

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 26th July, 1967 at 8.00 p.m.

Mr. G. R. Atkins presided - There were about 30 people present.

Apologies for absence: Dr. Wild, Mr. Bentley, Mr. Bondietti and Mr. Hirschberg. In regard to Mr. Hirschberg who is in Hospital, the Secretary was asked to convey the Society's good wishes to him.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 27th July 1966 were read and confirmed. There were no matters arising.

The Financial Statement, as follows, was read by Mr. Orpen, the Hon. Treasurer, and adopted on the motion of Mr. Hurly seconded by Mr. Simenhoff.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1967

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope" for the year	802 86	Credit Balance 1/7/1966	948 68
Cost of production of MNASSA for the year and of Handbook for 1967	713 61	Subscriptions	
Postage on "Sky and Telescope", MNASSA and Handbook	156 10	Arrears 3 00	
Stationery, other than that used for production of MNASSA and Handbook, and equipment	145 36	Current 1330 00	
Postage, other than above	25 25	Advance 105 50	1438 50
Essay Competition Prizes	16 00	Entrance Fees	67 50
Addressograph Plates	7 17	Sale of MNASSA	319 81
Binding "Sky and Telescope", MNASSA and BAA Journals	26 75	Sale of Handbooks	9 30
Purchase of Object Glass, shipping and insurance	31 53	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	7 90
Fire Insurance Premium	0 80	Donations	2 00
Transferred to Savings Bank Account 25/11/1966	1000 00	McIntyre Bequest	
Bank Charges	27 86	Interest on Capital to February 1967	68 75
Credit Balance at 30/6/67	161 75	Balance of Capital	36 09
	R 3115 04	Interest on Building Society Shares	12 67
		Retransferred ex Savings Bank Account 20/4/1967	200 00
		Commission on Cheques	3 84
			R 3115 04

In addition to the above balance in the current account, there is an amount of R825 78 ( R800 00, plus interest amounting to R25 78 ) in a Savings Bank Account at the Heerrengracht Branch of the Standard Bank.

In terms of the resolution taken at the Council Meeting held on 19th June 1967 the interest on the bequest made to the Society by the late D. G. McIntyre, plus the balance of capital amounting to R36 09 ( the main amount of the bequest being the half-share in a mortgage bond ) is to be used to establish a prize to be known as the McIntyre Award. In terms of this, and treating the balance of capital and interest as having been placed in the Savings Bank account when received, the amount available for this award at 30th June 1967 was R108 13. In future Financial Statements the McIntyre Award account will be shown separately from the main account.

The Society also stands possessed of four shares in the S. A. Permanent Building Society to a total value of R200 00, per Certificate C.15778, dated 18/5/1960, and equipment and apparatus as per H. M. Astronmer's certificate ( attached to original hereof ), insured against fire under Policy 134760, dated 27/2/1962, in the amount of R600 00, with the Southern Insurance Society.

Garrett Orpen

M. Raphaely and H. B. Molyneux  
Hon. Auditors

Hon. Secretary

Dr. Evans paid tribute to the valuable work done by Mr. Orpen in looking after the Society's accounts so efficiently and for the time he devoted to the Society's affairs.

Mr. Atkins then read the Annual Report of Council, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

The report from the Director of the Variable Star Section showed the number of observations made during the year as 5282, of which Mr. R. P. de Kock was responsible for 5168.

The following reports were also read:

- (a) The Annual Report of the Bloemfontein Centre which in addition to the record of meetings held throughout the year contained an account of an instructive and enjoyable visit to the Transvaal Centre.
- (b) The Annual Report of the Cape Centre. It was noted that the Construction Work on the dome was almost complete and the mirror was now at the figuring stage.
- (c) A report by the Business Manager of MNASSA, in which it was stated that 300 copies were currently being sent to members of the Society, and a further 160 to recipients, the bulk of whom were overseas Scientific Institutions.

The Results of the Forbes Essay Competition were as follows:

Senior Section

1st Prize (R10)	D. Holderness - Arundel School, Salisbury, Rhodesia
2nd Prizes (R5 each)	H. Loubser - Hoërskool, La Rochelle, Paarl, Cape L. Hoogenhout - St. Mary's Diocesan School, Pretoria, Tvl. J. Geldenhuys - Hoërskool, La Rochelle, Paarl, Cape.
3rd Prizes (R2 each)	Y. Geldenhuys - Hoërskool, Swellendam, Cape. M. Pacifico - Hoërskool, La Rochelle, Paarl, Cape.

Note: In view of the difficulty in differentiating between the essays qualifying for 2nd and 3rd places, additional prizes were awarded.

Junior Section

- 1st Prize  
(R6) D. P. Shillington - Greenside High School, Johannesburg, Tvl.
- 2nd Prize  
(R4) J. Winstanley - St. Stithians College, Randburg, Tvl.
- 3rd Prize  
(R2) B. Williams - St. Mary's Diocesan School, Pretoria, Tvl.

The Adjudicators, who were members of the teaching staffs at the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch, remarked:

"We find a most pleasing improvement in both the quantity and the quality of the entries for this year's competition; choosing the prize-winners has been a difficult task. We feel that the idea of choosing a fairly specific topic has contributed greatly to the success of the 1967 Competition. We were particularly pleased to note the considerable increase in the number of Afrikaans essays received.

It is hoped that next year's Competition will again draw entries from all parts of Southern Africa."

The result of the Ballot held in connection with Council's proposal to amend the first section of Article XI, paragraph 3 was 97 for and 2 against.

The Section in question now reads:

"Any member who fails to pay his annual subscription within three calendar months of the due date shall cease to receive publications until the subscription is paid, when all publications so withheld shall IF AVAILABLE be sent to him."

As stated in the Annual Report of Council the Gill Medal was awarded to Dr. W. S. Finsen.

New Council 1967/1968: The ballot held in this connection resulted in the following:

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

As Mr. Hers the new President was not in attendance, being resident in the Transvaal, Dr. Evans, as a Vice-President thereupon took the Chair.

He thanked the outgoing President Mr. Atkins for his services during his term of office. He then called upon him to deliver his Presidential Address, which was entitled "Astronomy and the Earth Sciences", and at its conclusion Dr. Evans expressed the appreciation of the Meeting for the very enjoyable, instructive and comprehensive talk given.

Further Business: Mr. Weinberg proposed and Mr. Atkins seconded a motion thanking the Hon. Secretary for work done during the year.

The Meeting then adjourned at 9.30 p.m. for Refreshments, kindly provided by the Cape Centre.

*J. Hers*

T. W. Russo,  
Hon. Secretary.

*T. W. Russo*

DISTRIBUTION

Principals

Alternates

Mr. J. Hers

Mr. G. R. Atkins

Mr. J. C. Bennett

Dr. David S. Evans

Mr. G. Orpen

Dr. A. W. J. Cousins

Mr. T. E. Geary

Dr. R. H. Stoy

Dr. A. D. Thackeray

Mr. N. Lincoln (Bloem)

Mr. W. Bell (Tvl)

Mrs. J. A. Sterling (Pta)

Mr. W. C. Bentley (Cape)

Mr. G. Roberts (Natal)

Mr. H. C. Lagerweij

Mr. I. Weinberg

Mr. R. F. Hurly

Mr. J. Churms

Dr. P. A. T. Wild

Mr. J. S. Bondietti

Dr. K. G. Fuhr

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report of Council for Session 1966/1967

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Five Council Meetings were held during the year. 30 new Members, 20 Associates and 1 Student Member were elected. Membership now totals 315 of whom however 22 have been suspended through non-payment of subscriptions. There are also 11 Honorary Members.

Receipt of news from Centres is always welcomed, and where of general interest it is published in the Notes. It is noted that a large proportion of the new Members and Associates has been recruited through the Transvaal and Pretoria Centres. The Society as a whole must benefit from the high level of interest in Astronomy maintained by and through individual Centres.

The regular distribution of MNASSA and of Sky and Telescope has been continued and a Handbook issued for 1967. Council wishes to record its appreciation of the work done by the Editorial Board, particularly by Dr. Stoy, and by Mr. Bentley, Business Manager of MNASSA. Thanks are due to contributors of articles to the Notes: however an increase in the number submitted would be welcome.

Council resolved to award the Gill Medal to Dr. W. S. Finsen for his distinguished contributions to double star astronomy and planetary photography. He has devoted a life-time to observations of double stars in the southern sky and to the determination of many sets of orbital elements. By his invention and use of the eyepiece interferometer he has notably extended the limits within which accurate observations of double stars are readily possible.

The subject chosen for the Forbes Essay Competition was "The Milky Way". Twenty-two entries were received, a marked increase over the disappointing number received last year. Thanks are due to members who have helped to publicise the competition, particularly to the Pretoria Centre Committee.

The Society's instruments are available for loan to suitably approved individuals or bodies on certain conditions. A new objective of  $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch aperture has been purchased for the Roberts portable telescope.

An informal meeting, attended by the President of the Society, Mr. G. R. Atkins, was held in Johannesburg on 9th February, under the auspices of the South African C.S.I.R. to establish a National Committee for Astronomy. This Committee has now been established with the following terms of reference:

- (a) to form a representative body which could speak authoritatively on behalf of astronomy in South Africa and which could initiate whatever action may be required for the advancement of its interests;
- (b) to promote astronomical activity in South Africa on a national basis;
- (c) to further co-operation amongst those actively participating in astronomical research in South Africa, and
- (d) to advise the President of the C.S.I.R. on matters relating to South African national membership of the International Astronomical Union (IAU) where such advice is requested.

and the President of the Society has been invited to serve as an ex officio member.

The Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa arranged an exploratory meeting in Johannesburg on 24th February, with a view to establishing a Professional Scientists Joint Council. Dr. Thackeray kindly represented the Society at this meeting. A further meeting is due to be held on 11th August.

As stated in the last report, the Society benefits from a Bequest from the McIntyre Estate. It has been resolved to establish from the interest on the legacy a prize to be known as the McIntyre Award. Conditions governing this award have been published in MNASSA and form an Appendix to the Society's Constitution.

The Treasurer's Report shows a satisfactory balance and Council's thanks are due to Mr. Orpen for his valuable work, now extending over a period of 17 years.

Thanks are due to H. M. Astronomer, Dr. R. H. Stoy for facilities afforded at the Royal Observatory.

Mr. Bondietti, the Librarian has continued the efficient management of the Library, and binding of books has been done in accordance with funds allocated for this purpose.

Council regrets to report the passing of Mr. Henry Welsh on the 16th January. He had been an active and well known member of the Society, the Royal Astronomical Society, the British Astronomical Association, and latterly a member of the Pretoria Centre.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1967.

<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	R. e.	<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	R. e.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for the year	802-86	Credit Balance 1/7/1966.	948-68
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A. for the year and of Handbook for 1967.	713-61	<u>Subscriptions.</u>	
Postage on "Sky & Telescope", M.N.A.S.S.A. and Handbook	156-10	Arrears.           3-00	
Stationery, other than that used for production of M.N.A.S.S.A. and Handbook, and equipment	145-36	Current.       1330-00	
Postage, other than above	25-25	Advance <u>105-50</u>	1438-50
Essay Competition Prizes	16-00	Entrance Fees.	67-50
Addressograph Plates	7-17	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	319-81
Binding "Sky & Telescope", M.N.A.S.S.A & B.A.A. Journals.	26-75	Sale of Handbooks	9-30
Purchase of Object Glass, shipping and insurance	31-53	Sale of back and extra nos. of "Sky & Telescope"	7-90
Fire Insurance Premium	0-80	Donations	2-00
Transferred to Savings Bank A/c. 25/11/1966	1000-00	<u>McIntyre Bequest</u>	
Bank Charges	27-86	Interest on Capital to February 1967	68-75
Credit Balance at 30/6/1967	161-75	Balance of Capital	36-09
	<u>R3115-04</u>	Interest on Building Society Shares	12-67
		Retransferred ex Savings Bank A/c. 20/4/1967	200-00 <del>300-00</del>
		Commission on Cheques	3-84
			<u>R3115-04</u>

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*Garrett Orpen*  
Hon. Treasurer.

Hen. Auditors.

*[Handwritten signatures]*