REVISED LIST OF THE SPECIMENS OF CONUS GLORIA-MARIS CHEMNITZ IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE WORLD

BY

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"Gloria maris ad Gloriam Beauforti"

Since F. Azpeitia Moros, in 1927 (Revista Acad. Cienc. Madrid, Vol. 23, 1927, p. 511—530), published his account of the specimens of Conus gloria-maris in public and private collections and in literature, many new and interesting details on the adventures of various individuals have come to my knowledge. This has led me to make systematic inquiries in the shell collections all over the world and, finally, to compile the following new survey of the representatives of this distinguished species. In spite of many efforts various particulars could not be found out; hence the author is well aware that the revision is not a final one. She hopes, however, that this contribution may serve to draw the attention of systematists and cabinet owners to this idol of conchology, persuading them to publish such items as are insufficiently checked here.

The author is most grateful to all the friends and colleagues, officials of public museums and private collectors, who have so kindly supplied the necessary information.

A. SPECIMENS ACTUALLY PRESENT
  a. The Netherlands
I. Amsterdam, Zoological Museum (Pl. VIII, fig. 2)

  Locality: Wahaai, id. of Ceram, after a storm. Date: 1896. Collector: Dr. P. Wijga. Size: height 107.7 mm, breadth 44 mm. Price: sold to mr. L. Muller, together with a lot of other shells in 1932 and afterwards delivered over to the Amsterdam Zoological Museum in exchange for other shells. Figure: a photograph in the Amsterdam Museum and figured on plate 1 fig. b in Basteria, Vol. 3, 1938. Description: Basteria, Vol. 3, 1938, p. 11-15.

II. Rotterdam, Natural History Museum (Pl. VIII, fig. 1)
Collections: Van den Berg c.s., Rotterdamsche Diergaarde, 1869—1939, Natuurhistorisch Museum, Rotterdam, 1939 — onwards

III. Leiden, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (Pl. IX, fig. 5)

IV. Leiden, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (Pl. IX, fig. 4)

V. The Hague, Municipal Lyceum (Pl. VIII, fig. 3)

b. Denmark

VI. Zoological Museum of the University, Copenhagen
Locality: unknown. Date: unknown. Collector: unknown. It was purchased at the sale of Sluyter (also spelt: Schluyster, or Schlüter) at Amsterdam in
Conus gloria-maris Chenn., belonging to Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, 4. presented by Prof. Martin, 5. from Raye Collection.

c. United Kingdom

VII. British Museum (Natural History), London


VIII. British Museum (Natural History), London


Cuming found 3 shells of Conus gloria-maris under a stone. “I almost fainted with delight” (Journ. of Conch. Vol. 8, 1895, p. 72 and footnote). Two specimens are now in the British Museum. Where is the third?
IX. British Museum (Natural History), London


X. British Museum (Natural History), London


XI. British Museum (Natural History), London


There is a certain discrepancy in the ascertainment of the first possessor. In 1887 Melvill (l.c.) mentioned Mr. Norris as the first owner, but in 1900 (Journ. of Conch. Vol. 9, p. 346—347) he related that Reeve had purchased in Rotterdam, at the auction of General Von Ryder, two gloria-maris, of which one went to Lombe Taylor and one to Mrs De Burgh.

XII St. Leonards on Sea, J. R. le B. Tomlin

Locality: unknown. Date: unknown. Collector: unknown. Size: height on Melvill's figure 106 mm. Price: see below. Figured: Mem. Manch. Lit. Phil. Soc. (3) Vol. 10, 1887, pl. 8, fig. 2. Descriptions: Melvill, 1887, l.c. p. 89; Moros, Rev. Acad. Cienc. Madrid, Vol. 23, 1927, p. 520. Collections: there are a few uncertain points in the history of this shell. In a letter to the Melbourne Museum dated May 18, 1865 Reeve offered for sale for £ 70 a Gloria-maris which he had bought more than 25 years previously at The Hague (probably the sale of General Von Ryder, of Rotterdam). Contrary to the statement by Melvill (1887, p. 90), copied by Moros (1927, p. 522) the Melbourne Museum did not buy it. Melvill mentioned further that the prospected purchase of the Melbourne Museum formerly belonged to Mr. Dennison, of Liverpool. Some years later the same author (Journ. of Conch. Vol. 9, 1900,
p. 346—347) stated that one of General Von Ryder's shells went to Mrs De Burgh (see no. VII of the present list) and one to Lombe Taylor. All this fragmentary knowledge taken together I came to the following conclusion: Von Ryder, Reeve (as a dealer), Dennison, Reeve (as a dealer), Lombe Taylor till about 1880, Prévost, Melvill till 1919, Tomlin 1919 — onwards, although it seems rather curious that Melvill (1887, I.e.) should not have been aware that the Gloria-maris in his own collection was the cancelled sale-object of the Melbourne Museum.

d. Switzerland

XIII. Geneva. Natural History Museum

Locality: unknown. Date: unknown. Collector: unknown. Size: height 87.75 mm, breadth 34 mm. Price: the shell went through many hands, but we know of only one case that a price was mentioned, viz. when Sollier de la Touche purchased it from Hwass for frs 1600 in 1804. Figured: Bruguière, Encycl. Méth. Vol. 6, 1789, p. 756, no. 146, pl. 347, fig. 7; Delessert, Recueil de Coq. 1841, pl. 40, fig. 16 a, b; Chenu, Ill. Conchyl. 1843, pl. 4, fig. 10 a, b; Kiener, Icon. Coq. Viv. Vol. 2, Conus, p. 326, 1850, pl. 76, fig. 1, pl. 77, fig. 1; Chenu, Manuel de Conch. 1859, p. 247, fig. 1496, p. 249, fig. 1525; Mermod Rev. Suisse Zool. Vol. 54, 1947, fig. 4. Descriptions: Lamy, Journ. de Conch. Vol. 74, 1930, p. 59; Lamy, Cabinets d'Hist. Nat. 1930, p. 28; Moros, Rev. Acad. Cienc. Madrid, Vol. 23, 1927, p. 527 and 528; Mermod, l.c. p. 184—185. Collections: Hwass (Paris) till 1804; Sollier de la Touche 1804—1819; Prince Masséna 1819—1840; Delessert 1840—1869; Natural History Museum, Geneva 1869 — onwards.

It is not certain whether the shell was in the hands of Mr. L. C. M. Richard after it came from Sollier de la Touche and before it went to Prince Masséna, as Lamy stated in his study of French Natural History Cabinets of 1930, p. 28.

e. Belgium

XIV. Brussels. Royal Natural History Museum of Belgium.


f. France

XV. St. Omer. Dupuis Collection

Locality: “in his (i.e. Carl Bock's) eastern travels” (Melvill, 1887). Date:

Tomlin (Proc. Mal. Soc. London, Vol. 24, 1941, p. 158) stated that the auction took place on June 8, 1880 (not July 1880) there being sold a collection of "a gentlemen many years resident in Amboyna".

In view of the fact that almost 70 years have elapsed since the presence of a *Gloria-maris* in the Dupuis Collection was published I wonder if the shell is still in the same place. The Muséum National d'histoire Naturelle in Paris where I applied for information, unfortunately could not give me the desired news.

g. Spain

XVI. Madrid. Aspeitia Moros Collection


h. Portugal

XVII. Lisbon. Natural History Museum


Concerning this specimen Moros (l.c.) relates another story, viz. that the shell was probably brought from the Philippines by a Spanish sailor Gilly (vide Hidalgo, Catal. Mol. Test. Islas Filip., Jolo y Marianas, 1904, p. 99) who should have sold it to Mr. Elizalde of Cadix. This gentleman should have sold it to a dealer in natural history specimens for 800 francs. According to Moros these facts could represent the first phase of this shell’s adventures; the second part continuing as quoted above.

i. Italy

XVIII. Florence. Museo Zoologico della Università

Locality: coasts of the Philippines. Date: unknown. Collector: unknown. Size: height 82 mm, breadth 30 mm. Price: purchased July 3, 1878 by the

j. Hungary

XIX. Budapest. Magyar Nemzeti Museum


k. United States of America


Locality: Moluccas. Date: unknown. Collector: unknown. Size: height 122 mm, breadth 40 mm. Price: purchased by the American Museum from W. F. Webb (as a dealer) in 1922 for $ 250. At a previous occasion this very same shell was sold by H. C. Fulton (as a dealer) to Mrs. S. L. Williams for £ 36. —. Figured: Miner, Natural History, Vol. 23, 1923, pl. 1; Miner, Natural History, Vol. 40, 1937, pl. 1. Descriptions: Melvill, Mem. Manch. Lit. Phil. Soc. (3) Vol. 10, 1887, p. 89—90; Miner, l.c.; Moros, Rev. Acad. Cienc. Madrid, Vol. 23, 1927, p. 521. Collections: Dr. James Cox (Australia); H. C. Fulton (London) (as a dealer); Mrs S. L. Williams (Chicago); W. F. Webb (Rochester) (as a dealer); American Museum of Natural History, 1922 till onwards.

XXI. New York. American Museum of Natural History


XXII. New York City. Mr. Allister Bradley Martin


B. SPECIMENS ONLY KNOWN FROM LITERATURE

(As the details concerning many specimens in this division are so fragment-
ary it is impossible to observe the classification according to the countries as in the preceding paragraph).


Locality, date, collector and price unknown. Size: height 101.5 mm (3\textfrac{3}{4} inch). Figured: not figured. Descriptions: Museum Meyerianum, sive Catalogus Rerum Naturalium etc. 1802, p. 82, no. 121; Van Bentham Jutting, Bijdr. t. d. Dierk. Afl. 27, 1939, p. 203. Collections: It is not impossible that Meyer's Gloria-maris came from the Gevers collection, as the two shells are equally high (see no. 1).

3. The Hague. Pierre Lyonet


Gloria-maris shell was purchased for £230.— by a certain Mr. Van Doorn. It is not certain whether this refers to a private collector Van Doorn, or whether it can stand for the name of the notary public, Mr. E. C. U. de Balbian van Doorn who might have bought it in charge of an unknown customer.

Locality, date, collector, size and price unknown. Figured: not figured. Descriptions: Catalogue de la Collection de Coquilles etc. délaissée par le Vice-Admiral P. A. van Rees, La Haye, 1900, p. 26; Van Benthen Jutting, Basteria, Vol. 3, 1938, p. 11—15. Collections: in 1900 Admiral Van Rees sold his collection to G. B. Sowerby (Journ. of Conch. Vol. 16, 1921, p. 214), probably including the Conus g'oria-maris. The further adventures of this shell are unknown.

Locality: Philippines. Date: During the Spanish Government of the Philippines. Collector: unknown. Size: height 93 mm (according to Moros, see below) or 95 mm (according to Degner, see below). Price: unknown. Figured: Ehrhardt, Muscheln und Schnecken, 1941, pl. 40. Descriptions: The Nautilus, Vol. 4, 1890, p. 71; Moros, Rev. Acad. Cienc. Madrid, Vol. 23, 1927, p. 522—524; Degner, in: Ehrhardt, l.c. 1941, p. XVIII. Collections: O. von Moellendorff; Hermann Rolle (as a dealer); Mr. S. purchased it from Rolle for 2000 marks and bequeathed it to the Hamburg Natural History Museum. In this Institute it was destroyed by an air raid in 1943.


8. ?. Stainforth Collection.
Locality, date, collector, size and price unknown. Figured: Reeve, Conch. Icon. Vol. 1, 1843, Conus, pl. 6, sp. 31 and frontispiece. Descriptions: Reeve, l.c.; Melvill, Journ. of Conch. Vol. 9, 1900, p. 347. Collections: Stainforth collection. This collection was sold by auction about 1850 (Davy Dean, Journ. of Conch. Vol. 20, 1936, p. 239). It is unknown where the Gloria-maris has gone to. According to Reeve (in litt.) the Rev. F. J. Stainforth obtained his specimen from a Mr. Simon of Amsterdam.

No other details are known than the following information in a letter from Dr. C. Alzona (Genova) to the author, dated November 12, 1946: “I hear from Rome that in the old Rigacci Collection there were 2 specimens which, however, have disappeared”.

Locality, date, collector, size and price unknown. Figured: not figured.

There is much confusion in regard to the Gloria-maris of Calonne. It is possible that he purchased it at the sale of the collection of the Duchess Dowager of Portland in 1786. In that case the Duchess of Portland must have possessed two specimens as one went via the Tankerville and Broderip Collections to the British Museum (see no. VII of the present article). Another possibility is that Calonne bought a Gloria-maris at the auction of the Gevers Collection in 1787 (see no. 1 of the specimens only known from literature in this article), unless this specimen went to C. P. Meyer. Where the Gloria-maris of the Calonne Collection landed after the sale in 1797 is unknown either. It is evident that this matter is still awaiting further explanation.


C. PUBLICATIONS WHERE CONUS GLORIA-MARIS IS MENTIONED WITHOUT REFERRING TO A SPECIAL COLLECTION

Hereafter there will follow some references in literature alluding to Gloria-maris and not mentioned earlier in this paper. These records are not connected with any special shell or collection. As Gloria-maris has been mentioned in literature so frequently this list does not claim to be exhaustive.

S. L. P. Cubières, Histoire abrégée des Coquillages de Mer, An VIII, p. 197, pl. 6, fig. 1.
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G. W. Tryon, Manual of Conchology, Vol. 6, 1884, p. 89, pl. 29, fig. 90.

Maxwell Smith, World-wide Sea Shells, 1940, p. 77, no. 1061.

D. ERRONEOUS REFERENCES

Tomlin, in 1936 (Proc. Malac. Soc. London, Vol. 22, p. 136), has already pointed out that the references under the name Conus gloria-maris in Perry, Conchology, or the Natural History of Shells, 1811, pl. 25, fig. 1, and in Röding, Museum Boltenianum, 1798, p. 49, no. 633 do not represent this species, but Conus textile L.

E. ABSENCE OF CONUS GLORIA-MARIS

As negative information can also be of a certain value I am adding that the following Museums have stated that they do not possess a Conus gloria-maris: Zoological Museum, Berlin; Senckenbergisches Museum, Francfort on the Main; Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna; Natural History Museum (Monterosato Collection), Rome; Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova; Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel; Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne.