

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape on Monday February 5th at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Dr. Evans (in the Chair), Drs. Cousins, Stoy and Wild, Messrs. Bentley, Bondietti, Churms, Corben, Hurly, Lagerweij, Russo and Weinberg.

Apologies for absence received from Dr. Fuhr and Mr. Atkins. In this connection the Hon. Secretary stated that Mr. Atkins was unable to attend as he was still convalescing after a serious operation, undergone recently. Further Mr. Atkins intends proceeding overseas from mid March to June, and asked for formal leave of absence from Council affairs. The Hon. Secretary was asked to convey Council's best wishes to Mr. Atkins for a speedy recovery to full health and strength again. His proposed absence until June was noted.

The Minutes of Council Meeting held October 30th were read and confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes, it was noted that according to the Minutes of the Third Meeting held on 23rd November 1967 to consider the establishment of a Joint Council of S. A. Scientific Societies, the initial membership proposed did not include the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.

The following new members were elected subject to the publication of their names in MNASSA and no objection being received.

Mr. A. Allanson, P. O. Box 85, Witfield, Tvl

Dr. J. M. R. Bacher, Lesotho Observatory Foundation, P. O. Box 10,
Roma, Lesotho

Mr. S. J. de Beer, P. O. Box 23, Pongola

Mr. W. G. Grimwood, Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape

Mr. E. G. Hobson, 548 Windermere Road, Durban, Natal

Miss O. M. Leverton, "Harewood", Palmboom Road, Newlands, Cape

Mr. W. Ramsbottom, 30 Esme Road, Newlands, Cape

Sinoia High School Astronomical Society, The High School, P. B. 633,
Sinoia, Rhodesia

The following financial statement was then presented by the Hon. Treasurer. (See over).

Council formerly ratified the transfer of McIntyre Bequest Funds from the Society's general account to a Savings Account at the Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank.

Council thanked Mr. Hurly for the payment of R10 to the Society's funds from the Cape Times Ltd. in respect of satellite data supplied by him to the Press.

Repeated requests were being received for back numbers of MNASSA, of which many were out of print, and the cost of filling the gaps would be costly. To be considered also were the ways and means of continuing the publication, either in the same form or an improved format. A sub-committee comprising Drs. Evans and Wild and Mr. Bentley was directed to meet at 5.30 p.m. on the following day to consider these points and any other relevant matters.

Financial Statement as on 5th February 1968

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Cost of production of MNASSA July to December 1967 and of Handbook	389 14	Credit Balance, 1/7/1967	161 75
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope, July to December 1967	374 03	Subscriptions	
Postage on "Sky and Telescope, MNASSA and Handbook, July to December 1967	80 64	Arrears 5 00	
Stationery	8 80	Current 1229 50	
Postage, other than above	9 57	Advance 15 00	1249 50
Essay Competition Prizes	41 00	Entrance Fees	50 00
Addressograph Plates	3 22	Sale of MNASSA	143 77
Transferred to Savings Bank Account	200 00	Sale of Handbooks	2 15
Transferred to McIntyre Award Account	144 93	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	9 10
Bank Charges	12 71	Half yearly interest on Mortgage, McIntyre Bequest	36 66
Credit Balance, 5/2/1968	410 66	Half yearly interest on Building Society Shares	7 00
	<u>R 1674 70</u>	Donations	12 25
		Commission on Cheques	2 52
			<u>R 1674 70</u>

In addition to the above balance of R410 66, there is an amount of R1000 00 in a Savings Bank Account at the Heerengracht Branch of the Standard Bank. The Forbes Bequest of R200 is held in fixed shares in the S. A. Permanent Building Society.

It is regretted that the Savings Bank interest on the amounts received in interest and balance of capital of the McIntyre Bequest was incorrently shown in the statement presented to the Council Meeting held on 30th October, 1967 at R3 29. It is calculated that the interest on these items to date is R3 43 and this is included in the R144 93 shown as having been transferred to the McIntyre Award Account. In terms of the resolution taken at the Council Meeting of 30th October 1967 this amount will now be transferred to a separate Account with the Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank.

Garrett Orpen,
Hon. Treasurer.

Council wishes to place on record its deep regret at the passing of two prominent members of the Society, viz. Mr. Wahl and Mr. Venter. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Wahl a letter of condolence, and in regard to Mr. Venter, to Mr. Bennett for suitable material for an Obituary to be published later in MNASSA.

Formal application for the loan of Society Telescopes were placed before the Meeting. These were:

- (1) Astronomical Dept. of the University of Cape Town: McIntyre 3-inch refractor.
- (2) Cape Centre of the ASSA: 4-inch refractor
- (3) Peterhouse High School Astronomical Society: 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch refractor (Roberts)

The loan of Nos (1) and (2) to June 1968 was confirmed. The loan of the Roberts telescope to Peterhouse High School in Rhodesia for the year ending June 1969 was favourably considered, but it was felt that definite allocation should only be made at the May meeting of Council. Further it was noted that the new lens purchased for this instrument had not yet been fitted. Also in view of the weight of this instrument it was considered that the 'McIntyre' telescope could be more conveniently transported, and it was suggested that Astronomy Dept. U.C.T. should exchange this one with the 'Roberts' refractor. The Hon. Secretary was to write to the Peterhouse House School on these points. It was obviously desirable to have someone in charge of these instruments and Mr. Bondiotti agreed to act as Curator.

Correspondence

(1) A letter received from Mr. Geary asking for superfluous editions of Sky and Telescope, and for additional copies of the Handbook for re-sale was agreed subject to the remittance of monies received to the Hon. Treasurer of the Society.

(2) Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Transvaal Centre held December 5 were read.

The Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

T. W. Russo

Hon. Secretary.

David J. Evans
vice president
13.5.68