

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Cape on Monday, June 29 at 8.00 p. m.

Present: Mr. Churms (in the Chair), Dr. Cousins, Messrs. Allen, Atkins, Bentley, Boddie, Hurly, Lagerwey and Russo.

Apologies: for absence noted from Messrs. Corben, Grimwood, Harding, Orpen, Simenhoff and Weinberg.

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held May 18 were taken as read and confirmed.

Matters arising.

(a) Article XII of the Constitution. The Secretary reported that the amendment as recommended by Council (See previous Minutes) had been put to all members for ballot. To date 84 had voted in favour one against with 5 spoiled papers. The closing date for the ballot had been set for June 30.

(b) Back copies of MNASSA Mr. Churms reported that missing issues of Vol. 26 had been re-produced so that a minimum of 30 copies of this volume was now available for sale to interested parties. The question of the cost was debated. It was considered that an average charge should be levied for all the volumes 17 to 26, although obviously the actual cost would vary from volume to volume. It was decided that R5 would be a fair price. Odd copies of old issues, if available, would be supplied at R0.50 each, current numbers at R0.25 each. It was realised that the present rate of R2.50 per year for MNASSA subscribers had remained unchanged for a long time in spite of increasing costs of production. It was agreed therefore that the rate should be reviewed before accounts for the 1971 volume were rendered. Mention was made of the invaluable services rendered in her own spare time of Miss Thomas of the Observatory staff in connection with this project, and there was unanimous approval that as an indication of Council's appreciation, a cheque for R5 should be given to her from Society's funds.

(c) Epidiascope. The Hon. Secretary reported that a member of the Royal Observatory Workshop technical staff had overhauled it and levied a nominal charge of R3.

(d) Student Members. This matter was again debated. It was realised that this class of member paid no fees to the Society and received none of the publications the Society issued, and was in actual fact the responsibility of the Centre through which they were linked with the Society. Therefore it was decided that the Hon. Secretary should acquaint Centres with Council's concern as to whether sufficient was being done to encourage and maintain interest in Astronomy for these young folk. It was mentioned that Sky and Telescope was a very suitable adjunct for this purpose, and a possible course to be followed could be for this publication to be supplied to student members (not Associates) on a directive from the Centre Secretary at the cost incurred by the Society.

(e) Forbes Essay Competition. The Secretary reported that 35 entries had been received and that they had been passed to Dr. Fairall as one of the Adjudicators.

New Members

The following were elected with the usual proviso of publication in MNASSA and no objection being received.

Mr. E. D. Furman, P. O. Box 15, Edenvale, Tvl.

Mr. A. B. Davey, 4 Glen Carron Avenue, Highlands, Salisbury, Rhodesia

Mr. R. S. Garside, 3 Bruce Crescent, Westville, Natal

Dr. G. T. Lamont, P. O. Box 90, Lobatse, Botswana
 Mr. I. B. Sewrey, P. O. Box 35, Cape Town
 Mr. H. T. Terblanche, P. O. Box 138, Zastron, O.F.S.

Sky and Telescope Agreed that with effect from July 1970 the order should be increased from 310 to 320.

Finance The following statement has been prepared by Mr. Orpen, and in his absence read by Mr. Churms.

Financial Statement as on June 29th, 1970

| Expenditure | R. c. | Receipts | R. c. |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| Purchase of Sky and Telescope for period July 1969 to June 1970 | 1071 58 | Credit Balance at 1/7/1969 | 50 73 |
| Cost of production of MNASSA May 1969 to April 1970, including reprints (R126.65) and of Handbook | 854 80 | <u>Subscriptions</u> | |
| Cost of reproduction of missing issues, Vol.16 of MNASSA | 13 50 | Arrears | 39 00 |
| Postage on publications, including reprints (R8.37), June 1969 to June 1970 | 130 44 | Current | 1679 00 |
| Stationery and Equipment | 81 32 | Advance | 79 00 |
| Postage, other than above | 22 39 | Entrance Fees | 90 00 |
| Essay Competition Prizes | 29 00 | Sale of MNASSA (including reprints - R105.00) | 423 20 |
| Fire Insurance Premium | 4 04 | Sale of Handbooks | 32 80 |
| Transferred to Savings Bank Account, September 1969 | 500 00 | Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope" | 2 40 |
| Bank Charges | 39 98 | Donations | 17 40 |
| Credit Balance at 29/6/1970 | 349 65 | Advertisements in MNASSA | 8 00 |
| | | Interest on Building Society Shares | 14.00 |
| | | Interest on Saving Bank Account for period November 1966 to March 1970 | 155 87 |
| | | Transferred ex Savings Bank Account, March 1970 | 500 00 |
| | | Commission on Cheques | 5 30 |
| | R 3096 70 | | R 3096 70 |

An amount of R1000.00 was transferred to a Savings Bank Account in November 1966. It has been necessary from time to time to withdraw a portion of this amount to meet commitments; but at date the amount held in the account is still R1000.00. The interest accrued since the account was originally opened (with the exception of R6.06, which was regarded as interest on the McIntyre Award during the period amounts received from the Estate of the Late D. G. McIntyre were held in the account) has now been transferred to the Current Account as shown above, and the interest accrued will be transferred annually in future. The balance in the McIntyre Award account remains at R349.12.

Garrett Orpen,
 Hon. Treasurer.

Durban Centre

Mr. Hurly and Mr. Bentley were proceeding to Durban shortly. Their proposal to make contact with the local Secretary to clear up any possible misconception of the Society's Constitution in its relation to a Centre and to discuss any other matters of common interest was welcomed.

Gill Medal

The Hon. Secretary reported that a recipient for this Award had been agreed upon.

Report of Council for the Session 1969/1970

A draft, prepared by the Hon Secretary was considered, amended and finalised for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

Astronomical News in the Press

Mr. Hurly reported that as a result of informal discussions with a member of the 'Cape Argus', it appeared that a short monthly article on the sky during the following month and news of any astronomical phenomena of general interest would be welcomed with a view to publication. Mr. Hurly was duly authorized to use the information appearing in the Society's Handbook to compose such articles, which would appear over his own name. This might also be a means of publicising the Society, and the meetings and activities of the Cape Centre.

Annual General Meeting

This would be held on Wednesday 22nd July, 1970.

New Council Session 1970/71

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

The meeting thereupon closed at 10.20 p.m.

T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary.

W. C. Bentley
14/9/70