

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on 24th August 1959 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Smits (in the Chair), Mr. Orpen, Dr. Stoy, Mr. Johnston (Cape Centre Representative), Mr. Lake (Librarian) and Mr. Russo, acting Secretary and alternate for Dr. Thackeray.

The following were also present as alternates, subject to the approval of the Principals concerned:

Dr. A. Cousins	for	Mr. M. J. Bester
Mr. H. Krumm	"	Mr. M. Overbeek
Dr. J. Fernie	"	Dr. W. Finsen
Mr. J. Churms	"	Transvaal Centre Representative (Mr. Krumm)

The following were appointed alternates subject to the approval of the Principals concerned:

Mr. P. Meadows	for	Natal Centre Representative
Mr. W. Bentley	"	Mr. G. B. Anderson
Dr. T. Kinman	"	Port Elizabeth Centre Representative } G. B. Anderson

J. C. Bentley

Mr. Smits referred to the passing of Mr. S. E. Duncan on 9th August 1959. Members stood for a few moments in silence as a mark of respect and a tribute to the active part he had played in the activities of the Society.

The Minutes of the last Council Meeting held on the 19th June 1959 were then read and confirmed.

Arising out of the minutes it was decided to ask Mr. Schirach to act as Hon. Auditor in place of the late Mr. Duncan. Regarding Mr. Duncan's position on the Library Sub-Committee it was felt that for the time being it would not be necessary to fill the vacancy.

Appreciation was expressed of the gift of James Nagle's "Stars of the Southern Hemisphere" to the Society's Library, by Mr. Krumm.

The Hon. Treasurer then presented the Financial Statement, which was as follows:

Statement of Financial Position at 24th August 1959.

<u>Expenditure</u>			<u>Receipts</u>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for period April to June 1959	86.	19. 6.	Credit Balance, 1/7/1959	137.	2. 3.
Cost of production of MNASSA, July & August. 1959	54.	12. 3.	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
			Arrears	8.	8. 0.
			Current	121.	15. 0.
			Advance	-.	-.
				130.	3. 0.
Wrapping and despatch of MNASSA and "Sky & Telescope", July & August 1959	1.	0. 0.	Entrance Fees	5.	5. 0.
Postage on MNASSA and Sky & Telescope as above	11.	0. 0.	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky & Telescope"	1.	1. 0.
Postage other than above	1.	2. 0.	Donations	1.	8. 0.
Addressograph plates	-.	7. 0.	Commission on cheques	-.	4. 6.
Essay Competition Prizes	15.	15. 0.			
Legal Expenses in respect of Natal Centre	3.	3. 0.			
Refund of Sub. overpaid by Transvaal Centre	1.	1. 0.			
Bank charges	-.	3. 0.			
Credit Balance at 24/8/1959	100.	1. 0.			
	£275.	3. 9.		£275.	3. 9.

In addition to the credit balance shown above an amount of £125.0.0. is held on Fixed Deposit at 4½ by the Standard Bank, A.B.C. Branch, Cape Town.

Garrett Orpen,
Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. Krumm then read a letter from the Publishers of "Sky and Telescope", intimating an unavoidable increase in the subscription rates, for the coming year and the year after. For the present however, the Society was in a position to meet the additional costs.

The following whose names appear in the Monthly Notes No. 6 of Vol. XVIII due for issue were declared elected, subject to no objection being received:

As Members:

Mr. L. M. Barreto, Observatorio Nacional. R. General Bruce, 586.
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.
Mr. P. D. Gascoigne, Box 338, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
Mr. B. Esterhuizen, 53 Howard Avenue, Benoni, Transvaal.
Mr. R. H. K. Hill, Gwebi Agricultural College, P.O. Box 376 B,
Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
Mr. L. B. Malan, 48 Fairfield Road, The Hill, Johannesburg, Tvl.
Dr. P. A. O'Brien, Physics Dept. University of Natal, Durban.
Mr. J. W. Price, 44 Julius Jeppe Street, Waterkloof, Pretoria, Tvl.
Mr. T. De Stadler, 13 New Way, Pinelands, Cape.
Mr. T. J. Turner, 33 Eleventh Avenue, Fish Hoek, Cape Province.
Mr. D. A. Wildman, Central Training Organisation, P.O. Box 222,
Springs, Transvaal.

As a Student Member:

Mr. C. D. Gooch, 5 Prentice Road, Greenside, Johannesburg, Tvl.

The following were declared elected subject to publication of their names in the Monthly Notes and no objection being received:

As Members:

Mr. A. Kalmanowitsch, 186 Innes Road, Durban.
Dr. E. W. Raynor, 802 Provident Assurance House, c/o Field and
Smith Streets, Durban.

As a Student Member:

Mr. M. C. Dippenaar, P.O.Box 272, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.

As a tribute to the work done for the Society by the past President, Professor Haffner, it was resolved to appoint him an Honorary Member of the Society. This was on the motion of Dr. Stoy, seconded by Mr. Krumm.

The Chairman then read an extract from a letter received from Mr. Burns, Secretary of the Natal Centre. This referred to their efforts to raise money to erect and equip a new Observatory in Durban, with the consequent desirability to register as an Association, not for Profit under Section 21 of the Company's Act. Authority to proceed with the Registration was sought from the Society. Mr. Russo stated that he had discussed the legal aspect of the matter with a firm of solicitors in as far as the Society would be concerned. They undertook to examine the Constitution, with an eye to the implications of the proposed registration, particularly to the effect of the proposed Company's liabilities on the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa. Their considered opinion was set forth in a letter dated 4th August 1959, which letter is attached to these minutes.

After some general discussion Mr. Russo proposed the following:

"RESOLVED that the Natal Centre of the Association be and it is hereby authorised to register as an Association not for profit under Section 21 of the Companies Act No. 46 of 1926 (as amended) for the purpose of raising funds for the erection, equipping and maintenance of an Observatory in Durban, for the acquisition of fixed property in the name of the Association and for any incidental purposes.

RESOLVED FURTHER that the Natal Centre shall be responsible for the costs of registering the said Association".

This was seconded by Dr. Stoy and passed unanimously.

Mr. Krumm stated that he had received an application from Miltons Opticians of Johannesburg for advertising Astronomical instruments and component parts in the Monthly Notes. It was agreed that in principle there was no objection to the insertion of suitable advertisements on the cover of MNASSA, on a commercial basis. The matter was left in abeyance pending further details of the proposed advertising.

It was agreed that the Essay Competition should again be held in the following year, applications to be invited for entries in two age groups - over 15 years and under 15 years, with prizes of £5. 5. 0., £3. 3. 0., and £1. 1. 0., in the first group and £3. 3. 0., £2. 2. 0., and £1. 1. 0., in the second.

The question of the publication of a list of members of the Society was raised and after some discussion was left over for the next Council Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

T. W. Russo,
Hon. Secretary. (acting)

