

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.
Report of the Council for the Session 1958-1959.

Five Council meetings were held during the year. Sixty-six new Members and eighteen Associate Members were elected. The membership of the Society at present comprises 310 members, 40 Associate Members, and 9 Honorary Members. Centres of the Society exist at Cape Town, in the Transvaal (Johannesburg and Pretoria) at Port Elizabeth, Durban, and at Bloemfontein, where a centre has now been started, largely due to the enthusiasm and drive of our President, Professor H. Haffner.

Council records with regret the deaths of Dr. J. Jackson, a Gill Medallist and of Mr. A.F.I. Forbes, both past Presidents of the Society, and Honorary Members. Obituary notices have been published in MNASSA.

The regular distribution of MNASSA and of 'Sky & Telescope' has been continued. The circulation of the Monthly Notes has shown a steady increase. Council wishes to record its appreciation of the work done by the editors, Drs. Stoy and Evans, and of Mr. H.E. Krumm, in charge of the business arrangements.

The Handbook for 1959 was issued, and supplied a steadily increasing demand. Council records its thanks to the Transvaal Computing Section which provided the numerical data.

No award of the Gill Medal was made during the year.

A fair number of entries was received in the Essay Competition, and the general standard was excellent. The first prize of £5.5.0. is being awarded to G. Rosenthal of Diocesan College Cape Town. The second and third prizes, totalling £3.3.0. is being divided between,

J.A. Bonnard
P. Knox-Shaw
J.L. Nash-Webber, all of Diocesan College Cape Town.

Special prizes are being awarded to entrants in the under 15 age group as follows:-

S. Mayewski of S.A. College School Cape Town.	£3.3.0.
W.A. Linder of St. Peters School Rivonia.	£2.2.0.
Heather Lane of St. Dominics Port Shepstone.	£1.1.0.
Christelle du Bruto of Kroonstad Hoerskool.	£1.1.0.

Members of the Moon-watch team at Cape Town have continued to observe artificial satellites during the year, under the directorship of Mr. W.F. Hirst.

Mr. R.P. de Kock has continued his programme of Variable Star observing.

The Nova Section has been revived under the directorship of Mr. R.S. Tuffin.

It was with regret that Council received the resignation of Mr. Venter, as director of the Meteor Section, owing to ill health. The service rendered in the past by Mr. Venter is very much appreciated and it is hoped that a successor, to carry on with this aspect of the Society's activities will soon be forthcoming.

Council wishes to place on record it's appreciation and thanks to Mr. F.M. Bateson of Cook Islands, South Pacific, for his gift of 300 copies of his booklet on Variable Star Observing, for distribution to Members of the Society who may desire to use the book as a guide to observing these stars.

Council has made available a grant of £50. towards the cost of rehabilitating the Society's Library. The recommendations of a Library Housing Committee, consisting of Dr. Stoy, Messrs. Smits, Duncan and Meadows, have been adopted.

The Society's Librarian, Mr. R. Lake, wishes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of journals and other publications during the year.

A. Menzies,

Hon. Secretary.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1959.

<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>			<u>RECEIPTS.</u>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope for year April 1958 to March 1959	290.12.	5.	Credit balance, 1/7/1958.	44. 2. 2.	✓
Cost of production of MNASSA and of Handbook	242. 2.	9.	<u>Subscriptions.</u>		
Wrapping and despatch of MNASSA, Handbook and "Sky & Telescope"	31.11.	6.	Arrears.	9.13. 0.	
Postage on MNASSA, Handbook and "Sky & Telescope"	51. 7.	6.	Current.	550. 4. 0.	
Stationery	18. 8.	6.	Advance.	53.11. 0.	613. 8. 0.
Postage other than above	10. 2.	8.	Entrance Fees.	59.17. 0.	
Addressograph plates and tray	4. 9.	6.	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky & Telescope."	2.18. 0.	
Essay Competition Prizes	10.10. 0.		Sale of MNASSA	20.17. 0.	
Bank Charges	6.12. 6.		Sale of Handbooks	2. 8. 0.	
Credit balance at 30/6/59.	137. 2. 3.		Sale of copies of "Sir John Herschel at the Cape."	2. 8. 0.	
			Sale of copy of "Universal Sundial".	- . 2. 0.	
			Contributions to the Gill Medal Fund.	7.11. 0.	
			Donations	1.14. 0.	
			Sale of reprints, for Centres, of articles in MNASSA	40. 8. 6.	
			Interest on Fixed Deposit.	5.12. 6.	
			Commission on cheques.	1.13. 5.	
	<u>£802.19. 7.</u>			<u>£802.19. 7.</u>	

It should be noted that, in addition to the credit balance, there is an amount of £125. 0. 0. which is held on Fixed Deposit at 4½% by the Standard Bank, A.B.C. Branch, Cape Town. It should, also, be noted that the cost of production of MNASSA and of wrapping, despatch and postage thereon includes the cost of reprints for Centres, for which the payment shown was received.

Ganett Orpen
Hon. Treasurer.

W. Schirach *S. J. Hunter*
Hon. Auditors. 21/7/59

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Observatory
on Wednesday, 22nd July, at 8.P.M.

1959

Dr. Stoy presided. The attendance was good.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Menzies.
Mr. Keet and Mr. Raphaely.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the
23rd July, 1958 were read and confirmed.

The Annual Report of Council was then presented by the Acting
Secretary. The total membership of the Society was shewn as 359.
The deaths of Dr. J. Jackson a Gill medallist, and of Mr. A.F.I.
Forbes both past Presidents were noted with regret. The results of the
Essay Competition were announced. Only a fair number of entries *had been*
~~were~~ received but the general standard was good.

Mr. Orpen read the financial statement, which was adopted
by the meeting, on the motion of Mr. P. Smiths, ~~seconded~~ by
Mr. ~~Loon~~ Loon. This disclosed that the year ended with a credit
balance of £137.2.3. of which £53. 11.0. was advance subscriptions.
In addition there was £125 on fixed deposit at the Standard Bank,
A.B.C. Branch, Cape Town.

The report of the Variable Star Section was read by Mr. Krumm.
Over 8000 observations had been made, of which the Director,
Mr. De Cock was responsible for 6518.

The following reports from Centres were read:-

Bloemfontein.	read by Mr. Krumm
Port Elizabeth.	" " Mr. Smiths
Transvaal	" " Dr. Wayman.

The activities of these centres were noted with gratification
and it was resolved that congratulations should be sent to them,
particularly to Dr. Haffner and the Bloemfontein Centre, which
had only recently been inaugurated.

The following offices were declared elected for the 1959/1960
Session :-

President	Mr. P. Smiths.	48.
Vice- President	Dr. H. Haffner, Messrs.	Anderson and Overbeek.
Hon. Secretary.	Mr. Menzies	
Hon. Treasurer.	Mr. Orpen	

Members of Council. Drs. Stoy, Evans, Thackeray, and Finsen.

Nominees as members of Council from the five Centres were still
to be notified.

Hon. Auditors. Messrs. Duncan and Johnston.

Mr. Smiths, the in-coming President then took the chair, and read
the Presidential Address of Dr. Haffner, of Bloemfontein, the
out-going President. Dr. Haffner chose for his subject "Classi-
fying Stellar Spectra". The various ways in which this problem
had been approached was described in a particularly interesting
and lucid manner. Slides were shewn, depicting various Stellar
Spectra, and Dr. Wayman explained these to the meeting.

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Dr. Stoy referred to the recent occultation of the star Regulus by Venus,

The Radcliffe Observatory were congratulated on the success of their observations. A tape recording of the observations ~~was~~ played back to the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9-50 p.m.

J. W. Russ
Hon Secretary (Actg) 25/7/1959

P. Smith