

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosebank, on Friday, 22nd June, 1928, at 8 p.m.

Present Capt. Cameron Swan, Messrs Cox, Forbes, Long, Mason, Mr. Lutyre, Skewes, Smith and Haughton (Hon. Sec.)

In the absence of the President and any Vice President and at the general wish of those present, the chair was taken by Mr. Long.

Death of Mr. Reid.

The Chairman referred to the loss which the Council had sustained through the death of Mr. Reid, and proposed the following resolution which was unanimously adopted - all present standing:

That the Council records, with profound regret, the death on the 8th June 1928 of Mr. William Reid, the Director of the Comet Section, and a past President of the Society, and that an expression of the Council's heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to Mrs. Reid and her family in their sad bereavement.

The Chairman stated that wreaths had been sent from the Cape Centre and the Council and it was decided after discussion that the cost of the latter wreath, viz: £1 should be paid from the Society's funds.

Alternate

The Secretary reported that Dr. Spencer Jones had appointed Mr. Horrocks as his alternate during his absence from S. Africa; the Council approved.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, and after a slight correction were confirmed.

Correspondence.

The Secretary laid on the table the letters received and copies of those written since the last meeting. The following were considered: letter of 18th March from Dr. Jones

accepting appointment as Director of Computing Section. Letters of 18th April and 11th May from Mr. Mackenzie and the Secretary's replies of 17th & 21st May regarding the progress of the computing section. The Secretary stated that the circular authorised had been sent to all members and associates. Mr. Long said that Capt. Cameron-Swan and Messrs Bussell and Teaney had joined the section; ^{he also} referred to the need of a duplicating apparatus for reproducing the various formulae required by members of the Section. He had bought a duplicator at a cost of 25/- which though not entirely satisfactory met the requirements of Mr. Mackenzie. It was agreed after discussion that the Society should acquire it from Mr. Long at that price and that he should send it with a ream of paper to Mr. Mackenzie.

The Secretary read letters of 23 April to, and 15th June from, the Hon. Sec. of the Natal Astr. Assn. who expressed his sympathy in connection with the death of Mr. Reid and said that he would send a report of the Association's work for the Journal.

Financial Position.

The treasurer reported a balance in hand of £12.14.1 which included a remittance of £10.18.0 from the Johannesburg Centre; small sums amounting to £1.5.9 were due to various creditors. The cost of the wreath and of the duplicator and paper mentioned above would also be paid this year. Mr. Forbes said that a further amount of about £8.8.0 would be paid by the Cape Centre at the end of the quarter.

Journal.

The Secretary stated that he had received a copy of "Astronomy and Cosmology" by J. H. Teanus for review; it was agreed to ask Mr. Harrocks if he would care to write a review. Other matter for the next Journal would

comprise the Presidential Address, Reports of the Centres and Sections, &c, and the reviews already in hand. Mr. Mason said that his paper on the Moon was being revised & would be ready shortly.

The Secretary was instructed to ask Prof. Rosciter if, now that the Lambert-Bessy Obs. at Bloemfontein was beginning work, he would care to send an article on its equipment and programme for the Journal.

Mr. Mackenzie had written to Mr. Long stating that Mr. A. King, a member of the B.A.A. was writing an article on the large daylight meteor seen from S. Africa in June last which might be suitable for the Journal; the Council considered that the next Journal was fairly well supplied with material but they would be pleased to see the article which might be included in the Journal or appear in the Cape Times. Mr. Long undertook to reply to Mr. Mackenzie.

Mr. Mr. Latyse was appointed to prepare an obituary note regarding Mr. Reid, to be accompanied by photos of Mr. Reid and of the Jackson Gilt medal recently awarded to him. Both sides of the medal could be reproduced on one plate. The Council authorised the supply to Dr. Voute, Leimburg, of Journals to complete his series.

members
permanently
residing
outside S.A.

Dr. Jones had asked the Council to consider the following suggestion; that such members should not be regarded as belonging to any centre or branch and that their subscriptions should go wholly to headquarters for the general interests of the Society. After discussion, in which it was mentioned that the financial benefit to the Society's funds from such a change would be small, and that in practice the Centres had on occasion made donations to

the Society's funds above their required payments, it was decided to leave the matter over for consideration by the new Council.

Honorary Members.

The chairman proposed, seconded by Capt. Cameron-Swan, that Dr. L. J. Comrie of the Nautical Almanack office be elected ~~to~~ as an honorary member of the Society in terms of Article XIX of the Constitution. Mr. Long referred to the many valuable services Dr. Comrie had rendered to the Society, and the Council cordially approved the motion, the Secretary being instructed to write accordingly.

Nominations for next Council.

The Secretary stated that on the 31st May the Cape Centre had 60 members and the Johannesburg Centre 23 members in good standing, giving proportions on the Council of 8.7 and 3.3, the Johannesburg Centre would be allotted 4 members on the Council; that Centre had agreed to arrange for nominations to be sent & they would arrive in a few days. The following nominations were handed to the Secretary:-

Office	Name	Proposed	Seconded
President.	A.W. Long F.R.S.	Mr. Forbes	Mr. McEutzye
Vice Pres.	Chairman of J'burg Centre 1928/9'	McEutzye	Long
do	Senkata Roberts	Cox	Capt. Cameron-Swan
do	H. Spencer Jones	Long	do
Secretary	H.E. Houghton	do	do
Treasurer	W.H. Smith	Houghton	Mr. McEutzye
Member of Council	W.H. Cox	Mr. Eutzye	Capt. Cameron-Swan
do	D.G. Mr. Eutzye	Capt. Cameron-Swan	Mr. Smith
do	B.F. Teasey	Mr. Long	Mr. Mason
do	A.F. E. Forbes	Capt. Cameron-Swan	Mr. Houghton
do	H.W. Schonegevel	Mr. Forbes	do
do	Capt. Cameron-Swan	Mr. Smith	do

Members of Council	Mr H. C. Mason	Mr Long	Capl Cameron-Swan
	Dr Halm	Mr Cox	Mr McGilgryse
Auditors	E. J. Steer	Mr Smith	Mr Houghton

The Secretary stated that he would be away from Cape Town from the 1st July to the end of the year, Mr Skewes agreed to act as his alternate & as Asst. Hon. Secretary to the Society.

Annual Report of Council.

The Secretary read the draft of the Annual Report which with slight amendments was agreed to.

Library.

Mr Forbes made the offer of a bookcase to hold the Society's library to be fixed at headquarters, 35 Dale Street Cape Town. Keys would be held by the Librarian, and the Secretaries of the Society & the Cape Centre. The Council expressed their appreciation of this gift.

International Committee in Astronomy.

The Secretary was requested to report Mr Reid's death to the Research Grant Board & to state that if approved, the new Council would consider the nomination of another member of the Society to fill the vacancy.

Annual Meeting.

The Secretary read letters from Dr Roberts dated 19th May and 13th June. The President stated that he proposed to speak on 'Variable Stars' in place of the subject previously suggested. Typed copies of his address would be available.

The meeting then terminated.

Anthony

Note by Secretary.

The following further nominations were received 25th June: Members of Council: Mrs Troughton, W. M. Worsell, W. B. Jackson J. D. Stevas. As Mrs Troughton has been elected Chairman of the T'burg centre for 1928-9, she has been nominated as Vice-President. (see above).

minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at 35 Wale Street, Cape Town, on Wednesday 25th July 1928 at 8 p.m.

The President, Senator Roberts, was in the Chair — there was a fair attendance.

Minutes The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 27th July 1927 were read & confirmed.

Annual Report. On the motion of the Chairman the Annual Report was taken as read.

Financial Statement. The Treasurer read the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 30th June 1928, showing a balance in hand of £20-3-4. £5, a donation from the Natal Astronomical Association had been received since, and on the motion of Mr. Schoonjool, seconded by Mr. Masoa, it was agreed that the thanks of the Society be sent to the N.A.A.

Closing of ballot. At 8.30 p.m. the Chairman declared the ballot closed and appointed Messrs Burrell & de Kock scrutineers.

Reports of Observing Sections. There was no Comet Section report owing to the death of the director Mr. Reid. The next report will cover two years.

There was no Mars Section report as the planet has been unfavourably placed.

The report of the Variable Star Section was read by Mr. Smith, & showed that 3395 observations had been made during the year — only five less than last year's record figure despite the bad weather in June.

Mr. ^{A. Wood} ~~W. King~~ of Grahamstown has joined the section, & Mr. H. Hayman of Pretoria proposes to do so.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr Cox, seconded by Mr Mason, and agreed to.

The first annual report of the newly instituted Computing Section (director Dr Lucas) was read by Mr Long. It was noted that the Section had had a most auspicious beginning, having no less than 14 members.

Presidential Address. Before proceeding with his address on 'Variable Stars', Dr Roberts briefly alluded to the death of Mr Reid, the retiring of Dr Lucas from the post of Union Astronomer, and the visit of the British Association next year.

The address itself dealt with the history of Variable Star Research, the interpretation of its results, and its possible future.

A vote of thanks was moved by Capt Cameron Swan, and seconded by Mr Long. It was carried with acclamation.

New Council The following were declared elected to the offices mentioned, there being only sufficient nominations to fill the vacancies:

President Mr A W Long F.R.A.S.
Vice-Presidents Dr H. Spencer Jones
 Senator Roberts
 Miss H. L. Troughton
Secretary H. E. Houghton
Treasurer W. H. Smith
Auditor E. J. Steer.

The ballot for members of council was as follows:-

Capt. Cameron Swan	30 Votes	Mr Cox	21 Votes
Dr. Halm	28 "	Mr Jackson	19 "
Mr. Schoaegevel	28 "	Mr. Forbes	17 "
Mr W. Lalyse	22 "	Mr. Steeles	12 "
Mr. Worsell	21 "	Mr. Teasey	10 "
		Mr. Mason	9 "

of these the Cape was entitled to 3, & the Transvaal to 3 members, & the chairman therefore declared the following duly elected: Capt Lancelotti, V. Halme, Messrs Schoequevel, Worsell, Jackson and Stevens.

The chairman expressed his pleasure at the election of Mr Long as the new president, and Mr Long briefly replied.

The meeting then terminated.

Anthony