



NEWSLETTER: 6 SEPTEMBER 2024 - CHINA PART 2

On top, the Hangzhou shell show in full blast, the second day, with 18 000 adults counted visiting. We actually visited in the morning, and that day we were also invited to give a talk in one of the smaller "aula" of the museum.

But, I first introduce some enthusiast fans of Conchology, Inc.:



This is Zhou. Zhou is a great artist, with superior skills in drawings. He gave me a book with some hundreds of his drawings, mostly ladies and faces of ladies, and page after page is a work of art on itself. Zhou is an important natural history collector. He joins insects and mollusks, but I've seldom seen a collection more pleasing than his. His house is near Hangzhou and resembles more a museum than a residence, full of interesting natural history treasures.



While this shell show was like 80% dedicated to mollusca, there was room left for other groups of animals: here some amazing insects for sale by Chen Bo and his dad. Others got superb sets of echinoderms, and several showed highly selected magnificent crustaceans. There was much tolerance on this level.



This is Wu Fei. Co-organizer with He Jing, and we know him a few years, also from other shell shows. He is a fan as well of Conchology, Inc.



This is Vic Dungog, also called "Enting" and his lovely daughter. They are Filipino's and live on the same small Island as we do in the Philippines. Vic is a well-known shell dealer, and occasionally goes into specimen shells, with much knowledge....

Vic and his daughter were definitely delighted to meet us in Hangzhou, we too.



On one of the tables, I discovered this fabulous set of small bottles with conchological items, uppermost wonderful, the idea...



Our talk, where Philippe and your author switched once in a while, lasted half an hour, and we presented Conchology, Inc. and the different websites we manage.



The place got a hundred seats, but people were standing and sitting next to the seats also, about 150 curious guests attended.



Our talk was followed by a presentation of Huang Bo, here introduced by He Jing, on conchological philately.



And after the talk Philippe with a set of happy and enthusiast youngsters.



*Outside the museum, I saw, high above my head this nice wall decoration:
Darwin at work.*

In the next newsletter Part III on our visit to China, with more on all kinds of topics.

SAD NEWS: TWO WELL KNOWN FIGURES OF THE MALACOLOGICAL WORLD PASSED AWAY

On May 07, **John P. Wolff** passed away at the blessed age of 92 years. John corresponded with many conchologists worldwide. About 10 years ago, I got heavy correspondence with him on different conchological topics. He proved full of knowledge...

John got an interesting life, and I refer all of you to <https://www.snyderfuneralhome.com/obituary/john-p-wolff/> to learn about him. He was definitely a person who embraced life.



*Roland Houart send me on this occasion the photo of Trubatsa wolffi (Houart, 2013).
The holotype, which he named in honor of John.*

Recently also, **Alistair Moncur** passed away, suffering from depression.

I knew Alistair well from my starting years in shells. He visited me often in Belgium and half a century ago, we traveled occasionally together to early European shell shows, sharing a room. But after a few years our ways split because we got different philosophies on shell trading. Alistair spend much time in the Philippines, but we didn't see him any longer here since the pandemic started.



Conus moncuri (Filmer, 2005) has been named after Alistair.

AUCTION RESULTS



***Cypraea tigris pardalis* SPECIAL COLOR**

The tiger cowry remains the queen of all cowries: we handled thousands of it, there are millions in the sea. But despite its "common" condition, people love it. The shell is indeed well sized, can show superb colors and has a happy "touch" when handled. Solid and not very prone to light changes, tiger cowries last for decades in collections. The specimen, taken in or near Olango Island, where most tigers are caught relatively deep, has several qualities: it's adult and solid, well sized, perfect in shape and with a fine gloss. The color is seldom seen as such: below the multiple black dots there is like a blue shadow to each dot. Here and there, but particularly in 4 areas, browns and even a hint of pale-yellow shines through, as coming from deep. The dorsal line is reddish brown, neat, and perfectly placed. A beauty indeed and I'm sure it will get a place of honor in the new owner's collection. The shell reached 395 euro over 25 bids! This treasure now moves to a well-known German collection.

***Gyrineum lacunatum* cf.**

From that very same auction: a stunning *Gyrineum* from Tanzania. Found in a region called Fungu Mkadya, which is somewhere offshore north of Dar-es-Salaam. Shallow under coral slabs.



The beauty of this shell is overwhelming, but the size is unfortunately relatively small, yet still almost 2 cm, which is rather large for the group of small *Gyrineum* this species belongs to. Needs possibly a name....

This conchological treasure is very rare, we found only two references in the literature and this particular shell reached 125 euro after 11 bids. This specimen is traveling now also to Germany.

***Conus dominicanus* GIANT**

A very large shell from the HAVELET collection. Havelet indeed specialized in BIG sizes especially. In the text of the auction, I talked about my single scuba dive in the afternoon in the Tobago Keys. A lucky dive, where I surfaced with two rare *Conus*: a *dominicanus* at 12 m, and when I started going up, at 9 m, in the second layer of corals on the wall, a bright red *Conus granulatus*. After that I was short of air, possibly

there were more hidden there... The fact is with all the big barracuda hanging around there, I was a little relieved when out of the water...



I remember that 40 years ago, I saw some quantities of this species on the French market, but since then the species is just rare. It is a beautiful sister species of the St. Vincent *cedonulli*, from a little more north. In the last two decades we could only handle 17 pieces. This is the largest of all of these. So, we can conclude with rare and beautiful. This shell raised 18 bids and reached 905 euro. The shell travels now to the USA.

***Calliostoma babelicum* GIANT**

With this beautiful specimen we move into the realm of grand rarities from deep water. This elegant piece was trawled in 360 m in the east China Sea and I kept it a few years in my small collection. I'm sensible when it comes to *Calliostoma*. My very first collection, made about 5 decades ago were TROCHIDAE and this collection is now in the Geneva museum....



This specimen raised 10 bids, reached 315 euro and is also traveling to the USA by now.

THIS COMING WEEKEND PRESTIGE AUCTION

Leptoconus glorioceanus f. roseopictus



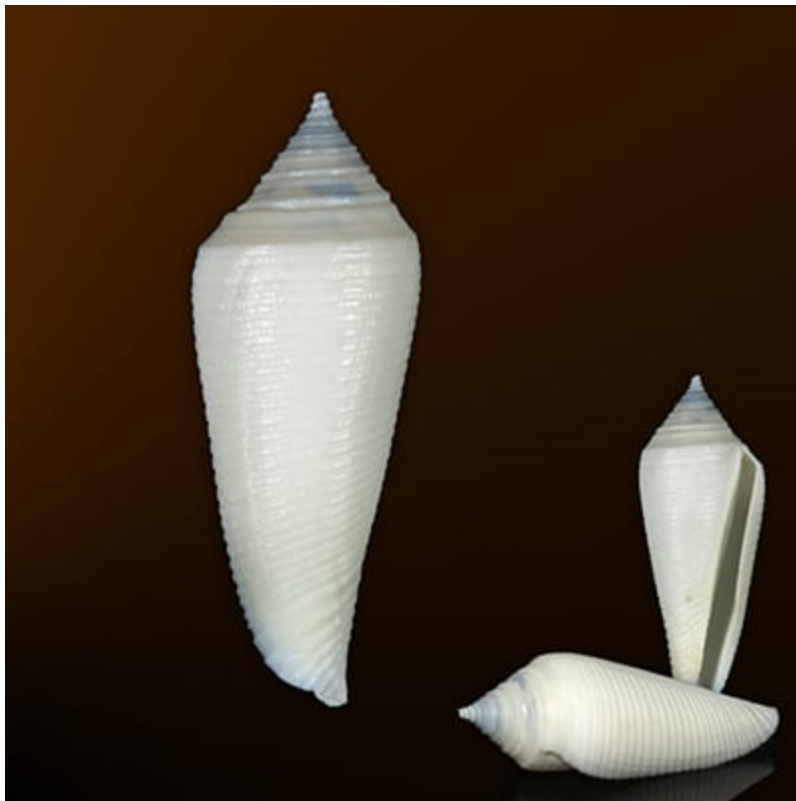
A shell as this is a happy appearance for the auction lovers: it is extremely rare, belongs to an important family, and is prestigious. Qualities accumulate.

The sister species of the most famous *Conus* of all: the *gloriamaris*. The *glorioceanus*, I described with Sheila in the year 2009 as the Glory of the oceans: *glorioceanus*.

Luigi Bozzetti in 2023 noticed that indeed a few specimens have a pink shine, instead of a white background. He described these as "*roseopictus*". It concerns less than 15% of the population, and less than 200 living pieces of the *glorioceanus* have ever been collected. This beautiful *Conus* is only known from a small area slightly north of Zamboanga city.

Definitely a major shell in any shell collection or museum. This prestigious *glorioceanus* deserves to end somewhere between 1000 and 2000 euro. We have no longer any supply of the area where the species lives since the pandemic.

***Fusiconus vimineus* ALBINO**



Rarer than this, shells don't come, it is the single ALBINO vimineus I know of.

The *vimineus* is an elegant well sized species, from the central Indo-Pacific only. Recorded from the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and south to northern Australia.

The Indian Ocean shell figured by Röckel in *La Conchiglia* 1992 Vol. 23(262) from Saya de Malha is not this species: it's definitely an undescribed *Conus*.

The typical color of *vimineus* is light brown. Occasionally shells have a discrete pattern of light darker brown elongate flecks, set in three rows, over the body whorl.

Estimation: A grand rarity, up till now UNIQUE, the few very pale shells in the literature are not albino, but pale brown dead collected *vimineus*. We think 500-750 euro or more... but we will start low at 125 euro.

We thank all of you for the great enthusiasm you deployed in purchasing shells during our last auction: it helps the company after this long period of difficulties since the start of the pandemic. We feel we are back on track for the years to come, thanks to all of you.

In the meantime, enjoy the many great treasures that passed through our hands and have a great time shelling, bidding and studying shells.

Sincerely Yours,

Guido T. Poppe
For Conchology, Inc.

You can contact us: **philippe@conchology.be**
guido@conchology.be
sheila@conchology.be

<https://www.conchology.be/>
<https://www.poppe-stamps.com/>
<https://auction.conchology.be/>

You are receiving this e-mail because you asked us to notify you about any updates from Conchology, Inc.
If you no longer wish to receive any e-mails: [Unsubscribe here](#)

© 1994-2024 Guido T. Poppe & Philippe Poppe - Conchology, Inc.