

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report of the Council for the Session 1962 - 63

Six Council meetings were held during the year. Thirty-four new Members, 1 Student member, and 5 Associates were elected.

The total number of ordinary Members in good standing is now 291, with 48 Associates and 9 Honorary Members.

Mr. W. Andrews, a former Librarian of the Society, member of Council and Society member for many years, died during the year. Council records its appreciation of the work done for the Society in past years by Mr. Andrew.

Members were privileged to hear lectures during the year by several distinguished visitors, including the Astronomer Royal, Sir Richard van der Riet Woolley.

By invitation of the Royal Society, members heard talks by Professors Blackwell and MacGraw.

The regular distribution of MNASSA and of "Sky and Telescope" has been continued and a Handbook issued for 1963.

The Council wishes to record its appreciation of the work done by the Editorial Board, and by Mr. Krumm, the business manager of MNASSA.

A booklet on the Annular Eclipse of the Sun on 25 January 1963, compiled under the direction of Dr. Evans by Messrs. G. R. Atkins, J. Simenhoff, I. Weinberg and J. D. Laing, found a ready sale and helped the Society financially.

Council records its thanks for the gift from the Royal Society of a reprint from the "Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society". This was the memoir of the late Sir Harold Spencer Jones, F.R.S., a Past President of this Society, and, at the time of his death, an Honorary Member.

The thanks of Council are due to Mr. D. G. McIntyre, one of two surviving Foundation Members of the Society, for the gift of a 3-inch Cooke refractor together with tripod and eye-pieces.

The Gill Medal is to be awarded to Dr. A. W. J. Cousins, with the Citation:

"In recognition of his services in the establishment of an accurate system of Photometry in the Southern Hemisphere, and of the high quality of the photometric observations of variable and other stars, made when he was still an amateur."

Council expresses its thanks to the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for their services during the past year.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE. 1963.

<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	R. c.	<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope for period April 1962 to March 1963	756-77	Credit Balance 1/7/1962.	187-98
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A. for the period July 1962 to May 1963 and of Handbook and Solar Eclipse Booklets	510-51	<u>Subscriptions.</u>	
Postage on M.N.A.S.S.A. and "Sky & Telescope" for period July 1962 to May 1963 and on Handbook	170-79	Arrears. 23-80	
Stationery	37-28	Current 1301-70	
Postage, other than above	21-43	Advance <u>120-00</u>	1445-50
Addressograph Plates	7-18	Entrance Fees.	87-50
Purchase of Library Book to replace one sold for R5-00	4-66	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	148-19
Essay Competition Prizes	22-00	Sale of Handbooks	6-40
Insurance Premium on Society's Property	0-80	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky & Telescope"	25-55
Bank Charges	19-49	Sale of Eclipse Booklets	58-35
Credit Balance at 30/6/1963.	427-03	Sale of copy of "A Universal Sundial"	0-25
		Donations	3-20
		Interest on Building Society Shares	12-00
		Commission on Cheques	3-02
	<u>R1977-94</u>		<u>R1977-94</u>

Unfortunately it has not been possible to include the cost of production of the end of June issue in the above statement, and if this had been done the balance would have been reduced by R20 to R30. It will, however, be seen that, even allowing for this, the balance has increased by at least R200 and is now more than sufficient to cover the cost of "Sky & Telescope" for the period April to June 1963, depreciation on assets, etc. The assets include a duplicator, an epidiascope, screens and books and stationery, which are in the kind custody of Her Majesty's Astronomer and are insured by the Society for R600.

The Forbes Bequest of R200 is invested in Building Society Shares on which the current interest rate is 5½ p.a.

*Sarrett Orbes*  
Hon. Treasurer.

*W. A. Bentley*  
Hon. Auditors

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of the A - G - M held on 24 July 1963

at 8 p.m. at the Royal Observatory

Mr. P. Smits presided. There were 23 persons present, a poor attendance probably due to the inclement weather. Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Cousins, Dr. Evans, Messrs Hurly, Churms, Raphaely, Menzies and Atkins.

Minutes of the A.G.M. held 25 July 1962 were read and confirmed.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 30 June 1963 was presented by Mr. Orpen, to the meeting as follows:

Financial Statement for the year ended 30th June 1963

Expenditure	R.	c.	Receipts	R.	c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope" for period April 1962 to March 1963	756	77	Credit Balance 1/7/62	187	98
Cost of production of MNASSA for the period July 1962 to May 1963 and of Handbook and Solar Eclipse Booklets	510	51	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
Postage on MNASSA and "Sky and Telescope" for period July 1962 to May 1963 and on Handbook	170	79	Arrears	23	80
Stationery	37	28	Current	1301	70
Postage, other than above	21	43	Advance	120	00
Addressograph Plates	7	18	Entrance Fees		87 50
Purchase of Library Book to replace one sold for R5 00	4	66	Sale of MNASSA		148 19
Essay Competition Prizes	22	00	Sale of Handbooks		6 40
Insurance Premium on Society's Property		80	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"		25 55
Bank Charges	19	49	Sale of Eclipse Booklets		58 35
Credit Balance at 30/6/63	427	03	Sale of copy of "A Universal Sundial"		0 25
			Donations		3 20
			Interest on Building Society Shares		12 00
			Commission on Cheques		3 02
	R 1977	94		R 1977	94

Unfortunately it has not been possible to include the cost of production of the end of June issue of MNASSA in the above statement, and if this had been done the balance would have been reduced by R20 to R30. It will, however, be seen that, even allowing for this, the balance has increased by at least R200 and is now more than sufficient to cover the cost of "Sky and Telescope" for the period April to June 1963, depreciation on assets, etc.. The assets include a duplicator, an epidiascope, screen, and books and stationery, which are in the kind custody of Her Majesty's Astronomer and are insured by the Society for R600.

The Forbes Bequest of R200 is invested in Building Society Shares on which the current interest rate is  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$  p.a.

Garrett Orpen

Hon. Treasurer

Hon. Auditors W. K. Bentley and M. Raphaely

This statement was adopted on the motion of Mr. Wellgate, seconded by Mr. Simenhoff. Tribute was paid by the Chairman to the valuable services rendered by Mr. Orpen, the Treasurer, and the assistance given by the two Auditors, Mr. Raphaely and Mr. Bentley. A very good financial position <sup>had been</sup> ~~was~~ disclosed.

Prize winners in the Forbes Essay Competition were announced by Mr. Meadows, one of the adjudicators; as follows:

Senior section ( over 15 years of age )

1st Prize of R10 to F. A. Shillington of Graeme College,  
Grahamstown.

2nd Prize of R5 to A. Steyn of Wynberg Boys' High School,  
Wynberg.

Junior section ( under 15 years of age )

2nd Prize of R4 to D. Clarke of Pinelands Primary School,  
Pinelands.

Mr. Meadows stated that only four entries had been received, less than in previous years, which was regrettable. Mr. Meadows and his co-adjudicator, Prof. Cillie were thanked by Mr. Smits for judging the essays.

Mr. Smits then read the Annual Report of Council. Tribute was paid to the many people who contributed towards a very successful year and to Dr. Stoy for his guidance, help and support. The Gill Medal was awarded to Dr. A. W. J. Cousins, in recognition of his services in the establishment of an accurate system of Photometry in the Southern

Hemisphere, and of the high quality of the photometric observations of variable and other stars, made when he was still an amateur.

Unfortunately Dr. Cousins was not present, owing to illness, and the actual presentation had to be postponed for a future date.

In amplification of the Citation, Dr. Stoy spoke of the valuable work done by Dr. Cousins while an amateur astronomer and then subsequently when he joined the ranks of the Professionals, work which had received world-wide recognition.

Reports of the Bloemfontein and Transvaal Centres were read as well as reports of the Variable Star Section, Comet and Meteor Section and Nova Search Section. These reports showed considerable activity at the Centres and in the various sections concerned.

Only sufficient nominations to fill the offices had been received, and the following were therefore declared elected:

President	:	Mr. A. G. F. Morrisby
Vice-Presidents	:	Dr. Wesselink, Messrs Lagerweij and Bruwer
Hon. Secretary	:	Mr. Menzies
Hon. Treasurer	:	Mr. Orpen
Members of Council	:	Dr. Stoy, Evans and Thackeray, and Mr. Smits

Members representing individual centres would be additional to the above.

Mr. Lagerweij, one of the Vice-Presidents, then took the Chair, vacated by Mr. Smits.

The Presidential Address, prepared by the retiring President, Dr. Wesselink, was then read by Mr. Smits. The subject chosen was "Modern Views of Cepheid Variables". Dr. Wesselink was particularly gifted to speak on this aspect of Astronomy, with which he is closely associated. Dr. Stoy, in moving a formal vote of thanks, mentioned the pleasure he had enjoyed in hearing this address, and paid tribute to the evident care in preparation, and the valuable work done by Dr. Wesselink in this regard.

Mr. Smits announced to the Meeting that a gift of a small but effective Planatarium Projector had been received from Mr. Bertish. This projector was suitable for a 10-~~ft~~<sup>ft</sup> dome. It was decided that custody should be in the hands of the Telescope Makers Section, who had plans in hand for erecting a dome. Mr. Bondietto, the head of the Section, was asked to thank the donor. The Auditors were asked to go into the question of additional insurance covering this new asset of the Society.

Before closing at 9.30 p.m. Mr. Lagerweij thanked Dr. Stoy for the use of his office as a venue for the meeting.

*Handwritten:*  
22/1/1964