

Astronomical Society of South Africa

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 25th April 1956 at 8 P.M.

An apology for absence was received from Prof. Cillie, ^{and Mr. Borchard} while Mr. Russo was at Pretoria on detached duty.

Present: Dr. Stoy (in the Chair) Drs. Evans + Cousins, Messrs Johnston, Turner, Duncan, Chiat, Orben, Hirst + the Hon. Secretary.

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 14th March 1956 were confirmed.

The following were elected Members subject to their names appearing in the Monthly Notes:

Rev. M. H. Horak, P.O. Box 61, Nykstroem

The President, Copperbelt Astronomical Society, P.O. Box 5, Kitwe, N. Rhodesia.

The Vice-President, " " " " " "

The Copperbelt Astronomical Society, " " " " " "

Mr Orben reported a credit balance of £108.

The resignation of Dr. H. G. F. Wilsdorf was accepted with regret.

A committee consisting of Drs. Evans, Cousins + Stoy was formed to draft the Citation for the award of the Gill Medal, the citation to be considered by the Council at the next meeting on 9th May.

A letter from Dr. Thackeray dealing with the format of the Monthly Notes was read to the meeting.

Dr. Evans read a reply received from the Dept of Education giving the conditions which have to be satisfied before a grant for publications can be given.

It was proposed by Dr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hirst that a grant be not applied for at present. This was agreed to.

Section A of the sub-committee's report on the format of the Monthly Notes was adopted.

Section A: Format of Monthly Notes:

Recommended that the journal be continued in its duplicated form but with quarto size pages and a printed cover. Line diagrams and half tones to be reproduced, possibly

by the University of Cape Town Library on sheets to be bound in.

The notes to be run on business lines by an organisation separate from, but responsible to, Council. A committee of four or five with two members responsible for the business side, and the remainder editorial, was mentioned. Existing subscribers (not being members of the Society) would be invited to pay for the Notes, and new subscribers would be charged. Additions to the free list only by vote of Council.

The new format would come into force on 1957 Jan 1, and there would be a limited amount of publicity, partly directed to making known to the astronomical world that this medium of quick publication existed. For non-members of the Society there would be a charge for publication. For members there would only be a charge of 50% of the extra cost entailed in the inclusion of line drawings or half tones. It was thought that line drawings would cost £1-18-6 per page and half tones £5-19-0.

The names of Dr. Evans and Mr. Krumm were considered in connection with the business management.

The journal would continue to be issued monthly and under the same name. (If a suggestion to produce six issues in the year had been adopted, the word "Monthly" in the title would have become inappropriate and there would have had to be a change.)

When the present supply of wrappers was exhausted the Notes would be distributed flat (unrolled) in envelopes. A suggestion was made that notes of meetings and other Society ephemera should be included on an unnumbered page in each issue, to be bound or not at choice by librarians.

It was agreed that the yearly subscription be £2-2/- from 1st July 1956, and that new members be charged £1-1/- entrance fee. ~~That it to be voted a by ballot by~~

Section C of the report was adopted after amendment of title and deletion of two clauses, and now reads as follows:

Section C: Interpretation of Constitution.

Several special cases in connection with membership had recently arisen, and it did not appear that they were properly

covered by the Constitution. The following amendment in connection with membership would be suggested:

Reinstatement of lapsed members: A person, being a former member of the Society, whose membership had lapsed through failure to pay subscriptions, who wished to revive his membership should be required to pay all the outstanding subscriptions due up to the time when, in terms of the Constitution he ceased to be a member. In general this would amount to two years' subscriptions.

On the motion of Mr. Hirst, seconded by Dr. Evans Dr. Van den Bos was elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs Hirst, Orben, Duncan and Johnston was formed to draft amendments to the Constitution.

The following editorial Committee to run the Monthly Notes was formed: Dr. Stoy, Mr. Hirst, Dr. Thackeray, Prof. Cillie.

The business management of the Notes was to be ^{done} ~~under~~ the ^{by} ~~control of~~ Dr. Evans + Mr. Krumm.

Messrs Johnston and Turner were appointed Auditors for the year.

Mr. Andrews, a member of long standing, was placed on the free list for the Monthly Notes.

~~The Hon. Secretary read a letter received from Prof. Cillie, who agreed to Dr. Evans' nomination for the Cillie Medal.~~

Mr. Chist said that Dr. Kirchhoff was in agreement with the proposals of the sub-committee on the new format of the Monthly Notes.

The meeting ended at 10.20 P.M.

A. H. Stoy
Hon. Secretary

R. H. Stoy
18.6.56.

20 copies