shell fits that description. Though dead taken, it must have been very fresh dead as the lip and aperture retain full gloss and color. Local fishermen cleaned the shell for its lucky collector. Win this shell and you carry it home without adding the non-trivial cost of shipping a big, heavy shell.