

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Cape on Wednesday 23rd July, 1969 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. W. C. Bentley in the Chair and about 30 members.

Apologies: Dr. Wild, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Kaye and Miss Parker and Mr. Russo.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 24th July, 1968, were read and adopted on the motion of Mr. Simenhoff, seconded by Mr. Molyneux.

There were no matters arising out of the Minutes.

Correspondence: A letter received from Dr. R. H. Stoy was read wherein he extended his greetings to Council and expressed his thanks for all the happiness he had had from the Society.

The Financial Statement, as follows, was read by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Orpen.

Financial Statement for year ended 30th June, 1969

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope" for the year	1040 37	Credit Balance, 1/7/1968	63 49
Cost of production of MNASSA, June 1968 to April 1969, and of Handbook	830 21	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Postage on publications distributed, July 1968 to May 1969	127 57	Arrears 11 30	
Stationery and Equipment	88 93	Current 1574 50	
Postage, other than on publications	21 10	Advance 59 50	1645 30
Essay Competition Prizes	31 00	Entrance Fees	105 00
Purchase of Library Book	4 28	Sale of MNASSA	448 19
Fire Insurance Premium	4 04	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	24 68
Bank Charges	35 07	Sale of Handbooks	24 00
Transferred to Savings Bank A/c during year	600 00	Sale of other publications	2 40
Credit Balance 30/6/1969	50 73	Donations	2 00
		Interest on Building Society Shares	14 00
		Commission on Cheques	4 24
		Withdrawn from Savings Bank A/c during the year	500 00
	R 2833 30		R 2833 30

In addition to the balance shown above in the Current Account there is an amount of R1075. 42 (R1000.00 plus interest amounting to R75.42) in a Savings Bank Account at the Heerengracht Branch of the Standard Bank.

Unfortunately the account from the University of Cape Town for the production of the May 1969 issue of MNASSA was received too late for payment within the Financial Year and thus the costs for only eleven months appear above. The account has been received since and amounts to R63. 58.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account now amounts to R257.78, held in a savings account with the United Building Society, being balance of Capital, R36.09, Interest on Capital, R251. 37 and Savings Bank Interest, R6.41. The Society will in due course receive a further amount of approximately R1150. 00.

The Society also stands possessed of four shares in the S.A. Permanent Building Society to a total value of R200, per Certificate C.15778, date 18/5/1960, and equipment and apparatus insured against fire under Policy 134760 dated 27/2/1962, in the amount of R1000. 00, with the Southern Insurance Society.

M. M. Raphaely and H. B. Delmeux

G. Orpen,

Hon. Auditors

Hon. Treasurer

The adoption of this statement was proposed by Mr. Weinberg and seconded by Mr. Posniak.

The Acting Hon. Secretary read the report received on the results of the Forbes Essay Competition as follows:

Junior Section (Under 15 years of age)

1st Prize:	Helen Woolley	Diocesan School for Girls, Grahamstown
2nd Prize:	Desiree Dreyer	La Rochelle, Paarl
3rd Prize:	K. Mulder	St. Joseph's College, Rondebosch, Cape

Senior Section (Over 15 years of age)

1st Prize:	Yzelle Geldenhuys	Hoerskool, Swellendam, Cape
2nd Prize:	Annemarie de Kock	La Rochelle, Paarl
3rd Prize:	Anne Connolly	Greenhill Convent, Bloemfontein

Adjudicators Report: Although the number of entries received was considerably down on last year's record, the standard remains as high as ever. All the entrants are to be congratulated on their efforts, while the prize-winners have every right to be proud of coming out tops against such strong competition. This year's subject in the Senior Section was a particularly searching one, and the manner in which the entrants have taken up the challenge is highly gratifying. It is clear that this sort of standard could not have been reached without expert and stimulating guidance on the part of the entrants' teachers, and to them also we offer our congratulations.

The Annual Report of Council was read by Mr. Bentley. A copy is attached to these Minutes.

The Director of the Comet and Meteor Section reported as follows:

The year under review has been one of the quietest on record. Only three comets came within the range of small telescopes, Bally-Clayton 1968d and the two Honda comets 1968c and 1968e. The first of these was a faint Northern Hemisphere object of which no reports were received here. 1968e was a morning object attaining an estimated brightness of 7.5 on 22nd September at 01h 30m U.T. as seen from Pretoria. This was also the brightness of 1968c as recorded on 30th September at 18h 06m U.T. during the Southern approach of this comet. Both were angularly small objects without tails.

Very little was done about meteors, the only planned observation period being spoilt by bad weather. A report of a possible daylight meteor having been seen in Zululand appeared in MNASSA, 28, (May 31st) page 44.

Amateurs interested in observing comets and meteors are asked to get in touch with the Director of the Section at: 90 Malan Street, Riviera, Pretoria.

J. C. Bennett,

Director.

The Director of the Variable Star Section reported the following observations during the year.

Observer	No. of Observations
A. Morrisby	42
P. de Kock	3925
H. Kanowitz	16

Mr. Hurly extended congratulations to the four members of the Society who were recently elected to honorary membership! Only Mr. de Kock was present and his work was applauded by those present.

New Council for 1969/1970: As only sufficient nominations were received, the following were declared duly elected:

President	:	Mr. J. Churms
Vice-Presidents	:	Messrs. J. C. Bennett, W. C. Bentley and K. J. Sterling
Members of Council	:	Messrs W. G. Grimwood, G. A. Harding and J. Hers, Prof. A. H. Jarrett and Dr. A. D. Thackeray
Hon. Secretary	:	Mr. T. W. Russo
Hon. Treasurer	:	Mr. G. Orpen

Mr. Bentley read a letter from Mr. Bennett wherein he thanked Council for electing him as President of the Society for 1968/69 and for their cooperation during the year.

Mr. Bentley then invited Mr. Churms to take over as President of the Society and in doing so Mr. Churms expressed his appreciation for the services rendered by Council to Mr. Bennett. He also expressed his thanks to members of Council and their Alternates for the services rendered by them.

Mr. Churms then asked Mr. Bentley to read the Presidential Address of Mr. Bennett which was entitled "Comet Hunting in Southern Skies". This was a comprehensive paper on Comet seeking and it is hoped will have the effect of engendering enthusiasm among amateurs to embark upon this fascinating and rewarding branch of astronomy.

Mr. Hurly on behalf of those present moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Bentley for the manner in which he had conducted the first part of the meeting and for presenting Mr. Bennett's Address in such an interesting manner.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

H. C. Lagerwey
Acting Hon. Secretary.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report of Council for the Session 1968/1969

Five Council Meetings were held during the year. 39 new Members, Associates and 5 Student Members were elected. Membership now totals 298 an increase of 5 over last year.

Four Honorary Members were elected during the year, viz.

Dr. A. E. Eleksley

Dr. David S. Evans

Mr. R. P. de Kock

Dr. R. H. Stoy

The subjects chosen for the Forbes Essay Competition were:

Constellations - in the Junior Section

Radio Astronomy. - in the Senior Section

19 entries were received, a decrease of 20 over last year's figure.

No award of the Gill Medal nor of the McIntyre Prize has been made.

The Treasurer's Report shows a satisfactory balance and Council is highly appreciative of the sterling work put in by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Orpen and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. W. Russo. Thanks are due also to Miss Y. Thomas of the Royal Observatory for all the assistance she has given so willingly and so efficiently.

Mention must also be made of the facilities afforded to the Society by the Office-in-Charge of the Royal Observatory, Mr. G. A. Harding, to whom thanks are due. Also the Society is indebted to the Librarian, Mr. J. Bondietti and the Business Manager, Mr. W. C. Bentley for all they have done.

The Librarian reports the following additions to the Library.

Title	Author	
Astronomy	Fred Hoyle	1962
Modern Astronomy and Introduction	H. Kienle	1963
An Astronomer and His Telescope	D. Roth	1963
The Planet Uranus	A. F. Alexander	1965
Unveiling the Universe	H. Wood	1967
Astronomy Old and New	E. A. Beet	1967
Observations in Modern Astronomy	David S. Evans	1968
Herschel Diaries	David S. Evans, B. Evans, T. J. Deeming and S. Goldfarb	1969

Dr. Evans and Dr. Stoy both left South Africa during the year, Dr. Evans for the United States, and Dr. Stoy for Edinburgh Observatory. These two astronomers served the Society for many years, particularly in regard to MNASSA; and their departure overseas left a gap hard to fill. It was indeed very fortunate for the Society that Dr. P. A. T. Wild, of the University of Cape Town, was willing to accept the post of senior Editor, and we are happy to say that the standard of MNASSA is being maintained and that there has been a healthy increase in the number of subscribers.

It is with regret that Council reports the passing of 3 prominent members of the Society during the year, viz.

Mr. W. F. T. Shirach, Mr. J. C. Bentley, Mr. R. R. Hirschberg

Council has been considering an amendment to Article XII of the Constitution. This article provides for the holding of the A.G.M. simultaneously in all Centres. Views of individual Centres have been sought but a decision to effect a change has not yet been reached.