

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-sixth Session.

Minutes of Second Ordinary Meeting held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand St, Cape Town on Wednesday the 20th September at 8.15 P.M. There was a good attendance.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 16th August 1939, were read and confirmed.

Mr. Schonegerel (in the Chair) said that it was his sad duty to inform members that the Centre and the Society had lost Mr. A.W. Long through death.

The speaker paid tribute to the late Mr. Long, and said that ever since the Cape Astronomical Association came into existence, Mr. Long, who was a foundation member, had been on the executive of the Association and later of the Society. He had done a great deal for astronomy, and was always willing to help others to solve the mysteries of the

heavenly bodies. Mr. Schoneveld moved that the Hon. Secretary inform Mrs. Long of the sympathy of members in her sad bereavement. The motion was carried unanimously, those present standing as a mark of respect.

A letter received from Mr. A. F. J. Forbes of Hermannus was read to the meeting. Mr. Forbes ~~said~~ ^{wrote} that as he was unable to be present, he would be glad to be allowed in writing to associate himself with the ^{meeting in} any expression of regret at the passing of our late esteemed member Mr. A. W. Long. Mr. Long was a "power station" of inspiration to all amateur astronomers at the Cape.

Mr. Schoneveld read a letter received by the Hon. Secretary from Canon Ford, in which the writer ~~was~~ said that he would be glad of the co-operation of members interested in planetary observations.

(^{*} ~~second~~) Dr. Jackson showed a number of interesting slides on the screen, and explained them as they were shown.

One of the slides showed the effect of the attraction of Neptune on the path of Saturn from 1790 to 1840, and which led to the discovery of Neptune in 1846. Some very interesting eclipse photographs were shown, and photographs of sunspot groups.

At the conclusion of the lecture the meeting showed its appreciation in the usual manner.

Mr. Knemm said that he had observed the meteor reported in the Press as having been seen on a few days ago, at 10.30 P.M., by ~~a~~ a country observer. His observation agreed closely with the Press report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

* Before showing slides on the screen, Dr. Jackson explained the probable effect the War would have on astronomical observations. Observations for parallax, radial velocity, and position of stars could be postponed without harm, but it was necessary to observe occultations and variable stars without a gap being left in the series of observations. Dr. Jackson ~~used~~ said that amateurs could help considerably by observing occultations and variables during the war period.

18 Oct. 1939

D. Cameron-Swan

Capt.

Vice-Chairman.