

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Monday June 19th at 8.00 p.m.

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

Apologies for absence received from Mr. Lagerweij and Dr. Thackeray.

Minutes of Council Meeting held 8th May 1967 were read and after one amendment, confirmed. The amendment was in regard to the McIntyre Bequest, the subject suggested for research and/or papers published being the History of Astronomy.

Matters Arising

S.A. National Committee on Astronomy The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February were read. A subsequent letter received from the President of the S.A. C.S.I.R. had indicated approval of the formation of this Committee and had formally invited the President of the Astronomical Society to serve as an ex officio member. This had been accepted by Mr. Atkins.

Professional Scientists Joint Council The Draft Constitution had been received and Dr. Evans was asked to study its provisions, and pass any comments to the Hon. Secretary for transmission to the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of S.A. Liaison Committee. It was noted that Dr. Thackeray had kindly agreed to attend the further meeting to be held on 11th August. Dr. Stoy reported that approximately 50 of the Society's members could be regarded as professional scientists.

McIntyre Award Dr. Evans read the draft conditions governing this award, as formulated by the sub-committee appointed for the purpose. Council accepted these conditions, and formally resolved "to establish a prize to be known as the McIntyre Award, derived from the interest on the Bequest made to the Society by the late Donald G. McIntyre of Cape Town, some-time President of the Society". The Resolution and Conditions are to be published in MNASSA and to form an appendix to the Constitution of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa. Mr. Orpen's suggestion that the small residue of the Estate totalling R36.09 be added to the first payment of Interest already received, was accepted. See 26, No 3, 1967.

Amendment to the Constitution The Secretary reported 97 votes in favour, 2 against with 3 spoilt papers.

The following New Members were elected, subject to the usual proviso of publication of their names in MNASSA:

- Mr. P. Hancock, P. O. Box 276, Maseru, Lesotho
- Mr. R. B. Mattheus, 21 Bothma Road, Valhalla, Pretoria
- Mr. P. A. Newton, 27 Golden Stairs Road, Salisbury N17, Rhodesia
- Mr. G. Ravenscroft, 16 Yarrow Road, Milnerton, Cape
- Mr. A. W. E. Schultz, 3 Glennton Court, King Edward Road, Bloemfontein, O.F.S

Election of the following Associates was noted:

- Mr. R. F. Cullingworth, 87 Sinovich Road, Sinoville, Pretoria
- Mr. A. Delen, 383 Celliers Avenue, Lyttelton, Tvl.
- Mr. K. Kaye, 15a Sir George Grey Street, Gardens, Cape Town

The Hon. Treasurer presented the following Financial Statement:

Financial Statement as on June 19th, 1967

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for period July 1966 to March 1967	603 59	Credit Balance, 1/7/1967	948 68
Cost of production of MNASSA for period July 1966 to May 1967 and of Handbook	682 11	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Postage on MNASSA and "Sky & Telescope" for above period and on Handbook	142 10	Arrears	3 00
Stationery	144 33	Current	1305 00
Postage, other than above	25 08	Advance	70 50
Essay Competition Prizes	16 00	Entrance Fees	67 50
Addressograph Plates	7 17	Sale of MNASSA	311 81
Binding "Sky & Telescope" and B.A.A. Journals	16 25	Sale of Handbooks	9 30
Purchase of object glass, shipping and insurance	31 53	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky & Telescope"	7 90
Fire Insurance Premium	0 80	Donations	2 00
Transferred to Savings Account at A.B.C. Bank	1000 00	<u>McIntyre Bequest</u>	
Bank Charges	16 73	Balance of Capital	36 09
Credit Balance 19/5/67	361 20	Interest to February '67	68 75
	<u>R 3046 89</u>	Interest on Building Society Shares	12 67
		Re-transferred ex Savings Bank Account	200 00
		Commission on Cheques	3 69
			<u>R 3046 89</u>

In addition to the above balance in the current account, there is an amount of R800-00 (plus interest on R1000-00 from November 1966 to March 1967) in a savings bank account.

Garrett Orpen,
Hon. Treasurer.

Forbes Essay Competition Twenty-two entries had been received. Dr. Wild and Mr. Meadows were appointed Adjudicators.

Members of Council 1967/1968 Session The Hon. Secretary reported receipt of the following nominations:

President	:	Mr. J. Hers
Vice-Presidents	:	Mr. G. R. Atkins Mr. J. C. Bennett Dr. D. S. Evans Mr. C. R. Jacobs Mr. G. F. G. Knipe
Hon. Secretary	:	Mr. T. W. Russo
Hon. Treasurer	:	Mr. G. Orpen
Members of Council	:	Dr. R. H. Stoy Dr. A. D. Thackeray Mr. T. E. Geary Dr. A. W. J. Cousins Dr. P. A. T. Wild

As only three Vice-Presidents were required and four ordinary Members of Council a postal ballot was necessary and the date of the return of the ballot papers was fixed for 19th July 1967. Mr. J. Lourens and Mr. J. Laing of the Royal Observatory staff were suggested as possible Scrutineers.

Mr. Molyneux and Mr. Raphaely were appointed Auditors.

A draft report of Council for the session now ending was considered and after amendment accepted.

A circular communication received from Ulf Johansson and Patrick Moore, concerning a suggestion to form an international organization for amateur astronomers on the lines of the I.A.U. was considered. While Council agreed in principle to the proposals, it was felt that financial considerations would prevent the Society's participation in any such move. There was contact between various amateur organizations through their journals, and the general opinion was that Council should wait on further developments before committing itself in this matter. The Secretary would formulate a reply on these lines.

Gill Medal An Award of the Gill Medal was decided upon.

Satellite Tracking Section Mr. Hurly read Mr. Roberts' reply to his letter, mentioned in the Minutes of the previous meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr. Hurly should write to Mr. Roberts asking him to compile a short contribution to MNASSA, giving in brief his proposals, in order to ascertain what support would be forthcoming from members.

Before the meeting closed at 10.35 p.m. opportunity was taken to wish Mr. A. Menzies a long and happy retirement from his duties at the Royal Observatory, and to express Council's thanks for his services to the Society over so many years.

T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary.

J. Hurly
32/10/67.