

# **HAASIANA**

**A BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL NATURAL  
HISTORY COLLECTIONS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY**

**No. 6**

**Jerusalem, April 2012**

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Cover photograph of *Chromodoris annulata* Eliot, 1904  
by Oz Rittner.

Contributions appearing in the newsletter should be considered  
as preliminary notes that have not been peer-reviewed.

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## **From the Director**

Once again, it is my great pleasure to write these few opening words to this, the sixth, Haasiana Newsletter of the Hebrew University National Natural History Collections. Haasiana is our means of communicating to both the scientific and public community the most recent progress that has been made in the work of the Collections. We endeavour to bring out this newsletter at approximately two year intervals to ensure it's topicality. In each Haasiana we place focus on one of the six major Collections and this year it is the turn of the Mollusca Collection. There is a wonderful human history contained in each Collection and this issue's account of the people involved creating the Mollusca Collection is completely fascinating. I would specially like to thank Prof Yossi Heller and Henk Meinis for writing this exciting account of the Mollusca Collection. I would also take this opportunity to mention Yossi's beautifully illustrated book on the 'Land snails of Israel' recently published by the Penfold Press. The Hebrew University Collections are always in a state of progress and I am particularly happy to announce that Dr Dror Hawlena has joined us this year as Academic Curator of the Herpetology (Reptiles and Amphibians) Collection and Senior lecturer in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour of the Institute of Life Sciences. Dror is making groundbreaking research on the effects of stress and fear on Lizard physiology and is a leading field expert on desert ecology. We wish Dror every success in his future career in the Hebrew University Collections. Finally, I would like to express thanks to Drs Nechama Ben- Eliahu and Danny Golani for once again making possible this new issue of our newsletter through their committed editorial work.

**Prof. Alan Matthews**  
Director

## **From the Coordinator of the Collections**

The current issue of *Haasiana* marks the sixth time that this newsletter, which summarizes the activities for the years 2010–2011 of the National Natural History Collections of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been published. It is named after the late Professor Georg Haas, one of the founders and pillars of Zoology, Paleontology, and Natural History in Israel.

As in previous issues, the sixth issue of *Haasiana* presents the activities of each of the Hebrew University Natural History collections—namely, research projects and public outreach projects, and lists the scientific publications, articles and books that have been published by the researchers associated with the collections since the previous issue of *Haasiana*. The current issue focuses on the Mollusc Collection. Its comprehensive report contains the history of the collection and the absorption of major collections from abroad, description of the contents, and additional type material that has been added since the previous issue of this newsletter.

Since the untimely death of Dr. Shoshana Ashkenazi, responsibility for the Computerization Project was placed in the experienced hands of Ms. Naomi Sivan, who continued this important task until her retirement in February 2012. She has been replaced by Ms. Gali Beiner. The collections website, which can be found online at <http://nnhc.huji.ac.il>, can be accessed by researchers, zoologists and all interested people.

Recently, Dr. D. Hawlena became the curator of the Herpetology Collection. We welcome him and wish him much success and satisfaction in his new position.

Members of the staff of the Natural History Collections were responsible for organizing the 47<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Zoological Society of Israel, which took place in December 2010 at the Edmund Safra Campus of the Hebrew University at Giv'at Ram and the conference on Fish and Fishing: Archaeological, Anthropological, Taphonomical and Ecological Perspectives, which was a joint research conference of the Institute for Advanced Studies and the Israel Science Foundation, which took place in Jerusalem, Haifa and Eilat in October 2011.

As coordinator of the collections and on behalf of the other members of the collections, I would like to thank Dr. Nechama Ben-Eliahu, co-editor of *Haasiana*. Her dedication, meticulousness and persistence were indispensable in the creation of this issue. The editors thank Ms. Rahel Jaskow for reviewing the editing and proofreading the final draft of this issue.

**Dr. Daniel Golani**

Coordinator of the National Natural History Collections

## II. THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS COMPUTERIZING PROJECT 2010–2011

### Staff

**Ms. N. Sivan**, Webmaster and Project Coordinator, <nnhc@savion.huji.ac.il>

**Mr. A. Ben-Nun**, manager of the GIS services, advises the collections regarding hardware and software and supplies mapping and coordinate-transforming services.

As in the previous ones, the computerization of the collections has been one of the major aims of the collections staff. Work was carried out in parallel on the following objectives:

- Completion of the internet site of the collections, adding databases of the various collections and a search interface. This was seen as the webmaster's most important task during 2010–2011. The site is located at <<http://nnhc.huji.ac.il>>.
- Data entry of the various collections, done partly by the staff of these collections and partly by students, included additional taxonomic groups in different collections.

### The Collections internet site and databases

During 2008–2009, the first stage of the internet site of the National Natural History Collections at the Hebrew University was completed and the site went online, despite the lack of much information both in the English and Hebrew versions. During 2010–2011, part of the missing information was added and other parts were updated, including a “News and Events” page which was updated when necessary. Most of the effort was invested in the development of the search interface, which gives the public access to the data of the databases. The first, basic version of the search interface was developed under Dr. Shosh Ashkenazi, but when she passed away in April 2010, it was not yet online. During the second half of 2010, the search interface was improved by adding information about the databases, search instructions, drop-down lists, a map of the districts of Israel and more. When the search interface was finished in the end of 2010, it was checked internally and then uploaded to the collections web site together with the first databases. Although the search interface is regarded as user-friendly, there is still room for improvement.

### Databases of the collections, general information

The work on the databases includes various aspects:

**Recovering old files prepared in computer formats other than Excel** (usually done in Access) and transferring them to Excel. The new files are prepared directly in Excel under the curators' supervision, with data entry carried out in the various collections, including typing by the technicians and by students.

**Verification of the databases**, prepared by or under the supervision of the curators of the various collections, checking for mistakes and adding missing data (names of higher taxa when only genus and species are given; Israeli and international coordinates; district in Israel and adjacent regions when only location is given; marine regions; information on type material and more). The staff of the GIS assist with geographic

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<sup>1</sup> This report on the computerizing project was written by **N. Sivan**.

problems and the translation from Israeli to international coordinates. Addition of coordinates and districts was carried out using a list prepared by the late Dr. Shosh Ashkenazi, maps, a specially adapted GIS interface, and also with reference to internet sites such as Google Earth and Amud Anan. Taxonomic information is added by using international databases recognized by the curator of the specific collection (such as “Fish Base”).

**Adapting the Excel files to a common format fitting all the collections.** The form includes 45 fields covering specimen code; taxonomic, geographic, collection and determination data; remarks and an option to add photos. For each database, additional fields are added—e.g., depth of collection for fishes and aquatic invertebrates.

### **Databases that were online by the end of 2011**

#### **The Herbarium**

A combined file of Bryophyta (about 8,283 records) including liverworts (the material described in Heyn, C.C. and Herrnstadt, I. [2004]). The Bryophyte Flora of Israel and Adjacent Regions, The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities) and mosses.

#### **Invertebrates (not including molluscs)**

**Arthropoda** (2,900 records), including scorpions and pseudoscorpions.

**Crustacea** (2,840 records), including the groups **Amphipoda**, **Copepoda**, **Cumacea**, **Decapoda**, **Tanaidacea** and **Cirripedia**. The 134 types of Copepoda described by Prof. F.D. Por during his many years of research comprise an important part of the copepod file. An interesting species is the blind prawn, *Typhlocaris*, which was discovered in the Ayalon Cave in 2006 and described by M. Tsumamal (see Haasiana 3: 61 and 4: 19).

**Nematoda** (407 records): non-determined meiobenthos.

**Plankton** (7,700 records), including non-determined material from the Gulf of Aqaba (Elat) and the Eastern Mediterranean plankton samples collected by Prof. Baruch Kimor.

#### **Mollusca**

Land snails of Israel and adjacent regions (3,820 records). The file includes about half of the land snail material in the mollusc collection, representing close to 100 species.

#### **Fishes**

All of the collection material (18,064 records) is online. At present, this is our biggest database online.

#### **Mammals**

The database (1,296 records) includes mostly large mammals.

## Databases presently being developed and plans for the future

### The Herbarium

**Algae:** Although a database of 4,100 records has been prepared, there are still some problems which need to be solved together with the expert on the taxon.

**Vascular plants:** Close to 55,000 records are on the computer, transferred from older files. The records need thorough checking, which is not planned for the near future.

**Type material** in the Herbarium is being computerized.

**Invertebrates** (not including molluscs): Additional databases of the **marine invertebrates**, including both **meiobenthos** and **macrobenthos** material, have been prepared. The databases need verification and adjustment to fit the format of the internet, and this is being done gradually.

**Arthropoda, spiders:** The **Solifugae** (camel spiders), 683 records, have been computerized; the file is being adapted for the internet. The records will be added to the Arthropoda database. The **Aranea** catalogue includes about 5,000 records; of these, 4,000 have been computerized. When completed, the database will be checked against the material in the collection—a time-consuming process.

**Amphibians and Reptiles:** The **Amphibia** database will be the first to be placed online. Most of the material has been computerized and the data are being checked by the collection manager, who will also add additional records. Most of the records still lack geographic coordinates.

**Reptiles:** Additional databases (**turtles, lizards, snakes**, etc.) will gradually be adapted for the internet. Most of the data are already computerized and will be checked by the collection manager, who will add additional records.

**Birds:** The **bird** database (780 records) has been completed except for the geographic coordinate data, which will be added in the near future.

### Molluscs

**Freshwater snails** of Israel and adjacent regions: The previous Access file, which has been transferred to Excel, includes ca. 680 records. The file lacks geographic coordinates. The computerization was done about 12 years ago, and data on all subsequent material are lacking.

**Marine snails** of Israel and adjacent regions: The previous Access file, which has been transferred to Excel, includes ca. 1,500 records. The computerization was done nearly 12 years ago, and data on all subsequent material are lacking.

**Mammals:** The computerization of the rodents is in progress. The work includes numbering each bone, a very time-consuming process. Geographic coordinates will be added.

Note that since new material is continually being added to the collections, the databases that are already online need to be updated from time to time.



## An example from the database of the mammal collection

An example of search results  
for *Gazella gazella*

Search Parameters:	
<a href="#">Click here to search again</a>	

Search Results:	
Institute and specimen code	HUJMAM 2066
Genus	Gazella
Species	gazella
Country	Israel and adjacent regions
District	Judean Mountains
Institute and specimen code	HUJMAM 3865
Genus	Gazella
Species	gazella
Country	Israel and adjacent regions
District	Judean Mountains
Institute and specimen code	HUJMAM 7951
Genus	Gazella
Species	gazella
Country	Israel and adjacent regions
District	Judean Mountains
Institute and specimen code	HUJMAM 8282
Genus	Gazella
Species	gazella
Country	Israel and adjacent regions
District	Judean Mountains
Institute and specimen code	HUJMAM 8192
Genus	Gazella
Species	gazella
Country	Israel and adjacent regions
District	Judean Mountains

[top of page](#)

Detailed information for one of  
the specimens

Search Parameters:	
<a href="#">Click here to search again</a>	

Search Results:	
Institute and specimen code	HUJMAM 2066
Genus	Gazella
Species	gazella
Country	Israel and adjacent regions
District	Judean Mountains
Phylum (Division)	Chordata
Subphylum (Subdivision)	Vertebrata
Class	Mammalia
Order	Artiodactyla
Family	Bovidae
Subfamily	Antilopinae
Genus	Gazella
Species	gazella
Subspecies	gazella
Subspecies author	Pallas, 1767
Country	Israel and adjacent regions
District	Judean Mountains
Locality	Nes Harim (road near Even Sapir, Jerusalem area)
Collection month	February
Collection year	1964
Collector(s)	Falk R.
Geographic coordinate system - longitude	35° 08' E
Geographic coordinate system - latitude	31° 45' N
Israel grid (ITM) - longitude	212834
Israel grid (ITM) - latitude	630110
Coordinates - original (O), reconstructed (R)	R

Institute and specimen code	HUJMAM 3728
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### III. THE BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

#### III-1. THE MOLLUSC COLLECTION<sup>1</sup>

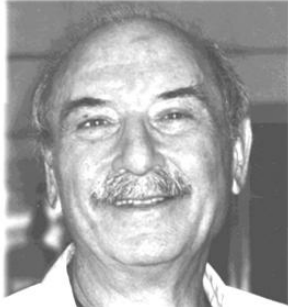
##### 1a. THE HISTORY OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY MOLLUSC COLLECTION

Two years ago, when it was decided that the mollusc collection would be the focus of the next (6<sup>th</sup>) *Haasiana*, no one recalled that the publication of the current issue would coincide with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the collection by **Dr. Georg Haas**.

##### The scientists that developed and managed the mollusc collection



Georg Haas  
(1905–1981)



Eitan Tchernov  
(1935–2002)



Joseph Heller  
(b. 1941)



Henk K. Mienis  
(b. 1941)

**Dr. Haas** immigrated to Palestine from Vienna, Austria in 1932 after completing his education. In 1928, he obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna in zoology and palaeontology. His dissertation dealt with the functional cranial anatomy of primitive snakes. This was followed by postdoctoral research on protozoans at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin until 1932. In 1932, he came to Palestine and joined the staff of the Department of Zoology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (the university was founded in 1925).

A classical zoologist, **Prof. Haas** recognized the importance of general zoological collections, and immediately began to improve the collections of the Department of Zoology by carrying out methodical collection of animals of all the taxonomic groups. In addition to reptiles, he was particularly interested in molluscs. Haas became responsible for the mollusc collection and was involved in its development until his death. In 1935, Haas published his first notes on the mollusc fauna of Palestine, followed by nine other publications (see References). Haas's mollusc research supplemented that of the geologists **M. Avnimelech**, who had published various notes about the land snails of Palestine in 1933, and **L. Picard** who, one year later, dealt with the fossil freshwater molluscs in the Levantine layers of the Jordan Valley. Part of the material of both authors is still present in the mollusc and/or paleontological collections of the university.

**Haas's** collecting was supplemented by the work of his colleagues: the entomologist **O. Theodor**, the parasitologist **G.-G. Witenberg** (mainly freshwater snails of the genera *Bulinus* and *Biomphalaria* serving as intermediate hosts for flukes transmitting

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<sup>1</sup> This report on the Mollusc collection was written by **H.K. Mienis**.

*Schistosomiasis*), and the zoologists **H. Bytinski-Salz** (mainly land snails), **H. Mendelssohn** (chiefly *Sphincterochila*), and **J. Wahrman** (land snails from the southern Negev and Sinai).

Collecting molluscs in those times was not as easy as it is today. A network of roads hardly existed in the country, and large parts of the Negev were still more or less *terra incognita*. Travelling through the Negev was also rather unsafe due to the presence of robbers. That was one of the reasons that, when they visited the Gulf of Aqaba, **Haas** and his colleagues always travelled first to Amman in Trans-Jordan, and from there they drove southwards to Aqaba, occasionally travelling to Umm Rash-Rash (the Arabic name for the village that preceded the modern city of Elat).

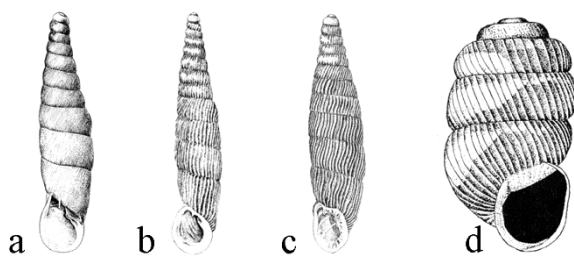
While collecting molluscs was not an easy task, identifying the material was even more difficult because literature hardly existed and was also difficult to obtain in those early days. Although **Germain**'s monograph of the land and freshwater molluscs of Syria, which included Lebanon and Palestine, had been published as early as 1921–1922, with **Pallary**'s addition to it in 1929, there were no copies in the library of the University. For this reason, **Haas** regularly sent part of the material to specialists abroad who were willing to help him. **J.R. le B. Tomlin** (England, 1936–1940) received, for example, marine material from the Eastern Mediterranean; **F. Haas** (U.S.A., 1949) was sent the large freshwater mussels; **L.A.W.C. Venmans** (the Netherlands, 1939–1940 and 1948–1951) studied the *Truncatellina*, *Cecilioides* and *Calaxis* material; and **J.G.J. Kuiper** (the Netherlands, later on France, 1951–1952) organized the small freshwater mussel (*Pisidium*) collection and donated a copy of the much-wanted monograph by **Germain** to **Haas**. In addition, **Haas** corresponded with many other malacologists abroad, who presented him not only with the necessary literature, but also often with material from their respective countries: **G.A. Mavromoustakis** (Cyprus, 1950–1951); **R.A.M. Brandt** (Libya, 1951); **M.K. Jacobson** (Cuba, 1949); **W.J. Eyerdam** (west coast of North America, 1947–1948); **I. Marche-Marchad** (West Africa, 1950–1951); **W. Kühnelt** (some 200 samples of land snails from the Balkan and off-lying islands, 1952) and many others. In the meantime, **Prof. Haas** began to identify material on his own, and in 1947, he published one of the first articles dealing with Lessepsian migrants among the molluscs living along the coast of Palestine.

Israel's War of Independence (1948–1949) left the Mount Scopus campus, where the Department of Zoology was located, a hostage Israeli enclave in the midst of Jordanian territory (until June 1967 [see Y.L. Werner, *Haasiana* 5, pp. 11–12]). From time to time, the Jordanian occupiers allowed **Prof. Haas** and other zoologists associated with the department to inspect and maintain the collections. On returning to the Israeli-controlled part of Jerusalem, they managed to smuggle out items under their thick overcoats, which they wore even during the hot, dry summers. This material was housed temporarily in the Terra Sancta Monastery.

Because of his interest in the marine molluscs of the Eastern Mediterranean, **Prof. Haas** received from **Dr. H. Lissner** and **Mr. A. Virshubsky/Wirszubski** the mollusc material collected by the Sea Fisheries Research Station in Haifa. His preliminary report (1951), constituted the first publication in the series, "Bulletin of the Sea Fisheries Research Station". The activities of his colleague, **Prof. H. Steinitz**, resulted in the addition of numerous samples from the Red Sea Gulf of Aqaba (Elat). Some of that material, especially the micro-mollusc specimens, was sent to **H.A. Rehder** at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for identification (1949). In the meantime,

**Prof.**

**Haas** had managed to acquire many of the classic articles dealing with molluscs from the Red Sea, written by Italian (**Issel**, **Tapparone-Canefri** and **Bisacchi**), Swiss (**Hornung** and **Mermod**) and French authors (**Lamy**), through personal contacts with colleagues at the museums in Genoa, Geneva, and Paris, respectively. In addition, the mollusc material collected before and during the reclamation of the Hula swamps (1940–1956) was obtained. All these additions worked positively on the activities in the field of malacology. **Haas** published not only his revision of the Israeli representatives of the family Clausiliidae, including the description of *Albinaria (Filumna) elonensis* G. Haas, 1951 (now *Cristataria elonensis*), but also a study dealing with the genus *Jaminia*, now *Euchondrus*, in 1955. Both articles were illustrated with his beautifully-executed drawings.



- a. *Albinaria (Filumna) elonensis*  
G. Haas, 1951 (now *Cristataria elonensis*).
- b. *Cristataria haasi haasi* H.  
Nordsieck, 1971
- c. *Elia moesta georgi* Forcart, 1975
- d. *Truncatellina haasi* Venmans,  
1957.

#### **Gastropod drawings by Prof. Georg Haas**

Until the beginning of the 1950s, the Mollusc Collection had still a rather local character. That changed radically when the very large shell collection and malacological library of **Giorgio S. Coen** (Venice, Italy) was donated to the University (1953, see Section B1, below). The status of the malacological collection changed immediately to one of international importance. That collection not only contained the type material of the numerous taxa described by **Coen**, but also a large part of the type material from other, even earlier Italian malacologists. Due to the large size of the **Coen** collection, in 1953 the entire mollusc collection was moved to the second floor of an apartment in Mamilla Street, where it remained until 1974. Soon after, the university received for safekeeping the private shell collection and library of **René Neuville**, the archaeologist, palaeontologist and French consul in Jerusalem (see section b2, below).

Members of the university staff also began to collect abroad. In 1950, an expedition to Cyprus was organized by **J. Wahrman**, **G. Haas**, **H. Steinitz**, and others. That was followed by an expedition in 1951 to Turkey (**J. Wahrman**). These expeditions collected mainly land snails and some freshwater molluscs. In 1962 and 1965, the Hebrew University participated in the first and second Israel South Red Sea Expeditions to Eritrea and Dahlak Island, obtaining numerous samples of marine molluscs, particularly from the first expedition. From 1967 to 1969, **Hermann Zinner**, then a Ph.D. student of **Prof. Haas**, travelled on his Austrian passport to Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, Turkey and Iran, and collected numerous samples of land snails and reptiles. The Hebrew University–Smithsonian Institution Joint Program, “Biota of the Red Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean” (1967–1972), resulted in the addition of numerous marine mollusc samples from the Red Sea coasts of Egypt and Israel, the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean coasts of Israel, and Cyprus.

In 1973, the Mollusc Collection was moved again, this time to the former maternity hospital in the gardens of the Russian Compound, one of the buildings taken over by the Department of Zoology. In 1973, **Prof. Eitan Tchernov** was appointed Curator of the Mollusc Collection, with **Prof. Haas** remaining actively involved. **Prof. Tchernov**, who had been active in the field of malacology, published five important articles (1971–1975). The Recent shells reported in these articles are stored in the University's Mollusc Collection, while the fossil shells form part of the Paleontological Collection.

Two students of **Prof. Haas**, Ms. **Thamnoon Rochanaburananda** from Thailand, an M.Sc. student who studied the anatomy of the *Jaminia* (now *Euchondrus*) species of Israel, and **Prof. Joseph Heller**, whose Ph.D. thesis dealt with the taxonomy of the Israeli species of *Buliminus*, *Pene* and *Paramastus*, contributed hundreds of samples belonging to the family Enidae to the Mollusc Collection.

In 1974, the huge shell collection and malacological library of **Arthur Blok** (Rottingdean, England) was presented to the University (see Section b4, below), and in conjunction with the arrival of the collection, **Henk K. Mienis** was appointed collection manager. Although **Blok's** collection was by far the most important addition to the Mollusc Collection, the Mollusc Collection continued to grow thanks to the collecting by staff of the National Natural History Collections at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, **Prof. Heller** and his students, **Henk K. Mienis**, **Dr. Chanan Dimentman**, **Dr. Daniel Golani**, **Dr. Nechama Ben-Eliahu**, **Prof. Dov Por**, the late **Dr. Shoshana Ashkenazi**, and by students, e.g., **Ofer Steinitz**, **Oren Kolodny**. Similarly, molluscs collected by **Dr. Reuven Ortal** of the Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority were deposited in the Hebrew University Mollusc Collection (all the freshwater molluscs from the Inland-waters Ecological Survey [IES]).

In 1980, **Prof. J. Heller** began to teach the course “Fauna Mollusca” and replaced **Prof. Tchernov** as Curator of the Mollusc Collection. **Prof. Haas** had maintained his interest in micro-shells and, despite his deteriorating eyesight, was always pleased to examine interesting shell grit from the Mediterranean coast of Israel. On September 13, 1981, **Prof. Haas** passed away. We greatly appreciate his 50 years of constant efforts to care for and enlarge the collection that enabled its present state of development!

In 1985, the Mollusc Collection (Recent molluscs) moved for the fourth time to its present location in the Berman Building at the Giv'at Ram Campus of the Hebrew University (room 119). The largest collection of its kind in the Middle East, it is of international importance. The collection contains about 25,000 different species, represented by more than 100,000 samples containing over one million specimens, with more than 3000 samples consisting of type specimens (holotypes, lectotypes, paratypes, paralectotypes and syntypes [formerly cotypes]), while the Paleontological Collections also harbours thousands of fossil samples of molluscs. In addition, the collection also harbours a unique malacological library, the largest in the Middle East, consisting of 1,500 books, 350 volumes of journals and 15,000 reprints.



**Victorian cupboards that house the Blok collection.  
The Mollusc Collection, Berman Building, Room 119.**

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## **1b. FOUR IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTED MOLLUSC COLLECTIONS— THEIR HISTORIES AND CONTENTS<sup>1</sup>**

### **1. Giorgio S. Coen (1873–1951) and his mollusc collection**

Giorgio Silvio Coen was born in Venice on April 24, 1873, the son of Giulio Coen and Palmira Finzi. After receiving his basic education in Venice, he graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Padua on August 23, 1895. About a year later, on July 23, he married Vittoria Romanin Jacur, whom he met during his studies in Padua. They had three daughters, Maria, Lia, and Eugenia—the latter died at the age of four of diphtheria.

During the First World War, Coen served as a captain in the Engineering Corps of the Italian army (1915–1918). When he was discharged at the end of the war, he had attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. After the war, Coen returned to his work as a civil engineer, which was very important to him as can be seen from the tools figured in his *ex libris*. When he reached the age of 65, it was not due to his age that he had to stop working; he was forced to do so because of the anti-Semitic laws adopted in 1938 by Mussolini's government. Not only was he stripped of his military rank, but, in 1940, his name was removed from the Professional Register of Engineers and from the Auditors Register. In addition, as a Jew, he was no longer allowed to publish anymore in Italian journals (see below).

Since, at that time, Jews were in danger of deportation, Coen and his family went into exile in the small village of Ponzano. Although Coen managed to survive the war, and return with his family to Venice, Coen was no longer the same person. He had become a very sick man, suffering from multiple sclerosis. He died of the disease in his home at San Marco in Venice on September 2, 1951. He was survived by his wife, Vittoria, and his two daughters, Maria and Lia.

#### **Coen and his shell collection**

It is not known when Coen's interest in shells began, but without doubt, it began at a very early age. In the beginning of the twentieth century, Coen was in contact not only with local shell collectors, but also with people from abroad who shared the same interest. This is evident from the fact that the English conchologist and shell dealer, Hugh B. Preston, described as *Turbonilla coeni* a new species from Ceylon (=Sri Lanka) as early as 1905! Preston did not state in his publication that this species was named after Giorgio S. Coen, but the reprint he sent to Coen was inscribed "Con *Turbonilla coeni*". In the following years, Preston would honour Coen with three additional species named after him.

The first article on shells written by Coen, which was published in 1914, naturally dealt with the marine molluscs of the Adriatic Sea. It showed clearly that Coen's research was carried out in close cooperation with Tommaso di Maria Allery, Marchese di Monterosato, a famous malacologist from Palermo; Coen had not only published the first valid descriptions of several manuscript names proposed by Monterosato, but also named a species of *Argonauta* after him. Coincidentally, Monterosato (1914) had unintentionally used Coen's manuscript name already several months earlier in his revision of the Mediterranean species of *Argonauta* (Mienis, 1994).

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<sup>1</sup> This report on the mollusc collection was written by **H.K. Mienis**.



Coen was in close contact with Monterosato not only by mail, but also through personal visits to Sicily, while Monterosato visited Coen regularly in Venice. From time to time, Monterosato also gave parts of his own collection to Coen because the latter had expressed the intention to donate his private collection to the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale of Venice (Zorzi, 1938). Coen had established that museum on his own initiative (Minio, 1951) in the Fontego dei Turchi, a beautiful palace on the Grand Canal of Venice which still houses the museum. Similarly, Coen obtained much material from other malacologists and palaeontologists, not only from Italy but also from abroad (see “The main components of the Coen collection”, below). By March 1939, all that material was already listed in the two parts of his handwritten catalogue.



**Giorgio S. Coen inspecting his handwritten catalogue.**  
The picture was probably taken before World War II.

In the meantime, Coen continued to publish articles dealing with the molluscs of the Mediterranean Sea in general and the Adriatic Sea in particular. He worked according to the tradition of the French *Nouveau École* (see Dance, 1970), which had also been adopted by Monterosato (Tomlin, 1930). Thus, any slightly different form or colour received a separate name. In this way he created, sometimes unnecessarily, a wealth of varietal names. Unfortunately, Coen also described valid subspecies as varieties. All the new names proposed by Coen (almost 500!) are mentioned under each entry in his list of publications.

Coen published more than 60 malacological articles. Most of them were published in Italy, two in France; however, between 1939 and 1945, most of them appeared in one of the scientific journals of the Vatican! That was due to the racial laws adopted by the Italian government in 1938, in which people of Jewish descent were no longer allowed to publish in Italian journals. However, Coen found a solution: his papers were presented by his friend, Dr. G. Giorgi, himself a shell collector, during scientific meetings of the *Accademia Pontificia* in the Vatican, and thus were published in the *Acta Pontificia Academia Scientiarum* of the Papal Autonomy.

Because of the anti-Semitism prevalent in Italy and the accompanying persecution of Jews there during Mussolini's regime, Coen decided that after his death, the shell collection would not remain in Italy. Therefore, the collection was shipped in 13 crates to Israel and arrived in July 1953 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



### *Ex libris of Giorgio Silvio Coen*

Note that the design incorporates entirely different symbols: calipers, an engineering tool used for measuring technical drawings; and the two hands, positioned for giving the priestly blessing. The symbols indicate that Coen valued both his connection to the engineering world and to his identity as a *kohen* (from Cohen, his name in Hebrew; in Jewish tradition, the name places him among the descendants of Aaron, the brother of Moses and the first Israelite high priest).

The transfer of the Coen collection to Israel caused dismay among the malacological world in Italy. The main reason was that it contained not only Coen's own collection but also a major part of the Monterosato collection, including many of the type specimens, as well as a great deal of material from other collections. Moreover, the transfer of the collection to Jerusalem took place at a time when the remains of the original Monterosato collection were unavailable for study in Italy. That material had been acquired by a private collector, Vito Beltrani. Even after it was finally donated to the Museum in Rome, a study of the material became almost impossible because it was kept locked in the room of Prof. Francesco Settepassi (1886–1982). Only after the latter's death did the remains of the Monterosato collection in Rome become available for study by other students of Mediterranean molluscs. The anger of some malacologists was so great that in 1981, a rather nasty article dealing with Monterosato's material in the Coen collection was published by Piani, who went so far as to accuse Coen of being a kleptomaniac who had taken material without permission from the Monterosato collection during World War II in Rome. As shown by that statement, when Piani wrote the accusation, he apparently knew nothing about what Coen had endured during that time. Even more surprisingly, he knew nothing about what Monterosato had done with his collection. It was a well-known fact that Monterosato had been a fervent supporter of the Red Cross, and before the end of the nineteenth century had begun to sell parts of his huge collection in order to donate the money to the Red Cross. Coen, as an Italian collector, had first choice, but much of the material was sent abroad to collections in Brussels (coll. Dautzenberg), Cardiff (coll. Melvill-Tomlin), Dublin (coll. Scharff), London (coll. Norman), Paris (coll. Locard), Vienna (von Hauer, 1890), Washington (coll. Jeffreys) and probably elsewhere. Interestingly, quite a few samples from the Monterosato collection were discovered in the Blok collection after it arrived in Jerusalem in 1974 (see section b4, below).

Having the Coen collection in Jerusalem proved to be of the utmost importance for the development of malacological studies in Israel. A wealth of material was now available for comparing the local marine molluscs of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Moreover, the much-needed malacological literature had become accessible as well. Since then, Coen's legacy, which has been in constant use both nationally and internationally, has played an important role in bringing malacology in Israel to a higher level.



**Arranging the newly-arrived Coen collection molluscs in drawers, Mamilla Street, 1953**

### **The main components of Giorgio S. Coen's collection**

The collection contains material of (at least) the following collectors or former owners. (A name preceded by an asterisk [\*] indicates that type material of that person is present in the Coen collection); [xx] in dates indicates data not available).

Adami, G.B. (1838–1887). Italian malacologist.

\*Adams, A. (1820–1878). Most of Adams' type material is lodged in the Natural History Museum, London (Dance, 1966).

Alzona, C. (1881–1961). Alzona's collection forms part of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" in Genoa.

\*Ancey, C.M.F. (1860–1906). Ancey's private collection, including the type material, was sold to various purchasers by Geret, a dealer in Natural History objects in Paris (Dance, 1966).

\*Aradas, A. (1810–1882). Aradas' private collection was kept in Catania, Sicily (Tomlin, 1930).

\*Bavay, A. (1840–1923). Bavay's private collection was dispersed after his death. Some of the types are in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (Dance, 1966).

Beccari, O. (1843–1920). Beccari's main collection is in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genoa (Soika, 1950).

Beddome, R.H. (1830–1911). British naturalist who spent part of his life in India. Beddome's main collection was deposited in the Natural History Museum, London.

- Bellini, R. (1880–1926). Professor working in the field of malacology and paleontology.
- \*Beltrani, V. Lived in Palermo; purchased what was left of the Monterosato collection (Tomlin, 1930).
- \*Benoit, L. (1804–1890). Italian malacologist living in Sicily.
- \*Bielz, E.A. (1827–1898). Part of Bielz's private collection is in Bucharest, another part in Hermannstadt (Dance, 1966).
- Bini, G. An Italian zoologist who provided Coen with marine molluscs from West Africa.
- Bisacchi, J. A zoologist who specialized in malacology, the wife of C. Alzona.
- \*Bivona Bernardi, A. (Baron) (1774–1837). Italian malacologist.
- Boettger, O. (1844–1910). Boettger's collection is in the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt am Main.
- \*Bouge, L.J. (1878–1960). French malacologist.
- \*Bourguignat, J.R. (1829–1892). Main collection in Geneva, Switzerland.
- \*Brugnone, G.A. (also J.) (Abbé) (18xx–1884). A clergyman seriously interested in molluscs. Brugnone's private collection became part of the Monterosato collection (Tomlin, 1930).
- Brunelli, G. Professor at the Royal Central Laboratory for Hydrobiology.
- \*Brusina, S. (1845–1909). Brusina's main collection is in the Croatian Natural History Museum in Zagreb.
- Burch, J.Q. (1894–1974).
- \*Cafici, Barone C. (18xx–). Cafici lived in Vizzini, Sicily, where he carried out malacological research on land snails.
- \*Calcara, P. (1819–1854). Calcara was a private collector whose collection was acquired by Brugnone (Tomlin, 1930).
- Caruana Gatto, A.A. (1868–1926). Private shell collector living on Malta.
- \*Caziot, E. (1844–1931). All Caziot's marine molluscs went to Tomlin, whose collection is now in Cardiff.
- Cerio, I. (1841–1921). Medical doctor and private collector of shells in Italy.
- Chaper, M.A. (1834–1896). Chaper's collection forms part of the École des Mines in Paris.
- Chester, W. (1876–19xx). American shell collector.
- Chiamenti, A. (18xx–19xx). Mainly molluscs from the Adriatic Sea. Most of Chiamenti's collection is stored in the Seminario Episcopali, Chioggia (Venice) (Soika, 1950).
- Clench, W.J. (1897–1984). American malacologist. Clench's collection forms part of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge.
- \*Coen, G.S. (1873–1951). Coen donated his entire private collection.
- \*Cook, O.F.

- Cooke, A.H. (1854–1934). British shell collector.
- Cox, F.J. (1915–2000). Australian shell collector.
- \*Dall, W.H. (1845–1927). American malacologist. Dall's main collection is in the Smithsonian Museum, Washington.
- Dal Piaz, G. (1872–1962). Professor in geology at the University of Padua.
- Danilo, F. (1813–xxxx). Danilo & Sandri's mollusc collection formed part of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, but was destroyed during World War II (Soika, 1950).
- \*Dautzenberg, P. (1849–1935). Dautzenberg's private collection now forms part of the Royal Natural Science Museum of Brussels.
- \*Debeaux, G.-E.-A. (1866–1902). France and North Africa.
- De Boury, E.A. (1856–1920). French conchologist who specialized in Epitoniidae.
- De Betta, F.E. (1822–1896). Italian malacologist.
- De Fiore, O. Paleontologist. De Fiore's collection is probably in Catania.
- \*De Folin, A.G.L. (1817–1896). Parts of De Folin's collection are in the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; in the Musée de la Mer in Biarritz; in the Bayonne Museum; and in the Natural History Museum, London (Dance, 1966). In the Coen collection, there is some interesting material dealt with in the "Fonds de la Mer".
- Del Prete, R. (1850–1939). Italian medical doctor and private collector of shells.
- \*Despott, G. (1879–1931). Private collector from Malta.
- \*Doria, G. (1840–1913). Doria's worldwide mollusc collection is stored in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Genoa (Giordani Soika, 1950).
- Dubois (South America).
- \*Dupuy, D. (1812–1885). Dupuy's main collection is in the Toulouse Museum; additional material is lodged in the collection Berillon, which forms now part of the Museum in Bayonne (Dance, 1966).
- Dybowski, B.I. (1834–1920). Russian zoologist. Dybowski's main collection is stored in St. Petersburg.
- Eyerdam, W.J. (1892–1974). Eyerdam's private collection is in the Chicago Natural History Museum.
- Fea, L. (1852–1903). Explorer and naturalist. Fea's collection of West African molluscs is in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genoa (Soika, 1950).
- \*Festa, E. (1868–1939). The material collected during Festa's various expeditions was lodged in the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali in Torino. Some land snails collected by him during his travels through the Middle East and elsewhere are in the Coen collection (Mienis, 1983).
- \*Field, M. Naturalist after whom the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, is named.
- Fischer, H. [=P.M.H.] (1865–1916). Fischer's collection is stored in the Natural History Museum in Paris.
- Forti, A.

- \*Friele, H. (1838–1921). Friele’s main collection is lodged in the Zoological Museum of the University in Bergen, Norway (Dance, 1966).
- \*Fulton, H.C. (1861–1942). Malacologist and shell dealer. Most of Fulton’s type material is lodged in the collection of the Natural History Museum, London (Dance, 1966).
- \*Gambetta, L. Gambetta was a malacologist who worked at the University of Turin; part of her collection is in Genoa.
- Géret, P. (1863–1925). A dealer in natural history objects who lived in Paris.
- \*Germain, L. (1870–1942). A malacologist whose main collection is in Paris.
- \*Giorgi, G. A private shell collector who lived in Rome, where his collection forms part of the Zoological Museum in Rome, Italy (Soika, 1950 & Dance, 1966).
- Gortani, M. (1883–1966). Italian paleontologist.
- Graag, M.J. de (1889–1972). Her private collection was donated to the Naturalis in Leiden.
- \*Hedley, Ch. (1862–1926). Hedley’s collection is in the Sydney Museum.
- Hemphill, H. (1830–1917). An amateur shell collector from the U.S.A. The location of Hemphill’s collection is unknown.
- Hesse, P. (1857–1938). The collection is in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
- Hidalgo y Rodriguez, J.G. (1839–1923). Most of Hidalgo y Rodriguez’s material is in Madrid; some of the types are in Paris.
- Hirase, S. (1884–1939). Most of Hirase’s and his father’s collection was destroyed during the bombing of Tokyo at the end of World War II. About 30 percent is in the Research Institute for Natural Resources in Tokyo.
- \*Iredale, T. (1880–1972). Most of Iredale’s material is in the Australian Museum, Sydney.
- \*Issel, A. (1842–1922). Issel’s collection went to the museum in Genoa.
- \*Jeffreys, J.G. (1809–1885). Part of Jeffreys’ collection is in the Natural History Museum, London; another part is in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.
- Klećiak, B. (1823–1881).
- \*Kobelt, W. (1840–1916). Kobelt’s collection is in the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt.
- \*Krynicky (Krinitskii), I. (1797–1838). Russian malacologist.
- \*Kuščer, L. (1891–1944). Croatian malacologist.
- \*Lea, I. (1792–1886). Parts of Lea’s collection are in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, in the Natural History Museum, London, and in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
- Leonardi, P. (1908–?). Leonardi, a paleontologist, served as director of the Geological Institute of the University of Ferrara.
- Levi, A. Commander of the R.N. *Scilla*, who donated molluscs dredged off the coast of Libya.

- Loria, L. (1855–1913). Italian naturalist and anthropologist, who collected in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere. Loria's main collection is in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genoa (Soika, 1950).
- \*Locard, E.A.A. (1841–1904). Locard's collection is in the Natural History Museum, Paris.
- \*Lowe, R.T. (1802–1874). Most of Lowe's types are in the Natural History Museum, London; his material from Madeira is in the Exeter Museum.
- Maura, A.
- Mazzino, M. Roma.
- McAndrew, R. (1801–1873). McAndrew's collection forms part of the zoological collection of the University of Cambridge,
- Modigliani, E. (1860–1932). Modigliani's mollusc collection from Sumatra and the adjacent islands is in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genoa (Soika, 1950).
- Möllendorff, O.F. von (1848–1903). Möllendorff's collection is in the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt am Main.
- Möller, H.P.C. (1810–1845). Part of Möller's collection is in the Copenhagen Zoological Museum; another part is in the Natural History Museum, London.
- \*Monterosato, T.M.A. Marchese di (1841–1927). A large part of Monterosato's collection is in the Museum of Rome, but additional parts of his original collection were sold to many museums and private collectors during his lifetime.
- Neumayr, M. von (1845–1890). At least part of Neumayr's collection is in the Palaeontological Institute in München.
- \*Nevill, H.L. (1848–1897). Nevill's private collection was dispersed.
- Novak, O.P. (1851–1892).
- Nyst, P.-H. (1813–1880). Nyst's collection is in the Royal Natural Science Museum of Brussels.
- Odhner, N.H. (1884–1973). A Swedish malacologist whose main collection is in Stockholm.
- Orcutt, Ch.R. (1864–1929).
- \*Paladilhe, J.J.I. Alcide de (1814–1876). Paladilhe's collection is in the Natural History Museum of Geneva.
- \*Pallary, P. (1869–1942). Most of Pallary's types are either in Paris or London, however being also a shell dealer, much of the material was dispersed.
- Palombi, A. (1899–1987). Italian zoologist,
- Paulucci, M.P.X. d'A. (1835–1919). Paulucci's collection is in the Zoological Museum of the University of Florence.
- \*Philippi, R.A. (1808–1904). Part of Philippi's types are in the Natural History Museum, London; another part is in Santiago, Chili.
- \*Pilsbry, H.A. (1862–1957). Most of Pilsbry's material is in the National Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

- Pini, N. (18xx–xxxx). Pini's main collection, which was in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano, was destroyed during World War II (Soika, 1950).
- Ponsonby, J.H. (1848–1916). Most of Ponsonby's collection went to the Natural History Museum in London.
- \*Porro, C. (1813–1848). Italian malacologist.
- \*Powell, A.W.B. (1901–1987). Powell's main collection is in the Auckland Museum. Some types are in the Natural History Museum, London.
- \*Preston, H.B. (1871–1945). Most of Preston's types are in the Natural History Museum, London; all the other material was sold to museums or private collectors.
- Priester, L. de (1880–1968). Priester's private collection went to the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam, but was transferred in November 2011 to the mollusc collection in the Naturalis, Leiden, the Netherlands.
- Priolo, O. (1890–1973). Zoologist and malacologist who lived in Catania, Sicily, Italy.
- Raats. A private collector from the Netherlands who sent molluscs from Indonesia to Coen.
- Rigacci, G. (1816–1871). Rigacci's private collection was sent to the Museum in Rome.
- Roberts, S.R. (1845–1928). Roberts' private collection went to the National Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
- Rolle, H. (1864?–1929). Most of Rolle's type material is in the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt am Main; some types are in the Museum in Berlin and in the Natural History Museum, London. Since he was also a dealer, part of the general material was dispersed.
- Romanin Jacur, M. (1850–1906).
- Ruggeri, G. Italian paleontologist at the Department of Geology and Paleontology of the University of Palermo.
- \*Sandri, G. B. The mollusc collection of Danilo & Sandri, which formed part of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan, was destroyed during World War II (Soika, 1950).
- Scacchi, A.D. (1810–1893). A zoologist who was working in Naples.
- \*Schilder, F.A. (1896–1970). A zoologist and malacologist who specialized in Cypraeidae. Schilder's main collection is in the Museum in Berlin, Germany.
- \*Schlesch, H.A. (1891–1962). A large collection is in the Museum of Hull.
- \*Schmidt, A. (1806–1889). Schmidt's collection forms part of the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt am Main (Zilch, 1967).
- Seguenza, G. (1833–1889). A professor in Geologia and Mineralogy who was living in Messina, Sicily. Seguenza's main collection was destroyed during an earthquake in 1908.
- Selli, R. (1916–1983). The major part of Selli's paleontological collection is in Bologna.



- \*Smith, E.A. (1847–1916). Smith’s collection is in the Natural History Museum, London.
- Sowerby, G.B. III (1843–1921). Most of the types are in the Natural History Museum, London. Since Sowerby was also a dealer, much of his collection was dispersed.
- Spinelli, G.B. (18xx–?). A malacologist who worked on the land and freshwater molluscs of Venice.
- \*Stalio, L. (1799–18xx). Stalio’s collection of molluscs from the Adriatic Sea and Dalmatia forms part of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Venice (Soika, 1950).
- \*Stossich, A. (1824–1900). A malacologist who was associated with Trieste.
- \*Sulliotti, G.R. (1859–1925). Sulliotti’s main collection is in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Venice.
- \*Tiberi, N. (18xx–1885). Tiberi’s marine molluscs went to the Monterosato collection.
- Tomlin, J.R. le B. (1864–1954). Tomlin’s private collection forms now part of the Museum in Cardiff.
- \*Torre y Huerta, C. de la (1858–1950). Torre y Huerta’s non-marine shell collection was divided between Harvard Museum and Museo Poey, University of Havana, Cuba.
- Turton, W.H. (1856–1938). Parts of Turton’s collection went to the Natural History Museum, London, and the Oxford University Museum.
- Vatova, A. An Italian marine biologist who specialized in the fauna of the Adriatic Sea.
- Viglino, A. An Italian private shell collector.
- \*Watson, R. Boog (1823–1910). A clergyman seriously interested in the study of molluscs. Some of the types are in the Natural History Museum, London.
- Webb, W.F. (1869–1957).
- \*Westerlund, C.A. (1831–1908). Westerlund’s main collection is in Göteborg. Other parts are in Stockholm, Lund, Dublin and the Scottish Museum.
- \*Wright (Bedford).
- Zangheri, P. A private collector who lived in Forli, Italy (Soika, 1950).

### **Malacological publications of Giorgio S. Coen and his new taxa**

All malacological papers published by Coen are listed in chronological order and follow the list of Piani, Bouchet and Ghisotti (1990). However, in many instances, especially concerning articles published in the *Acta Pontificia Academia Scientiarum*, corrections have been made. Coen’s papers are signed either G. Coen, G.S. Coen or with the first and/or second personal name spelled out.

New taxa described by Coen are enumerated below each paper. When Coen used a manuscript name by Monterosato or any other malacologist, the name is listed as “Monterosato ms.” Coen. Where a specific, subspecific or varietal name was listed originally by Coen with a capital, e.g., *Monterosatoi*, it is here correctly listed in lower case as *monterosatoi*. Likewise, a specific, subspecific or varietal name originally written by

Coen with two words such as *pes pelicani*, is listed correctly as a single word, *pespelicani*.

**Coen, G.S.** 1914. Contributo allo studio della Fauna Malacologica Adriatica. Memoria del Reale Comitato Talassografico Italiano, Venezia, 46: 3–34, pls 1–7.

*Argonauta monterosati* Coen, 1914

*Leuconia veneta* Coen, 1914

*Pseudofusus adustus* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1914

*Nassa (Telasco) vitrea* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1914

*Nassa (Niotha) mammillata* var. *abnormis* Coen, 1914

*Murex (Bolinus) brandaris* var. *ternispinosa* Coen, 1914

*Morio adriatica* Coen, 1914

*Aporrhais perpelicani* var. *vinitincta* Coen, 1914

*Turritella communis* var. *laeviuscula* Coen, 1914

*Paludestrina hessei* Coen, 1914

*Pectunculus (Axinea) violacescens* var. *albella* Coen, 1914

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*Hadriana brocchii* var. *carinatella* Coen, 1933  
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*Sphaeronassa mutabilis* var. *rufa* Coen, 1933  
*Sphaeronassa mutabilis* var. *deformis* Coen, 1933  
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*Nassa (Hinia) mammillata* var. *clodiensis* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
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*Nassa (Tritea) limata* var. *major* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
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*Cyclonassa neritoea* var. *carinata* Coen, 1933  
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*Euthria cornea* var. *canaliculata* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
*Aptyxis syracusanus* var. *abbreviata* Coen, 1933  
*Fusus rostratus* var. *albescens* Coen, 1933  
*Fusus rostratus* var. *bicanalifera* Coen, 1933  
*Conus mediterraneus* var. *trunculus* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
*Conus mediterraneus* var. *interrupta* "Stalio ms." Coen, 1933  
*Conus (Chelyconus) mediterraneus* var. *producta* Coen, 1933



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*Actaeon tornatilis* var. *vitrea* Coen, 1933  
*Haminea navicula* var. *ferruginosa* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
*Alexia monodon* Coen, 1933  
*Ovatella (Monica) lamellidens* Coen, 1933  
*Anomia ephippium* var. *argentaria* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
*Barbatia barbata* var. *scalpellum* Coen, 1933  
*Barbatia barbata* var. *spatulata* "Danilo & Sandri ms." Coen, 1933  
*Mytilaster minimus* var. *squaloderma* "Danilo & Sandri ms." Coen, 1933  
*Mytilaster lineatus* var. *triangularis* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
*Modiola barbata* var. *longa* Coen, 1933  
*Modiola barbata* var. *angustata* "Danilo & Sandri ms." Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) glabra* var. *torquata* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) glabra* var. *peplumsinense* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) proteus* var. *suffusa* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) proteus* var. *viridis* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) proteus* var. *rudis* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) proteus* var. *praeterita* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) proteus* var. *raremaculata* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Proteopecten) proteus* var. *pallida* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Lissopecten) hyalina* var. *nivalis* "Danilo & Sandri ms." Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Lissopecten) hyalina* var. *sericea* "Danilo & Sandri ms." Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Lissopecten) hyalina* var. *striata* "Danilo & Sandri ms." Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Aequipecten) opercularis* var. *pallida* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Aequipecten) opercularis* var. *auropicta* Coen, 1933  
*Chlamys (Aequipecten) opercularis* var. *rubropicta* Coen, 1933  
*Pecten jacobaeus* var. *trivittata* Coen, 1933  
*Pecten intermedia* var. *apiceaccensa* Coen, 1933  
*Spondylus gaederopus* var. *circularis* Coen, 1933  
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*Cardita (Glans) trapezia* var. *maculata* "Danilo & Sandri ms." Coen, 1933  
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*Astarte fusca* var. *rugata* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
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*Lepton prismatcum* "Monterosato" Coen, 1933  
*Arcopagiopsis balaustina* var. *minor* "Spinelli ms." Coen, 1933  
*Macoma tenuis* var. *rosea* Coen, 1933  
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*Scrobicularia plana* var. *ochracea* Coen, 1933  
*Scrobicularia cottardi* var. *alba* Coen, 1933  
*Donax adriaticus* var. *radita* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933  
*Mesodesma corneum* var. *hyalina* Coen, 1933  
*Mactra corallina* var. *duplicata* Coen, 1933  
*Chione (Ortygia) gallina* var. *bevarazza* Coen, 1933  
*Chione (Ortygia) gallina* var. *alternans* Coen, 1933  
*Chione (Ortygia) gallina* var. *scripta* "Monterosato ms." Coen, 1933

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*Chione (Ortygia) gallina* var. *pyxoidea* Coen, 1933  
*Chione (Ventricola) verrucosa* var. *corallifera* Coen, 1933  
*Chione (Ventricola) verrucosa* var. *albolimbata* Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Pullastra) geographicus* var. *ruginosa* Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Pullastra) aureus* var. *pitarius* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Pullastra) aureus* var. *texturata* mut. *nasuta* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Pullastra) aureus* var. *pulchella* mut. *superba* Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Amydala) decussatus* var. *tumida* ex col. *albosignata* Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Amydala) decussatus* var. *dalmatica* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Amydala) decussatus* var. *istriana* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933  
*Tapes (Amydala) decussatus* var. *subtruncata* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933  
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*Eucardium (Sphaerocardium) paucicostatum* var. *planicosta* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933  
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*Eucardium (Rudicardium) tuberculatum* var. *angulata* Coen, 1933  
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*Magoforskalia magus* var. *vulcanica* Coen, 1937  
*Jujubinus gravinae* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1937  
*Osilinus turbinatus* var. *strangulatus* Coen, 1937  
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*Bolinus brandaris* var. *bifida* Coen, 1937  
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*Cyclope neritea* var. *vernica* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1937  
*Hima limata* var. *minor* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1937  
*Hima (Telasco) costulata* var. *candida* Coen, 1937  
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*Pseudofusus dalpiazii* var. *gracilis* Coen, 1937  
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*Anomia ephippium* var. *partimradiata* Coen, 1940  
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*Argobuccinum gigateum* var. *tenuis* Coen, 1941  
*Argobuccinum gigateum* var. *intusdentata* Coen, 1941  
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*Tritonalia (Ternaria) chicoroides* Coen, 1947  
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*Cypraea (Lyncina) carneola* var. *aurea* Coen, 1949  
*Mauritia (Arabica) arabica* var. *dilatata* Coen, 1949  
*Mauritia (Arabica) arabica* var. *gibba* Coen, 1949  
*Mauritia (Arabica) eglantina* var. *aurea* Coen, 1949  
*Mauritia (Arabica) eglantina* var. *rufa* Coen, 1949  
*Mauritia (Arabica) histrio* var. *duploreticulata* Coen, 1949  
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*Luria lurida* var. *incrassata* Coen, 1949  
*Luria lurida* var. *badia* Coen, 1949  
*Luria (Basilitrona) isabella* var. *cylindroides* Coen, 1949  
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*Erosaria erosa* var. *marginata* Coen, 1949  
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*Erosaria diaphana* Coen, 1949  
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*Erosaria spurca* var. *inflata* Coen, 1949  
*Erosaria (Ravitrona) caputserpentis* var. *albosignata* Coen, 1949  
*Erosaria (Ravitrona) caputdraconis* var. *punctatissima* Coen, 1949  
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*Staphylaea staphylaea* var. *nitida* Coen, 1949  
*Staphylaea staphylaea consobrina* var. *lactea* Coen, 1949  
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*Staphylaea limacina* var. *nitens* Coen, 1949  
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*Zonaria pyrum* var. *confusa* Coen, 1949  
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*Erronea pseudarabacula* Coen, 1949  
*Blasicrura cylindrica* var. *emaculata* Coen, 1949  
*Palmadusta asellus* var. *fusca* Coen, 1949  
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*Palmadusta diluculum* var. *epunctata* Coen, 1949  
*Palmadusta (Purpuradusta) fimbriata* var. *nitida* Coen, 1949  
*Siphocypraea mus* var. *suta* Coen, 1949  
*Primovula carnea* var. *gibbosa* Coen, 1949  
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### **Publications attributed to Giorgio Silvio Coen, perhaps in error**

Among Coen’s papers are two anonymously published short notes that appeared in the “Ateneo Veneto”. Although one was included in the list of Coen’s publications by Piani, Bouchet & Ghisotti (1990), it is doubtful that Coen wrote these articles because he never listed them among his publications.

[**Coen, G.**] 1932. Studi di malacologia. *Ateneo Veneto*, 110 (1–2): 246–248.

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### **Additional publications on other zoological groups**

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### **Zoological taxa named after Giorgio Silvio Coen**

At a rather early stage of his interest in molluscs, Coen already had contacts with numerous malacologists abroad. When Coen was only 33 years old, Preston (1905) had already named a species after him. Also, his “master”, Monterosato, intended to name several new species after his much younger friend in Venice and even sent material to his correspondents with these manuscript names. By using Monterosato’s manuscript names, Coen made at least three of such names available for use in zoological nomenclature. The following twelve taxa that were named after him include Gastropoda, Bivalvia and Insecta. The drawing is of the holotype from the Calabrian (?) of Ladino, Castrocaro, Italy.



***Trophonopsis forestii coeni* Ruggieri, 1947.**

### **Taxa that were named after Giorgio Silvio Coen**

#### **Gastropoda**

*Turbonilla coeni* Preston, 1905

*Gibbula coeni* Preston, 1908

*Ennea coeni* Preston, 1913

*Aegista coeni* Preston, 1914

*Assimineia coeni* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933

*Pyrgulina coeni* “Monterosato ms.” Coen, 1933

*Zeuxis (Hima) pygmaea* var. *coeni* “Monterosato ms.”  
Coen, 1933

*Trophonopsis forestii coeni* Ruggieri, 1947

#### **Bivalvia**

*Mytilus (Mytilaster) minimus* var. *coeni* Gambetta, 1929

*Cardium glaucum* var. *coeni* Mars, 1951

*Chlamys bruei coeni* F. Nordsieck, 1969

#### **Insecta**

*Odynerus (Rhynchium) coenii* Giordani Soika, 1934

### **Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank Professor Lia Addadi for providing some essential information concerning her great-grandfather, Giorgio S. Coen, and his family. I also wish to thank Mrs. Louisa Franchetti-Naor, librarian of the Department of Zoology when the department was still located in the Russian Compound. She was always willing to translate texts from Italian into English and enjoyed deciphering Coen’s original labels or part of his handwritten catalogue because of the similarity between Coen’s handwriting and that of her grandfather. Thanks also to Fabio Crocetta, who provided all the missing articles by G.S. Coen, and last but not least, to Oz Rittner, friend and colleague at Tel Aviv University, for preparing the illustrations.



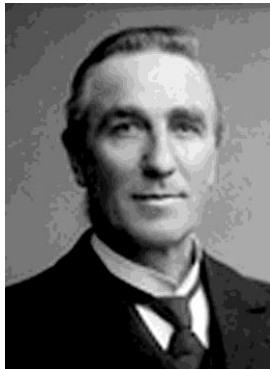
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## 2. René Neuville (1899–1952) and his mollusc collection

René Neuville was born on October 20, 1899 in Gibraltar, where his father served as the French consul general. He grew up in a deeply religious Catholic family, continuing that tradition in the family he established in what was then Palestine. Following in the footsteps of his father, he received a consular appointment in Ventimiglia, Italy, near the French-Italian border. In 1926, at the age of 27, he became chancellor of the French consulate in Jerusalem, a position he occupied for 11 years. During this period, he was also very active in the field of archaeology and participated in many important excavations which were carried out during that period.



**René Neuville**

In 1937, Neuville was appointed to a post in Spain (Alicante), followed by one in Gibraltar, and, at the beginning of World War II, served in Morocco. In 1943, he obtained a consular appointment in Algiers, followed by one in Tunis. In 1946, he returned to Jerusalem, where he served as Consul General until his death from an incurable illness on June 23, 1952.

Wherever Neuville was stationed, he served not only the Republic of France, but was also heavily involved with local archaeological and paleontological research that resulted in numerous important publications in those fields. Besides that, he published a lengthy historical review dealing with the joys and tribulations of the French consuls in Jerusalem during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

### The shell collection

Most of the shells present in Neuville's collection were collected by himself during his various appointments and travels in the Levant including Sinai (Egypt), North Africa and, of course, France. When he returned to Jerusalem in 1946, he brought the rich collections of mollusc material from North Africa with him. He studied most of that material, e.g., the shells from outcrops of the Last Interglacial or MIS 5e isotopic stage

near Monastir (Tunis). That important material now forms part of the malacological and paleontological collections of the Hebrew University. However, Neuville hardly published the results of all these studies. Nonetheless, other malacologists dealt with his material, such as Lecointre (1951) who reported on part of the quaternary molluscs collected by Neuville in Morocco.

While dealing with the mollusc fauna of the Judean Desert, Neuville became very interested in the variability of *Levantina*. Not only did he collect more than 200 samples of *Levantina* from as many different locations, but he also measured them carefully and noted data for each location, including the mean annual rainfall. In addition, he appointed Mrs. Ruth Abraham to translate from German into French the entire monograph dealing with the *Levantina spiriplana* complex in the Levant written by Pfeiffer (1949). According to his notes and those of his son Pierre, he had intended to write about this subject, but this project was presumably interrupted by his untimely death in 1952.

### **Pierre Neuville**

Included in René Neuville's collection are many samples collected by his son Pierre. As a boy, Pierre occasionally surprised his father with handwritten reports illustrated by his own drawings of finds of stone tools in Morocco, or land and freshwater molluscs of Clermont de l'Oise (1949). Obviously, he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, not only in the field of archaeology but also as a diplomat. Three years after his father's death, Pierre served at the French legation in Tripoli, Libya (1955). Like his father, he carried out archaeological and paleontological research at the same time and collected *Gyrostomella* land snails, which were reminiscent of *Levantina* in the Levant. In 1956, he was appointed to the French Consulate General in Milan, Italy. But 1959 found him working as an archaeologist in Brazil. The last letter received by Prof. Georg Haas from Pierre Neuville was dated November 27, 1964. In the interim, Pierre had established a kibbutz-style sheep farm, Mont Tabor, near Araquara. Neuville's letter was interspersed with biblical quotations. After that, contact with him was lost. A letter sent to him in 1985 received no reply. The material collected by Pierre Neuville in France and Libya was added to his father's collection.

### **Transfer of the Neuville mollusc collection and malacological library**

The mollusc collection of René Neuville and the accompanying library had been stored temporarily in crates for safekeeping in the office of Prof. Georg Haas since the death of René Neuville in 1952. In 1955, Pierre began to negotiate the sale of these treasures to the Hebrew University. Although Prof. Haas was highly interested in obtaining the material for the mollusc collection in the Hebrew University, it was impossible to obtain the funds for it. However, in a letter dated December 7, 1959, Pierre donated his father's collection to Prof. Haas and it was incorporated into the university's collection.

Although the mollusc collection of René Neuville was rather limited in scope, it contained some important elements, including the previously mentioned collection of *Levantina* samples; a large selection of marine molluscs from Akhziv; and Quaternary and Recent marine molluscs from North Africa. In addition, it included a large part of the private collection of Dom Maur Massé, a Benedictine monk living at the Saint Saviour monastery in Abu Ghosh (see Section 1b3, below).

### **René Neuville's malacological library**

As with Coen's collection, René Neuville's malacological library was donated to the mollusc collection along with his shell collection. It comprised a large number of very important works written in French by such classic authors as Bruguière, Hwass, Lamarck, Draparnaud, Michaud, Bourguignat, Locard, Fischer, de Lamothe, Nobre, Germain and Pallary, but also books written in other European languages by Pfeiffer, Nobre and others. In addition, there were also 57 volumes and 3 indexes of the very important "Journal de Conchyliologie". Neuville's library was an important addition to the malacological library of the mollusc collection of the National Natural History Collections at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

### **Malacological publications by Neuville**

As mentioned above, Neuville often worked on molluscs, but the number of his publications in this field was rather low. In fact, there were only three works in which he mentioned molluscs. However, it is possible that Neuville had written articles about molluscs in unavailable paleontological and/or archaeological reports published in Morocco, Algiers or Tunis of which we are unaware.

**Neuville, R. & Ruhlmann, A.**, 1941. La place du Paléolithique ancien dans le Quaternaire marocain. *Hespéris*, 8: 156 pp. Casablanca.

**Neuville, R. & Ruhlmann, A.**, 1942. L'âge de l'homme fossile de Rabat. *Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris*, 1942: 74–88.

**Neuville, R.**, 1951. Mollusques terrestres et fluviatiles. In: Neuville, R. (ed.): *La Paléolithique et le Mésolithique du Désert de Judée*. *Archives de l'Institut de Paléontologie Humaine*, 24: 233–244.

### **Taxa introduced by René Neuville**

Although Neuville had intended to publish the description of two new taxa belonging to *Levantina* and *Loripes* (with the intention of naming the latter after his good friend, Prof. Georg Haas), he never submitted these manuscripts. He described only a single variety of a subterranean land snail, *Calaxis hierosolymarum* var. *languida* Neuville, 1951. The type material from the Oumm-Qatafa cave in the Judean Mountains and Ain Fara in Wadi Kelt, has been recently located among his material and is now stored in the mollusc collection's type collection.

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**Pfeiffer, K.L.**, 1949. *Levantina spiriplana* (Olivier). *Archiv für Molluskenkunde*, 77 (1–6): 1–51.

### **3. Parts of the shell collection of Dom Maur Massé**

Among the shells transferred from the collection of René Neuville to Georg Haas at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem were three sub-collections of special interest. These collections were assembled by a Benedictine monk, **Dom Maur Massé**, who belonged to the order of Saint Benoit and lived in the Saint Sauveur monastery in Kariat-el-Anab (the former name of today's Abu Ghosh). These three collections are of such historical, archaeological, zoological and paleontological interest that they are dealt with in detail below. Regrettably, little is known concerning the personal background of the man known to the world as Dom Maur Massé, his name in the Benedictine Order.

#### **The Neolithic shells from Kariat-el-Anab (Abu Ghosh)**

The Pre-Pottery Neolithic-B (PPNB) site of Kariat-el-Anab (Abu Ghosh) was discovered by Massé and other monks of the monastery in fields, mainly vineyards, near the monastery. They found flints on the surface and at a depth of some 60 cm in the fields, along with shells with man-made holes. At an unspecified time, these shells were donated to René Neuville, and more than sixty years after their discovery, they were studied by H.K. Mienis (1987). Twenty different species were recognized, of which twelve were from the Mediterranean Sea, seven from the Red Sea and one from the Nile River.

#### **Land snails from Kariat-el-Anab collected by Massé**

Neuville also received a collection of the local land snails from Kariat-el-Anab that had been collected by Massé. The shells were glued on a carton board showing the Benedictine cross. This unique item is currently undergoing restoration. The shells were labelled with their scientific names, identified by Paul Pallary from material **Massé** had sent him. Pallary found two new species among the material which Massé had donated to him when they met in 1929. One of these species was described as *Ena enabensis*, which is now considered a junior synonym of *Turanena benjamitica* (Benson, 1859). The other was *Chondrula massei* Pallary, 1939, named in honour of the collector, but, regrettably, that species turned out to be a junior synonym of *Euchondrus chondriformis* (Mousson, 1861). Massé also donated land snails from the vicinity of Abu Ghosh to Philippe Dautzenberg (1849–1935), whose collection forms part of the holdings of the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium in Brussels.

#### **The fossil shells collected by Massé on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem**

Since 1899, a Benedictine monastery has been situated on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. Presumably, Massé visited the monastery regularly. He was well aware of the fossil-bearing layers dating to the Campanian period of the Upper Cretaceous epoch. In July 1911, he sent a collection of 13 different species to the French palaeontologist, L. Vignal. That was followed by an additional shipment which contained 39 species. Chavan (1947) carried out a revision of all the available Campanian material from the Mount of Olives that was present in Paris or that had been mentioned previously by other authors. This led to the description of four new genera, four new subgenera, 21 new species and one new variety of which two were named after Massé.

Massé's private collection of Campanian material from the Mount of Olives was present among the material Prof. Haas received from Neuville. It was more or less a duplicate collection of that studied by Chavan but remained still unidentified. Some of Massé's original specimens are of a much better quality than those studied by Chavan.

Thus, although they do not represent type material, this collection enables obtaining better information on the species described by Chavan. Identification of this material is currently in progress.

**Taxa named after Dom Maur Massé**

*Chondrula massei* Pallary, 1939: 48, pl. 3, figs. 49–51.

*Diptygmendon elliotti* var. *massei* Chavan, 1947: 136, pl. II, fig. 7.

*Eosolarium massei* Chavan, 1947: 162, pl. III, figs. 10–12.

*Chondrula massei* Pallary, 1939, now *Euchondrus chondriformis* (Mousson, 1861).

Photo: Oz Rittner.



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**Mienis, H.K.**, 1987. A second collection of shells from Neolithic Abou Gosh. *Levantina*, 66: 695–702.

**Pallary, P.**, 1939. Deuxième addition à la faune malacologique de la Syrie. *Mémoires présentés à l'Institut d'Égypte et publiés sous les auspices de sa majesté Fouad Ier, Roi d'Égypte*, 39: 1–141, pls I–VII.

**4. Arthur Blok (1882–1974), his shell collection and library**

Arthur Blok was born in Stoke Newington, London, on March 20, 1882. His parents were Dr. Maurice H. Blok, M.D., and Helena Pool. He married Buena Sarah Pool in 1907. They had two children: Olive Ruth, who married M. James Pelham, and Geoffrey D.M., who married Hazel Evans. There were two grandchildren, David Pelham and Sarah Block. (Blok was proud of the unorthodox spelling of his family name, Blok, which derived from his father's family from Alkmaar, the Netherlands, but his son, Geoffrey, anglicized the family name to Block).

Blok grew up in London, where he first attended the Brewers Company's School, and subsequently studied at University College in the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, graduating with a B.Sc. degree. Blok became a researcher and personal assistant to Professor Sir John Ambrose Fleming, the inventor of the thermoionic valve (radio tube). In 1901, he operated the instrument that flashed radio signals for the first time in history from Poldhu, Cornwall to the inventor G. Marconi in Newfoundland. Blok made some of the equipment used in that experiment.

For most of his life, Blok worked as a civil servant. From 1902–1916, he worked at the British Patent Office. Due to the First World War, he transferred to the Ministry of Munitions and the Board of Trade (Optical Munitions and Potash Production), but in

1920, he returned to the Patent Office in London. When he retired from that position in 1942, he was a Principal Examiner. This period was briefly interrupted in 1924–1925 when he took a special leave of absence at the explicit request of Lord Samuel, the first High Commissioner for Palestine. During that time in Palestine, Blok dealt with equipping the newly-opened Technion in Haifa, and became its first principal. Subsequently, “Mr. Technion”, as he was nicknamed, served as a member of the Technion’s Board of Governors. After he retired from the Patent Office, Blok transferred to the Ministry of Supply (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) in the field of atomic energy, where he remained until 1947. In 1945, in recognition of his service to Britain, Blok was awarded the Order of the British Empire. In 1948, he retired to his cottage in Rottingdean, but continued to be a consultant of the Department of Atomic Energy, from which he finally retired in 1954 at the age of 72. On his 90th birthday, in 1972, he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. degree by the Technion.



**Arthur Blok in 1973  
during a visit to Avdat**

Despite the fact that Blok had lived only a short period (1924–1925) in Palestine (later Israel), he was a Zionist in heart and soul and was active in many Zionist organisations in England. Blok attended the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Technion in Haifa regularly. After he became acquainted with Prof. Georg Haas, he often extended his stays in Israel to visit Jerusalem.

Although Arthur Blok was a very busy man or perhaps because he was a very busy man, he found relaxation in amassing a shell collection in his spare time. After 30 years of collecting, he began to think about what would happen to his beloved collection and accompanying library after his

death. From experience, he knew all too well what might happen to a shell collection after the death of the owner. He had seen too many collections dispersed or even disappear completely. Given his Zionist leanings, he soon reached a decision to donate his collection to one of the academic institutions in Israel, preferably to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. However, it is best to leave the words to Blok.

### **Some excerpts of Blok’s letters dealing with the collection**

On September 23, 1949, Blok wrote to Sir Leon Simon, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a member of the University’s Board of Governors, as follows: “And now I come to the business, which may be a matter on which you cannot give even a tentative reply before consulting some of your colleagues at the University. But let me say that, in any case, I should like to have as early an answer as possible, even if only in general terms, for reasons which will be apparent to you when you know what I have in mind.

I am trying to come to a decision about the disposal of my collection of molluscan stuff when I am called to the great majority and it has always been in my mind to offer substantially all of it to Israel if it should ever grow to be a collection of any real value for the purpose of zoological study. I think that now it may have some value and, although I cannot expect you personally to be enthusiastic about shells, I do know that you will be alive to the question whether my material might be of value to the Hebrew

University.” Blok continued to describe his extensive collection and library in detail and finished with: “If any institution in Israel should desire it after my death, I would willingly consider bequeathing it. I should have to impose certain conditions more or less as follows: the accepting body would have to arrange packing and transport free of cost to my estate within a reasonable time of my death, and would accept the material on the specific understanding that it would be cared for on the usual lines for study material and would be available for study.” (In other words, Blok requested the installation of a manager in the mollusc collection before the transfer of his shell collection [HKM]). “Perhaps this rather wearisome story may enable you at least to say whether Israel is likely to be interested or not, but you will, I think, want to talk to someone in Jerusalem before any final answer is given. I should be grateful for an answer as soon as possible, because if Israel says no (I should in no way be cast down by this), I have alternatives in mind. But I should like Israel to consider it first.”

On October 4, 1949, a copy of this letter was forwarded to the Rector of the Hebrew University, the Public Relations Department of the Hebrew University, Prof. Oskar Theodor and **Prof. Georg Haas**. As Prof. Haas was actually working on molluscs, he took upon himself to carry on the correspondence with Blok. In a letter dated June 2, 1950, Prof. Haas wrote, “Concerning your proposal that a zoologist of this Department should see you personally in England, there is no need to assure how eagerly I should welcome this chance to be shown through your collection by yourself”.

The first actual meeting between Haas and Blok took place in December, 1950, and they immediately became good friends. Correspondence became more intensive and changed from “Dear Prof. Haas” or “Dear Dr. Haas” to “Dear Haas” and, later on, to “Dear Georg”. Each letter contained some information about Blok’s collection or new contacts between Haas and other fellow malacologists.

In his letter of February 24, 1957, Blok wrote fondly about the Dutch malacologist, J.A.W.C. Venmans, who was studying some *Truncatellina* samples sent by Haas, which resulted in the description of *Truncatellina haasi* Venmans, 1957.

On June 6, 1958, Blok wrote to Haas that the Friends of the Hebrew University had generally approved the financial arrangements for packing and sending the collection and library from Rottingdean to Jerusalem.

Blok’s letter of May 7, 1969 is more mollusc-oriented than any other letter he wrote during the previous 10 years: “Forcart is probably the best man you could find to do the Israeli land molluscs. A malacologist mainly, but he makes a job of whatever he tackles and you may be sure that his contribution to the “Fauna” will be of first rank. ... As to my own collection, although a little new material comes in, I am giving a lot of time to revision and tidying up. And with an aggregate of some 13,000 species, you will believe that there is plenty of room for revision. Most of my catalogue needs rewriting because of its messiness, and the cleaning of thousands of glass topped boxes alone is enough for all the wet days in the very wet English calendar. As to my library, it is really worth having, and I am astonished at the way the price of the early classics goes up and up, although I have always bought books as working tools and not as investment.”

In his letter of November 5, 1970, Blok wrote: “Your letter of 24 October gives me the welcome news that Mr. Mienis’ application is formally in and is under consideration. From your account of him, he seems to be the ideal man for the job: and surely if he worked on the Amsterdam molluscs (under Mevr. Van Benthem Jutting?), he should



be well qualified to curate your Coen et al. collections.” (In fact, Mienis had worked on a voluntary basis in the mollusc collection of the Zoological Museum of Amsterdam under the guidance of Dr. H.E. Coomans and later on became an Honorary Associate of that institute [HKM]). On December 14, 1970, Blok continued: “I am indeed glad that you have secured Mr. Mienis’ service for 2 days a week and I congratulate you on the result of your persistence.” (This was in fact the implementation of the condition by Blok to install a manager for the collection [HKM]). “Need I say that I hope to meet Mr. Mienis? There should be a double bond between us, conchologically and ethnic, for my father was a Dutchman.”

On May 8, 1971, Blok wrote to Haas mainly about his library and that of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUI): “My library, as you know, is quite a sizeable one and I do not want to send the HUI books that it already has. Could you send to me a list of all the molluscan books that the HUI already has?” And again on May 26: “My dear Georg. A quick one in order to thank you for the library list that Mr. Mienis has prepared. I see that I duplicate quite a number of your books but will go through the list carefully against my library and bring you my notes in June. But I see already that with your lot and mine the University will ultimately have a very comprehensive and valuable conchological library. Ever yours, Arthur.”

In the same year, Blok changed his plans concerning his shell collection and malacological library. He became eager to see his “shell-stuff”, as he sometimes called it, in Jerusalem. This change in his plans was triggered by a letter which he received in August, 1971 from the President of the Hebrew University. (As this letter might be important for the Mollusc collection in the future, a full copy of it is quoted below.)

Office of the President

Jerusalem, August 13 1971

Mr. Arthur Blok,

With reference to your recent visit to our Department of Zoology, I understand from Professor G. Haas that it is your intention to despatch your Molluscan Collection and Library to this University during the coming months, if this can be arranged by you in collaboration with the Friends of the Hebrew University in England.

This letter confirms that the University is not only willing to accept your gift, but also that we shall indeed be grateful for this addition to our existing Molluscan Collections and other resources.

I understand that you have in mind two conditions in connection with your gift, when it passes into the ownership of the University, namely, that the Collection and the Library will be appropriately housed and curated, and that both the Collection and the Library will each be kept in its integrity, and will not be scattered or dispersed.

On behalf of the Hebrew University, I am happy to be able to give you the assurance that these two conditions will be observed.

Sincerely yours,

Avraham Harman

President

cc: Mr. Bernard Cherrick, Mr. Philip Druiff, Prof. S. Ofer, Prof. G. Haas, Dr. A. Borut

On the one hand, Blok began slowly but steadily to pack up the shells. In a letter sent on October 31, 1973, he wrote: “Most of my collection is packed ready for transport and I hope to finish the job by the end of the year”. On the other hand, Blok continued to update the identifications of samples in his collection. For example, a replacement name introduced by Mienis in the family Neritidae: *Neritina juttingae* Mienis, 1973, was adopted by him and the specimen label in his collection was changed accordingly (HKM).

In July 1974, a message was received that the collection was in the port of London ready for shipment. One month later, the shipment indeed arrived in Haifa where its arrival created unforeseen problems. The university had a longstanding agreement with the customs authority that books might be imported free of import duty. However, that was not the case with the shell collection. According to the customs inspectors, the quantity of shells was so large that it was considered to be a commercial shipment! The university was charged an extremely high customs fee. Many calls and letters went from Jerusalem to Haifa and back. Finally, due to personal intervention by several government ministries, Blok’s treasure was released; it arrived at the Russian Compound where the university’s mollusc collection was then housed. Tragically, in the meantime, Blok had been hospitalized following a stroke, and, on October 14, 1974, he passed away.



Left: *Amphidromus perversus* from Indonesia, Celebes. Note that in a single colony there may be both dextral and sinistral specimens.

Right: *A. versicolor* from Indonesia, Sunda Islands. Photo: Oz Rittner

**Blok purchased these *Amphidromus* shells at an auction.** They represented the first specimens of his huge collection (see chapter II of his autobiographical sketch, below).

Blok’s dream to help unpack the collection and to install it in the Hebrew University mollusc collection thus remained unfulfilled. On February 5, 1975, an exhibition of the Arthur Blok collection and library took place on the occasion of the opening of the Zoological Museum in the Zoology Department, located at that time in the Russian compound (Mienis, 1975). A large part of the finest books from his library were also exhibited at the Jewish National and University Library in June, 1979 (Haas et al., 1979).

### **Arthur Blok and the development of his shell collection**

A brief review of the development of Blok’s interest in shells and shell-related literature is given in a short autobiographical sketch written in 1964; it is reprinted on the following page:

## The Development of the Shell Collection by Arthur Blok

### Chapter I

In the late 1890s, under the stimulus of an excellent science master at the Brewers Company's School at Islington, one of the boys became curator of the school museum. It was a well run affair with everything properly labelled with locality, genus, species, author, etc., and with the trivial names of the specimens respectfully placed after the Latin names. On Saturday afternoons, the museum committee took material to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington for identification and of all the zoological miscellanea that filled their satchels, the shells were the school curator's favourites. I was he.

### Chapter II

Many years and one world war later. As light relief from a war job, I went occasionally to Stevens' Auction Rooms in Hatton Garden, now, alas, long since closed. The sales there were entertainment without the necessity of paying entertainment tax: the queerest things were offered, one of which happened to be a box of *Amphidromus* shells, a glory of colour and form. I bought it and at that moment the *furor conchyliorum* was re-kindled in me.

### Chapter III

Many more years and another world war later. I now have, in 24 cabinets, large and small, nearly 13,000 species (yes, they are all named) and a shell library of some 600 books and more than 3,000 separates.

### About Arthur Blok

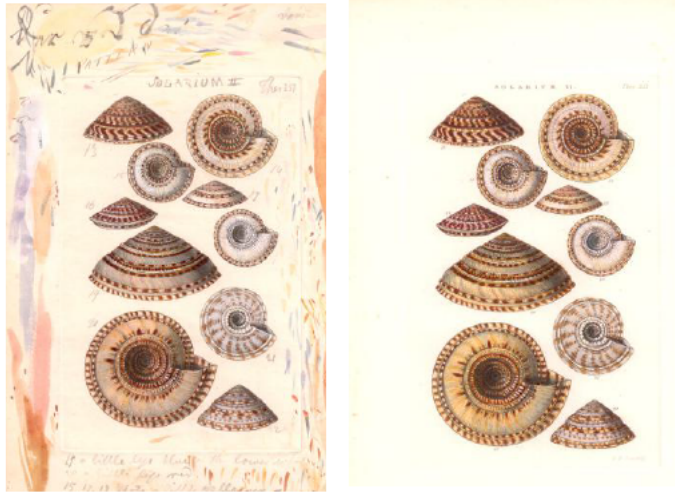
Arthur Blok was not the kind of shell collector who collected most of his treasures by himself in the field. He was more a person willing to take over the assembled material of other fellow collectors who stopped being interested in shells or who passed away. Often, such collections received more attention by Blok than they had ever received in the past, because he was a born curator. Any piece of information, even the most trivial, accompanying the new samples, was checked and retained with the sample for further study or use in articles by other shell-lovers. In this way, we know that he bought a large specimen of the Golden Cowry, *Lyncina aurantium*, collected in Tahiti, for sixpence (Mienis, 1992). This, in spite of the fact that at the time he acquired it, such cowries were usually sold for 200–300 US dollars. Or, that a sample of one of his favourite tree snails, *Amphidromus sinensis vicaria*, a rather rare subspecies from Bhutan in the Himalayan Mountains, had been collected while riding an elephant (Mienis, 1976). However rare or common, each sample received the same meticulous treatment and was stored in self-made glass-topped carton boxes, while all the accompanying data were noted down in a catalogue.



*Ex libris* used by  
Buena and Arthur Blok

From the day he became seriously interested in shell collecting, Blok was always on the lookout for literature. Books, journals and reprints—everything malacological—was most welcome and elicited the same enthusiasm as the shells themselves. In this way, he managed to assemble an excellent conchological library, unique among his fellow private shell collectors. It contained most of the classic works published by such authors as Lister, Gualterius, Rumphius, d'Argenville, the first 12 volumes of Martini and Chemnitz, Perry, Kiener, Quoy & Gaimard, Reeve, the Sowerbys, and many others, most of them with hand-coloured illustrations.

He even managed to obtain several original patterns of Sowerby, prepared for the persons who would colour the plates so they would reproduce the correct colours (figures below, left, example for colouring; and right, coloured, clean plate, respectively).



Left: Original unique handcoloured sample plate (model plate) of the genus *Solarium* (now *Architectonica*) in G.B. Sowerby's (1863) "Thesaurus Conchyliorum". The paint in the margins showed the painters of the plates how to reproduce the correct colours of the specimens.

Right: Finished, clean copy of the plate.

### **Blok's collection of ethnographic material**

Blok was also interested in shell-related ethnographic items. His large reprint library included numerous articles dealing with various uses of shells by human beings:

- As currency: especially Cowries.
- As beads and pendants: any small gastropod and medium sized bivalve.
- As trumpets: *Charonia* and other large gastropods.
- As balers: for example large species of Volutidae.
- As wampum: shell belts used by North American Indians.
- As a pilgrim badge: *Pecten maximus* was used as a badge by those who made the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in the northwest corner of Spain.
- For cutting of cameos: *Cypraecassis rufa* in Italy.

Noteworthy is the fact that in Italy, Blok managed to obtain the original tools of Ronca, one of the last Victorian cameo-cutters, and assembled additional material for an illustrated lecture to the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland in June 1937. On another occasion, he lectured on "Shells and ornaments" and exhibited all kinds of items made of shells, belts, brooches, pins, buttons, cameos, spoons, snuff-boxes, etc., at the Jubilee meeting of the Malacological Society of London on February 1943. Blok's collection of ethnographic material was donated to a local museum in England.

Blok's collecting activities and his sharing of his continually-growing experience on how to build up a shell collection did not remain restricted to his cottage in Rottingdean. In 1924, Blok became an active member of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, becoming an honorary member in 1972. In 1930, he also joined the Malacological Society of London. Blok played an active role in promoting

agreement between the two British Societies. When the first joint meeting of these societies took place in 1967, it was Blok who made the welcoming speech.

**The main components of Arthur Blok's shell collection**

Blok inherited or purchased important parts of other shell collections. These collections are enumerated below in alphabetical order according to the family name of the original collector, the institute, or, if nothing more specific is known, then according to its geographical origin. Many of the secondary collections were purchased at Stevens' Auction Rooms in London, which was well known for natural history sales. The collection contains material of (at least) the following collectors or former owners. Abbreviations used: AB = Arthur Blok; SAR = Stevens' Auction Rooms; xx inserted in dates indicates dates not available.

Aberdeen Collection – A collection of mostly marine and land molluscs collected between 1850 and afterwards. It was once the property of the Marischal College in Aberdeen. AB received this material from his cousin, Phil Orkin, in 1953. Most of the material, which was mounted on carton tablets, was in very poor condition.

Adami, G.B. (1838–1887). Italian malacologist.

Allen Collection – A collection bought by J.C. Dacie (see under that name) from the executors of the late Mrs. Allen, who was a daughter of Mr. Jukes and a cousin of Prof. Jukes Brown. The collection, which was assembled between 1850 and 1920, was rich in Australian material.

Ball – An old collection consisting mostly of marine and terrestrial species purchased through an intermediary from a Mr. Ball of Kensington. Most of the material dates from 1860. According to the labels, some specimens are from A.E. Craven (see under that name). The collection seems likely to have been the working stock of one of the old shell dealers.

Mrs. Bavis – An amateur collector who acquired a number of shells from the collection of the Baroness Burdett-Counts.

Col. R.H. Beddome (1830–1911) – His shell collection was bought by H. Fulton from Beddome's sister, Mrs. Leman. Fulton sold that collection to J.R. le B. Tomlin, from whom Blok received many of Beddome's worldwide Clausiliidae (see under those names).

Wm. Charles Blake – An amateur shell collector from Ross, Herefordshire.

Carl Bülow (18xx–19xx) – German shell collector. Part of his collection was purchased by AB at a sale at SAR; additional samples from that collection were acquired from other sources.

Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts – Some shells of her private collection were donated to Mrs. Bavis (see under that name).

W. Calleja – An amateur shell collector from Valetta, Malta, who, in 1939, sent AB a small collection of unidentified shells.

D. Carmichael – An amateur shell collector of London who bought most of his shells at SAR. In 1965, AB purchased miscellaneous shells belonging to that collection from Maj. P.K. Earle, who had acquired Carmichael's collection (see under that name).

Henry Champ (18xx–1826?) – A private shell collector whose collection was bought at Stevens' in 1926.

Chelmsford Museum – A collection of duplicate shells were selected by AB from that collection in 1946 after being introduced to it by T. Pain (see under his name), who had previously been a curator there.

William (Bill) James Clench (1897–1984) – See under Harvard Museum.

Maj. Matthew William Kemble Connolly (1872–1947) – A specialist in African land- and freshwater molluscs. Shells were either given to AB when Connolly was working at the Natural History Museum, London or via T. Pain, who received Connolly's duplicates in 1946.

Charles Montague Cooke Jr. (1874–1948) – A malacologist at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.

James Eddowes Cooper (1864–1952) – A private shell collector from Herne Bay, Kent, who published numerous papers on the land- and freshwater molluscs of Great Britain. Between 1938 and 1941, when he was dispersing his collection, Blok bought parts of it from him.

Alfred Eugene Craven (1849/50–1937) – Material with his original labels is present in a shell collection that had been purchased by AB from a Mr. Ball (see under that name).

John Charles Dacie (1860–1929) – A shell collector from Putney, London. His collection was acquired at SAR in 1929.

John Gordon Dalgleish (1887–1940) – Born in India, where, among other occupations, he was a tea planter near Darjeeling. Later on, he moved to England. He was interested in many aspects of natural history, kept a shell collection, and worked for years in the Brighton Municipal Museum. AB bought Dalgleish's collection in 1941 from his legatee, Miss Harris, of Horsham. Most of the British land- and freshwater molluscs were collected by Dalgleish in Sussex. The collection contains many marine molluscs which had been purchased from S. Hirase (see under that name).

J. Davy Dean (1876–1937) – For many years was the curator of the mollusc collection in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Most of the material obtained from him consisted of land snails from Jamaica collected by G.A. Martin (see under that name).

W. Duncan – See Mauritius Collection.

Major P.K. Earle – Amateur shell collector From Itchen Abbas, Winchester, Hampshire; owner of the Carmichael shell collection (see under that name).

Hugh C. Fulton (1861–1942) – Conchologist and shell dealer from Hammersmith, London, partner of G. B. Sowerby III. Shells were bought either directly from Fulton, or reached the AB collection via other collections.

Gardner – A naturalist who owned a shop in Holborn, London.

Walter John Joseph Gyngell (1857?–1933) – A shell dealer in Scarborough. Parts of his stock were bought at SAR in 1927, 1930 and 1932.

Rev. James Hadfield (1864–1934) and Mrs. Emma Hadfield-Foster – Remains of their collection, mostly shells from Lifu, Loyalty Islands, were acquired at SAR in 1935.

Alfred Hartley – A private shell collector from High Wycombe. AB bought his collection from Hartley's daughter, Mrs. Gander, after his death in 1938.

- Harvard Museum – In 1959 AB received a parcel containing land snails from Dr. Ruth Turner of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Among the material were some paratypes of *Cerion* species from Cuba described by W.J. Clench.
- Shintaro Hirase (1884–1939) – A Japanese zoologist, the author of the first coloured monograph on Japanese molluscs (1934).
- Arthur Tindell Hopwood (1897–1969) – Paleontologist of the Natural History Museum, London. Donated to AB the residue of his collection of Conidae in 1957.
- L.H. Hunn – A collection of land snails was purchased from Hunn in 1944. According to the labels, most of the material had been collected about 1850. The original collector is, however, unknown.
- R.M. Isaacs – An official at the British Council stationed in Ghana. He donated a collection of West African shells to AB in 1971.
- Kew Collection – A collection of shells from Gare Loch, Scotland was bought about 1924 from H. Ryland of Kew Green, who had purchased the material at an auction.
- Peter Lawson (18xx–19xx) – A collector from Hammersmith, London. His collection was bought at a sale at SAR in 1926, together with a 3-tier large mahogany cabinet.
- L. Lindsay – An amateur shell collector.
- Thomas Lombe Taylor – A private shell collector from Starston, Norfolk. Remains of his collection were purchased at SAR in 1929. Much of his material had been bought originally from Sowerby and Fulton (see under these names).
- George A. Martin (18xx–1926) – Zoologist at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. While in Jamaica (1925–1926) he became interested in molluscs, but died unexpectedly during an operation in the Montego Bay hospital.
- Mauritius Collection – In 1924, a collection of marine shells was bought at SAR. The collector of the material is not known but the collection was accompanied by a copy of E. Liénard, 1877, “Catalogue de la Faune Malacologique de l’île Maurice,” and was inscribed “W. Duncan, Port Office Mauritius, 1876.” Therefore, most probably Duncan was the original owner of the collection. If the inscribed date (1876) of Liénard’s book is correct, then most probably it was not published in 1877 but in 1876.
- Hugh McClelland (1864–1943) – He was a private collector of shells living in Birmingham. A large part of his collection was acquired at a sale in SAR in 1937.
- Mogridge – A shell collection bought by T. Pain (see under that name) from a Mr. Mogridge and transferred to AB.
- Tomasso Maria Allery, Marchese di Monterosato (1841–1927) – A well-known Italian shell collector from Palermo, Sicily. Blok received numerous samples from the Monterosato collection via the material from other English collectors.
- Robert Henson Moses (1871–1949) – A nature lover and private shell collector from Tottenham, London. After his death in 1949, AB received part of his shell cabinets. The shell collection went to the Haselmere Educational Museum.
- Rev. E.H. Nash – A private shell collector, who lived at Wetley Rocks Vicarage, Stoke-on-Trent. At his request his collection was distributed among other collectors by J.R. le B. Tomlin (see under that name).

- New Guinea Collection – A small collection of land snails collected by a trade collector named Pratt in New Guinea, purchased at Stevens' in London in 1929.
- Mrs. O'Neill – A private collector from New Zealand. In 1923, Blok purchased a collection of shells from New Zealand which she had collected in the Bay of Plenty and Tautanaga Harbour.
- Thomas (Tom) Pain (1915–2003) – A malacologist from Millbank, London who specialized, among other taxa, in Ampullariidae. He checked all the identifications of material belonging to that family in Blok's collection and added numerous missing species.
- H.W. Parritt (xxxx–1931?) – A private shell collector who lived first in Highgate, London, and later on in Rottingdean, Sussex. His collection was bought at SAR in 1931.
- Lieut.-Col. Alfred James Peile (1868–1948) – An army man with a great interest in natural history in general and in molluscs in particular. He specialized in the study of radulae and published numerous malacological papers. After Peile's death in 1948, Blok received his entire collection of Clausiliidae and Pupillidae.
- F. Pickles (xxxx–1931?) – A private shell collector, whose collection was purchased at SAR in 1930.
- Pratt – A trade collector. See under New Guinea Collection.
- Hugh Berthon Preston (1871–1944/5) – A shell dealer and prolific writer of malacological papers. The remaining stock of Preston's commercial shells was bought from him when he gave up dealing in 1935. It included numerous syntypes of taxa that he described.
- Percy Edward Radley (1861–1927) – Lived at Broxbourne, Herts. His shell collection was acquired via SAR in 1928.
- Mrs. Kay Rutland (xxxx–2004) – An amateur shell collector from Sydney, Australia. AB exchanged molluscs with her from 1964.
- H. Ryland – See under Kew collection.
- Albert Edward Salisbury (1876–1964) – Shells were received by AB as a gift or were acquired after his death.
- Georg Ossian Sars (1837–1927) – A Norwegian zoologist whose collection of Norwegian marine molluscs was found in the collection of H. Worsfold (see under that name). It was accompanied by a manuscript list marked Mr. Mason 1887, and had passed through the hands of R.F. Damon from Weymouth. The original labels by Sars are still in the boxes.
- Sheerness Collection – In 1924, AB bought a shell collection from J. Levy, an auctioneer in Sheerness. This collection was part of Mrs. Turmine's collection of Sheerness.
- Lajos Soós (1879–1972) – Malacologist and curator of the mollusc collection of the Natural History Museum in Budapest. AB obtained a complete collection of land and freshwater molluscs from the Carpathian Basin from him.
- George Brettingham Sowerby III (1843–1921) – Malacologist and author of many shell-related publications. He dealt with Fulton (see under that name) in shells.



- John L. Staid-Staadt (1896–1969) – A serious amateur collector who first lived in Regents Park, England, and later on in Rheims, France.
- L. Suggitt – A natural history dealer of Droylesden near Manchester. The collection was purchased from his widow in February 1923.
- John Read le Brockton Tomlin (1864–1954) – The greatest of the latter-day British conchologists donated to AB or exchanged shells with him.
- Canon Henry Baker Tristram (1822–1906) – In 1923, AB bought a part of the original Tristram collection from W. Ternent of Durham. This material included syntypes of *Clausilia genezerethana* Tristram, 1865.
- Mrs. Turmine – A private shell collector from Sheerness. See under Sheerness Collection.
- Ruth Dixon Turner (1914–2000) – See under Harvard Museum.
- W. Tylar – A general dealer from Bournemouth.
- D'Alté Aldridge Welch (1907–1970) – Assistant malacologist at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, and research fellow of the Department of Mollusks, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. A large collection of Achatinellidae were given as a gift to AB; additional samples from him were received via Lombe Taylor, H. Worsfold and SAR (see under these names).
- Guy Lawrence Wilkins (1905–1957) – Zoologist of the Natural History Museum, London. After his death, AB purchased from Mrs. Alison Wilkins part of her husband's private collection.
- John M. Williams (1838–1925) – A private collector from Liverpool whose collection was bought at SAR in 1926.
- Ronald Winckworth (1884–1950) – Well-known British conchologist who donated to or exchanged shells with AB.
- William James Wintle (1861–1934) – Amateur shell collector who specialized in the land- and freshwater molluscs of Great Britain and exotic land snails. After his death, the collection went to AB together with his shell-related books.
- Herbert W. Worsfold (18xx–1943) – A private shell collector from Wandsworth. Blok bought a large part of his collection after his death.
- C.A. Wright – A private shell collector and one time editor of the *Malta Times*. At his request, the collection was dispersed among members of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland by his sister.
- S. Yamaguti – A private shell collector from Nagasaki City, Japan, who exchanged shells with Blok in 1938.

### **Authors of type material in the Arthur Blok collection**

The following is a list of authors of which at least one sample of type material (paratypes and syntypes) is present in the Arthur Blok collection. The verification, separation and deposition of that material in the type collection of the mollusc collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is currently in progress, but the finalization will take several more years.

César-Marie-Félix Ancey (1860–1906)  
Frank Collins Baker (1867–1942)  
Joseph Charles Bequaert (1886–1982)  
Herbert Edwin James Biggs (1895–1973)  
Oskar Boettger (1844–1910)  
John Williams Brazier (1842–1930)  
Robert Ashington Bullen (1850–1912)  
Henry Clifden Burnup (1852–1928)  
Eugène Caziot (1844–1931)  
William (Bill) James Clench (1897–1984)  
Matthew William Kemble Connolly (1872–1947)  
Charles Montague Cooke Jr. (1874–1948)  
James Eddowes Cooper (1864–1952)  
William Healey Dall (1845–1927)  
Philippe Dautzenberg (1849–1935)  
J. Davey Dean (1876–1937)  
Lorraine Screven Frierson (1861–1933)  
Hugh Coomber Fulton (1861–1942)  
Henry Haversham Godwin-Austen (1834–1923)  
Gerard Pierre Laurent Kalshoven Gude (1858–1924)  
Gyula Hazay (1842–1887)  
Junius Henderson (1865–1937)  
Pierre Marie Heude (1836–1902)  
Tom Iredale (1880–1972)  
Kenneth Hurlstone Jones (1873–1938)  
Tokubei Kuroda (1886–1987)  
Richard Thomas Lowe (1802–1874)  
Edward Henry Madge (1901–1970)  
James Cosmo Melvill II (1845–1929)  
Tomasso Maria Allery, Marchese di Monterosato (1841–1927)  
Laurent-Joseph Morlet (1823–1892)  
Geoffrey Nevill (1843–1885)  
Hugh Lewis Nevill (1848–1897)  
Pierre-Henri Nyst (1813–1880)  
Thomas (Tom) Pain (1915–2003)  
Paul Maurice Pallary (1869–1942)  
Alfred James Peile (1868–1948)  
Henry Augustus Pilsbry (1862–1957)  
John Henry Ponsoby-Fane (1848–1916)  
Arthur William Baden Powell (1901–1987)  
Hugh Berthon Preston (1871–1944/5)  
Otto W. Rosen (1853–1925)  
Georg Ossian Sars (1837–1927)  
Michael Sars (1805–1869)

Franz Alfred Schilder (1896–1970)  
Hans Andreas Schlesch (1891–1962)  
Edgar Albert Smith (1847–1916)  
George Brettingham Sowerby III (1843–1921)  
Robert Standen (1854–1925)  
Ernest Ruthven Sykes (1867–1954)  
John Read le Brockton Tomlin (1864–1954)  
Carlos de la Torre y de la Huerta (1858–1950)  
Henry Baker Tristram (1822–1906)  
William Harry Turton (1856–1938)  
Bryant Walker (1856–1936)  
Robert Boog Watson (1823–1910)  
D'Alté Aldridge Welch (1907–1970)  
Ronald Winckworth (1884–1950)  
Thomas Vernon Wollaston (1822–1878)

Additional type material might be present in the collections of Peile and Wintle forming part of the Arthur Blok collection. Material in these sub-collections had not been catalogued by Blok.

#### **Shell-related papers written by Arthur Blok**

Although Blok told many interesting shell-related stories and anecdotes during his visits to Jerusalem, he was far from a prolific writer on shells. Only ten short articles written by Blok could be traced.

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## Summary

In summary, the collections of **Coen, Neuville, Massé, and the Blok collection and Blok's library** were invaluable contributions to the Mollusc Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and brought the collection to its present high level. The shell collection is now by far the largest shell collection, and the library the most extensive malacological library, in the Middle East.



**Henk K. Mienis sampling the lower course of the Zaki River, Golan Heights, for aquatic molluscs. September 11, 2011.**  
Photo: Oz Rittner

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