

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape on Monday, January 20th at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Bentley (in the Chair), Drs. Cousins and Wild, Messrs. Atkins, Churms, Corben, Grimwood, Hurly, Lagerwey, Orpen and Russo.

Apologies for Absence: None.

Minutes of the Council Meeting held 1968 November 18 were read and confirmed.

Matters Arising: (a) The question of Article XII of the Constitution was again considered. Letters from the Pretoria Centre, and Mr. Bell of the Transvaal Centre were read. Mr. Bell gave his personal views and referred to the discussion which had ensued at the Transvaal Centre Committee Meeting held on December 2nd. It was noted from the Minutes received that the matter would be again discussed at the next general meeting. The Secretary was asked to remind this Centre to forward its further views as soon as practicable, and also to write to the Bloemfontein Centre, from whom nothing had been heard so far. Mr. Churms and the Hon. Secretary were directed to prepare a consolidated report for presentation at the next Council Meeting. It was obvious that no change could be effected in time for the next A.G.M. of the Society in July, when the existing procedure would have to be followed.

(b) McIntyre Award The Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to each absent member of Council, informing him that sufficient funds had accumulated for an award to be considered.

New Members The following were elected subject to the usual proviso that the names be published in MNASSA and that no objections be received:

Mr. A. Ferretti, 23 Arthur Mans. Caroline Street, Hillbrow, Johannesburg.
Mr. P. S. Fouche, Soils Research Institute, Private Bag 79, Pretoria
Prof. A. H. Jarrett, Boyden Obs. P. O. Box 334, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.

Student Member

Mr. R. A. Bailey, 1258 Kirkby Street, Queenswood, Pretoria

Essay Competition The subjects for the Forbes Essay Competition were agreed upon as follows:

Junior Section	-	Constellations
Senior Section	-	Radio Astronomy

In this connection it was suggested that possibly the local Committee of either the Transvaal, Pretoria or Bloemfontein Centres would be willing to arrange for adjudicators to judge the entries. In the past this had been done in Cape Town and it was felt that other Centres might care to assist in the matter. The Hon. Secretary was to write to the local Secretaries concerned.

Correspondence A letter received from the General Secretary of the I.A.U., gave details of two resolutions passed at a recent colloquium held at La Plata in the Argentine. Firstly the desirability of continuing Astrometric work at the Cape Observatory was strongly recommended and secondly the establishment of an enlarged P.Z.T. chain to include both South Africa and Chile was advocated. It was agreed that this correspondence should appear in MNASSA.

Financial Statement: The following financial statement was presented by the Hon. Treasurer:

Financial Statement as on 20th January 1969

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope", July to December 1968	520 80	Credit Balance 1/7/1968	63 49
Cost of production of MNASSA, June to December 1968, including reprints (R4.60) and of Handbook 1969	562 13	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Postage on publications, July to December 1968	77 72	Arrears 8. 80	
Stationery and Equipment	15 23	Current 1459. 50	
Postage, other than above	9 49	Advance 19. 00	1487 30
Essay Competition Prizes	31 00	Entrance Fees	32 50
Purchase of book for Library	4 28	Sale of MNASSA	185 07
Transferred to Savings Bank Account	600 00	Sale of Handbooks	5 20
Bank Charges	17 60	Sale of back and extra numbers of Sky and Telescope	9 40
Credit Balance 20/1/1969	57 60	Donations	2 00
		Interest on Building Society Shares	7 00
		Withdrawn from Savings Bank Account, 20/1/1969	100 00
		Commission on Cheques	3 89
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The smallness of the credit balance shown is due to the new policy of keeping as much as conveniently possible of the Society's funds in the Savings Bank Account. The amount in the account (which is held at the Heerengracht Branch of the Standard Bank) at this date is R1475. 42,

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account remains at R221. 37, as shown in the previous Financial Statements prepared for the Council Meetings held on 23rd September and 18th November 1968.

Garrett Orpen,
Hon. Treasurer.

Any further business: Covering approval for the purchase of a book for the Library by E. J. Hartung entitled "Astronomical Objects for Southern Telescopes" was given.

The meeting then closed at 9.45 p.m.

T. W. Russo

T. W. Russo
Hon. Secretary.

Chairman: