

Astronomical Society of South Africa

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Friday 27th November 1953 at 8 P.M.

Present: Dr Stoy (in the Chair) Messrs Christ, Archer, Orpen, Hirst, Johnston, Cousins, and the Hon Secretary.

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 29th September 1953 were read and confirmed.

The Financial Statement read by Mr Orpen showed a balance of £84. Mr Orpen said that "Sky + Telescope" had, owing to the Dollar Shortage, not been paid since July 1953.

It was agreed, proposed by Mr Hirst and seconded by Mr Orpen, to print 400 copies of a 16-page Handbook for 1954, and to accept the quotation of Peninsula Press.

The following whose names had appeared in the Monthly Notes were elected Members: Miss R. Clarke, 1106, Clarendon Heights, Bruce St., Hillbrow, G.H. (Associate)

Mr C C Lundy, "Chatterton", Tenant Rd, Wynberg, Cape
Dr W P Steenkamp (Sur) "Hauges", Bay View Avenue,
Tambors Kloof, Cape Town

Mr. Henri Van der Kley was elected a Member subject to his name appearing in the Monthly Notes.

Provided he agreed, Mr. G. B. Hinterlang, Banisambost Camp, Pretoria, whose mother had paid £1.10/-, would receive copies of "Sky + Telescope" and "Monthly Notes" for a year, but was not elected a Member.

Mr Johnston read a letter from Dr. Finzen containing amended proposals about the distribution of Sky + Telescope and management of local Centres.

Letters on Dr. Finzen's proposals ^{received} were read from Dr. Evans, Dr. Thackeray, and Dr. Kirchhoff were read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Archer, and Mr. Christ.

The Hon. Secretary was asked to send all new Members a copy of the Constitution.

Mr. Cousins proposed that all Members be re-issued with a copy of the Constitution, together with a page of explanatory matter.

Dr. Stoy expressed his pleasure at the interest shown by all-country members of Council in the question of the issues of "Sky & Telescope".

Mr. Orphen was asked to request Mr. Krumm to write to "Sky & Telescope" explaining the reason for non-payment of dues, and to ask Dr. Coombs to contact Union Government officials while at Pretoria on the question of an increase of the Dollar quota.

Mr. Harst was opposed to Associates of Centres not being Members of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary was asked to bring to the notice of the Secretaries of Centres that announcements of Centres could be published in the "Monthly Notes".

It was agreed to donate a prize for the best amateur paper to be published in the "Notes", details to be formulated at a later date.

A letter from Mr. Bentley was read by the Hon. Secy. Mr. Bentley was in agreement with the proposal that "Sky & Telescope" be optional at extra cost to members, enabling the subscription to non-subscribers to be reduced, and that "Sky & Telescope" should be rationed on seniority basis if the Dollar shortage continues.

The Council decided that no decision could be reached on "Sky & Telescope" until the dollar situation was investigated, and a reply received from the Proprietors, ^{of S. & T.} in America.

It was decided that the present system of receipt of revenue by the Society Treasurer was logical and would not be changed.

The meeting ended at 10 P. M.

Attest in Hon. Secretary

David S. Coombs

1954 February 10.