

Astronomical Society of South Africa
Cape Centre

Sixteenth Session - 1929-1930

The Fourth Ordinary Meeting was held at Benson House 57a Long Street Capetown on Wednesday Evening November 13, 1929 at 8.15 pm. Mr H. C. Mason in the Chair. There was a fair attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Oct. 9, 1929 were read and confirmed.

Membership Dr J. J. Wassenaar of Pilgrims Rest Transvaal was elected to membership

Mr Theodore Mackenzie gave an address on "Sites of Old Observatories at the Cape".

After dealing with the observations of the Early Portuguese Navigators - he said that the first Observatory was set up ^{in 1685} by Father Tatchard and the Jesuit Fathers on a site now occupied by the Old Supreme Court.

The Abbe La Caille who was the first to attempt the measurement of an arc of meridian had his observatory at the foot of Mount St. Nazair + Dixon who observed a transit of Venus in 1761 had their observatory near the present Union Jack Club and this site was also used by the first Astronomer Royal at the Cape. Reference was made to the work of Herschel at Claremont + the extension of La Caille's work by Sir Thomas Macclear. Lantern slides were shown and also illustrations through the Epidiascope.

Some discussion followed and a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Mackenzie terminated the meeting

H. C. Mason