

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at 8.00 p.m. on Monday February 8th 1971 at the Royal Observatory, Cape.

Present: Mr. Bentley (in the Chair), Dr. Wild, Messrs Atkins, Bondiotti, Chürms, Harding, Hurly, Molyneux, Orpen, Simenhoff, Russo and Weinberg, Dr. Fairall of the Editorial Board attended for a discussion on the publications issued by the Society.

Apologies: noted from Dr. Cousins, Prof. Jarrett, and Mr. Lagerwey.

Minutes of the Meeting held November 30 read and confirmed.

Matters arising

(a) Student members; apart from the reply received from the Natal Centre already minuted at the previous Council meeting, nothing concrete had been heard from Centres. The Cape Centre had however furnished a composite list of Associate and Student members. The Hon. Secretary was directed to hasten replies.

(b) Constitution The question of considering any amendments was left over until replies had been received from the circular letter issued by the Secretary.

(c) Back issues Dr. Wild reported a satisfactory increase in the demand for these issues from Vol. 16 onwards, and it was anticipated that there would be very little loss, if any at all, in the cost to the Society.

(d) Royal Observatory 150th Anniversary Mr. Harding expressed his appreciation of the assistance rendered by Society members on the Public Viewing Day.

New Members The following new members were elected subject to the usual proviso of publication in the Notes and no objection being received:

Mr. C. D. Beckley, National Roads, Hospital Hill, Beaufort West, Cape
Mr. G. E. Brooks, 'Morgenzon', White Road, Retreat, Cape
Mr. J. H. Davids, 'Vergezicht' 11 Merriman Road, Green Point, Cape
Mr. D. J. du Plessis, 436 Atterbury Road, Menlo Park, Pretoria, Tvl.
Mr. B. Fraser, 9 St. Andrews Road, Hurlyvale, Edenvale, Tvl.
Mr. C. F. Gracie, P. O. Box 61 Halfway House, Transvaal
Mr. H. E. G. Hauffe, P/S 13043, P. O. Windhoek, S.W.A.
Mr. S. Heyligers-van Dooren, 4 Seringa Crescent, Thornton, Cape
Dr. N. C. K. Phillips, 62, 13th Street, Parkmore, Sandton, Tvl.
Mr. N. L. Thompson, 33 Cadogan Drive, Durban North, Natal
Mr. B. Walsh, Box 5 Maidstone, Natal.

In connection with the monies in the Savings Bank Account, of which withdrawals (followed by subsequent deposits) had to be made from time to time to meet commitments pending receipt of subscriptions etc., the point was raised that it would be of an advantage to the Society to place this money or an appreciable part thereof on fixed deposit at an appreciably higher rate of interest and arrange for short term loan facilities against this deposit as and if necessary. After some discussion it was agreed that it would be left to the discretion of the Treasurer, Secretary and Auditor* to place R1000.00 on fixed deposit with the best possible return, and as convenient for administering the Society's financial business.

* Mr. Molyneux

Finance Mr. Orpen presented the following financial statement:

Financial Statement as on 1971 February 8.

Expenditure	R	c	Receipts	R	c
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope" for period July to December 1970	569	56	Credit Balance, 1/7/70	340	64
Cost of production of MNASSA, April to December 1970 (including reprints of articles R4. 96), and of Handbook	736	94	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
Expenditure to date on reproduction of back numbers of MNASSA	234	56	Arrears	29	50
Postage on Publications including R1.75 on reprints and R13.55 on reproductions	135	36	Current	1703	00
Stationery	101	32	Advance	57	50
Postage, other than above	15	82	Entrance Fees		97 50
Essay Competition Prizes	32	00	Sale of MNASSA	127	12
Cost of 150th Anniversary Booklets, Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope, distributed to members	100	00	Sale of reprints of articles in MNASSA		64 50
Transferred to Savings Bank A/c, 18/8/1970	500	00	Sale of reproductions of back numbers of MNASSA		29 00
Bank Charges	33	46	Sale of Handbooks		21 60
Credit Balance at 8/2/1971	73	09	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	17	50
			Sale of copies of Ottens "How to make a 6-inch Mirror"		2 50
			Sale of surplus copies of Royal Observatory 150th Anniversary Booklet	15	05
			Donations	13	40
			Advertisement in MNASSA	2	00
			Interest on Building Society Shares		7 00
			Commission on Cheques		4 30
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The amount at present held in the Savings Bank Account is R1500.00 .
The balance in the McIntyre Award Account remains at R409.66.

Garrett Orpen

Hon. Treasurer

Miscellaneous Agreed to re-instate the P. E. Peoples Observatory Society without penalty - all subs due have been fully paid up.

Mr. Hurly suggested that members of Council, if passing through towns where there are Centres, should make contact with the local Society Committee. His and Mr. Bentley's experience in Durban showed how welcome and stimulating a visit from headquarters could prove.

Mention was made of the fact that the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa would attain the 50th Anniversary of its founding in July 1972. At the same time it would be 60 years since the founding of the Cape Astronomical Association. Some thought would have to be given as to possible means of commemorating this date.

Mr. Geary's letter of the 2nd February was read to the Meeting. Several points were raised:


(a) A request for 2 dozen 1971 Handbooks or as many as could be spared. Dr. Fairall had attended to this, and it was agreed that a charge of 40c each should be levied against Mr. Geary, observing that the published selling price is quoted at 50c.

(b) Some considerable time was devoted to his request that in view of the possible disbanding of the Planetarium Society, some 30 persons would possibly consider joining the Astronomical Society - if the Entrance Fee was waived. Coupled with this request was the suggestion that one Nomination Form should serve for a group entry. Council was very sympathetic, but study of the Constitution showed that the procedure for new members completing individual nomination forms and paying entrance fee would have to be followed. Agreed that the Secretary should inform Mr. Geary of Council's viewpoint and also forward to him 30 Nomination Forms.

(c) It was agreed that additional 10 copies of Sky and Telescope should be ordered for Mr. Geary. He would be liable for 40c per copy to the Society and to avoid any loss of possible potential members to the Society, the price to be charged should not be less than 50c per copy, which is the equivalent of R6 annual membership fee of the Society.

Handbook There were several points which Dr. Fairall wished to put before Council, but in view of the lateness of the hour it was agreed to defer discussion to the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.



T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary