

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Monday, September 20 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. G.A. Harding (in the Chair), Drs. Cousins, Fairall and Wild. Messrs. Atkins, Bondietti, Hurly, Lagerwey, Orpen and Russo.

Apologies for absence: Prof. Jarrett, MR J. SIMENHOFF

I. Weinberg: Mr. Harding announced the passing of Mr. I. Weinberg on September 17, and asked those present to stand in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect for one, who had served the Society so well and so faithfully over many years.

Alternates: Members of Council residing out of Cape Town had been asked for their wishes regarding alternates. Where replies had been received, the wishes expressed were adhered to: in other cases Council selected alternates from those members who had acted as such during the past year. The position is as follows:

Principal:

Prof. A. J. Jarrett, Boyden Observatory, P. O. Box 334, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.

/Alternate:

Mr. G. R. Allen, 78 Sixth Avenue, Vredelust, Bellville, Cape Province

Principal:

Mr. K. J. Sterling, 5 Hekla Road, Valhalla, Pretoria, Tvl.

/Alternate:

Mr. J. Simenhoff, 51 Belmont Avenue, Orangezicht, Cape Town.

Principal:

Dr. A. D. Thackeray, Radcliffe Observatory, P. O. Box 373, Pretoria, Tvl.

/Alternate:

Dr. A. W. J. Cousins, Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape

Principal:

Mr. J. Hers, 48 Central Street, Linden Ext., Randburg, Tvl.

/Alternate:

Dr. P. A. T. Wild, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape

Principal:

Mr. C. J. Poole, P. O. Box 28848, Sandringham, Johannesburg, Tvl.

/Alternate:

Mr. G. R. Atkins, "Low Gill", Malines Avenue, Newlands, Cape

Principal:

Bloemfontein Centre Representative - not reported

/Alternate:

Mr. J. Churms, Royal Observatory, Observatory, Cape

Principal: Tvl. Centre Representative:

Mr. D. Overbeek, 60 Edward Drive, Glendower, Tvl.

/Alternate:

Mr. R. Hurly, 8 Glebe Road, Rondebosch, Cape

Principal: Durban Centre Representative:

Mr. S. S. Booysen, 34 Lynn Avenue, Glenashley, Durban, Natal

/Alternate:

Mr. H. B. Molyneux, 34 Balfour Road, Rondebosch, Cape

Principal:

Pretoria Centre Representative: - not reported

/Alternate:

Mr. H. C. Lagerwey, Abbotsford No. 1, 10 Portswood Road, Green Point, Cape

Minutes: Minutes of the previous Council Meeting held 1971 June 21, were ^{taken as} read and adopted.

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

ASTRONOMY and the PRESS. PLEASE ASK YOUR
Centre Committee to comment on this paragraph.

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Mr. P. J. Allison, 65A High Street, Eastleigh, Edenvale, Tvl.
 Mr. J. R. Bain-Cole, P. O. Box 52, Welkom, O.F.S.
 Mr. G. L. Booth, 14 Oakdale Road, Newlands, Cape
 Dr. J. H. C. Clarke, 71 Heyns Street, Worcester, Cape
 Prof. A. E. Dodds, 28 Pafuri Road, Emmarentia Ext., Johannesburg, Tvl.
 Mr. G. Falchi, 1502 Blouberg Heights, Blouberg Strand, Cape.
 Mr. J. A. Gilmore, P. O. Box 2417, Cape Town
 Mr. R. McG. Imrie, "Milton" Hants Road, Lakeside, Cape
 Mr. R. C. Johnstone, 22 Stellenberg Avenue, Kenilworth, Cape
 Mr. M. Klerk, Republic Observatory, Observatory, Johannesburg, Tvl.
 Mr. G. Labuscagne, 359 Kort Street, Kloofsig, Verwoerdburg, Tvl.
 Mr. A. Marsden, 52 Pleasant Place, Pinelands, Cape
 Mr. J. S. Mattelaer, 3 Belgrave Crescent, Durban North, Natal
 Mr. F. C. Naser, c/o 152 Zastron Street, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.
 Mr. G. D. Nicolson, National Inst. for Telecommunications Res. P. O. Box 3718, Jhb'g, Tvl.
 Mr. D. J. P. O'Donovan, 9 Sunnyside Avenue, Hillcrest Park, Hillcrest, Natal
 Mr. C. J. Scott, Barclays Bank, West End Branch, Durban, Natal
 Master S. Shochat, 14 Meiring Street, Worcester, Cape
 Mr. S. E. Skinner, 15 Lynton Avenue, Robertsham, Ext 1, Johannesburg, Tvl.
 Mr. D. G. Smith, 59 Recreation Road, Fish Hoek, Cape
 S.W.A. Scientific Society, P. O. Box 67, Windhoek, S.W.A.
 Mr. L. Stahuber, P. O. Box 17128, Groenkloof, Pretoria, Tvl.
 Mr. A. W. C. Teague, Highlands, P. O. Box 226, Umtali, Rhodesia
 Mr. T. J. Turner, 9 Rorke Road, Plumstead, Cape
 Dr. A. D. M. Walker, Physics Dept., Rhodes University, Grahamstown, Cape
 Dr. J. D. Walker, 305 Medical Towers, Jeppe Street, Johannesburg, Tvl.

Student Member:

Mr. B. G. Johnstone, 22 Stellenberg Avenue, Kenilworth, Cape

The election of Mr. R. C. Johnstone, 22 Stellenberg Avenue, Kenilworth was approved, subject to the payment of the initial subscription.

Members in default: The following who had not paid their subscriptions for the year 1970/71 and whose membership had been suspended were now no longer deemed to be members.

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| I. C. Balkin | Father D. M. Morgan | L. W. Witten |
| W. A. Beales | H. C. B. Simmonds | Dr. N.J. van Rensburg |
| M. C. Chadwick | T. H. Wildsmith | Michaelhouse School |
| D. A. L. Falck | | |

Finance: The Hon. Treasurer presented the following financial statement:

Financial Statement as on 1971 September 20.

| Expenditure | R | c | Receipts | R | c |
|--|--------|----|--|--------|----|
| Cost of production of MNASSA May 1971 | 146 | 85 | Credit Balance at 1/7/1971 | 250 | 17 |
| Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA | 10 | 44 | <u>Subscriptions:</u> | | |
| Expenses in connection with re-production of back Nos MNASSA | 32 | 71 | Arrears | 6 | 00 |
| Postage on publications, June to August 1971 | 81 | 48 | Current | 1453 | 50 |
| Stationery and Equipment | 10 | 00 | Advance | 6 | 00 |
| Postage, other than above | 12 | 93 | Entrance Fees | 47 | 50 |
| Essay Competition Prizes | 33 | 00 | Sale of MNASSA | 51 | 93 |
| Nat. Youth Sc. Week Book Prize | 10 | 00 | Sale of reproduced back No. MNASSA | 59 | 00 |
| Transferred to Savings Bank A/c since 1/7/71 | 900 | 00 | Sale of Handbooks | 1 | 35 |
| Bank Charges | 21 | 57 | Sale of back and extra nos. of Sky and Telescope | 18 | 00 |
| Credit Balance 20/9/71 | 655 | 01 | Sale of copy of Royal Obs. 150th Anniversary Booklet | 0 | 35 |
| | R 1913 | 99 | Donations | 11 | 00 |
| | | | Advertisement in MNASSA | 2 | 00 |
| | | | Commission on Cheques | 7 | 19 |
| | | | | R 1913 | 99 |

It should be understood that this statement does not reflect the actual financial position at this date, as the accounts for the "Sky and Telescope" for July, August and September 1971 have not yet been paid, nor have the accounts from the University of Cape Town for production of Nos. 7 & 8, Vol. 30 of MNASSA been received. On the other hand, as shown, R900.00 has been transferred to the Savings Bank A/c since the beginning of the Financial Year. The amount in the Savings Bank A/c is now again R1000.00, in addition to the R1000.00 on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R554.21, interest amounting to R54.99 having been received during this month.

Garrett Orpen,

Hon. Treasurer.

Dr. Wild remarked that to date sales of the back issues from Vol. 16 had exceeded slightly the cost of reproducing the issues, out of stock. With the prospect of further orders, there was every hope of attaining reasonable profit on this part of the scheme to meet the requests of Institutions who lacked a complete series of MNASSA. Regarding Volume 1 - 15, Dr. Wild reported that he now had available someone to re-type the stencils of selected extracts for a "pruned" series. A cost of R0.50 per page was envisaged but even with the added cost of duplicating, collating and despatching, it was considered that with the number of orders already received and orders anticipated the initial drain on Society funds would eventually be met.

50th and 60th Anniversaries relating to the Society: Dr. Wild reported that an informal self-appointed sub-committee had met during the last week, to consider replies and suggestions received with regard to the proposal to partake in the University of Cape Town Summer School. This is to be held early in the New Year. It had been necessary to meet the dead-line date asked for by the University of Cape Town, before the Council Meeting, and a tentative programme was drawn up, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. Consideration of social events was left for the next meeting.

MNASSA: Dr. Fairall pointed out that disbursements by way of postage had increased enormously since the introduction of the recent revised postal tariffs. For example the postage on MNASSA to overseas institutions had increased from 1,1/2c to 7c per copy, amounting to approximately R100 per year. Resolved therefore that the subscription payable by non-members for MNASSA should be increased from R3 per annum to R4 per annum as from 1972 January.

Astronomy and the Press: Mr. Hurly raised the question of a periodic publication in the Press of star maps incorporating planetary movements. This had been done in the past in Cape Town but the practice lapsed several years ago. It was decided that before Council re-introduced this, on a local or country wide basis the Hon. Secretary should ascertain from up-country Centres whether any such publications were undertaken there.

Occultations: Mr. Harding expressed Council's appreciation of the work done by Mr. Hurly in organizing and publicising grazing occultations; in particular the recent one at Bloemfontein and the approaching one on September 26 on a path between Storms River and Port Edward. It was not clear to what extent the Director of the Occultation Section, resident in Rhodesia, was able to take note of events occurring at such a distance from Salisbury. There has been a quickening interest in this aspect of observational astronomy, and co-operation between all concerned was essential. Mr. Harding undertook to write Mr. Morrisby an informal letter on the subject of co-ordinating the efforts of all interested parties with liaison with overseas prediction agencies.

Loan of Telescope: An application had been received from Mr. M. Szapiro of 25 Weltrevreden Avenue, Rondebosch, Cape for the use of one of the Society's telescopes for observing occultations and variable stars. This was agreed to subject to the conditions laid down in Council Minutes of 1966 September 14.

S.A. Republic Observatory: Dr. Wild stated that fears had been expressed that with the inauguration of the new S.A. Astronomical Observatory action might be taken by the Authorities to close down, or curtail the work of the Republic Observatory in Johannesburg, which is internationally known for valuable work on double stars and minor planets. He suggested that Council on behalf of the Society should make its views publicly known. The Hon. Secretary said that this matter should be considered by all full members of Council, who should, where applicable, convey their considered views to their alternates in time for the next Council Meeting on November 15. This was agreed. Alternates were to make early contact with their Principals.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.20p.m.

T. W. Russo/Hon Sec.