

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Tuesday 28th August 1962 at 8.00 p.m.

Apologies for absence had been received from Drs. Stoy, Evans, Fuhr, and from Mr. Russo.

Present: Mr. Smits (in the Chair), Dr. Cousins, Messrs. Churms, Bentley, Krumm, Raphaely, Bondietti, Orpen, Meadows and the Hon. Secretary.

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 18th June 1962 were read and confirmed.

The Financial Statement, presented and read by Mr. Orpen, was as follows:

Financial Statement as on 28th August, 1962

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope" for period April to June 1962	191 63	Credit Balance, 1/7/62	187 98
Cost of production of MNASSA for July and August 1962	77 51	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Postage on MNASSA and "Sky and Telescope" for July and August 1962	24 00	Arrears 12 10	
Stationery	11 55	Current 558 40	
Postage, other than above	2 41	Advance <u>7 50</u>	578 00
Addressograph plates		Entrance Fees	5 00
Purchase of Library Book to replace one sold for R5	4 66	Sale of MNASSA	18 61
Essay Competition Prizes	22 00	Sale of Back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	3 90
Bank Charges	0 14	Sale of Handbooks	0 70
Credit Balance at 28/8/62	461 76	Donations	1 20
	<u>R 796 56</u>	Commission on Cheques	1 17
			<u>R 796 56</u>

Garrett Orpen
Hon. Treasurer.

The Financial Statement was adopted.

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

Mr. D. A. L. Falck, 22 Thistle Street, Fernwood Estate, Newlands, Cape.
Mr. C. J. R. Francis, 12 Kelvin Road, Bramley, Johannesburg.
Mr. E. F. von Maltitz, 51 Eighth Street, Linden, Johannesburg.
Mr. W. H. Wood, P.O. Box 1226, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

The following was elected, subject to his name appearing in the Monthly Notes and no objection being received within one month:

Mr. L. E. Posniak, 11 Dennekamp, Salisbury Road, Wynberg, Cape.

The election as Associates was confirmed of the following:

Mrs. E. S. von Maltitz, 51 Eighth Street, Linden, Johannesburg.
Mr. N. O. Neale, "Dalsersf", Hardwick Road, Newlands, Cape.

The following Alternates were appointed, subject to the consent of their Principals.

Mr. Bondietti	for	Dr. Wesselink
Mr. Krumm	"	Mr. Morrisby ✓
Mr. Russo	"	Dr. Thackeray
Mr. Raphaely	"	The Port Elizabeth representative
Dr. Fuhr	"	The Transvaal representative
Dr. Cousins	"	The Bloemfontein representative
Mr. Meadows	"	The Natal Centre representative

It was decided to publish the names of Alternates in MNASSA and the Handbook.

The following letter was received from the Director of the Republic Observatory:

The Hon. Secretary,
Astronomical Society of Southern Africa,
c/o The Royal Observatory,
Observatory,
Cape Province.

Dear Mr. Menzies,

As the Republic Observatory was not invited to take part in the recent symposium on "Astronomy in South Africa" it was not afforded an opportunity of outlining its own contributions to astronomy or of expressing its views on the desirability, or otherwise, of organizing astronomical activities in South Africa.

There is therefore a likelihood that it will be assumed that we agree unreservedly with the statements and opinions expressed at the symposium. I feel, therefore, that I have no option but to make it known that this is far from being the case.

I have no wish to attempt a catalogue of all our points of disagreement, but confine myself, for the present, to the resolution endorsed at the General Meeting of the S. A. Association for the Advancement of Science calling for "a fully representative conference to formulate a plan for the rational development of Astronomy in South Africa".

It is not clear to us what the terms of reference of the proposed conference would be, nor what is meant by the phrase "rational development". But what is clear to us is that the sponsors of the resolution believe that there are grounds for criticism of South Africa's contribution to Astronomy of a sufficiently serious and urgent nature to justify their ventilation at a formal conference, with all the publicity and controversy this would entail.

We do not share this opinion.

Firstly, because we believe that South Africa has no reason to be ashamed of the support, both material and moral, which she has freely extended over the years to overseas-controlled observatories established in the Republic.

Secondly, because the question of the future development of the Republic Observatory is a purely domestic matter. The necessity of such development is already sufficiently obvious and is indeed fully realised by the Department of Education, Arts and Science. It will require the expenditure of a very considerable sum of money and must therefore await the day when it can be afforded. All that we ask at present is that no one will contest our claim, as the only wholly South African observatory, to the first claim on any funds that may become available from Government sources.

I would be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the notice of the Members of your Council, Principals as well as Alternates.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. Finsen.

Letters expressing agreement with the contents of the above letter, were received from Messrs. Hers, Bruwer, and Mrs. Canavesio.

The following letter was sent in reply to Dr. Finsen's:

The Director,
Republic Observatory.

Dear Dr. Finsen,

Your letter of the 13th August 1962 was read at last night's Council Meeting, and will be included in the Minutes of the meeting.

Copies will be sent to all Council Members and their Alternates.

While the idea of holding an Astronomical Symposium during the meetings of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, held in Cape Town during July, was supported by the Council of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa, the Symposium was organised by and held under the auspices of Section A of the S2A3, and the Council considers that your letter should have been addressed to the Secretary of that body,

Yours sincerely,

A. Menzies

Hon. Secretary.

Council agreed with the Hon. Secretary's reply to the Director of the Nova Search Section, Rev. Dawson, who required a supply of observation cards and star charts for the Section.

The Hon. Secretary had asked Mr. Dawson to order the cards and charts, and send the account to the Society for settlement.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

A. Menzies
5/11/1962

A. Menzies,
Hon. Secretary.

DE KLERK: MIXED SCIENCE BODIES SHOULD SPLIT

5/11/1962

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA, Monday.

THE Cabinet's decision was that there should be no mixed membership in scientific and professional organizations, and that where it existed separation should take place immediately, Mr. Jan de Klerk, Minister of Education, Arts and Science, told the National Conference of Library Authorities to-day.

UN NOT UP

Where non-European membership was small, in any particular region, it should be regarded over a wider area, he said.

This was the same policy as recently announced to the controlling bodies of sports associations.

Non-European associations should be linked with national bodies by affiliation, one or two representatives attending periodic and defined executive meetings called by the national associations of European organizations.

CONTACT CHANNELS

'Channels of contact can be established by these means, not only for the exchange of ideas, but also to the end that knowledge crystallized at congresses and conferences attended by Europeans may be conveyed to the non-Europeans,' said the Minister.

'We must keep abreast of the phenomenal — or perhaps I should say fantastic — development of the Western world through thorough and careful planning of the literature brought into the country.

'Publications are costly and there are limits to the country's financial and other resources,' he said.

ONLY THE BEST

It was essential to ensure that all the best—but only the best—intellectual matter of the Western world was at the country's disposal.

The Minister congratulated the South African Library Association on holding no inter-racial meetings since 1948, thus conforming to State policy.