

Mollusks on stamps publications

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In 2015, while working on an exhibit “The Emperor’s Shell,” featuring the slit shell *Mikadotrochus hirasei*, I learned the shell has its own postage stamp (Japan 4¥ 1963). This led to my collecting the stamp and its first day covers (FDC), 44 so far, and also seeking books about seashells on postage stamps. Those FDC are a future articles topic.



Tom Rice (Thomas C. Rice)

Having a 5th Edition of Rice’s *Checklist of the Mollusks on Postage Stamps*, I reached out to Tom, and he helped me on my ‘Shelling on Stamps’ adventures. Tom was well known for his many publications, most notably “Rice’s Prices” and *Of Sea and Shore Magazine* (OS&S), plus his OS&S Museum in Port Gamble, WA. It appears that in 1976 Tom Rice was the first to create a ‘topical’ publication covering mollusks on postage stamps.

This paper is dedicated in honor of Tom Rice (1939–2022), a man I considered a mentor, friend, and my hero of shell publications. I mourn his passing.

Fond Recollections

Tom and I first started communicating when I became a book dealer in the late 1980’s and sold his books. He was always happy to help me in the craft. I really enjoyed the OS&S back issues until it restarted in 1990, then through its end in 2007.

At the 2002 COA convention, I was blessed to roommate with him, and to meet up with him at the 2019 Sheller’s Convention in Siquijor, Philippines.

Mollusks on Postage Stamps Facebook Page

In 2015 Tom and I started a Facebook group page “Mollusks on Postage Stamps,” which he curated until his passing. The page is now managed by John Jacobs and others. We encourage you to visit the site, which is still active. You can post images and info related to the site topic.

Tom Walker (Thomas M. Walker)

As I recall, Tom and I met at the 2001 COA convention, perhaps on a field trip. At another convention, I acquired his 2008 Stamp CD. As I continued to collect the various shell stamp books, I contacted Tom Walker to learn more, and he provided several books and insights, building some of the library listed herein. At the end of 2007, Tom stopped stamp collecting, wrapping it up with publication of the last CD revision in 2008. He also provided the stamp images herein and corrected a few of the typos.

Stamp Collecting

Writing about stamp collecting is the subject for entire books; however, a few terms will be helpful:

Philately – the hobby of collecting stamps.

Topical – the term applied to stamps on a specific topic such as: shells, flowers, cats, the Olympics, national parks, sports, presidents, flags, etc.

Thematic – collecting of both stamps of a certain topic and related items such as proofs, specimens, info sheets, Cinderella stamps, bogus, etc.

Major vs. Minor Designs – when the mollusk is the primary subject (major) vs. a small part (minor) of the overall design.

Bogus – philatelic fakes and forgeries, stamps that are fake reproductions or a design created pretending to be a real postal stamp, etc.

Cinderella stamp – virtually anything resembling a postage stamp, but not issued for postal purposes, such as those printed by a government for other uses, or for promotional use by businesses, churches, political or non-profit groups. Excludes stamps imprinted on postal stationery.

Concho-philately vs. malacophilately are terms applied to collecting seashells on stamps but are not used much outside of the originating books and a few collectors. It incurs the same challenge as: conchology vs. malacology, or only shells vs. all mollusks. (See: Arakawa 1979, & Emmerich 1980)

First day of issue cancellation mark – a special stamp cancellation image created for the release of a stamp from a specific post office location.

First day covers (FDC) – a decorative envelope ‘cover’ created as a collectable for the first day of issue of a stamp. Stamp designs are usually made public long before release so that the FDC makers can be ready for the release date.

Topical stamps on mollusks or shells refers to all mollusks: squids, slugs, nudibranchs, etc. The stamp could be about the shell, or just a shell included somewhere on the stamp. It is estimated that there are over 10,000 legitimate mollusk topical stamps, however, Topical Stamps also include Cinderella and bogus stamps. Cancellation marks for first day of issue may also include a shell.

pages across 4 issues. Across the 37-year span of OS&S magazine, there would be 60 issues with stamp listings, images and articles. The full listing is included later in this article.



Some of the stamps have been designed by our shell friends. (Above): a 2004 Honduras set of four by past Houston Conchology Society member John Norburn, who now lives in the Keys of Utila, Honduras. (Below): the stamps on the Philippine FDC were designed by Victor Dan. Ted Bayer designed a set of marine life stamps for Haiti.

Mollusks on Stamps Books

The list of publications herein is provided chronologically. It is notable that most, but not all of these books are organized internally by country.

1976-2002 – Tom Rice.

A Checklist of the Mollusks on Postage Stamps. “of the World” added to end of 6th ed. title. Of Sea and Shore Publications, Port Gamble, WA. Softcover, comb-bound, 8.5 x 11 inches.

Six editions:

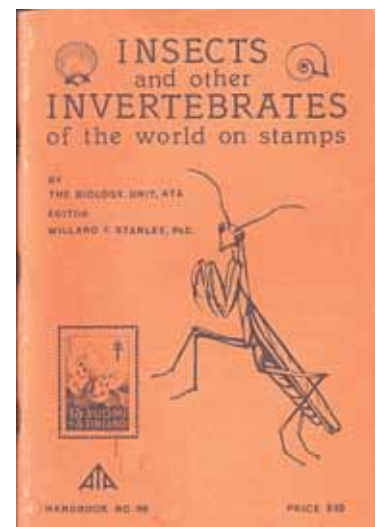
1. 1976. 32 pp. \$2.00
2. 1983. 63 pp. \$3.00
3. 1989. 51 pp. \$3.95
4. 1994. 74 pp. \$6.95
5. 1996. 89 pp. \$6.95
6. 2002. 120 pp. \$9.95

Note that some book “additions” were published in *Of Sea and Shore* magazine. (see OS&S listings)



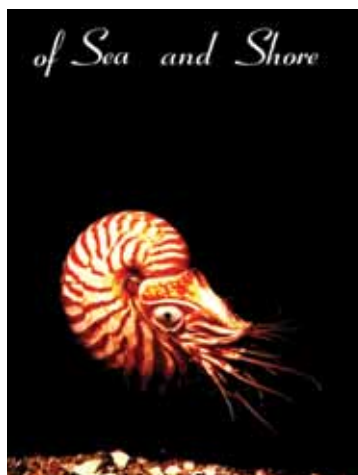
1979 – Willard F. Stanley.

Insects and Other Invertebrates of the World on Stamps. ATA Handbook No. 98. 135 pp. + 6. The Biology Unit of American Topical Association, Milwaukee, WI. editor/author: Willard F. Stanley PhD. Illustrators: Mrs. Donald Wright and Mrs. Gladys Stanley. Softcover, 6 x 9 inches. Price \$10. ASIN: B003MYZMNQ.



Tom Rice’s - *Of Sea and Shore* (OS&S)

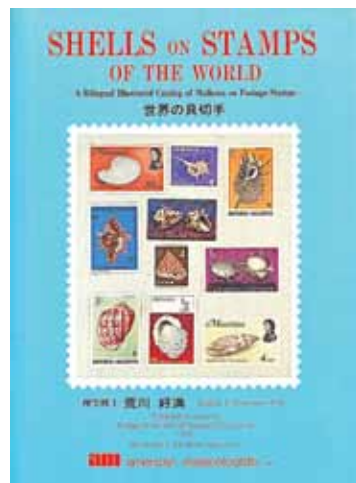
1975 – There is considerable pre-book publication of Tom Rice’s checklist work as articles in *Of Sea and Shore* magazine, starting in 1975 with “A Checklist of Aquatic Life on Postage Stamps”, 70+



In the additional back pages, the author provides a plug for the Field Museum in Chicago with an image of their Shells and Stamps exhibit.

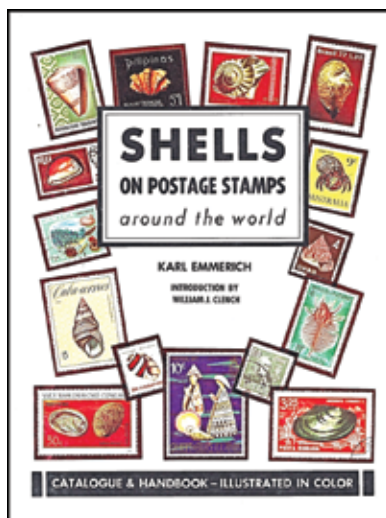
1979 – Kohman Y. Arakawa D. Sc.

Shells on Stamps of the World. *A Bilingual Illustrated Catalog of Mollusca on Postage Stamps.* [Japanese/English]. 234 pp. First published 1979. Second (revised edition) 1980. Published by Biological Society of Nagasaki Prefecture, Nagasaki University Biological Laboratory Dept. of General Culture, Japan. Distributed in North America by: American Malacologists Inc., Melbourne, FL. Hardcover with dust jacket, 6 x 8.5 inches. Japan editions, no ISBN. ISBN 0-915826-07-0 (1st & 2nd USA eds.).

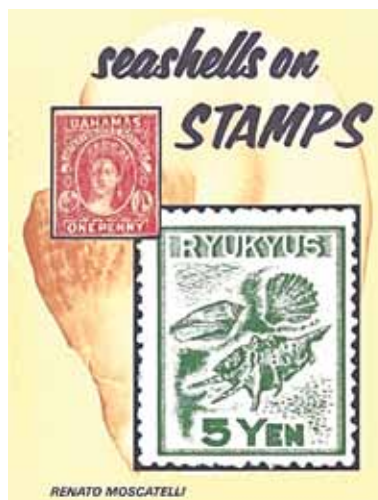


The term Malacophilately is coined. Note, R.T. Abbott did not contribute to the book, he only published it in the USA.

1980 – Karl Emmerich. Intro. by William J. Clench. **Shells on Postage Stamps Around the World: A Catalogue & Handbook - Illustrated in Color.** 110 pp., 20 color plates. Topical Philatelic Publishers, Fullerton, CA. Hardcover with dust jacket, 7.5 x 10.5 inches. \$19.95. ASIN/ISBN: none.

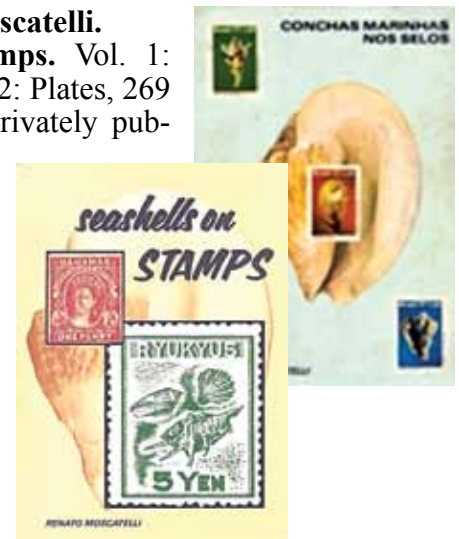


1984 – Renato Moscatelli. **As Conchas Marinhas Nos Selos.** In Portuguese, 213 pp., black-and-white illustrations. Nanograf. Privately published, São Paulo, Brazil. Softcover, 6 x 8.25 inches. Cr10.000,00 (Cruzeiro) / \$10.00 USD. ASIN/ISBN: none. Notably, Moscatelli lists the stamps in taxonomic order instead of by country.

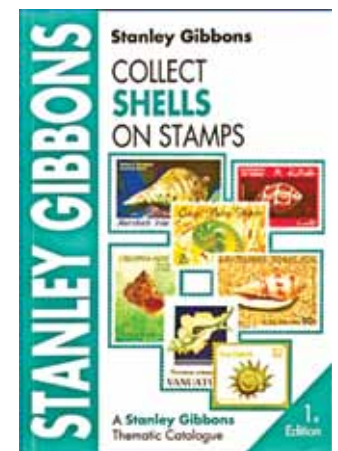


The term concho-philately was coined by William J. Clench.

1992 – Renato Moscatelli. **Seashells on Stamps.** Vol. 1: Text, 439 pp., Vol. 2: Plates, 269 pp. [=708 pp.]. Privately published, São Paulo, Brazil. English adaptation by Vera Cecilia Machline and William A. Presada, from: 1984 – *As Conchas Marinhas Nos Selos.* Softcover, 6 x 8.25 inches. ASIN/ISBN: none.

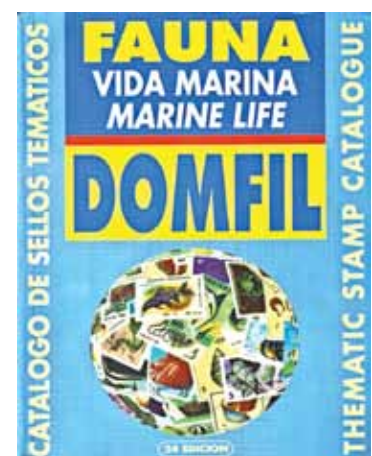


1995 – Tom Walker. **Collect Shells on Stamps and other Molluscs on Stamps.** *A Stanley Gibbons Thematic Catalogue.* 1st Edition. 202 pp. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London and Ringwood. Softcover, 5.75 x 8.25 inches. ISBN: 0852593945 / 978085259394. List: £16.95.



1997 – Jordi Domingo i Gimeno. **Fauna - Marine Life: Thematic Stamp Catalogue.** *Fauna - Vida Marina: Catálogo de Sellos Temáticos,*

24th Edition. 308 pp., +4, with b/w illustrations. Spanish/ English. DOMFIL, Sabadell, Spain. Softcover, 6.75 x 9.5 inches. ISBN: 8492277629 / 9788492277629.



1998 – D.L. Bekker, J.C.J. Bekkers, R.V. Eijkenduijn, & C. Touw. Philately and Shells. First Edition, Vol. 1: Shells A-H, Nov. 1998; Vol. 2: Shells I-Z, Nov. 1999. Detail Topical Stamp Catalogues. Groningen, Netherlands. First published in two 3-ring binders, 8 x 9 x 2.5 inch. ISBN 90-75536-18-6.



2000 – First Supplement, Shells A-Z, Tom Walker, Nov. 2000, loose-leaf for ring binding. Only 1 supplement was issued. Five volume soft cover re-issue: Listed as 1998 & 1999, but was printed sometime after 2000.



Vol. 1: Shells A-C,
Vol. 2: Shells D-H,
Vol. 3: Shells I-M,
Vol. 4: Shells N-So,
Vol. 5: Shells Sp-Z.

Image courtesy of Tom Rice.

2003 – Tom Walker. Tom Walker Stamps/Tom Walker Catalogue. Conchology, Inc. 19 February 2003 (Updated: October 2008). An online access collection database: conchology.be/?t=43.



Shells on Stamps. Includes sections on: shells on stationery, and Cinderella's (example illustrated, right). Updated annually 2004-2008. CD ROM, MS Word format documents: 363 files in 34 directories. Privately published by Tom Walker, Reading, Berkshire, England UK.

2013 – Bruce Livett. Cone Shells on Stamps. The Cone Collector: A Newsletter Devoted to Cones. TCC #22, pp.17-24, April 2013. TheConeCollector.com. Editor: António Monteiro, Lisbon Portugal. PDF file. ISBN: none. [pdf is free to download] Note: this paper may also be obtained as an MS Word document by contacting the author.



2014 – He Jing, Qian Zhouxing, & Fang Yifeng. Shells on Stamps / 邮票上的贝壳. Chinese (non-bilingual), 96 pp. ConchBooks, Hackenheim, DE. Softcover, 8.25 x 11.25 inches. 28.00 €. ISBN: 978-3939767589. A beautiful full-color illustrated book designed to pique one's interest in collecting. A non-exhaustive combination of shell knowledge/stories and their presentation in various stamps. It explores stamp collecting taking a journey semi-taxonomically, plus stamp sections on shells as used, decorative, in art, etc. A shame it is not also in English.



2018 – Philippe Poppe. The Philippe Poppe Stamp Collection. Conchology, Inc. September 27, 2018. An online access collection database: www.conchology.be/?t=99.



2020 – StampsBooks.com. Shells Stamps Catalogue 2020: Full Color Illustrated Shells Stamps Include Stamps from 1963-2020. 268 pp., 3453 stamps listed. DVD with PDFs. StampsBooks.com/shells-stamps/. \$15.95.

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Mollusks on stamps in *Of Sea and Shore* magazine (OS&S)

Tom Rice, Editor. (Thomas C. Rice)

Of Sea and Shore Publications, Port Gamble, WA.

Softcover. 8.5 x 11 in., or A4. ISSN: 0030-0055

OS&S magazine had a series of ongoing listings and articles with variations of the title each issue. Starting as: **Checklist of Aquatic Life on Postage Stamps** 6(2) to 7(1). Then mostly as: **Shells on Stamps, or Mollusks on Stamps, or Mollusks on Postage Stamps**, or as noted. Many are not listed in the issues' table of contents.

- 6(1): 22. *A U.S. Shell Stamp*.
Spring 1975.
- 6(2): 65, 89-108, + front, inside & back covers. Summer 1975. ⁽¹⁾
- 6(3): 157-176. Fall 1975. ⁽¹⁾
- 6(4): 223-242. Winter 1975-76. ⁽¹⁾
- 7(1): 29-44. Spring 1976. ⁽¹⁾
- 7(3): 190-191. Fall 1976.
- 7(4): 254-255. Winter 1976-77.
[also 1st ed. of Rice's Stamp book is announced].
- 8(1): 61-62. + book ad. Spring 1977.
- 8(3): 120-121. Summer 1977.
- 8(4): 259-260. Winter 1977-78.
- 9(2): 116-117, 112, +125. Summer 1978.
- 9(3): 163-165. Fall 1978. ⁽²⁾
- 9(4): 238, 248, 253. Winter 1978-79.
- 10(1): 58. Spring 1979.
- 10(2): 119-121, 126. Summer 1979.
- 10(3): 177-178. Fall 1979.
- 10(4): 213-236. Winter 1979-80. ⁽³⁾
- 11(1): 72. Spring 1980.
- 11(4): 231-237, 268-269. Winter 1980-81. ⁽²⁾
- 12(1): 24. June 1981.
- 12(2): 122. October 1981.
- 12(3): 174-175. September 1982.
- 12(3): 226. Winter 1982-83.
- 13(1): 40. August 1983.
- 13(2): 87. December 1983.
- 13(3): 138. Fall 1990.
- 13(4): 194-195. Winter 1991.
- 14(1): 23-26/28. Spring 1991.
- 14(2): 98-99. Summer 1991. ⁽⁴⁾
- 14(4): 214. Winter 1992.
- 15(1): 64. Spring 1992.
- 15(2): 98. Summer 1992.
- 16(1): 64. Spring 1993.
- 16(2): 90. Summer 1993.
- 16(3): 152. Fall 1993.
- 16(4): 240-241. Winter 1994.
- 17(2): 80-81. Summer 1994.
- 18(1): 15-17. Spring 1995.
- 18(4): 223-224. Winter 1996.
- 19(2): 92. Summer 1996.
- 19(4): 199-200. Winter 1997.
- 20(4): 226-227. Winter 1998.
- 22(2): Front & back covers. Summer 1999.
- 22(3): 171-175, back cover. Fall 1999.
- 23(1): 48-49. Spring 2000.
- 23(4): 237-238. Winter 2001.
- 24(1): 62. Spring 2001.
- 24(2): 124-125. Summer 2001.
- 24(3): 158-159. Feb. 2002.
- 24(4): 210-211. May 2002.
[also 6th ed. of Rice's Stamp book is announced]
- 25(1): Cover, 38-39. Sept. 2002.
- 25(2): 80. Dec. 2002.
- 25(3): 195-196. April 2003.
- 25(4): 294-295. Oct. 2003.
- 26(1): 61-62. Feb. 2004.
- 26(2): 125-126. May 2004.
- 26(3): 191-192, 202, 205-206. Oct. 2004.
- 27(1): 16, 50, 69. May 2005.
- 27(2): 121-122. Oct. 2005.
- 27(3): 172. 198. Mar. 2006.
- 27(4): 287. Oct. 2007.

OS&S article titles, other:

- ⁽¹⁾ Checklist of Aquatic Life on Postage Stamps
- ⁽²⁾ Additions to "A Checklist of Mollusks on Postage Stamps".
- ⁽³⁾ A Checklist of the Mollusks on Postage Stamps, Revised.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Additions to the Third Edition of "A Checklist of Mollusks on Postage Stamps."

Please email the author for a PDF of: **"An annotated Check-List of the Volumes & Issues of: Of Sea & Shore Magazine 1970-2007."** It is designed to provide a checklist of all issues, and document the anomalies in issue numbering on the issue covers, etc. OS&S issues are available free online at: www.conchology.be/?t=8000

Special thanks to: Tom Rice for information on his volumes and other philatelic information, John Norburn for images of his stamps, Tom Walker for providing some of the books for this collection, the other stamp images, and review of this paper correcting or confirming information. Proofing by Rusti Stover, The Word Merchant. Additional proofing and Cinderella and minor by John Jacobs. FDC, Japan 1963 and book cover images by the author except as noted.

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An Annotated Checklist of the Volumes & Issues of: Of Sea & Shore Magazine 1970 – 2007

This document has been prepared to help collectors understand and organize their back issues of OS&S Magazine.

| Year | Vol | Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Notes |
|---|--------------|--|--------|------|--------|--|
| 1970 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | \$1.00 Cover, 2(1) begins Color Covers |
| 1971 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | + Supplement to 2(4) – Cowries of the Jeddah-Red Sea Area |
| 1972 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Winter Issues begin dual year annotation, i.e. 1972-73 |
| 1973 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1974 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1975 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Begin \$1.50 Cover Price |
| 1976 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1977 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1978 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Begin \$2.00 Cover Price |
| 1979 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Mislabeled: 3 Fall as 2 Fall, |
| 1980 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Mislabeled: 2 cover as 3 Fall – correct inside. 4 labeled 3 Winter |
| 1981-82 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Begin \$2.50 Cover, no year on 1 & 2. 3 & 4 labeled Winter 1982-83 |
| 1983 | 13 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 & 2 - black & white, * 2 labeled issue 50. Series suspended |
| 1990 | 13 | - | - | 3 | 4 | Series resumes with #3 Fall & with a color cover, \$3.95 Cover |
| 1991 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 begins mono covers, begins calling issue 4 the next year (i.e. 1992) |
| 1992 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1993 | 16 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1994 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Begin \$4.95 Cover Price |
| 1995 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | An Index was offered through this volume. |
| 1996 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1997 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1998 | 21 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1999 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 2000 | 23 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 Begins Full Color, A4 size & \$5.95 Cover. 4 Winter 2001 1/1/01 |
| 2001 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | (1) 6/1/01; (2) 10/10/01; (3) 2/15/02; (4) 5/25/02 |
| 2002 | 25 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | (1) 9/15; (2) 12/15/02; (3) 4/15/03; (4) 10/25/03; \$7.95 Cover Price |
| 2004 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | (1) 2/5/04; (2) 5/20/04; (3) 10/20/04; (4) 2/28/05 |
| 2005 | 27 | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | (1) 5/31/05; (2) 10/31/05; (3) 3/31/06 |
| 2007 | 27 | - | - | - | 4 | Last Issue Published, official date 10/15/07 (mailed July 2008) |
| <i>Not Dated</i> | INDEX | Vol 1:1 thru Vol. 13:4 (1970-1983/90) – Alpha by Article, Alpha by Scientific Name | | | | |
| <i>Not Dated</i> | INDEX | 1970-1995 (Vol 1 thru 18) – Alpha by Article, & Illustrations | | | | |
| * 13(2) issued with 2 different covers: black & white, or with left over 2(3) color covers with labels over vol/issue numbers. | | | | | | |
| Scanned archives of OS&S Magazine are available at: www.conchology.be/?t=8000 Issues may appear out of order or are missing because they post by year and not volume. | | | | | | |
| A PDF of the OS&S Index to issues for Volumes 1-18 is available by contacting: Leslie@harf.org. | | | | | | |