

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape at 8.00 p.m. on Monday 14th April 1969.

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

Apologies: The Treasurer: Mr. Orpen.

Minutes of the previous meeting held 20th January 1969 were read and confirmed.

Matters arising:

(a) Amendment to Constitution: A report was still being awaited from the Transvaal Centre, although the Vice Chairman of that Centre, Mr. Von Maltitz, had given his personal views on the matter. Views of the Bloemfontein Centre had been received and were discussed. Briefly it was suggested that the National A.G.M. should be held at the larger centres i.e. Cape Town and Johannesburg, preferably alternatively. To date a wide range of helpful suggestions had been received but obviously Council would not be able to recommend any change before the July A.G.M. The present procedure as laid down in the Constitution should therefore be followed, but the opinion was expressed that special thought should be given to organizing the Pretoria part of the Society's A.G.M. (in conjunction with the Transvaal Centre if considered desirable) by the Pretoria Committee. It was fitting, and as a mark of respect for the Office of Presidency, that the President, Mr. Bennett of Pretoria should have a venue in his home town to deliver his presidential address. The A.G.M. was the one and only meeting in the course of the year sponsored by the Astronomical Society.

(b) McIntyre Award: Proposals for the award in respect of Dr. and Mrs Evans' book on the Herschel diaries had been received. In a letter received from Dr. Stoy, it was stated that this work had now been published, presumably in U.K. or the United States. However it was considered that the question of the award should be left over for further consideration when the book became available in South Africa for sighting by Council.

(c) Forbes Essay Competition: The Hon. Secretary was empowered to arrange for Adjudicators before the next Council Meeting.

Honorary Members : In accordance with Article X of the Constitution the following were elected as Hon. Members:

Dr. D. S. Evans, Dr. R. H. Stoy, Mr. R. P. de Kock

These proposals had been placed before Council at the previous meeting but only voted upon now that alternates had time to consult their principals. One further name was brought forward and would be voted upon at the next meeting after all full members of Council had been consulted.

In the absence of the Treasurer no Financial Statement was available.

The following members were elected subject to no objection being received.

- Mr. G. B. Alexander, 88 Edward Street, Benoni, Tvl.
- Mr. G. A. Harding, Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape.
- Mr. P. M. Southwood, P. O. Box 507, Maseru, Lesotho
- Mr. B. Slabber, P. O. Box 2290, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.
- Mr. T. M. Collins, 517 The Gables, Esplanade, Durban, Natal
- Mr. M. Druker, 401 Limore, 8 St. Peter Road, Upper Houghton, Johannesburg,
- Mr. A. Erynes, 308 Liberator Flats, Shilling Street, Queenswood, Pretoria
- Dr. K. Kaye, 704 Cape Agulhas, Esselen Street, Hillbrow, Johannesburg,
- Mrs. V. N. C. MacGibbon, 71 Milner Road, Rondebosch, Cape
- Mr. G. J. F. Hiddingh, 71 Milner Road, Rondebosch, Cape
- Master M. Nicol, 39 Fourth Avenue, Parktown Nr. Johannesburg.
- Mr. H. A. Nieuwenhuizen, 6 Salisbury Avenue, Kenridge, Estate, Durbanville

Mr. I. Raffan, 50 Recreation Road, East London, Cape.
Mr. I. C. Balkin, 104 Seventeenth Street, Orange Grove, Johannesburg
Mr. P. J. Groenewald, 38 Wale Street, Cape Town
Dr. N. J. Van Rensburg, 57 Charles Street, Baileys Meuckleneuk, Pretoria
Mr. R. I. Walker, c/o Box 516, Johannesburg,
Mr. A. H. Liebenberg, Survey Dept. P. O. Mariesthaft via Nigel, Tvl.

The Following Associate Members were elected.

Mr. O. Schiffeleers, 14 Lake Side Flats, Lake Street, Florida, Tvl.
Mr. J. de Vries, 265 Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria
Mrs. J. Erynes, 308 Liberator Flats, Shilling Street, Queenswood, Pretoria
Mr. W. Nicol, 39 Fourth Avenue, Parktown Nr. Johannesburg.

Durban Centre

Correspondence with Mr. S. A. White of Durban regarding efforts to re-establish the Durban Centre was read. Further reports were awaited.

MNASSA

Mr. Grimwood expressed the desirability of featuring in MNASSA articles on various spheres of Astronomy in which amateurs could play a part. It was suggested that as a start an article on Variable Stars would be suitable; Dr. Cousins being asked to write to Dr. Thackeray or Dr. Feast with a view to writing such an article.

It was agreed that Dr. Wild should investigate the possibility of obtaining additional assistance for the purpose of completing the issues of missing back numbers, and the summaries of earlier volumes, which were not now deemed necessary to complete with any great advantage.

A suggestion to dispose of surplus copies of out of date Handbooks was not accepted. There might be a demand for some when the re-issues of MNASSA were available.

Agreed to purchase envelopes for the despatch of MNASSA at R4 per 1000, and R6 for a new block. It was noted that a minimum order of 10,000 was required.

Miscellaneous

It was agreed that Rhodesian Members should each receive a ^{list} copy of members in their country. No centre existed there through which contact could be made, and this might be a way of overcoming this handicap.

Council received with gratitude the book "Astronomy" by Fred Hoyle from Mrs. June Hirschberg in memory of her late husband, a one time enthusiastic member of the Society. The Hon. Secretary was instructed to acknowledge this fine gesture and to express Council's appreciation.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary.

1969 April 17.

W. C. Bant
16 JUN 1969