

# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held 24 November 1969 at the Royal Observatory, Cape.

Present: Mr. Churms (in the Chair), Dr. Cousins, Messrs. Atkins, Bentley, Corben, Grimwood, Hurly, Lagerwey Molyneux, Orpen, Simenhoff, Weinberg, and Russo.

Apologies: for absence noted from Messrs. Allen, Bondietti and Harding.

Minutes of the meeting held 15th September 1969 read and confirmed.

## Matters arising:

(a) The following have agreed to act as Alternates:

Mr. G. R. Allen, 78 Sixth Avenue, Vredelust, Belville, C.P.	for	Prof. A. H. Jarrett, Boyden Observatory, P. O. Box 334, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.
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Mr. J. Simenhoff 51 Belmont Avenue Oranjezicht, Cape Town.	for	Mr. K. J. Sterling, 5 Hekla Road, Valhalla, Pretoria, Tvl.
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Mr. H. B. Molyneux 34 Balfour Road, Rondebosch, Cape.	for	Mr. S. S. Booysen, 34 Lynn Avenue, Glenashley, Durban, Natal.
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(b) A reply was still being awaited from the Transvaal Centre on the proposal to amend Article XII of the Constitution. Mr. Hurly intimated that he would be in Johannesburg shortly, and would endeavour to make personal contact with the Chairman.

(c) No information was available as yet as to the cost of reproducing back issues of the Notes. Pressure of work and other commitments prevented Miss Thomas from undertaking and completing in a reasonable time so much additional typing, and it was agreed that estimates of the cost of the typing should be obtained from two other possible sources, viz. the U.C.T. and through Mr. Molyneux.

(d) The Hon. Secretary reported that the missing copies of the July issue of Sky and Telescope had been received.

New Members: The following members were elected subject to the usual proviso of publication of their names in MNASSA and no objection being received.

## Full Members:

Mr. D. H. Bradford, P. O. Box 342, Blantyre, Malawi  
Mr. G. D. E. Davidson, 16 Brown's Grove, Sherwood, Durban  
Mr. C. E. Deschamps, 4 Clarendon Street, Comet, Boksburg, Tvl.  
Mr. J. M. Harwood, P. O. Schagen, E. Transvaal  
Mrs. P. M. Mihalik, P. O. Box 11293, Lynwood, Pretoria, Tvl.  
Mr. W. Neilson, P. O. Box 945, Cape Town.  
Mr. J. H. Pretorius, Dept. of Philosophy, Univ. of Port Elizabeth,  
P. O. Box 1600, Port Elizabeth.  
Mr. B. Swart, P. O. Box 555, Pietermaritzberg, Natal.

## Student Members:

Miss L. Tyrrell, 558 de Kock Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria, Tvl.  
Master T. Wulfsohn, Solomon House, Pretoria High School, Brooklyn, Pretoria.

Associate Members:

- Dr. P. J. Andrews, Radcliffe Observatory, P. O. Box 373, Pretoria.
- Mr. A. S. de Bruto, Pretorius Avenue 177, Lyttelton, Verwoerdburg, Tvl.
- Mr. P. F. Clarke, 460 Alexander Street, Brooklyn, Pretoria.
- Mr. C. F. Haasbroek, 41 Moulton Avenue, Waverley, Pretoria
- Mr. J. Joubert, Drakensberg Drive, Waterkloof Park, Pretoria.
- Mr. J. P. Morrice, Stand 236, 552 Alouette Street, Elardus Park, Pretoria.
- Mr. L. C. Pietersen, 715 Park Street, Arc, Pretoria.
- Mr. G. D. Schoonraad, Luttig Straat 443, Pretoria.
- Mr. E. N. B. van der Westhuizen, 824 27th Avenue, Rietfontein, Pretoria.

The following financial statement was read by Mr. Orpen and adopted.

Financial Statement as on 24th November 1969

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Purchase of "Sky and Telescope" for period July to September 1969	269. 07	Credit Balance 1/7/69	50. 73
Cost of production of MNASSA, May to September 1969, including reprints (R38.55)	367. 36	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
		Arrears	39. 00
		Current	1544. 00
		Advance	23. 00
Cost of reproduction of missing issues, Vol. 16 of MNASSA	13. 50	Entrance Fees	1606. 00
Postage on publications, including reprints (R3.84) June to September 1969	37. 21		40. 00
Stationery and Equipment	6. 10	Sale of MNASSA (including reprints R55.00)	159. 54
Postage, other than above	10. 79	Sale of Handbooks	1. 00
Essay Competition Prizes	29. 00	Donations	5. 50
Bank Charges	25. 50	Advertisement in MNASSA	5. 00
Transferred to Savings Bank A/c, September 1969	500. 00	Interest on Building Society Shares	7. 00
Credit Balance, 24/11/69	620. 12	Commission on cheques	3. 88
	R 1878. 65		R 1878. 65

In addition to the above there is now an amount of R1624.53 held in the Savings Bank Account, being the amount of R1075.42 shown in the last statement, plus R500.00 transferred during September, plus R49.11 interest credited in September.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R312.71, having been increased by R9.40 refund of Estate Duty overpaid.

Garrett Orpen  
Hon. Treasurer.

McIntyre Award: This question was debated at great length. On a question of interpretation of the Rules governing the award, it was agreed that the designation "person" in paragraph 3 could be regarded as plural in number as well as singular in number.

It was quite clear from the reports of the Referees, from letters received from some absent Council members and from the discussion by those present

that the work "Herschel at the Cape" merited an award .

However there was a sharp difference of opinion as to whether Dr. Evans should be the sole recipient of the grant, or whether this should be allocated as well to the other three co-authors associated with him. Unanimous agreement could not be reached, nor could a two thirds majority be attained when a vote was taken. It was agreed that in the present circumstances Council could not make an award, although this did not preclude the matter being raised again at a future date.

One point was left over for further discussion at the next Council Meeting; does the required 2/3 majority laid down in the Rules refer to the full Council or only to those present at the meeting considering an award, and eligible to vote plus those absent members who have voted by letter.

Forbes Essay Competition:

The subjects chosen for the 1970 Essay Competition were:

Senior Section	-	Stellar Spectra
Junior Section	-	Mars

Prize monies would be increased to the following:

Senior Section (over 15 years):

1st	R10	2nd	R6	3rd	R4
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Junior Section (under 15 years):

1st	R6	2nd	R4	3rd	R3
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Handbook: It was agreed that 500 copies should be printed and that the cost to non-members should remain at 50 cents.

Miscellaneous: A letter had been received from Mr. Sterling at the Pretoria Centre in which it was stated that negotiations undertaken by that Centre with the Smithsonian Institute had resulted in the acquisition of the Norrman clock of the Baker-Nun camera at Olifantsfontein which had become redundant. Mr. Sterling posed two questions:

" (a) The ownership of instrumentation donated to the Society through negotiations of a Centre. "

" (b) To obtain funds to do research at Centre Observatories. Once a breakthrough is made to obtain financial support for astronomical research, I am certain that the Society will become a truly scientific institution."

Regarding (a) it was quite clear that under Article VIII of the Constitution the Pretoria Centre had the authority to acquire and retain ownership of property, and that the Society would only be concerned in the event of the Centre ceasing to exist without a formal decision to do so.

Regarding (b) the Society would give all moral support to a Centre undertaking worthwhile projects and endeavouring to obtain any necessary outside financial assistance. However the Society was not in a position to make financial grants to individual members or Centres for any such purpose.

The question of the allocation of the Society's telescope was to be raised at the next Council Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

T. W. Russo,  
Hon. Secretary.

*J. Thurns*  
1970 February 16