

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape on Monday September 23, 1968 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Churms (in the Chair), Dr. Wild, Messrs, Atkins, Pondiotti, Corben, Lagerweij, Orpen, Weinberg, and Russo.

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Dr. Stoy, Mr. Hurly and Mr. Bentley who ~~are~~ ^{were} overseas.

Alternates: The following were appointed for Members of Council not resident in Cape Town.

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|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| for | Mr. Bennett - President | Alternate | Mr. Lagerweij |
| | Mr. Hers - Vice-President | " | Mr. Corben |
| | Dr. Thackeray - Member of Council | " | Mr. Hurly |
| | Mr. Knipe - Member of Council | " | Mr. Weinberg |
| | Mr. Bell - Tvl. Centre Rep. | " | Mr. Atkins |
| | Mr. Muller - Bloemfontein Centre Rep. | " | Dr. Cousins |
| | Mr. Kanowitz - Pretoria Centre Rep. | " | Mr. Grimwood |

The Minutes of Council Meeting held June 17th 1968 were then read and confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Hon. Secretary read the letters written to Mr. Hers and the Department of Cultural Affairs concerning the question of the erection of a building to house the telescope purchased by the Pretoria Centre and the financial assistance required to complete the project. No replies had been received nor had any direct approach been made to Council. Articles VII and VIII of the Constitution empower Centres to act in such matters with full authority, although it is desirable for the Society to be informed of the activities of its various Centres.

The following new Members were elected subject to the usual proviso of publication of their names in MNASSA.

- Mr. G. R. Allen, 61 Tafelberg Street, Bothasig, Cape.
- Mr. R. J. Boltman, 58 Scully Street, Roosevelt Park, Ext. 1, Johannesburg.
- Mr. H. Harrison, 18A Jones Street, Kimberley, Cape.
- Mr. W. J. le Roux, P. O. Box 38, Viljoenskroon, O.F.S.
- Mr. P. J. Oosthuizen, 55 Smuts Avenue, Cinderella, Boksburg, Tvl.
- Mr. E. H. Schumann, Hotel Majella, 564 Pretorius Street, Pretoria, Tvl.
- Mr. A. Sutherland, 79 West Street, Pretoria North, Tvl.

Following is a list of Associate Members:

- Mr. A. S. du Plessis, 35 Kroom Street, Proclamation Hill, Pretoria, Tvl.
- Dr. E. Fasser, 201 Medical Centre, Pretoria, Tvl.
- Mr. P. S. Fouche, Eloff's Kaya No. 11, 730 Schoeman Street, Arcadia, Pretoria
- Mr. J. P. Gaskell, 171 Watermeyer Street, Meyer's Park, Pretoria.
- Miss J. Hewitt, 171 Watermeyer Street, Meyer's Park, Pretoria
- Mr. M. A. Jackson, 506 Paarl, 726 Schoeman Street, Arcadia, Pretoria.
- Mr. J.W. Louw, 12 Albert Street, Waterkloof, Pretoria
- Mr. A. Smuts, Flat No. 1, Cadrille Flats, Jacob Mare Street, Pretoria.
- Mr. M. van den Berg, 14 Mopani Flats, Sunnyside Pretoria.
- Mr. F. J. C. van der Merwe, 209 National Building Soc. Build. Church Sq. Pretoria
- Mr. R. A. Venter, 79 Middle Crescent, West Park, Pretoria.

Following is a list of Student Members:

Mr. J. Vambaniz, 646 Frederika Street, Rietfontein, Pretoria,

Mr. E. Tamsen, 1200 Webb Road, Queenswood, Pretoria

Mr. C. Trent, 644 Haarkoff Street, Gesina, Pretoria, Tvl.

The following financial statement was presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Orpen, and its adoption proposed by Mr. Weinberg and seconded by Mr. Atkins.

Financial Statement as on September 23, 1968

| Expenditure | R. c. | Receipts | R. c. |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| Subscriptions to "Sky and Telescope" for July, August and September 1968 | 260. 40 | Credit Balance at 1/7/1968 | 63. 49 |
| Cost of production of MNASSA, June, July and part cost for August | 145. 94 | <u>Subscriptions</u> | |
| Postage on publications July and August 1968 | 32. 71 | Arrears | 7. 50 |
| Stationery | 11. 50 | Current | 1083. 00 |
| Postage, other than above | 5. 50 | Advance | 10. 00 |
| Addressograph Plates | 1. 57 | Entrance Fees | 15. 00 |
| Essay Competition Prizes | 31. 00 | Sale of MNASSA | 107. 85 |
| Transferred to Savings Bank Account | 100. 00 | Sale of Handbooks | 2. 25 |
| Bank Charges | 11. 89 | Sale of back and extra Nos. of "Sky and Telescope" | 9. 40 |
| Credit Balance, 23/9/1968 | 702. 89 | Donations | 2. 00 |
| | | Commission on Cheques | 2. 91 |
| | <u>R 1303. 40</u> | | <u>R 1303. 40</u> |

In addition to the above balance in the Current Account there is an amount of R1051. 86 , plus accruing interest, in a Savings Bank Account at the Heerengracht Branch of the Standard Bank.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account now amounts to R221. 37, being balance at 1/7/1968 (as mentioned in Financial Statement for year ended 30/6/1968) R184. 62, plus interest on Mortgage Bond for six months, R36. 41, plus further savings bank interest 34 cents.

Garrett Orpen,

Hon. Treasurer.

An appeal by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science for donations to meet expenses incurred in connection with its monthly newsletter was referred to the Cape Centre through Mr. Bondiotti.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the procedure for holding the Annual General Meeting of the Society as laid down in Article XII of the Constitution which is as follows:

"The Annual General Meeting shall be held at all the Centres on the fourth Wednesday in July or such other day as the Council, after consultation with the Committees of the Centres, shall direct. The meetings at the individual Centres shall all be deemed to be part of a single Annual General Meeting of the Society. All members of the Society whether members of the Centre or not, shall have the right to vote at these meetings. Associate Members shall have no vote at the

Annual General Meeting.

"Any Member entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting may appoint in writing a proxy to speak and vote in his stead. Such proxy must be a Member or the wife or husband of a Member.

"The purpose of the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive the report of the Council, the Treasurer's audited Financial Statement to the previous 30th day of June and the reports of the Observing Sections, and to transact any other business."

This has been carried out in Cape Town, but it is not clear to what extent it is now being applied in other Centres. It is understood however that the 1968 Presidential Address which as a matter of policy should have been delivered at the meeting held at the Centre of his choosing (copies being read at the meetings at the other Centres) was not given at the Meeting held in Johannesburg where the then President was residing. This is the one and only meeting held by the Society in the course of the year and it is fitting that suitable arrangements should be made to hear the President speak.

It was conceded that with four Centres, if an Annual General Meeting is held in four parts, various anomalies could arise,. The present situation is not altogether satisfactory and possibly an amendment to the Constitution is called for. A sub-committee consisting of the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Wild and Mr. Lagerweij was asked to draft and send a letter to all local Committees with a view to improving the procedure for holding the Annual General Meeting of the Society and to obviating a situation whereby a President might have to travel a 1000 miles to a venue to speak to the Society in person.

Mention was made of Dr. Evans' projected departure for the U.S.A. on September 27. The following resolution was moved from the Chair and passed:

"Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the meritorious services rendered by Dr. D. S. Evans during the many years he served on the Council of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.

"During his terms of office he served on many sub-committees dealing with special astronomical and other scientific subjects, as well as on the Editorial Board which recently was responsible for the new format of MNASSA. Council will always recall with gratitude Dr. Evans' many fine contributions to MNASSA."

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to Dr. Evans conveying the Society's good wishes, and expressing its thanks for all he had done over the past years.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary.