

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cape Centre, held at the SAAO
at 8 pm on 14th March 1984.

The meeting was opened by the chairman who immediately introduced the speaker, Mr Hurley, a past president of the O-SSA, presently vice president and a well known surveyor and MPC. Mr Hurley's subject was the trial of a hardback editor.

Mr Hurley has been the editor since 1976 to the present. The first problem is the deadline of about 10th December in order to get the 100 copies to the Planetarium before Christmas and the copies to the fine copywrite libraries. The major problem is getting all the source books and extracting the information in time. Sources are the tide tables for the rising and setting times of the Sun. Coastal towns are easy, but calculations are necessary for Johannesburg and Harare. The Astronomical Ephemeris is used for planets, ~~and~~ and the ~~paper~~ diary of phenomena. As this year ends in about February, the Japanese version must be used - although it is written in Japanese.

Another problem, is that apart from data, ^{tables} everything a year appears in maps ~~or text~~ or text it has to be updated - and errors often occur. There have been numerous moons of planets discovered and these must be updated too. Occultation data has now also been extended from midnight through to dawn, increasing the volume of work to be done. Another problem is that α , β & etc do not appear on a standard typewriter.

Mr Salyanski thanked the speaker who had to go off to his next engagement. He then called for apologies for absence ~~and~~ which were received from Dr Peter Gault and Mrs L. Leacock. After the minutes had been read, a minute silence was kept for Dr Holroyd who had died recently. The new Cape observer was read, and meeting dates were in it. Dr Milton Silveria ^{of} NASA would be giving a talk on 20th March. Dr Mack would talk about Halley's comet at the informal meeting and Prof Warner on the Classic Novels at the panel meeting. The Director of Observations then mentioned another tip to the beachbar and interested people were to contact him or the chairman. Comet Irenilla was worth looking at as given in the Cape Observer last half an hour after sunset. Mr Salyanski then showed slide talks by himself and by professionals. The meeting closed for tea at 9.40.


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The meeting was opened by the chairman. After welcoming everyone the minutes were read and accepted. The director of observations or much showed us some slides taken with the new 640 ASA film by 3 m. He then announced a trip to the leaderberg on 4, 5, 6th May. The chairman then introduced the speaker for the evening Professor Warner, who is head of the Astronomical department at UCT, and past president of the Society. His talk was on Classical Nova - their observational and theoretical properties.

The classical nova brightens by 7-10 magnitudes over 2 to 3 days. The spectrum is very distinct with broad blue shifted emission lines and normal absorption lines caused by a ~~central~~ rapidly expanding shell around a central core. All ^{classical} nova are double stars with a period of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 hours. One of the stars is a normal star of about one solar mass, the other a white dwarf with ^a degenerated matter core. Matter from the normal star is attracted toward the white dwarf, and because of ^{gravitational} compression heats up on the surface of the white dwarf until thermonuclear fusion occurs and the layer blows off. The white dwarf is unaffected as in degenerate matter temperature is independent of pressure or density. About $\frac{1}{10000}$ of a solar mass is lost in this explosion, which is thought to occur about every 10000 years.

Pat Booth thanked the speaker and the meeting closed for tea at 9.30.

Signed as correct



Chairman.