

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cape Centre at SAPO

on Wed 14th March 1979 at 8 pm

Present The chairman, 27 members and 10 visitors, including Prof Dr R.H. Stoy and family.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr MW Feast, Messrs Saville, Burke, Orpen and Thesen.

Mr Rupert Hurley mentioned that Mr Cleir's beam will be rebuilt, and a plaque erected to celebrate the centenary of Mr Cleir's birth on 14th July.

Dr Dean mentioned that a partial eclipse of the moon took place on the evening of March 13th. This was well observed in Cape Town. He also mentioned that several eclipses of Jupiter's moons by one another would occur this year.

Miss Booth said the exhibition, held on Sat 2nd March at Cavendish Square had gone off well, in spite of cloudy weather. Prof Warner of ~~the~~ ^{the} astronomy Dept at UCT then took the chair. He mentioned that ~~it~~ ^{it} was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Einstein. His theories of special and general relativity, first published around 1905, ~~have~~ still hold good today.

He then gave an interesting talk, with slides, on Piazzi Smyth's career at the Cape (from 1835-1845). Smyth was one ~~of~~ of the ~~best~~ outstanding artists of the 19th Century. His drawing of the Royal Observatory ~~building~~ and of the survey work on the re-determination of Lacaille's arc by Mr Cleir gave a precise impression of life at the time. Several of Smyth's drawings showed considerable humour, such as the one on the ^{observatory} garden "improved by irrigation from his home-built water pump."

Prof R.H. Stoy, at present visiting Cape Town on holiday, thanked the speaker. The meeting adjourned for tea at 10 pm.

Signed as correct

/ Booth 11/4/79.

Chairman.

P.S. Mr Krumm has donated some 6 inch flasks to the Cape Centre send thanks?

Mr Cleir died
in 1879