



Guido T. Poppe & Philippe Poppe - Since 1994

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NEWSLETTER: THE ANTWERP SHELL SHOW OF MAY 2024 Part 2

The day after the arrival of Grace and He Jing, we moved to the shell show, which was held in a sports center in the countryside in the west of the harbor city of Antwerp, in Belgium. We first arrived there in the early afternoon before the show, and the active members of the Flemish club, the Belgische Vereniging voor Conchylologie, were all busy setting up the huge space, with hundreds of meters of table. The bar of the sports center has a nice terrace, and two dozen other members as myself and their friends enjoyed a great time, socializing. In our case, after being absent from the busy social conchological life in Belgium for about a year, this was uppermost welcome.

There was sad news, as some members disappeared, passed away, or could not attend any longer, such as my good friend Pierre Capier. There was also good news, such as a fair number of new members, and a visibly very good active conchological group at work. Already that afternoon, the atmosphere was just great and we all enjoyed a lot.

The next day, quite early, we went to the Shell Show, and while we arrived at opening time, all were very busy already with a few hundred people running around from table to table. I noticed, some people could hardly unpack, the sales going on already from the first minute. So, Sheila, Philippe and me installed ourselves on a friends table and started working - in this case buying.

The offer of shells was just overwhelming, and we spend much of the cash reserves from Conchology, Inc. as this was a great opportunity. It was rather hard work: we had to look at each specimen with great attention. So, Sheila, Philippe and myself were very very busy the first two days.

In the meantime, the organizers, several of them belonging to what we call today the Belgian Poppe school, did a much better job than one can expect. It's too much to name them all, but here I name a few of the more important organisers: David Monsecour, Chris Vos, Bjorn de Boer and Rika Goethals. With them and their volunteering teams, the club reached with this shell show probably the summum of what one can expect of such an event. We can only congratulate them, and all their dedicated collaborators. About everybody I met here these days has the same opinion.

The ANTWERP SHELL SHOW reaffirmed its place in Europe once more as the show number one.

The organizing people were many, the visitors number was enormous. Most visitors are also customers of Conchology, Inc., and it is unfortunately impossible to show everybody we know with images here, but I made a quick selection out of the hundreds of photos that Philippe and Cécile gave me. I think the ensemble will give a good idea on this show, especially useful for the ones that could not come this year.

We here continue with photos, a selection out of many. I would love to have everybody shown, but I didn't work hard enough on the show to achieve that one. The present choice will give an idea of some of the topics the organizers made and things like that...



THEY DID IT: Most of the organizing team are there. A big BRAVO.

Saturday 18 May	Sunday 19 May
10:00h Open for visitors	10:00h Open for visitors
13:00h On the Sofa: Phil Clover	12:00h On the Sofa: Ulrich Wieneke
14:30h On the Sofa: Guido Poppe	13:45h Kids awards ceremony
15:45h Kids awards ceremony	15:00h Closing
16:00h On the Sofa: Philippe Bouchet	
17:30h Awards winners ceremony	
18:00h Closing	

A brilliant idea, the program and the participants on a project called "The Sofa". This year on the sofa, giving a small lecture, were: Phil Clover, Ulrich Wieneke, Philippe Bouchet, and Philippe Poppe and your present author.



The ambiance during the shell show in full swing.



Left: On the sofa, Phil Clover, over 90 years young and the "oldest" shell dealer alive. Right Ulrich Wieneke, the world expert in Strombaceans and other shell topics...



Left: Philippe Bouchet gets a gift from the organizers for his talk. Right: Your author and Philippe, explaining topics on the beloved homepage of Conchology, Inc. We expect this year over 24 million visits.



The competition: Left: We hand over the Conchology, Inc. award to Felix Lorenz for his amazing piece of a fish caught by a pearl oyster. Right: All price winners of the different competitions.



Left: with Philippe Bouchet and the book I dedicated to him. Center: Andrea Nappo I was so happy to meet in "real". I always read his nice posts on the Facebook. Right: Frank Nolf and his lovely wife. Frank was one of my early examples of "the perfect conchologist" already 5 decades ago.



Left: Leo Man in't Veld, one of the best "shell artists" alive. He decorated amongst other things much of the now no longer existing Zeemuseum in Scheveningen. In the center, a Pleurotomaria atlantica, all man made by, if I understood well, his son. A masterpiece I purchased as an extra decorative piece to our extensive Pleurotomaria collection. Right: With in the center Bruno Briano, and right Bruno de Bruin. Both world class divers. With B. Briano I spend weeks diving Italian coasts, Venezuela coasts and we spend weeks in the Caribbean together on the boat "Sidderaal".



From left to right: With Tiziano Cossignani (Italy), Antonio Monteiro (Portugal) and Mitsuo Chino (Japan).



From left to right: With Tanya & Yuri Kantor (Russia), Philippe, Kyriakos Papavasileiou (Greece) & Koen Fraussen (Belgium), with Roland Houart (Belgium) and He Jing (China).



Left: The most touching moment of the show for me, with Hapé Wagner (the Netherlands) and his wife. Right: It is a tradition we spend the evenings of the Belgian shellshow with the De Donder family and friends. Here our group from this year, which also counts for the first time He Jing and Grace.

The most touching moment, because I didn't know that Hapé, with a terminal disease, is a great fan of our homepage and a scientific collaborator. He told me he loved my newsletters, and decided to donate for my special collection a family piece, a decorated painted pearl oyster from around 1900, for my growing collection. I was just stunned and we wish Hapé and family good times and pleasure with shells as long as possible. That particular shell has of course a place of honor now in my growing collection and will be most likely published in the coming years. Thanks again.



The amazing gift from Hapé Wagner. This is most likely a rare Dutch production, from between 1880 and 1900, showing a Dutch sailing boat of that time.

All I met afterwards agree with me that this was a truly exceptional shell show, and we hope it will always be like this in the future: a great conchological event with a wonderful spirit of happiness and with the best possible social relations between all. Again congratulations to the organizers, from all the people in Conchology, Inc.

As this is almost the end of our weekend-auctions, it is with pleasure I invite you to take a look at the present auction, and, if you feel like, participate and then I wish you to be a winning bidder.

<https://auction.conchology.be/>

Sincerely Yours,

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For Conchology, Inc.

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