

The caslon clock tells a different kind of time...



Time is just time you say? Well, read how this **caslon** clock will change the way you read it.

It is a psychological fact (try it on friends) that when people look away from an ordinary clock (one with hands!) they seldom remember the exact time. They know *about* what time it is. This is because most often you just glance at a clock to orient yourself to the time . . . in relationship to some upcoming moment, date, event or whatever. But—when you glance away from *this* digital timepiece, and someone asks you the time, you'll give it *exactly*. Right to the minute. "It is 3:43." That's the difference between seeing all 12 hours at once and this "digital readout" that states the precise time, and *only* the precise time. The numbers of this plug-in electric clock can be read at a good 50-paces. A silent electric motor flips the plastic plates into view faster than the eye can see. *One second it's 3:43 and then, suddenly, it's 3:44.* Don't worry. The change is silent. Not even a "click."

This improved way of telling time is the 110v **caslon digital electric table clock**. If that sounds like a mouthful you should see it in 3-dimensional color. It's an eye-ful. Beautiful, in the modern manner. The console shape is at home with any decor, in any room—or office. You have a choice of six colors to complement your furnishings. But, most important, the **caslon** tells time in a way you can't mistake—won't forget! It is something of a conversation piece, too. People will stand there staring at it, waiting, trying to catch it changing time. But it is faster than a wink, and quieter than your wristwatch. (The precision synchronous motor is of the hysteresis type—with 18 poles—operating at a low speed to assure even, silent operation and a good long life.) Dimensions: 5½" x 3½" x 3½". It makes a beautiful gift—

Mail to: 526 Washington, San Francisco 94111
Phone: (415) 981-5688 SN-1021

- Send me the **caslon** (in the color checked below.) 1 enc. \$24.90 plus \$1 for post. & ins. (Calif. add 5%.)
 Bill Amer. Exp. Acct. # _____
 Snowwhite Airline Blue
 Red Midnight Blue
 Charcoal Wheatglow

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Haverhill's

Nature Note

Coconut Crab

The coconut crab, *Birgus latro*, is believed to be the largest land crab in the world. Some measure more than a foot in length, and weigh several pounds. They are considered good eating throughout the tropical islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The entire body of the crab has a distinctive reddish color, and the pinchers and walking legs are strong and firm and covered with hard spines and bristles.

Some of these shy, huge hermit crabs have recently been whisked away from a Pacific coral atoll into a research laboratory. Scientists believe the blood serum of this crab has an ability to clump suspensions of human blood cells in a test tube in such a way that may help identify rare human blood types. Under the care of Dr. Elias Cohen of the Roswell Park Memorial Institute at the Aquarium of Niagara Falls, the recently acquired coconut crabs will be subjects of further research.

The coconut crab is a hermit crab, resembling common crabs from the front with their pincher claws, long antennae and stalked eyes, but have soft and tapering abdomens, unprotected by a hard shell. Most hermit crab protect themselves by crawling backwards into an empty marine snail shell. When the crab outgrows one shell, it searches around the ocean floor for a larger one, and moves in.

Birgus latro, however, has abandoned the ocean and the borrowed sea shell, and adapted its body to living on land. Its abdomen has grown shorter, and the center of gravity has moved forward so the soft abdomen does not drag on the ground as it walks. It usually stays in burrows at the base of trees or under logs during the day, and comes out at night in search of food. The name coconut crab comes from an ancient rumor that it can remove the hard husk from a coconut to reach the meat inside. However, this belief is suspect by scientists, since no accurate report has been made on such behavior.

Crabs are members of the Crustacea class that includes lobsters, shrimps, water fleas, barnacles and other creatures with two pairs of antennae and at least five pairs of legs. The head and throat are fused into one piece, called the cephalothorax, which form a protective sheath or crust—hence the name Crustacea.

LETTERS

To the Editor

Compliments

Sir:

I appreciated your special report on high energy physics. (SN:9/30) Believe me, when one does as much reading as I do, your bigger format and larger typesetting are priceless. There is too much miniscule print and it is my contention that this failing more than any other is why other reports and research remain unread in the other popular journals.

Fortunato Comunale
Sharpsville, Pa.

Red face

Sir:

Somebody goofed!

I refer to the "Heaviest Atom Created" (SN:9/30). Paragraph two refers to mendelevium 258, with 101 protons and 157 neutrons which is O.K., but then puts 157 electrons around this nucleus, which would give the atom a charge of minus 56. Being subject to making such errors myself, I can see how the numbers got crossed, but I am afraid my 11-year-old daughter might get the wrong idea.

Howard Thomas, Chairman
Department of Chemistry
Wisconsin State University
Superior, Wis.

(Please tell her, for us, it's 101. Ed)

Species count

Sir:

In your recent article "Drugs from the Oceans" (SN: 9/9) you state that fully four-fifths of earth's animal life—more than 500,000 species—lives in or on the sea.

This appears to be a misleading statement. Insects alone account for over 700,000 species (or approximately four-fifths of all animal life) and have not adapted to life in the oceans.

Robert E. Grahame Jr.
Waterbury, Conn.

(The statement was taken almost verbatim from a paper on marine drug sources by Dr. Ara Der Marderosian of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. He was referring to higher forms of animal life and did not include insects. His intent, he says, was to illustrate the large numbers of animals, not present an accurate count of them. Ed.)