

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Monday 30th January 1967 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Atkins (in the Chair), Drs. Evans, Stoy and Wild. Messrs Bentley, Bondiotti, Churms, Hurly, Lagerweij, Orpen, Russo and Weinberg.

Mr. Atkins welcomed Mr. Hurly, who had been asked to attend in order to advise Council on a particular item on the Agenda i.e. the proposal to form a satellite tracking section. Also Mr. Lagerweij on his first attendance after his recent illness.

Apologies: Dr. Cousins, Dr. Fuhr and Mr. Menzies.

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held 14th November 1966 were read and confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes

- a) The Secretary intimated that the Registrar of Companies had no information of the registration of the Durban Section as an Association.
- b) The purchase of the lens had not yet been made. Mr. Orpen said that steps would be taken to obtain the necessary import permit.
- c) A letter received from Dr. Sponder, stating that he was unable to act as an Alternate on Council was then read. Mr. Hurly then agreed to act for Dr. Thackeray.
- d) Although there was a large number of members suspended owing to non-payment of subscriptions, it was decided that the number of copies of "Sky and Telescope" being ordered was for the time being to remain at 310, the gross membership being 303.
- e) In Dr. Fuhr's absence, Dr. Wild reported on the Essay Competition. The subject chosen by the sub-committee was "The Milky Way". The question of advertising was then discussed. The Secretary here intimated that the Department of Education (Cape) had been asked to advise school principals through the Educational Gazette. The following were additional means of publicising advocated:
 - (a) Co-operation of individual Centres to be sought
 - (b) Inclusion in S2A3 newsletter
 - (c) Dr. Evans to contact the Press.

Correspondence

A circular letter received from the I.A.U. by the S.A. C.S.I.R. regarding the forthcoming General Assembly to be held in Prague, and passed to Mr. Lagerweij for information, was considered. However the contents could well fall into the scope of the informal meeting of the S.A. National Committee for Astronomy to be held on the 9th February. As Mr. Atkins would be attending as the Society's representative the matter could be dealt with by him personally.

In this latter connection correspondence with the S.A. C.S.I.R. was read, in which the Society was invited to send a representative to attend an informal meeting to consider:

- (i) ways and means of establishing co-operation between those participating in astronomical research in South Africa, and
- (ii) the possibility of establishing a representative South African National Committee for astronomy which would have the task of promoting this co-operation and of placing it on a firm basis.

This would be held at the Republic Observatory in Johannesburg. The following points were raised as possible topics for discussion at the meeting:

- (a) New members for the I.A.U.
- (b) The organization of periodic meetings of astronomers from all over the country
- (c) Guidance for Amateurs so that they could render effective assistance to the Professionals
- (d) Possible assistance for MNASSA in the way of finance and contributions.

Proposal for the formation of a Satellite Tracking Section:

The letter received from Mr. Roberts of Durban was considered. Mr. Hurly (of the local Moonwatch team) was able to give an inside picture of the organization, duties and requirements of observing work of this nature.

After some lengthy discussion, it was decided that Mr. Hurly, on behalf of Council, should communicate with Mr. Roberts in order to obtain more details on certain aspects of his proposals before the next Council meeting.

A letter received from the Joint Secretary, The Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of S.A., P. O. Box 5907, Johannesburg was read. The Society was invited to send a representative to an exploratory meeting on 24th February in Johannesburg to consider the establishment of a "Professional Scientists' Joint Council". The Council gave covering approval for the Secretary's action in asking Dr. Thackeray of Pretoria to attend as the Society's representative.

A letter had been received from the Pretoria Centre, intimating that Mr. J. C. Bennett had taken over from Mr. S. C. Venter as representative on Council. News of the death of Mr. Henry Welsh on the 16th January was also conveyed in this communication. Mr. Welsh had been an active and well known member of the Society, R.A.S. and the B.A.A. and lately of the Pretoria Centre. It was noted that a suitable obituary for publication in MNASSA would be forthcoming.

New Members

The following whose names had appeared in MNASSA were declared elected:

Mr. J. J. Hall, P. O. Box 2195, Bulawayo, Rhodesia

Mr. A. J. Stanyer, Private Bag 5017, Walvis Bay, S.W.A.

Mr. T. Boyle, 6 Connemara Court, Sophia Street, Gardens, Cape Town.

The following was elected subject to the usual proviso of publication in MNASSA and no objection being received:

Mr. A. C. v. d. Merwe, P. O. Box 63, Marksdrift, Douglas, Cape.

The election of the following Associates was noted:

Mr. J. K. Lister, 7 Rose-Etta Court, Rose-Etta St., West End, Pretoria.

Mr. P. D. Clough, Eaton Hall Hotel, Visagie Street, Pretoria.

Mr. J. G. Fletcher, 368 Fontaine Ave., Lyttleton, Tvl.

Finance

The following financial statement was presented by Mr. Orpen:

Financial Statement as on 30th January, 1967

Expenditure		Receipts	
	R. c.		R. c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope" for period July to December 1966	402 73	Credit Balance 1/7/66	948 68
Cost of production of MNASSA for period July to December 1966 and of Handbook	400 41	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Postage on MNASSA and "Sky and Telescope" for above period and on Handbook	77 10	Arrears	3 00
Stationery	144 83	Current	1195 00
Postage, other than above	15 35	Advance	15 50
Essay Competition Prizes	16 00	Entrance Fees	35 00
Addressograph Plates	5 10	Sale of MNASSA	81 07
Binding "Sky and Telescope" and B.A.A. Journals	16 25	Sale of Handbooks	5 15
Transferred to Savings Account at ABC Bank	1000 00	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	5 10
Bank Charges	7 60	Donations	2 00
Credit Balance 30/1/66	214 37	Interest on Building Society Shares	6 17
		Commission on Cheques	3 07
	R 2299 74		R 2299 74

In addition to the above balance in the current account, there is now an amount of R1000 00 in a savings bank account.

G. Orpen,

Hon. Treasurer.

Any Further Business

The Secretary said that with reference to the McIntyre Bequest, he had ascertained by telephone from Syfrets Trust that interest on the R1200 share of the bond would be forthcoming in February and then at 6 monthly intervals thereafter. About R100 - R150, the cash balance of the bequest would be distributed in 2-3 months time.

It was approved to spend approximately R9 on binding of books for the Library.

The meeting then closed at 10.45 p.m.



T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary.