

# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape, on Monday 31st January 1972.

Present: Mr. Harding (in the Chair), Drs. Cousins, Fairall and Wild, Messrs. Bondiotti, Hurly, Lagerwey, Molyneux, Crpen, Simenhoff and Russo.

Apologies for absence received from Prof. Jarrett, Messrs. Atkins, Allen, Bentley and Churms.

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held 15th November 1971, copies of which had been circulated were taken as read.

## Matters arising:

(a) Publications of the Society. Messrs Bondiotti and Huriy reported on the situation regarding the "Star of Bethlehem". Mr. Cole, the author, had been contacted and had signified his willingness for a re-printing. The "Cape Argus" had also been contacted with a view to publication in the newspaper over the Christmas season. It was obviously too late for December 1971, and it was indicated that an abridged edition would be favourably considered for December 1972.

(b) Forbes Essay Competition. It was agreed that the following subjects would be set for the 1972 Competition.

Senior Section - Understanding the Universe

Junior Section - As I see the Stars

(c) Republic Observatory. The Hon. Secretary reported that the terms of the motion passed by Council at the November meeting had been duly conveyed to the President of the CSIR. A reply by Dr. Hewitt - Vice-President - was read. In this letter Council was assured that the CSIR was well aware of its obligations towards international astronomy, and well aware of the assistance and advice that could be obtained from specialised bodies such as the I.A.U. CSIR recognised the importance of cultural bodies, but could not allocate funds for activities solely on such grounds. The situation could change if significant and continuing financial support was guaranteed from one or more of the local authorities.

A letter received from Mr. Hers, was also read. He endeavoured to give a clearer picture of the situation which would pertain for the remaining observing staff in Johannesburg after 31 December 1971. Council considered all the points raised and the general feeling was that the matter should now rest as far as Council was concerned.

(c) McIntyre Award. It was agreed on ballot that an Award of R400 should be made jointly to the four Authors, D.S. Evans, T. Deeming, B. Evans, and S. Goldfarb\*. Nine principals voted in favour - four alternates whose principals had not voted nor issued directives to their alternates thereupon voted in their personal capacities, also in favour of the award. No votes were cast against. Mr. Poole's proviso that the total award should be limited to R200 was noted but it was pointed out that the income from the McIntyre Bequest was being reserved in a special savings account for this specific purpose. This would be the first award made since receipt of the bequest, and the total sum accumulated to date was approaching the R600 mark and being increased steadily by the interest on the savings account and interest on that portion of the bequest tied up in a Participation Mortgage Bond. Capital was not therefore being used for this award nor was any charge being made against the general revenues of the Society. The Hon. Secretary would write to Dr. and Mrs. Evans with a view to organising a local presentation for them in June during their projected visit to South Africa.

\* for the work "Herschel at the Cape".

(d) Mid year Astronomy School in the Transvaal. Council was pleased to receive Mr. Poole's note expressing approval in principle of the holding of an Astronomy School at the Witwatersrand in July. Obviously this would have to be organised by a committee in the Transvaal and Dr. Wild who is the co-ordinator for the approaching Summer School in Astronomy at the University of Cape Town agreed to write to Mr. Poole, giving him all the advice he could by virtue of his experience in organising the Summer School in Cape Town. In this connection it was mentioned that the Society's Annual General Meeting would fall due in the same month. An obvious venue for this meeting would be Bloemfontein, where Prof. Jarrett, the President of the Society is stationed; but with the possibility of his being in Johannesburg in connection with the Conference of the Physics Institute, to which the proposed Astronomy School could be linked, a change of venue to Johannesburg might be worth considering. Dr. Wild would discuss this aspect with Professor Jarrett.

Financial Statement. Mr. Orpen the Hon. Treasurer presented the following financial statement.

Financial Statement as on 31st January 1972

Expenditure	R	c.	Receipts	R.	c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope", July to Dec. 1971	708	27	Credit Balance at 1/7/1971	250	17
Cost of production of MNASSA, May to Dec. 1971 and of Handbook for 1972	926	66	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA	20	80	Arrears	6	50
Expenses in connection with the reproduction of back Nos. of MNASSA	124	87	Current	1937	50
Postage on publications, June to Dec. 1971	178	02	Advance	27	50
Postage in respect of back Nos. of MNASSA	10	73	Entrance Fees	120	00
Stationery and Equipment	10	85	Sale of MNASSA	166	10
Postage, other than above	25	98	Sale of reprints of articles in MNASSA	20	00
Essay Competition Prizes	33	00	Sale of reproduced back Nos. of MNASSA	149	00
National Youth Science Week Book Prize	10	00	Sale of Handbooks	30	35
Transferred to Savings Bank A/c. since 1/7/1971	900	00	Sale of back and extra nos. of "Sky and Telescope"	29	00
Bank Charges	32	71	Sale of copies of Royal Obs. Booklet	9	10
Credit Balance 31/1/1972	338	65	Donations	11	00
			Advertisement in MNASSA	2	00
			Interest on Fixed Deposits	37	50
			Interest on Building Society Shares	7	75
			Withdrawn from Savings Bank A/c January 1972	500	00
			Commission on Cheques and Airmail Postage Paid	17	07
	<u>R 3320</u>	<u>54</u>		<u>R 3320</u>	<u>54</u>

The amount held in the Savings Bank Account is now R500.00: in addition to this there is 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.

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

Dr. I. Glass, South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape.  
Mr. C. R. Jenkins, 8 Park Mansions, Voortrekker Street, Vereeniging, Tvl.  
Master W. G. Kernan, 11 Jasmay Place, Nahoon Valley, East London, Cape  
Mr. J. D. Laing, South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape.  
Mr. R. Mostert, 49 Kommissaris Street, Welgemoed, Bellville, Cape  
Mr. D. R. Nather, "Palomar", off van Breda Street, Constantia, Cape  
Mr. R. E. Nather, "Palomar", off van Breda Street, Constantia, Cape  
Mr. C. J. Neaves, 148A Frances Street, Bellvue East, Johannesburg,  
Mr. C. B. Newdigate, Willowglade "A", Edgware Road, Diep River, Cape  
Mr. F. T. Robb, 12 Mount Road, Rondebosch, Cape  
Mr. L. Rudman, 106 Clark Road, Glenwood, Durban  
Mr. R. J. Scrimgeour, 26 Ernest Road, Kensington, Johannesburg  
Mr. A. Shortland, South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape  
Mr. H. T. Stanley, P. O. Box 110, Krugersdorp, Tvl.  
Mr. V. G. van den Berg, 14 Fourth Avenue, Melville, Johannesburg.

In the case of Mr. E. Nather a reduced subscription of R4 was approved by Council in view of the fact that he did not wish to receive "Sky and Telescope". His son of the same address paid the full subscription.

Miscellaneous. Mr. Molyneux, who intimated he was willing to act as Librarian was asked to sort and catalogue the contents of the Library. Also to consider their removal to a more secure storage place, with less chance of loss of books.

Agreed that 1000 copies of the amended Constitution should be printed, each member to receive a copy.

Dr. Fairall wished to start preparations of the 1973 Handbook early in the year so that it would be available for distribution well before the year end if possible. More assistance would be welcomed particularly in view of the loss of the valuable services of the late Mr. Weinberg.

Council Meetings. Agreed that the next two meetings would be held on April 10 and June 19.

Gratuities. Consideration of Christmas gratuities was omitted from the Agenda of the last Council meeting. Agreed now that R25 should be given to Miss Y.Z.R. Thomas in appreciation for devoting so much of her leisure time to work on MNASSA. Also agreed that Dr. Wild should arrange with the Treasurer for suitable gratuities, on the basis of what was done in the past, for University staff assisting in despatch of MNASSA.

The meeting thereupon closed at 10.00 p.m.

T. W. Russo

Chairman

Hon. Secretary

*T. W. Russo*  
12/4/72