

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Monday,
29th October 1956 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Stoy in the Chair, Dr. Evans, Professor Menzies, Messrs. Krumm, Johnston, Borchers, Linton, Duncan and the Hon. Secretary.

Apologies for absence had been received from Messrs. Russo, Turner and Orpen.

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 27th August 1956 were read and confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Hon. Secretary reported the receipt of three Gill Medals from the South African Mint.

The following whose names have appeared in the Monthly Notes were elected Members :

Rev. Dr. H. T. Gonin, Saulspoort, P. O. Box 1046, Rustenburg, Tvl..

Mr. H. A. Lane, P. O. Box 3138, Port Elizabeth.

Mr. C. P. M. Rattray, "Colwyn", P. O. Box 14, Gingindhlovu, Zululand.

The following were elected Members subject to their names appearing in the Monthly Notes and no objection being received within a month :

Mr. B. Ryan, 455 West Street, Durban, Natal.

Mr. A. Leppan, Survey Dept., Natal University, Howard College, Durban.

Dr. P. A. J. Le Roux, 20 Moorlands, Moore Road, Durban.

Mr. J. Braun, Canberra Hotel, Prince Alfred Street, Durban.

Miss M. M. Collins, 56 Stanhope Mansions, 60 Plein Street
or c/o P. O. Box 7013, Johannesburg.

Miss Eileen May Isham, c/o "Brenthurst", Gordon Hill, Federation Road,
Parktown, Johannesburg.

Mr. R. Hutchinson, 19 Abergent Crescent, Durban, North .

Mr. W. Maxwell, 30 Springfield Road, Durban.

A letter from the C.S.I.R. on the artificial satellites to be launched during the International Geophysical Year and calling for observers to help track the satellites was read by Dr. Stoy to the meeting. It was decided to insert an article in the Monthly Notes dealing with this request.

A letter from a student, Mnr. J. C. Krynauw, asking permission to write an essay for next year's Essay Competition before December while he was still at school, was read to the meeting. The request was refused.

Dr. Evans informed members of Council that on his recent visit to Durban talks were held with Messrs. Ottens, Pollard and Chubb. The prospects for the re-establishment of the Natal Centre and of a settlement of outstanding questions seemed good. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. B. Ryan asking for a list of Natal Centre Committee members and inviting the Natal Centre to appoint a Council representative.

Mr. P. Smits of Port Elizabeth, who for the past two years had been using a 4-inch refractor belonging to the Society was now returning it to Cape Town. This telescope was therefore available for any member who could put it to good use. This telescope, which was used by Dr. Roberts who had it on loan from the Royal Astronomical Society, was presented to the Society by the R. A. S. after the death of Dr. Roberts.

It was proposed by Dr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Krumm that the entrance fee which had been waived in the case of members of the Natal Telescope Making Society wishing to join the Society, should remain waived until 31st December 1956, after which date the concession would be withdrawn. This was agreed.

Members of the Council regretted that in the publicity given to the award of the Gill Medal in the South African newspapers Dr. Kirchhoff had not been given due credit for the designing of the medal. Publicity concerning the award which had appeared in "Nature" and "The Illustrated London News" was reported.

Material for the Handbook for 1957 had been very ably prepared by the members of the Computing Section of the Transvaal Centre. It was confirmed that this should be reproduced by a duplicating process and that the cost should be kept below £50. A yellow cover for the Handbook was selected from a number of samples secured by Messrs. Johnston and Krumm.

Dr. Evans spoke on the need for the Cape Centre of the Society to enlarge its sphere of activities in order to keep up with the work being done at other Centres .

The Meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.

A. Menzies,

Hon. Secretary

31 / 10 / 56 .

R.H. Stoy

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