

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 27th July 1960 at 8.00 p.m.

Mr P. Smits presided. The attendance was good.

An apology for absence had been received from Dr. Evans.

The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 22nd July 1959 were read and confirmed.

To mark the completion of twenty-five years as Honorary Secretary of the Society, the Honorary Secretary, Mr. A. Benzie, was presented with a cheque by the President, Mr. Smits. The Honorary Secretary replied thanking members for the gift.

The Gill Medal which had been awarded to Dr. W. A. van den Bos by the Council of the Society, was presented by Mr. Smits, with the Citation:

"For outstanding contributions to double star astronomy, a field in which he has been for many years the acknowledged authority. As a visual observer his output has been approached by few, as regards both quantity and quality, and exceeded by none. Throughout his career he has applied his great analytical skill and critical insight to the problems of binary star orbit computation, and the methods and procedures he originated have already become almost standard practice. In addition he has found time for the prodigious task of compiling a complete catalogue of observations of Southern double stars, all the entries in which he himself checked from the original publications."

Dr. van den Bos in replying to Mr. Smits, said that Dr. Finsen was continuing to observe double stars at Johannesburg, using the eye-end interferometer method invented by himself. The observations could be more easily made with a large reflecting telescope such as the 78-inch disc at present in England awaiting shipment to South Africa, should the Union Government decide to proceed with the installation of the instrument.

Members present gave Dr. van den Bos an ovation at the conclusion of his reply.

The Annual Report of Council was read by the Hon. Secretary and adopted.

The Financial Statement, presented and read by Mr. Orpen, was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hurley, seconded by Mr. Meadows, and read as follows:

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1960

<u>Expenditure</u>			<u>Receipts</u>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope for year April 1959 to March 1960	364.	11. 4.	Credit Balance, 1/7/1959	137.	2. 3.
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A. and of Handbook	244.	10. 4.	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
Wrapping and despatch of M.N.A.S.S.A., Handbook and Sky and Telescope	6.	10. 0.	Arrears	10.	10. 0.
Postage on M.N.A.S.S.A., Handbook and "Sky and Telescope"	65.	15. 0.	Current	567.	18. 0.
Library cupboard and expenses, and binding Star Charts	25.	1. 2.	Advance	42.	0. 0.
Nova Search Maps	6.	0. 0.		620.	8. 0.
Stationery	4.	4. 0.	Entrance Fees	38.	17. 0.
Postage, other than above	9.	13. 4.	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	1.	14. 0.
Addressograph plates	2.	15. 8.	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	28.	10. 0.
Essay Competition Prizes	15.	15. 0.	Sale of Handbooks	2.	8. 0.
Legal Expenses in respect of Natal Centre	3.	3. 0.	Sale of copies of "A Universal Sundial"	-	7. 0.
Treath, Late H. C. Davies	2.	2. 0.	Sale of copy of "Sir John Herschel at the Cape"	-	6. 6.
Refund of subscription overpaid	1.	1. 0.	Advertising Revenue, M.N.A.S.S.A.	2.	10. 0.
Investment of Forbes Bequest in building society 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % shares	100.	0. 0.	A. F. I. Forbes Bequest	100.	0. 0.
Bank Charges	9.	11. 0.	Other Donations	1.	11. 0.
Credit Balance, 30/6/1960	80.	6. 0.	Interest on Fixed Deposit	5.	12. 9.
			Commission on Cheques	1.	12. 4.
	<u>£ 940.</u>	<u>18. 10.</u>		<u>£ 940.</u>	<u>18. 10.</u>

It should be noted that, in addition to the credit balance shown, there is an amount of £ 125. 0. 0. held on Fixed Deposit by the Standard Bank, A.B.C. Branch, Cape Town, and that the Forbes Bequest of £ 100. 0. 0. has been invested in building society shares at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.

Garrett Orpen  
Hon. Treasurer

W. Shirach and R. J. Johnston  
Hon. Auditors

The Variable Star Report, presented by Mr. de Kock, was read by the Hon. Secretary. Of a total of 7,800 observations, 5,800 had been made by Mr. de Kock.

The Secretary and Treasurers' Report of the Natal Centre, presented by Mr. Burns, was read by Mr. Krumm.

Dr. Cousins read the Annual Report of the Bloemfontein Centre.

The Report of the Nova Search Section presented by Mr. Tuffin was read by the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Lake read the Report of the Library Committee.

Mr. Loon, Chairman of the Cape Centre's Telescope-making Section, asked members interested in this Section, to contact him.

Mr. Smits announced the Essay Competition results, and prizes were awarded to the following entrants:

1st Prize ( 5 guineas ) David Cole

2nd Prize ( 3 guineas ) P. Knox-Shaw

Two 3rd Prizes ( 1 guinea each ) P. Solomon, G. Rosenthal

Under 15 years: *G.D. Sack*, of Durban Preparatory School, 1st Prize ( 3 guineas )

*Gerald D. Sack*

The Chairman announced that as only sufficient nominations to fill the offices had been received, the following were declared elected:

President : Professor G. C. Cillie, who was invited by Mr. Smits to take the Chair.

Vice-Presidents : Messrs P. Smits, G. B. Anderson, M. D. Overbeek

Hon. Secretary : Mr. A. Menzies

Hon. Treasurer : Mr. G. Orpen

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

Hon Auditors : Messrs Johnstone and Raphaely

Hon. Librarian : Mr. R. Lake

Professor Cillie thanked Mr. Smits for the work done by him during the year as President, and invited him to deliver the presidential Address.

Mr. Smits spoke on the history of the Astronomical Society and gave a description of work done by the observing and computing Sections of the Society, and of books and articles published.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Smits, moved by Mr. Krumm, was passed with acclamation by the meeting, which ended at 10.30 p.m.

*P. Smits*

A. Menzies  
Hon. Secretary