

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of S. Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Roebank, on Monday, 29th March 1926.

Present

Mr Reid (President) in the Chair, Dr. Spencer Jones, Dr. Holm, Messrs Cox, Forbes, Jarey, Long, McIntyre, Schoneveld & Stoughton (John Sealey).  
Mr Smith had intimated that he would be absent from Cape Town.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read the letter from Messrs Townsend, Taylor & Snashall of 20th August 1924 giving their quotation for printing the Society's Journal - 200 copies at 13/6 per page and 500 copies at 15/- per page. The Secretary reported that he had written as instructed to Messrs Granger and Humphries (members) and Capel and Harvey (associates) and as no reply had been received from any of them it was decided that their names should be removed from the list of members and associates.

The Secretary reported that Dr. A. W. Roberts had asked to be supplied with recent information re Variable Stars, and his request had been communicated to Mr Smith, the Director of the U.S. Section. As Mr Smith had only the material collected during his own term of office, the Secretary was instructed to write to Messrs Skjellemp and Worsell, former Director, requesting them to send their records, etc., of observations made by members of that Section.

Correspondence

The letters received & copies of those written since the last meeting were laid on the table. The following were considered:  
Letter dated 24th February to, and 11th February from the Yerkes Observatory regarding their offer of slides which they had now arranged to dispose of elsewhere.  
Letter of 24th December from Mr. Mackenzie: no answer was necessary.  
Letter of 19th December from the Lick Observatory regarding exchange of publications.

Financial  
Position

The Secretary, in the absence of the Treasurer, read the latter's statement to date showing cash in hand  $\pounds 2/7^d$ , but there was  $\pounds 15$  still due to the Printer for Journal Vol. 1, No. 6, and  $\pounds 1.4.7$  due to sundry creditors. Mr. Forbes stated that a small sum would be due as the Cape Centre's contribution for March quarter. The Secretary stated that no contribution from the Johannesburg Centre this year had been received, and he read a letter of 25th February to that Centre to which no reply has been received. A reminder would be sent. Mr. Jang undertook to explain to the Printer that a further instalment of their account would be paid as soon as possible.

A letter dated 27th February from the Wynberg Branch of Barclays Bank was read regarding the transfer to that Bank of the Society's account with the National Bank. As desired by the Bank the following resolution, proposed by the Secretary & seconded by Dr. Spence Jones, was passed:

"Resolved that the Council of the Astronomical Society of S. Africa confirms the adoption of the arrangements proposed in the letter of the 27th February from the manager of the Wynberg Branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial & Overseas) with reference to the transfer to that Bank of the Society's account with the Wynberg Branch of the National Bank of S. Africa."

The manager of the Bank would be informed accordingly.

Report of  
Journal  
Committee

The Secretary reported that the total cost of printing the last Journal Vol. 1, No. 6, was  $\pounds 49.10.8$ ; of this  $\pounds 10.0.2$  was for the blocks &c, of which amount Dr. Morris had <sup>since</sup> refunded  $\pounds 3.17.0$

The Secretary handed to the Editor a copy of "Meteors" by Dr. C. P. Olivier which had been received for review. He stated that he had also written for a review copy of "Stellar Atmospheres" by Miss C. Payne. Dr. Spence Jones stated he had received an article on Sunspots by Dr. P. Strachan for the next journal. The Council confirmed the President's action in supplying six copies of the last journal to Dr. Morris without charge.

Comet  
Section

In view of Mr. Reid's impending departure on long

leave, the Secretary was appointed to receive all communications relating to comets, etc., and to report discoveries in the proper quarters; this arrangement to be in force until the end of the Society's year. Mr. Reid stated that the Comet medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific had been awarded to Mr. G. Innes for his recent discovery. He also stated that Mr. Watson had agreed to help in the search for comets. It had been suggested by Mr. Watson that the Society should issue Circulars giving the latest information re new and expected comets. After discussion it was decided that in view of the cost such a proposal could not be adopted at present, but the Director of the Section would be pleased to supply such information to any member who expressed a desire to receive it.

International  
Astronomical  
Union

The Secretary read a letter dated 23rd March from the Research Grant Board, Pretoria, giving particulars of the Union Government's proposals for the formation of a National Committee in Astronomy, comprising the Union Astronomer, H.M. Astronomer at the Cape, Astronomer in charge of the Yale Observatory at Waukesha, three persons nominated by the Council of the Astronomical Society of S. Africa, three persons nominated by the Council of the Royal Society of S. Africa, one member of the Research Grant Board, and two persons nominated by the Research Grant Board; and requesting that the Council should nominate three representatives.

After discussion the following were nominated:

Name	Proposed by	Sounded
W. Reid	<del>Mr. Reid</del> Long	Mr. Spencer Jones
Mr. Long F.R.S.	Dr. Halm	Mr. Pease
Mr. Innes, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.A., F.C.S.	Mr. Cox	Mr. Pease

Messrs. Hutchings and Stoughton were also nominated but they withdrew, and the Secretary was instructed to notify the names of Messrs Reid and Long and Dr. Innes as the three nominees of the Society.

Presidential Address The President intimated that owing to his state of health and contemplated long leave he would be unable to prepare any address in time for the Annual Meeting in July, though he hoped to give his address later.

Map Section — It was suggested that as the observing season for maps was approaching, it would be desirable if observers were supplied with white paper discs with black border of uniform size to record drawings and to facilitate the subsequent manufacture of blocks for printing; alternatively the supply of paper with printed rings was considered. The Secretary was instructed to look into the matter and ascertain the views of the Director of the Section. An estimate of the cost, not exceeding £1, should be obtained.

Date and Place of next meeting — The next Council meeting will be held on 28th June at the Royal Observatory, by kind invitation of H. M. Astronomer.

The Council expressed their good wishes to Messrs Reid & Long on the occasion of their holiday. It was considered that these gentlemen should be represented on the Council by alternates during their absence.

The meeting then terminated.

H. Spencer Jones