

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Observatory
Cape on Wednesday 1971 July 28 at 8 pm

Present Mr Bentley (in the Chair) and about 40 members

Apologies for absence received from Prof Jarrett; Messrs
Carter, Fairall (Snr), Laity, Saville and Uttley;
and Sister Coymans

Minutes of previous AGM held 1970 July 22 taken as read,
on the motion of Mr Hurly seconded by Mr Posniak

Matters arising Nil

X Report of Council This was read by the Hon Secretary, and a copy is
for year 1970/71 attached to these minutes. Mr Hurly moved its
adoption, seconded by Mr Simenhoff

Finance The following statement was presented by the Hon
Treasurer Mr Orpen, and adopted on the motion of
Mr Hurly, seconded by Mr Simenhoff

Financial Statement for Year Ended 30th June 1971

<u>Expenditure</u>	R	c	<u>Receipts</u>	R	c
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for the year	1160.37		Credit Balance at 1/7/1970	340.64	
Cost of production of MNASSA, April 1970 to April 1971 and of Hand- book for 1971	990.21		<u>Subscriptions</u>		
Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA	12.96		Arrears	35.50	
			Current	1813.00	
			Advance	<u>194.50</u>	
			Entrance Fees	182.50	
				2043.00	

(continued overleaf)

Not distributed individually. Will appear in MNASSA,

(Financial Statement continued)

<u>Expenditure</u>	R c	<u>Receipts</u>	R c
Cost of reproduction of back Nos of MNASSA	266.56	Sale of MNASSA	290.71
Postage on publications	208.24	Sale of Reprints of articles in MNASSA	80.50
Postage on Reprints	1.75	Sale of Reproduced Back Nos of MNASSA	209.90
Postage on Reproductions	28.12	Sale of Handbooks	72.00
Stationery	116.68	Sale of Back and Extra Nos of "Sky and Telescope"	24.20
Postage, other than above	33.79	Sale of copies of Otten's "How to Make a 6-Inch Mirror"	2.50
Essay Competition Prizes	32.00	Sale of "Universal Sundial"	.50
Cost of 150th Anniversary Booklets, Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope, distributed to members	100.00	Advertisement in MNASSA	2.00
Fire Insurance Premium	4.04	Sale of surplus copies of Royal Observatory 150th Anniversary Booklet	18.15
Transferred to Savings Bank Account 18/8/1970	500.00	Donations	20.40
Placed on Fixed Deposit with United Building Society, 25/3/1971	1000.00	Interest on Building Society Shares	14.75
Bank Charges	58.13	Interest on Savings Bank Account	54.20
Credit Balance 30/6/1971	250.17	Withdrawn from Savings Bank Account March 1971	1400.00
		Commission on Cheques and Air Mail Postage Paid	7.07
	<hr/> <u>R 4763.02</u>		<hr/> <u>R 4763.02</u>

An amount of R1000.00, being part of R1400.00 withdrawn from the Savings Bank Account on 25th March 1971, was placed on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society on that date at an interest rate of 7½%. An amount of R100.00 is still held in a savings bank account with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch.

The Society also stands possessed of four shares in the SA Permanent Building Society to a total value of R200.00, per Certificate C 15578 dated 18/5/1960, and of equipment and apparatus insured against fire under Policy 134760, dated 27/2/1962, in the amount of R1000.00 with the Southern Insurance Society.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R499.22, held in a savings account with the United Building Society.

Forbes Essay Competition - 1971.

- 1st Prize: Michael Lawrence, Lyttelton Manor High School, Verwoerdburg
2nd Prize: Jeane Dreyer, Hoërskool La Rochelle, Paarl
3rd Prize: Kevin Mulder, St. Joseph's College, Rondebosch.

} omitted
minutes

from

Junior Section

- 1st Prize: John Ehlers, High School, Oudtshoorn.
2nd Prize: Jonathan Clark, Westerford High School, Cape Town.
3rd Prize: Paul Temple, Fish Hoek High School, Fish Hoek.
Highly Recommended: Lorraine van Schalkwyk, Holy Cross Convent, Aliwal North.
Manka Botha, Hoërskool La Rochelle, Paarl
Sharon Kling, Hoërskool La Rochelle, Paarl

Senior Section

The essays submitted cannot be classified other than disappointing because the overwhelming number of entrants copied almost their entire essays from encyclopaedias and text books on astronomy. The subject chosen for 1971 was an extremely good one and diligent reading on the subject would have brought out much of interest and whetted the entrants' appetites to acquire a greater knowledge of early astronomy. This knowledge they had merely to transpose into their own words to submit worthwhile essays.

There is no reason for this state of affairs since it is stated clearly in paragraph 7 of the conditions governing the competition that no credit will be given for essays which consist of long extracts direct from books.

Junior Section.

The marking of the essays in this section afforded us much pleasure and once again we experienced some difficulty in deciding upon the prize winners. A few essays, while not meriting the award of a prize, were nevertheless of such a high standard that we wish to submit a further classification of highly recommended in their case.

It would be appreciated if the scholars at your school could be notified of the results of the Competition, & their attention invited to the remarks by the adjudicators. They should be well born in mind with any future competitions.

TW RUSO
Hon Secretary 19/71

New Council Session 1971/72

<u>President</u>	Professor A H Jarrett
<u>Vice-Presidents</u>	Mr W C Bentley Mr G A Harding Mr K J Sterling
<u>Members of Council</u>	Dr A Fairall Dr A D Thackeray Mr J Hers Mr C J Poole
<u>Hon Secretary</u>	Mr T W Russo
<u>Hon Treasurer</u>	Mr G Orpen

With regard to the office of vice-president, four nominations were received. As the Constitution limits the number to three, it became necessary to hold a postal ballot. There was only sufficient nominations to fill the remaining offices.

Miscellaneous

Mr Bentley then left the Chair and Mr Harding presided for the rest of the meeting.

Mr Bondietti referred to the deterioration in the state of the Society's Library, in the absence of a recognised librarian. He asked for volunteers, and Messrs Molyneux and Weinberg offered their services to assist in rectifying the situation.

Thanks were expressed to the retiring President and Council Members for their services during the year and to the Adjudicators in the Essay Competition for the vast amount of time spent in judging the essays.

Presidential Address

Mr Harding then called upon Mr Bentley to deliver his address, which was entitled "Stellar Evolution". This was followed by the meeting with absorbent interest, as Mr Bentley with the aid of a drawing on the black-board of the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram described the progress of a star through a temperature/colour range, and the various theories and aspects of its evolution.

At the conclusion of the lecture Mr Hurly proposed a vote of thanks which was passed with acclamation.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

T W Russo
Hon Secretary

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(continued overleaf)

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Observing Section Reports were read by Mr Hurly on behalf of their respective directors. These will in due course be reproduced in MNASSA.

(a) Comet and Meteor Section - Director Mr J C Bennett.
Only four comets were bright enough to be observed with small telescopes in the Southern Skies during the year. The Society is greatly indebted to Mr Bennett and Mr Morrisby of Salisbury for the time and effort devoted to comet seeking and comet observing. Mr Bennett stressed the advantages to be gained if many more people were prepared to cover the recognised meteor showers each year.

(b) Occultation Section - Director Mr A Morrisby.
A very encouraging interest was evident, particularly in Grazing Occultations

(c) Variable Star Section - Director Mr R de Kock.
The total number of observations made were 1805 of which Mr de Kock was responsible for 1245

Forbes Essay Competition

Mr Lagerweij read the following report:

Senior Section

The essays submitted cannot be classified other than disappointing because the overwhelming number of entrants copied almost their entire essays from encyclopaedias and text books on astronomy. The subject chosen for 1971 was an extremely good one and diligent reading would have brought out much of interest and whetted the entrants appetites to acquire a greater knowledge of early astronomy. This knowledge they had merely to transpose into their own words to submit worthwhile essays.

The reference books employed by the entrants are many and varied and all have not yet been tracked down, consequently we are not able to submit our final recommendations. We hope to do so very shortly.

There is no reason for this state of affairs since it is stated clearly in paragraph 7 of the conditions governing the competition that no credit will be given for essays which consist of long extracts direct from books.

Junior Section

The marking of the essays in this section afforded us much pleasure and once again we experienced some difficulty in deciding upon the prize winners. A few essays, while not meriting the award of a prize, were nevertheless of such a high standard that we wish to submit a further classification of highly recommended in their case.

The following are recommended for prizes:

1st Prize: John Ehlers, High School, Oudtshoorn.

2nd Prize: Jonathan Clark, Westerford High School, Cape Town.

3rd Prize: Paul Temple, Fish Hoek High School, Fish Hoek.

Highly Recommended: Lorraine van Schalkwyk, Holy Cross Convent, Aliwal North.

Manka Botha, Hoerskool La Rochelle, Paarl.

Sharon Kling, Hoerskool La Rochelle, Paarl.

New Council Session 1971/72

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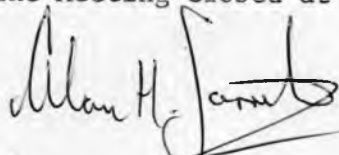
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The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm


President


Hon Secretary

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report of Council for the Session 1970-1971.

Five Council meetings were held during the year, with a consistent average attendance of 12-14.

Membership as at 30th June 1971 totalled 353, of which 11 had been suspended through non-payment of subscriptions. In October approximately 50 members were in arrears, and although the majority did eventually pay, much unnecessary work for the Treasurer and payment of unnecessary postage would have been avoided if all members remitted their dues to the Society promptly at the beginning of the Society's year on 1st July. Last year's figures were 318 gross, with 14 suspensions.

MNASSA. During 1970-1971, MNASSA has been sent to approximately 150 subscribers in 26 countries, in addition to ASSA members. The list of subscribers includes almost every major astronomical institution. Since the start of 1971, airmail subscriptions have been made available to overseas members. It was pleasing to see that Sky and Telescope have recently given coverage to articles printed in MNASSA. Back Numbers from Volume 16 onwards, where out of stock, have been reprinted and are selling satisfactorily. Council is particularly indebted to Drs. Wild and Fairall, of the Astronomy Department of the University of Cape Town, for handling the despatch of Sky and Telescope and the Society's publications. This has relieved the Hon. Secretary of much work, for which he is more than grateful.

Forbes Essay Competition. A total number of 32 essays from 19 schools were received, being made up of 15 in the Senior Section and 17 in the Junior Section.

The subjects chosen for the competition were:

"Astronomy before the time of Galileo" in the Senior Section, and

"My Holiday Trip to the Moon in 1984" in the Junior Section.

Names of prizewinners and comments by the adjudicators appear in a separate report.

Gill Medal. No proposal for an award was received.

McIntyre Award. No award was made.

Student Members. Council has been considering suggesting to Centres ways and means of encouraging this class of membership. There is the danger of the younger folk losing interest, and if this could be avoided, the Society would benefit, not only through an eventual transfer to full membership, but also by being stimulated through their youthful enthusiasm and perhaps new ideas.

Constitution. It has been the practice to issue a copy to all new members on joining. However, stocks have been exhausted, and the opportunity is being taken before a reprinting to examine the various Articles for any possible improvements. Any alterations proposed would be put to members for their decision.

Merlin Medal. Council was pleased to be informed of the very deserving award of this medal to Mr. J.C. Bennett of Pretoria by the British Astronomical Association.

Jackson-Gwilt Medal. Council was also pleased to be informed of the award of the Jackson-Gwilt Medal to Dr. A.W.J. Cousins of the Royal Observatory, Cape, by the Royal Astronomical Society.

S.A. Assoc. for the Advancement of Science. would be holding its annual congress in Durban from 5th July to 10th July. The Durban Centre was asked to send a representative on behalf of the Society. The person appointed is Mr. G. Hobson, with Mr. Booysen as a substitute should the need arise.

Miscellaneous. The year 1972 would see the 60th Anniversary of the Cape Astronomical Association and the 50th Anniversary of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa. The question of suitably commemorating these two events are under consideration.

On behalf of the Society, Council was pleased to congratulate the Royal Observatory at the Cape on its 150th Anniversary in October 1970. Copies of a commemorative booklet, issued by the Royal Observatory were purchased for distribution to Society members.

Council would like to place on record the indebtedness of the Society to the following for all the good work put in on its behalf.

Dr. Wild

Dr. Fairall

Mr. Churms

Mr. Lagerweij

of the Editorial Board

Mr. Bentley Business Manager of MNASSA

Mr. Russo Hon. Secretary

Mr. Orpen Hon. Treasurer (21 years service)

Mr. Hurly for publicising the Society in so many ways

The Computing Section (Mr. Weinberg, Mr. Atkins, Mr. G.H. Larmuth
and Mr. Larmuth (Junior)) for valuable assistance in compiling
the Handbook

Mr. Harding Officer in Charge of the Royal Observatory
for the facilities provided for the Society.

Council is appreciative of the efforts of Committees of the local Centres at Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria in stimulating interest in Astronomy, recruiting new members and organizing local activities. There can be no doubt that they have played a major role in the Society attaining such a healthy position.

PRESIDENT

L. Russo
HON. SECRETARY

ASTRONOMY SUMMER SCHOOL

Date: 7th - 11th February 1972

Convener, and Chairman of all morning sessions:
Dr. P. A. T. Wild (U.C.T.)

A. MORNING SESSIONS: (9.00 a.m. for preference, otherwise 11.00 a.m.)

Each session to consist of a lecture (about 45 minutes) followed by a discussion/practical session lasting about 45 minutes also.

A visit to the headquarters of the new South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) has been arranged for the afternoon of Monday, 7th February.

Title: "HOW BIG IS THE MILKY WAY?"

- Monday 7th: Stellar Motions by Dr. P. J. Andrews, Radcliffe Observatory, Pretoria.
(Introduction to the subject)
- Tuesday 8th: Proper Motion and Parallax by T. G. Hawarden, S.A.A.O. and
University of Cape Town. (Observational techniques and results).
- Wednesday 9th: Radial Velocities by G. A. Harding, S.A.A.O. (Observational
techniques and results).
- Thursday 10th: Photometric Parallaxes by Dr. A. W. J. Cousins, S.A.A.O.
(Observational techniques and results).
- Friday 11th: The Galaxy and the Distance Scale by Sir Richard Woolley, Director
of the S.A.A.O. (Interpretation of observational material to give a
picture of the size and structure of the Milky Way).

The above series will pre-suppose an elementary reading background of general astronomy.

B. EVENING SESSIONS: (8.00 p.m., probably in Physics Lecture Room A) (capacity 250)

Theme: SOUTH AFRICA'S PLACE IN THE ASTRONOMY OF THE 70's

- I. Monday 7th "Astronomy in the 70's" by Sir Richard Woolley, Director of the new
S.A.A.O.
A review of trends in world astronomy for the 70's with outline of the
part to be played by South African Observatories and amateur observers.
Chairman: G. A. Harding, S.A.A.O.
- II. Tuesday 8th: "The Clouds of Magellan" by Dr. P. J. Andrews, Radcliffe Observatory,
Pretoria.
Review of work done and to be done on these interesting southern objects,
our nearest extragalactic neighbours.
Chairman: Dr. A. P. Fairall, University of Cape Town.
- III. Wednesday 9th "Orbits - Double Stars, Comets, Minor Planets and Artificial Satellites"
by W. P. Hirst, University of Cape Town.
Chairman: Dr. A. W. J. Cousins, S.A.A.O.
The role of local observers in determining the orbits of double stars,
comets, minor planets and artificial satellites.
- IV. Thursday 10th "Eclipses of the Stars by the Moon" by R. E. Nather, University of
Cape Town.
The role of observations of lunar occultations in astronomy.
Chairman: Dr. P. A. T. Wild, University of Cape Town.
- V. Friday 11th "Radio Astronomy" by Prof. J. A. Gledhill, Rhodes University,
Grahamstown.
The role of local radio astronomical observations in the astronomy of
the 70's.
Chairman: Sir Richard Woolley, will round off the series with a
brief summing-up.