



Guido T. Poppe & Philippe Poppe - Since 1994

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November 4, 2025

NEWSLETTER: TUESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2025 - MACTAN ISLAND

Yesterday, late afternoon, typhoon TINO made landfall on Mactan Island and minutes later on Cebu City. That rather average city for the region is 1 million people, but with direct environment, including Mactan, we are talking 3.5 million people in an area of roughly 200 by 55 km.

The devastation was huge, much more than expected from a typhoon of this size. Mactan Island, strangely enough, was less touched than the mainland city.

Philippe and myself, we got, with the people around us, enough time to secure most of our belongings, and the destruction on our houses was minimal. The gate going to my second koi pond, which is in massive wood, got a broken slider lock - a piece of wood of one meter long, 15 cm wide and 8 cm thick was broken into two like it was a match stick. But that was the main damage we got...

It happened that on Tuesday, the mom and sister of Sheila will take the plane to Italy with a group of Cebuano friends. So they joined us for that terrible night where TINO arrived and hit the Island, but all went luckily well. The village we live in is only minutes away from the airport.

Our company is still without electricity, but the local Shangri-La provided us with a temporary office. So, we are now five of us working on a table with fortunately good internet, which is very fast after the devastation of previous night.



Philippe and Soseit on their temporary "desk" in our local Shangri La.



The back entrance of my garden, on the right the massive wooden broken open gate.

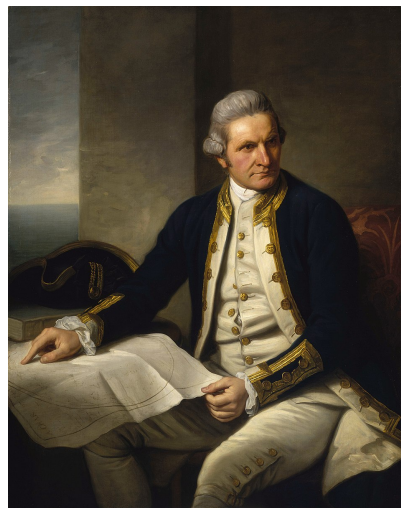


And this is at present the exit of the village area we live. On the road, the water is still 30 cm deep in the center.

For photos of the dramatic situation in Cebu and environments, you can google hundreds on the internet. I rather emphasize a happy moment where the mother and sister leave for Italy with a group of Cebuano friends. They will visit Italy from Venice down to Rome, the entire trip very focused on religious sightseeing and organized by a group of close friends, which are all doctors from our main hospitals here.



From left to right: your author, Sheila, here mom, her sister, Mona and Philippe.



Captain James Cook.

I just read the news that scientists found back the remains of the historical ship "Endeavour", the very ship that led captain Cook to amazing discoveries in the Pacific between 1768 and 1771.

As shell collectors we are all concerned with the history of discoveries of the west done in the Indo-Pacific, and Cook is prime news on that level...

The ship has been sunk by the British marine in 1778 to block Narrangansett Bay. For several years, scientists studied five shipwrecks before the coast of Rhode Island (a little to the northeast of New York). In an official report the Australian National Museum could now confirm that the wreck "R12394" is indeed the "Endeavour".

This is the final conclusion of 25 years of detailed archeological research...



Frank Nolf

This week, Christiane Van der Gucht, his wife, informed me that Frank Nolf passed away in a hospital in Bruges. Frank, who lived in Oostende, was 9 years older than myself, but functioned very much a big part of his life as a distant mentor and friend of mine.

He was a doctor in sciences, specialized in chemistry and molecular biology. Scientific researches and teacher in natural sciences. He helped in the creation of the Belgian Society of Conchylology section "Coast". He published the journal "Neptunea".

Frank Nolf went also every month, for decades, to the meeting of the Flemish club in Antwerp. He got there a big stand and handled many shells, purchased and exchanged with much pleasure by the in average 100 members of that club.

On my visits to the Belgian coast I often made a stop in Frank's place. I was always very well received by him and Christiane, for which I here express my thanks. We always took the opportunity to exchange views on the social situation of the Belgian clubs - I was most of the time vice-president at that time of the Société Belge de Malacology, which had twice a month a Saturday afternoon meeting in Brussels.

With Frank leaving us, Belgium loses definitely one of its most important members of the malacological groups. Frank will be missed by many of us, and he closes in some way, a chapter in the Belgian Conchology, which relied more on literature and less on the internet than the world does at present.

We wish much strength to Christiane and his 3 children, in these difficult times. Frank leaves a great legacy by the many shells that went through his hands in more than half a century....

I named together with Sheila and Henk Dekker a species after him: *Cantharidus nolfi* Poppe, Tagaro & Dekker, 2006. Frank Swinnen described *Europicardium nolfi* Swinnen, 2010.

Frank described more than 49 different species of shells and one genus.

So far for this newsletter. More news when we will emerge in a more or less "normal" world once more after a few weeks cleaning up the terrible mess made by typhoon TINO.

Visit our newly launched Regular Auction which ends on November 6, 14:00 CET and we wish you to be a successful bidder there.

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

Sincerely yours,

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For Conchology, Inc.

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