

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on
Monday 24th June at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Stoy (in the Chair) Professor Menzies, Messrs.
Johnston, Linton, Russo, Duncan, and the Hon. Secretary.

Apologies for absence had been received from Messrs. Krumm and
Borcherds, and from Drs. Evans and Cousins.

Members rose for a few moments as a mark of respect for the
late Mr. J. B. G. Turner who represented Professor Immelmann on the
Council.

The Minutes of Council meetings held on the 29th January
1957 and 29th April 1957 were confirmed.

Mr. Linton reported a credit balance of £137. The following
whose names had appeared in the Monthly Notes were elected Members.
Mr. J. C. Loon, 12 Cambridge, Main Road, Rosebank, Cape.
Mr. P. L. Meadows, c/o Dept. of Land Surveying,
University of Cape Town.

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

Mr. J. C. C. Van Loggerenberg, P. O. Box 448, Bloemfontein.
Mr. E. M. Suter, P. O. Box 104, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia.
Mr. E. M. Morrison, No. 5 Bertilly, Paddington Road, Diep River.
Mr. A. T. Stacey, "Geanne Villa," Protea Road, Newlands, Cape.

The resignations were accepted of the Rev. R. H. Davies and
Mr. S. A. Buchholz.

As only sufficient nominations to fill the offices and
Council were received, the following will be declared elected
at the annual general meeting to be held on the 24th July:
President: Dr. M. W. Feast. (proposed Dr. Evans, sec. Dr. Stoy)
Vice-Presidents: Mr. S. C. Venter, Dr. R. H. Stoy, Mr. H. C. Lagerweij
Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Menzies
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G. Orpen (Mr. J. F. R. Linton as deputy)
Members of Council: Dr D. S. Evans, Mr N. J. Bester, Professor J. M. le
Roux, Mr. J. Churms.

The Essay Competition had produced a disappointing number
of entries of poor standard. A pleasing feature was a group of
essays from Port Elizabeth.

The First Prize was awarded to a Diocesan College pupil,
E. G. H. Oliver, for an essay on "Comets in General".

Ronell Gildenhuys, Hoerskool, Walmer, Port Elizabeth for an
essay on "Die Sonnestelsel", and Anthony Wood, S.A. College High
School, for an essay on "The Planet Mars" share the third prize.

The draft Annual Report presented by the Hon. Secretary was
read and after amendments, adopted.

The ballot on the award of the Gill Medal was unanimously
in favour of the award to Mr. W. P. Hirst, and of the Citation:

"For outstanding services to South African Astronomy as a
computer, observer, writer and lecturer.

Mr. Hirst is an amateur with an absorbing profession and wide
interests, but in spite of this he has become an astronomical
computer of high standing and his contributions to our journal
outnumber those of any other author, amateur or professional. Nor
have his contributions been confined to M. N. A. S. S. A. He has
computed orbits for several comets about a dozen asteroids and
some double stars. His articles on Orbits Computing are worthy
of the closest study. His observing has been concentrated on
occultations and double stars. The work of Mr. Hirst is a demon-
stration of the level of achievement that can be attained by a
gifted amateur".

Mr. Russo informed the meeting that Dr. Thackeray was not in
favour of the award of the Gill Medal as an annual event, but
would have the award every second year.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m. A. MENZIES Hon. Secretary

R. H. Stoy
30.9.57

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR PERIOD 1/7/1956 to 30/6/1957.

<u>Expenditure.</u>	£	s.	d.	<u>Receipts.</u>	£	s.	d.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope for period April 1956 to March 1957.	209	8	0	Credit balance 1/7/1956.	52	13	1
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A. for period June 1956 to June 1957.	157	7	2	<u>Subscriptions:</u>			
Collating, wrapping and despatch of "Sky & Telescope" and M.N.A.S.S.A. June 1956 to June. 1957.	19	0	0	Arrears	34	10	0
Postage on "Sky & Telescope & M.N.A.S.S.A. as above.	44	2	6	Current	478	7	0
Cost of production and despatch of Handbook, 1957 and postage thereon.	44	1	6	Advance	30	6	0
Printed covers, plain covers, dup. sheets. @ rms. M.N.A.S.S.A.	19	4	6	(Total. £543. 3. 0)			
Essay Competition prizes.	7	7	0	Entrance Fees	28	7	0
Postage and stationery other than above.	18	9	4	Donations	2	6	0
Cost of three Gill Medals.	6	12	0	Sale of back numbers "Sky & Telescope".	2	4	6
Stencilling Council Minutes & Gill Medal Notice.		7	6	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	16	3	2
Bank Charges	6	0	0	Sale copy "Universal Sundial.		2	6
Credit Balance 30/6/57.	128	13	9	Sale of Handbooks.	1	3	6
				Contributions to Gill Medal Fund.	8	18	0
				Commission on cheques.		1	12
				Re. Reproduction pictures "Monthly Notes.	4	0	0
	£	660	13		£	660	13
			3				3

Act/Hon. Treas.

Auditor.


