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A remarkable set of books in the library of Louis J. M. Butot (1918-2008) written and once owned by Jean-Baptiste Gassies (1816-1883)\(^1\)

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ABSTRACT
All three original parts of the work on the non-marine molluscs of New Caledonia written and once owned by Jean-Baptiste Gassies (1816-1883) were found in the legacy of Louis J.M. Butot (1918-2008), and are now in the library of the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam. Especially part 1 and 2 contain numerous handwritten annotations by Gassies.

Key words: Gassies, New Caledonia, history of malacology, malaco-literature

INTRODUCTION
On October 26 2008, Louis J. M. Butot, honorary associate of the Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam (ZMA), died after a long life devoted to malacology. Already during his childhood his interest in collecting shells was stimulated by the curator of the ZMA, Dr Mrs. Tera [Woutera] van Benthem Jutting. In 1946, just after the 2nd World War, he left as a soldier to the Dutch East Indies [now Indonesia]. During that period he collected land and marine shells and the most interesting ones were sent to Van Benthem Jutting for further research. In 1949 he became curator of the shell collection of the natural history museum in Buitenzorg (now Bogor). In 1956 he returned with his family to the Netherlands. Soon he became employed as malacologist at the Rijksinstituut voor Natuurbeheer (RIN) in Leersum.

During his life he already donated his entire shell collection to the ZMA, but his library stayed at home till his death. According to his will the unique books of his library were donated to the ZMA. In this note we will discuss a remarkable set of books (Fig. 1), he most probably bought during his Indonesian period. It is a set of 3 parts written by the French malacologist Jean-Baptiste Gassies (1816-1883) about the non-marine molluscs of New Caledonia. They are identically bound in contemporary half calf with gilt ornaments and title on the spine.

These papers were originally published in the Actes de la Société Linnéenne de Bordeaux (Gassies, 1863a; 1871a; 1880a) and in this case also as separate publications (Gassies, 1863b; 1871b; 1880b).

Our interest in this set was attracted since the first part was heavily annotated and at the end some manuscript notes were added in a contemporary hand.

We compared these annotations with the handwriting of Gassies present in the collection of letters once owned by Dr J. G. J. Kuiper, now present in the ZMA. The collection consists of the correspondence of several French malacologists with Dr Auguste Baudon (1821-1905).

The conclusion is that most annotations in part one were written by Gassies himself. In part 2 the annotations from part 1 are incorporated in the original text and other new records concerning New Caledonia published in the ‘Journal de Conchyliologie’ are also added.

In this article we will enumerate and figure the most important handwritten annotations added mainly by Gassies. Also we provide a complete bibliography of his study of land, fresh water and brackish water molluscs from New Caledonia.

PART 1 (Gassies, 1863b).


Apart from a different pagination, a page with a dedication and references to other page numbers in the chapter ‘Corrections et additions’ (pp. 121-122) the setting of the text is identical to the original article (Gassies, 1863a).
we find the first annotation by Gassies about the number of inhabitants of several islands (Fig. 3). On page 18, topographical indications are presented by Révérend Père X. Montrouzier (1820-1897). Here we find handwritten notations by Gassies (Fig. 3) who added about 20 additional localities (Fig. 4), some of them also indicated on the map. After these introductions the description of species (‘Description des espèces’) starts (pp. 19-120). In total 135 species are treated, but in the book Gassies (Fig. 4) added many species in his handwriting so the final number of listed species became 203 (Fig. 5).

On pp. 121-122 there is a list of ‘Corrections et additions’. This chapter differs from the original paper (Gassies, 1863a) as the references to page numbers are different in both editions. It is followed by two unnumbered pages with the title: ‘Addition à la faune conchyliologique de la Nouvelle-Calédonie’. In this note Gassies (1864a) described *Melania montrouzieri*, dated 25 May 1864 (however, plate V with figure 10 is from 1863, so that is the date of publication of the species). On the pages opposite to the 8 plates Gassies copied the explanation of the figures (Fig. 6). Pages 125-126 contain the ‘Table alphabétique’.

After the plate section there are some additional pages, numbered from 127 on and filled with manuscript notes by Gassies, which were all published in some form in the Journal de Conchyliologie (Gassies, 1865; 1866; 1867; 1869).

Then a curious mistake took place. Instead of continuing with page 148 Gassies changed the numbering from 147 into 174 [sic!] with the result that the next page is 175 [instead of 148]. The handwritten numbering continues till page 181. On page 180 Gassies copied some information from an article by Mousson (1871) probably unaware that here the island ‘Uvea’ or ‘Uea’ of the Tonga Islands is meant. On pages 182-183 he gives additional localities (‘Nouvelles Indications Topographiques’). On pp.184-186 a letter to Souverbie, dated 22 October 1868 is copied with the title: ‘Notes du R. P. Lambert curé de Nouméa’. Here, the abundance and occurrence of species is discussed. On page 186 part of a letter from Montrouzier to Souverbie is copied (Fig. 7).

On the half-title of this part we find the signature of Gassies with the notation ‘Dr du Musée Préhistorique de Bordeaux au Jardin Public’ (Fig. 2).

After the title page there is a page with a dedication to Henri Milne-Edwards. This page is lacking in the journal edition (Gassies, 1863a). The introduction (pp. 7-11) is dated 1 July 1863 and written by Gassies. After that there is a chapter by E. M. [Eugène Magen] with historical details and topography of New Caledonia (pp. 12-17). At the bottom of p. 17
Page 187 contains a list of 39 species received
from Lambert in 1870. Page 188 represents a
summary of a letter from Montrouzier to
Souverbie. Several species are discussed. Page
189 contains a list of about 17 species with
locality data probably from Lambert (1871).
Pages 190-191 contain a summary by Milne
Edwards of publications by French
malacologists published as a report to the
French Ministry in 1867.

Page 192 has a list of new taxa
described by Gassies. This list includes the
following genera and number of species:
Zonites (1 species), Helix (16), Bulimus (7),
Pupa (1), Scarabus (1), Melampus (8),
Auricula (2), Cyclostoma (3), Helicina (3),
Planorbis (1), Physa (3), Ancylus (1),
Melanopsis (10), Melania (5), Neritina (2),
Navicula (2), Hydrocena (6), Bythinia (2),
Succinea (1), Limax (1), Unio (1), Planorbis
(2), Anodonta (1), Limnea (2), and Cyclas (1).

On page 193 Gassies enumerates 12
species which were named after him (see Fig.
8). We mention them below with dates of
description:

**Pisidium gassiesianum** Dupuy, 1849
**Helix gassiesi** Noullet, 1854
**Unio gassiesii** Grateloup in Küster, 1856
**Latia gassiesiesiana** [sic] Fischer, 1856
**Cyclostoma gassiesii** Souverbie, 1859
**Melania gassiesii** Reeve, 1860
**Helix gassiesi** Pfeiffer, 1861
**Cyclotus gassiesianus** Crosse, 1867
**Cylindrella gassiesi** Pfeiffer, 1867
**Melanopsis gassiesiana** Crosse, 1867
**Placobranchus gassiesi** Crosse, 1875
**Vivipara gassiesii** Hanley mss

The last handwritten page is a short list of
postage rates for sending mail to New
Caledonia.

PART 2 (Gassies, 1871b).

Faune conchyliologique terrestre et fluvio-
lacustre de la Nouvelle-Calédonie publiée
sous les auspices du Ministère de l'Instruction

In fact this second part is an updated second
edition of the first part and the total number of
listed species is now 305.

Like on the half-title page of part 1 we
find here the signature of Gassies with the
notation ‘Dr du Musée Préhistorique de
Bordeaux au Jardin Public’. This part is
dedicated to the French missionaries
Montrouzier and Lambert. This page is not
present in the journal version (Gassies, 1871a).
The ‘introduction’ is written by Gassies on 27
September 1869. Only a dozen or so additions
(Fig. 9), mainly additional localities, are added
in pencil. No additional species are recorded.
Only on the pages opposite to the eight plates
Gassies added the explanation of the plates like
he did in part 1. Additionally included are two
original plates from the Journal de
Conchyliologie 1873 (Gassies, 1873a: plate 2;
Gassies, 1873b: plate 14), all with new taxa
described by Gassies in part 2 and not figured
in that part.

PART 3 (Gassies, 1880b).

Faune conchyliologique terrestre et fluvio-
lacustre de la Nouvelle-Calédonie publiée
sous les auspices du Ministère de l'Instruction
publique avec quatre planches coloriées. Troisième
four plates.

This part is dedicated to Gassies’ friend, Daniel
Guestier. This page is absent in the journal
version (Gassies, 1880a). The ‘introduction’
written by Gassies is dated 10 August 1879.

On p. 10 he enumerates the necessary
corrections concerning the references to the
plates in part 2. Another 81 species, partly
already described in the Journal de
Conchyliologie (some re-figured), are
described as new and figured. Apart from some
annotations by Louis Butot, there are no
handwritten annotations by Gassies in this
volume. The fact that this volume is bound in
the same style as the two previous ones made
us conclude that the complete set of three once
belonged to Gassies.

After the publication of part 3 Gassies
published a few additional articles with new
records for New Caledonia in the Journal de
Conchylologie (Gassies, 1880c; 1881). Gassies died in 1883. A necrology was written by Crosse & Fischer (1884).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all we would like to thank the late Louis J. M. Butot for preserving these wonderful original books in his collection and for donating them. Also we thank his sons and daughters for kindly fulfilling the will of their father and presenting these books to us.

Hans Kuiper is thanked for donating the collection of letters from French malacologists which were crucial for recognizing the handwriting of Gassies. Godard Tweehuysen, librarian of the Nederlandse Entomologische Vereniging, kindly showed us Gassies’ original papers in the Actes.

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Fig. 2. Signature of Dr J. B. Gassies on half-title page.
**Fig. 3.** First annotation on page 17.

**Fig. 4.** Additional localities on page 18.
Fig. 4. Additional species on page 19.
Fig. 5. Explanation on opposite pages of the plates, here pl. 1.
Fig. 6. Part of letter from Montrouzier to Souverbie, page 186.
Fig. 7. Eponyms after Gassies, page 193.

Fig. 8. Additions in part 2, page 23.

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