

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Astronomical Society of South Africa, held at Yorkshire House, 38 Strand Street, Cape Town on Wednesday the 22nd July¹⁹³⁶ at 8.15 P.M.

Dr. J. Jackson, President of the Society was in the Chair. There was a good attendance.

The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 24th July 1935 were read and confirmed.

The retiring President, Dr. J. Jackson, read a paper on "The Nearest Stars", as the Presidential Address. The paper showed that the brighter stars were not always the nearer stars, but that stars with large proper-motion and binary stars were more likely to be among the nearer stars. Stars nearest to our sun were distributed evenly over the sky, no particular region being more favoured than any other. It was mentioned that we are dependant for our knowledge of the distances of southern stars, on the work done by the ^{Yale} ~~Harvard~~ Observatory at ^{Johannesburg} Bloemfontein, and at the Royal Observatory, Cape Town.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded ~~the~~ Dr. Jackson at the conclusion of his address.

The Annual Report of the Council was read by the Hon. Secretary, and passed by the meeting.

Mention was made in the Report of the loss through death of two members, Major E. C. Fox, and H. C. Mason. ~~The meeting~~ ^{present} ~~rose~~ ^{stood} as a mark of respect.

The report of the Comet and Zodiacal Light sections were read by Mr. A. W. Long, in the absence of the Director, Mr. ^{A. E. J.} ~~D. H.~~ Forbes, and passed by the meeting.

Mr. H. W. Schoneveld, in the absence of Mr. H. E. Houghton, read the report of the Variable Star section. A vote of thanks to the Directors of these sections for the work done by them during the year, was passed.

The Financial Statement, read by Mr. Smith, showed a balance in hand of £3-17-6.

Only sufficient nominations to fill the offices and for membership of Council had been received, and the following were therefore declared elected:

President: Mr. H. E. Houghton, F.R.A.S.

Vice-Presidents: Dr. J. Jackson, Capt D. Cameron-Sloan, Mr. A.W. Long.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Menzies.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. W. H. Smith.

Auditor: Mr. E. J. Steer.

Hon. Librarian: Mr. W. Andrews.

Members of Council: Messrs J. B. Mumford, J. Willis, D. C. Alletson, J. B. S. Turner, A. W. Robinson, and Dr. R. H. Stoy.

In the absence of Mr. H. E. Houghton, a letter from the new President was read to the meeting by the Hon. Secretary. Mr. Houghton expressed his ~~sincere~~ appreciation of the honour conferred on him by his election as President for the forthcoming Session, and regretted that absence on duty in Pretoria prevented his attending the Annual Meeting. He hoped members would accept his best wishes for a successful meeting and for the continued welfare of the Society during the coming year.

Dr. Jackson gave details of the discovery in Japan of a new Comet of the 6th magnitude, and informed members that the comet Peltier was moving Southward, and should soon be visible to observers in S. Africa.

The meeting then terminated.

J. Jackson
J. Jackson

1937 July 29.