

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 17th May 1971 at the Royal Observatory, Cape at 8.00 p.m.

Apologies: Prof. Jarrett and Mr. H. B. Molyneux

Present: Mr. Bentley (in the Chair), Messrs Atkins, Bondiotti, Churms, Harding, Hurly, Orpen, Lagerweij, Simenhoff, Weinberg, and Russo and Drs. Cousins and Wild. Dr. Fairall of the Editorial Board was also present.

Minutes: of previous meeting held 8 February, 1971 were taken as read.

Matters arising: Pretoria Centre had reported 5 Associate Members and 7 Student Members on their roll. The Cape had 2 Associates and 5 Student members, Natal Centre 6 Student members. Replies were still being awaited from the Transvaal Centre and Bloemfontein Centre.

New Members: The following were elected subject to the usual proviso of publication of the names in MNASSA, and no objection being received within the prescribed time.

Mr. R. S. Bond, S.A.S.A. Experiment Station, P. O. Mount Edgecombe, Natal  
Sr. P. A. H. Cooymans, Parktown Convent, 40 Oxford Road, Parktown, Jhbg.  
Mr. E. Grattan, Box 3571, Windhoek, S.W.A.  
Mr. N. R. Hopkins, 56 Pretoria Street, Troyeville, Johannesburg  
Mr. M. G. Hildebrandt, 6 Tilseth Court, 18 Bonamour Ave, Durban  
Mr. A. D. Johnstone, 46 Highland Road, Kensington, Johannesburg  
Mr. L. W. Lawson, 65 14th Street, Parkmore, Sandton, Tvl.  
Mrs. S. F. Marais, c/o Mrs. C Basson, 5 Auburn Sq., Denneburg, P.O. Huguenot  
Mr. De. Laporte, 97 Forest Drive, Pinelands  
Mrs. A. Mackenzie, 97 Forest Drive, Pinelands  
Mr. F. D. Morton, c/o C. D. Guerin, 11 Mutual Sq., Oxford Road, Rosebank, Jhbg  
Mr. F. A. Plumb, 2 Eventide, Victoria Road, Clifton, Cape  
Mr. H. Schindler, Randburg, P. O. Box 50354  
Mr. J. J. Spies, Geological Survey, Private Bag 112, Pretoria  
Mr. C. G. Stocken, P. O. Box 716, Oranjemund, S.W.A.  
Mr. M. Szapiro, 25 Weltevreden, Avenue, Rondebosch,  
Mrs. S. A. Watt, "Rainshadow", Island of St. Helena  
Mr. N. Wesson, 7 Glencoe Avenue, Highlands, Salsisbury, Rhodesia

Student Member

Mr. K. Been, 10 Vredenburg Avenue, Rosebank, Cape.

also approved to re-instate Mr. P. R. Warren without payment of another entrance fee. Transfer Mr. S. Fairall of 34 Ocean View Drive, Green Point, Cape from associateship to full membership approved.

Finance: Mr. Orpen, the Hon. Treasurer, presented the following financial statement. (see over)

Agreed that, in view of the recent increase in postage rates, receipts for payments by cheque to the Society would not be issued. Members would be notified accordingly when "subscription due" notices were distributed towards the end of the current financial year. This notice would also ask for early payments to be made so as to avoid the cost of sending out reminders.

Essay Competition: Dr. Fairall and Mr. Lagerweij were appointed adjudicators.

Publicity: There was also discussion on the ways and means of publicising matters of Astronomical interest. Mr. Hurly had done a lot of good work in this direction, and Council expressed its appreciation. It was agreed that Mr. Hurly should have the official standing as 'Public Relations Officer'. Naturally contact would be maintained with other Centres which may be particularly interested in a particular news item, also close liaison with S.A. Observatories would be necessary to avoid perhaps duplication of action, or encroachment on matters common to a particular observatory and the Astronomical Society.

Financial Statement as on 1971 May 17.

Expenditure	R	c	Receipts	R	c
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for period July 1970 to March 1971	852	12	Credit Balance 1/7/1971	340	64
Cost of production of MNASSA, April 1970 to March 1971 (incl. reprints of articles R4.96) and of Handbook	910	03	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
Expenditure to date on reproductions of back nos. of MNASSA	263	56	Arrears	35	50
Postage on publications, incl. R9.75 on reprints and R31.12 on reproductions	241	54	Current	1788	50
Stationery	111	58	Advance	69	50
Postage, other than above	25	52	Entrance Fees		147 50
Essay Competition Prizes	32	00	Sale of MNASSA		206 03
Cost of 150th Anniversary Booklets, Royal Obs. at the Cape of Good Hope, distributed to members	100	00	Sale of reprints of articles in MNASSA		64 50
Transferred to Saving Bank A/c, 18/8/1970	500	00	Sale of reproductions of back nos. of MNASSA		155 00
Placed on Fixed Deposit with United Building Society, 25/3/1971	1000	00	Publication of articles in MNASSA		16 00
Bank charges	41	96	Sale of Handbooks		47 70
Credit Balance at 17/5/1971	269	26	Sale of back and extra nos. of "Sky & Telescope"		19 00
			Sale of copies of Otten's "How to make a 6-inch Mirror"		2 50
			Sale of "Universal Sundial"		0 50
			Sale of surplus copies of Royal Obs. 150th Anniversary Booklet	17	80
			Donations		14 40
			Advertisement in MNASSA		2 00
			Interest on Building Society Shares		14 75
			Withdrawn from Savings Bank A/c March 1971	1400	00
			Commission on Cheques and Airmail Postage paid		5 75
	R	4347 57		R	4347 57

An amount of R1400.00 was withdrawn from the Savings Bank Account during March, of which R1000.00 was placed on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society. There is now only R100.00 in the Savings Bank Account.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R450.51.

Garrett 'rpen,  
Hon. Treasurer.

Constitution: A sub-committee consisting of Messrs Bondiotti, Churms, Harding and Russo was appointed to consider any further possible amendments and report back at the next Council meeting. The sub-committee was requested to consider the incorporation of the Editor, Business Manager and Librarian as ex-officio members of Council. A letter received from Dr. Thackeray contained a degree of criticism at the method of appointing alternates to Council Members. It was agreed that the Hon. Secretary would reply to him on that point, in order to clear up some apparent misunderstanding.

In Medal: Council wished to minute its congratulations to Mr. Bennett on award to him by the British Astronomical Association. A suitable announcement would be appearing in MNASSA.

Association for the Advancement of Science: The annual Congress would be held in Durban from 5th July to 10 July 1971. The Society has been invited to send a Representative, and this matter was raised by the Hon. Secretary with the Durban Centre, who appointed Mr. G. Hobson, with Mr. Booysen as a substitute should the need arise, to represent the Society.

Publications-distribution-managing and editing: Dr. Fairall, a non-member of Council, was undertaking the distribution of all publications and overseeing the composition of the Handbook, and had to make many urgent discussions on points frequently being raised at times when reference to Council was not practical. Formal approval for the responsibility exercised was given, as well as expression of appreciation for all the work put in on behalf of the Society. Council also wished to put on record its appreciation of the invaluable help given by Mr. Weinberg.

Dr. Fairall initiated a lengthy discussion on the subject, with particular reference to the Handbook. Possible improvements were mentioned and the increase in the numbers of pages by about 4-8 approved. It was hoped that a wider demand as a result of improvements envisaged would arise particularly among booksellers. The incorporation of the Sun's altitude and azimuth at specific times and on specific dates was one suggestion made. Some criticism on the 1971 issue had been received; these would be borne in mind. A more attractive cover was also suggested, but any such change should be first considered at a Council Meeting.

Agreed that in future Sky and Telescope should be addressed to the U.C.T. and not to the Royal Observatory as is the present practice.

New Council: Members were reminded that nominations for the Council 1971/1972 had to reach the Hon. Secretary by June 15.

Recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the Cape Astronomical Association and the 50th Anniversary of the Astronomical Society of South Africa in 1972 was again raised. One suggestion was the organisation of a series of meetings on the basis of a Summer School at the University of Cape Town, with speakers of standing being invited to attend. Due to the lateness of the hour further discussion was left over until the next meeting which would be set for the 21st June.

The meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.



T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary.