

Minutes of the Second Ordinary Meeting of
the 1971-72 session, held at the Royal
Observatory on Wednesday, 13th October, 1971
at 8.00 pm.

The Chairman, Mr R.F. Hurly, presided.

The attendance was good, there being 29
Members and 12 visitors present.

~~The~~ Apologies for absence were received from
Mr. Harding & Dr. Wild.

The Chairman welcomed back the Hon. Secretary,
Mr. H.B. Molyneux, who had just returned from ~~abroad~~
overseas visit.

The Minutes of the previous Centre meeting were
read and confirmed.

The Chairman announced with deep regret the
death of Mr. Isaac Weinberg, a Committee Member
and a member of long-standing. The meeting
~~stood~~ rose and stood in silence for about a
minute as a mark of respect.

Mr. L. Posniak moved that the 1972 edition
of the Handbook of the Society be dedicated to
the memory of Mr. Weinberg, who had in past years
~~played~~ done a great deal of work in the preparation
of the book. The meeting was in agreement
with this motion, and the Chairman said that it
would be referred to the Editor of the 1972 handbook.

The Chairman drew the attention of Members to
the forthcoming series of lectures on Astronomy to be
held as part of the 1972 Summer School curriculum
of the University of Cape Town.

Mr. Hurly went on to describe the observation of a recent grazing occultation of Antares, and mentioned that ~~some time~~ near the 12" Ross & Atkins telescope limited its performance in certain directions. He announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 10th November, and it would be addressed by Mr. John Gilmore who would speak on "Field notes on the Eclipse of the Sun, 1940, at Calvinia."

Mr. Flett asked if it would be possible to screen a film of the eclipse and the Chairman agreed that the Centre should endeavor to borrow the film.

The Chairman introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr. J. H. E. Fitschen, Assistant Director (Geodetic) of the Trigonometrical Survey Office, who had recently returned from a visit to Moscow. Mr. Fitschen, who had brought along ~~many~~ ^{some} rare old surveying instruments as well as the most modern equipment, spoke on the close ties between the development of Astronomy and Geodetic Survey in South Africa, and gave an interesting description of the history of geodesy from the days of Maclear to the present day.

Mr. Fitschen was heartily thanked for the great trouble to which he had gone to display the instruments, and for his excellent lecture.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned and tea was served.

M. Hurly