

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the
Astronomical Society of South Africa.

Held at the Royal Observatory Cape of Good Hope
on Monday February 25 1935 at 8.15 pm

Present. Dr J. K. E. Halm (President) in the Chair
Dr J. Jackson Capt D. Cameron-Swan Messrs
Andrews Peers. Willis Long and the Acting
Secretary. (Mr H. W. Schaeffer)

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Minutes of Council Meeting held November 5. 1934
were read and confirmed.

x Notifications of inability to attend were received from
the following: -

Messrs Doughton McIntyre Menzies Pratt and Smith

President The Acting Secretary reported that the deputation
appointed to interview Dr Halm and request him
to accept the office of President had met with entire
success, with the result that Dr Halm was presiding
at the meeting.

The statement was received with acclamation
Dr Halm thanked the Council for the honour of
appointing him

Secretary The Acting Secretary called attention to the fact that
the office of Secretary was still vacant.

After some discussion and at the request of members
present he agreed to fill the office till the
annual general Meeting.

Librarian The Secretary reported that owing to the death of his
wife and the re-arrangement of his domestic affairs

the Librarian (Mr Burrell) had taken up residence at Lambert's Bay and had therefore tendered his resignation.

It was resolved to accept the resignation and that the Secretary in notifying Mr Burrell express the thanks of the Council for his services to the Society and sympathy with him in his bereavements.

Mr Long proposed ^{that} Mr Andrews be appointed Librarian ^(vice Mr Burrell) & seconded by S^r Jackson and agreed to.

Finance In the absence of the Treasurer (Mr Smith) S^r Jackson said that he had received a telephone message from the Treasurer asking him to inform the meeting that ^{the} balance standing to the Society's credit was £5.10.4, no contributions had come in from either Johannesburg or Durban (centres) since the last report. There was one amount due by Mr McIntyre, which would augment the balance in hand.

Mr Long said he understood from Mr McIntyre that this ^{amounted to} ~~was~~ £1.10.0.

The Secretary put in a cheque for £15: received from the Johannesburg Centre on account. The Secretary said that ~~that~~ he had not received any account as to how this amount was made up, it ~~was~~ ^{appeared} to be more than required for contributions due to the end of the financial year ending June 30 1934 but possibly would not quite cover contributions for current year.

A letter was read from Mr H. E. Houghton (received with cheque) donating £5. to the funds of the Society. The Secretary was instructed to write to thank Mr Houghton for his liberal gift, which was gratefully accepted.

Mr Willis (Secretary of Natal Centre) who was present said that when he got back to Durban he would take steps to have the contributions of that Centre remitted quarterly as required by the constitution.

Journal After some discussion it was resolved that as funds had now become available, that the Journal Committee arrange for an issue of the Journal with as little delay as possible.

A letter was received from Mr C. L. B. Dutton, complaining of the infrequent issue of the Journal and suggesting that a sub-committee be appointed to enquire into the Society's finances, ^{inter alia} with a view to a more frequent issue or the issue of Circulars from time to time as supplements to the Journal.

Discussion ensued. The opinion expressed was that no good purpose would be served by the appointment of such a sub-committee on finance.

The Secretary proposed that the suggestion of the issue of Circulars be submitted to the Journal Committee for report. Objection was taken to this on the ground that it was useless to ask the Journal Committee to consider the issue of additional publications unless funds were available for financing such issues.

On the proposal of Dr Jackson it was resolved

that enquiries be instituted with the publishers of the Cape Times regarding the possibility of obtaining ^{reprints} galley-proofs of Mr Long's monthly articles in that paper with a view of distributing these to members of the Society. Mr Peers at the request of the meeting undertook to make the necessary enquiries; he was instructed to report the result to the Journal Committee, who was given power to act.

The Committee of the Cape Centre to be asked to contribute to the cost.

This concluded the business. It was resolved to hold the next Council meeting on Monday April 29. next. The meeting then terminated.

A letter was read from the Secretary ^{of the} Johannesburg Centre stating that owing to the death of several prominent members and the resignation of others together with the inability of infusing new blood, ~~it is found~~ they are unable to carry on. No meetings had been held for about a year and it was proposed to close down. When the books were closed the balance of the funds would be transmitted to Headquarters. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge the letter with regret.

Ap. 29. 1935

J. Kalm