

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Cape on Monday November 15, at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Bentley (in the Chair), Dr. Cousins, Messrs Allen, Atkins, Bondiotti, Churms, Harding, Hurly, Lagerweij, Simenhoff, and Dr. Wild.

Apologies for absence: noted from Prof. Jarrett and Dr. Fairall

Minutes: of previous meeting held 20th September, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed. ***(see end)

Matters arising: 150th and 160th Anniversaries. The following were appointed to form a sub-committee to deal with the following points in relation to the Summer School organized for next February.

(a) consideration of a suitable social gathering to enable out-of-town persons attending the Astronomy sessions to meet local members and any other interested persons the sub-committee feel should be invited to attend. It was agreed that a maximum expenditure of R50 from Society funds could be incurred.

(b) consideration of the printing and sale of a souvenir booklet embodying messages of congratulations, some details of the history of the Society and any other suitable material. A maximum expenditure of R50 was approved.

The possibility of holding a special meeting or series of meetings in other Centres was also mentioned. It was intimated that the Conference of the Physics Institute would be held in Johannesburg at the Witwatersrand University in July, and that something on the lines of the UCT Summer School in Astronomy could perhaps be organized locally. Mr. Atkins agreed to write to Mr. Poole for his comments. Mr. Allen agreed to communicate with Professor Jarrett in regard to the venue of the next Annual General Meeting which in the normal course of events would fall due to be held in July.

Astronomy and the Press: Council was gratified to hear read the communication received from Mr. Booysen of Durban regarding the excellent publicity work undertaken there. It was also reported that Mr. Geary had resumed contributions to the Johannesburg Press, and that Mr. Visser of Port Elizabeth was endeavouring to resume publication of articles in the morning Press, which articles had ceased on the death of Mr. J. C. Bentley in 1969.

Occultations: Correspondence with Mr. Morrisby, Director of the Occultation Section, and with Mr. Overbeek were read. These indicated complete unanimity on the desirability of a formal recognition of the sharing of responsibilities in this field. Council confirmed the Directorship of Mr. Morrisby with Mr. Overbeek as Co-ordinator of Grazing Occultations.

Publications of the Society: The Hon. Secretary was directed to check on the copyright of all special publications of the Society where possible. This matter arose when it was suggested that in view of the approach of the Christmas Season, thought should be given to the re-issue of "The Star of Bethlehem" by A. D. Cole, either in booklet form or in the daily Press. Messrs. Bondiotti and Hurly were empowered to act, the former agreeing to contact Mr. Cole for permission.

New Members: The following were elected subject to the publication of their names in MNASSA and no objection being received within the prescribed period.

Mr. D. L. Block, 3 Neethling Street, Monument Ext. 1, Krugersdorp, Tvl.

Miss R. Borchers, 14 Myhill, Snell Parade, Durban, Natal

Mr. D. R. Edwards, 4 Rivona Court, Mazeppa Street, Durban, Natal

Mr. N. P. Ferreira, Schoonzicht 303, De Kock Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria

Mr. F. Kidd, P. O. Box 359, Cape Town

Mr. L. R. Kinnear, 32 Kerry Road, Parkview, Tvl.

Mr. M. P. Numan, 24 Gardens Road, Howardene, Durban, Natal

Mr. T. F. T. Shearer, 25 Milemba Avenue, Mufulira, Zambia.

Dr. L. C. J. van Rensburg, 305 OASIM, Port Elizabeth.
Mr. G. J. van Zyl, 30, Marcelhof, 11A Fairview Street, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.
Mrs. H. I. Weintroub, 19 Klein Street, Rouxville, Johannesburg.

The following financial statement was presented by the Hon. Treasurer,
Mr. Orpen and adopted.

Financial Statement as on November 15, 1971

Expenditure		Receipts			
R	c	R	c		
Subscription to Sky and Telescope for July 1971, August and September 1971	318	94	Credit Balance at 1/7/71	250	17
Cost of production of MNASSA May to August 1971	348	99	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA	20	80	Arrears	6.50	
Expenses in connection with reproduction of back numbers of MNASSA	124	87	Current	1845.00	
Postage on publications, June to October 1971	108	03	Advance	9.50	1861.00
Postage in respect of back numbers of MNASSA	10	73	Entrance Fees		82.50
Stationery and Equipment	10	00	Sale of MNASSA		132.76
Postage, other than above	19	89	Sale of reproduced back numbers of MNASSA		98.00
Essay Competition Prizes	33	00	Sale of Handbooks		3.85
National Youth Science Week Book Prize	10	00	Sale of reprints of articles in MNASSA		20.00
Transferred to Savings Bank Account since 1/7/1971	900	00	Sale of back and extra numbers of Sky and Telescope		18.00
Bank Charges	22	93	Sale of copies of Royal Observatory 150th Ann. Booklet		8.40
Credit Balance 15/11/1971	618	79	Donations		11.00
	R	2546.97	Advertisement in MNASSA		2.00
			Interest on Fixed Deposit		37.50
			Interest on Building Society Shares		7.75
			Commission on Cheques and Airmail Postage paid		14.04
					R 2546.97

The amount in the Savings Bank Account remains at R1000.00, in addition to the R1000.00 on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account remains at R554.21.

Garrett Orpen,

Hon. Treasurer.

Republic Observatory: The matter raised at the last meeting, and which had been referred by Alternates to their Principals for specific directives was debated at great length. Communications received by Alternates were all read and studied, with the final outcome that the following motion was passed by Council:

"The Council of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa respectfully wish to seek assurance from the C.S.I.R. that

(1) the international commitments of the Republic Observatory, Johannesburg, especially in the fields of Double Stars and Minor Planets, will not be abandoned or curtailed without due consultation with the relevant commissions of the International Astronomical Union; and that

(2) the cultural and educational contributions of the Republic Observatory, particularly to the people of Johannesburg and the Transvaal will not be curtailed without prior consultation with the local Universities, and appropriate Civic Authorities."

Further Business: (a) The Hon. Secretary reminded the Meeting that some thought should be given to the selection of suitable topics for the 1972 Forbes Essay Competition.

(b) A proposal to make a McIntyre Award had been received. This will be debated at the next Council Meeting and voted upon. Details of the Nomination and the relevant conditions governing the Award will be communicated to each Council member and Alternate with a copy of these Minutes.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.15 p.m.

*** Sub-committee for Summer School.

Drs. Wild and Fairall, Messrs. Churms, Harding, Hurly and Russo

T. W. Russo,

Hon. Secretary.

Chairman

T. W. Russo
3/11/72