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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Boyden Observatory,
Bloemfontein, on Wednesday 1972 July 26 at 8 p.m.

Present Professor Jarrett (in the Chair) and about 20 members.

Apologies for absence received from Mr T.W. Russo, the Hon. Secretary.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held 1971 July 28 were read and confirmed on the motion of Mr Muller seconded by Mr Rhodes.

Matters Arising Nil.

Report of Council
for Year 1971/72 This was read by the Acting Secretary and a copy is attached to these minutes. Mr Walker moved its adoption, seconded by Mr Rhodes.

Finance The following statement was presented by the Acting Secretary and adopted on the motion of Mr Walker, seconded by Mr Klerk.

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Log in Minute Book

Signed copy of minutes
presented to A 97 July 1973

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Letters arising Nil.

Report of Council for Year 1971/72 This was read by the Acting Secretary and a copy is attached
to these minutes. Mr Walker moved its adoption, seconded by Mr Rhoads.

Finance The following statement was presented by the Acting Secretary and
adopted on the motion of Mr Walker, seconded by Mr Klerk.

*My paper
Muller*

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1972.

<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	R. c,	<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	R. c,
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for the Year*	1548-45	Credit Balance at 1/7/1971.	850-17
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A., May 1971 to May, 1972.	227-01	<u>Subscriptions.</u>	
Cost of reprints of articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	20-00	Arrears.	6-50
Cost of reproduction of back nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	137-37	Current	2037-00
Cost of production of Handbook, 1972.	265-13	Advance	<u>137-00</u>
Postage on publications	335-72	Entrance Fees	
Postage on reproductions	11-74	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	
Laboratory and equipment	23-46	Sale of reprints of articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	
Postage, other than above	47-52	Sale of reproduced Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	208-48
Essay Competition Prizes.	33-00	Sale of Handbooks	101-06
National Youth Week Science Book and Slide-rule Prizes.	13-00	Sale of back and extra nos. of "Sky & Telescope"	16-10
Cost of 50th and 60th Anniversary Cocktail Party	21-60	Sale of surplus copies of Royal Observatory 150th Anniversary Booklet	10-10
Fire Insurance Premiums	4-04	Donations	17-00
Bank Charges	56-57	Advertisements in M.N.A.S.S.A.	
Credit Balance, 30/6/1972.	<u>320-64</u>	Interest on Fixed Deposit	75-00
		Interest on Building Society Shares	12-00
		Savings Bank A/c. Interest	20-00
		Commission on Cheques :	
		Airmail Postage paid	10-00

R. 8732-35

An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of 7 1/4 p.a., and an amount of R100-00 was held in a Savings Bank Account with the Standard Bank, Meerburgrecht Branch. The amount so held having varied during the year, reaching a peak of R200-00 after the bulk of the Annual Subscriptions had been received.

The Society also still possesses of four shares in the S.A. Patent Mail, the cost of which to a total value of R200-00, was certified by a dated 18/5/1960, and of equipment and apparatus insured against fire under Policy 134700, dated 7/3/1968, in the amount of R2000-00 with Southern Insurance Society.

The balance in the Honorary Award Account is now R100-00, an award of R100 having been made in 1970 having been utilised for travel and expenses for the Society President who presented it.

Hon. Treasurer

HON. AUDITORS,

[Handwritten signatures]

Observing Section
Results

were read by the Acting Secretary on behalf of the Directors and will in due course appear in MNASSA.

(a) Occultation Section - Director Mr A. Morrisby.

The Section made 229 observations during the year, apart from grazing occultations which continued to attract lively attention. An appeal was made for more observers.

(b) Comet and Meteor Section - Director Mr J. C. Bennett.

A summary was given indicating that Comet Bradfield 1972f was the only comet bright enough to be observed with small telescopes during the year. The Geminid meteor shower was observed from Pretoria.

Arising from the reports, Mr Walker of Bloemfontein said it would be most useful if instructions could be published in MNASSA on making and reporting lunar occultation observations, with a view to training observers. The reduction of observations and the publication of results could also receive attention.

In reply to a question Mr K. J. Sterling gave details of the quartz clock he had made and successfully used in timing occultations.

Forbes Essay
Competition

The Chairman read the following report:-

Senior Section - Senior Section:

1st Prize : -

2nd Prize : Michael Lawrence, Lyttelton Manor High School, Verwoerdburg

3rd Prizes : (Sharon Kling, La Rochelle High School, Paarl

(Amanda Kirk, Girls High School, Wynberg

Consolation Prizes

(Louise Lotz, Girls High School, Kimberley

(Peter Rae, Lyttelton Manor High School, Verwoerdburg

Junior Section - Junior Section:

1st Prize : -

2nd Prizes : (Lynn Mathews, Lyttelton Manor High School, Verwoerdburg
(Lynne Waddington, Oriel Girls' School, Salisbury

3rd Prize : Dominic Thorburn, Westerford High School, Main Road, Rondebosch

Adjudicators Remarks:

The entries in both sections were somewhat disappointing, and for that reason we recommend that no first prizes be given. In the Senior section some of the entrants showed that they had read about some of the modern developments in Astronomy, but several writers merely produced strings of facts, making little attempt to discuss the subject.

In the Junior section some essays were, regrettably, far too short to merit consideration for a prize.

Several essays in both sections were marred by carelessness. There were a number of cases of incorrect information and a few really gross errors of fact. It was also evident that some writers did not read over their work carefully.

14 J.S.

New Council, Session 1972/73

President Mr K. J. Sterling
Vice-Presidents Mr G. A. Harding, Prof. A. H. Jarrett,
Dr P. A. T. Wild
Members Mr P. Hurly,
Dr A. D. Thackeray
Mr C. Papadopoulos
Mr M. D. Overbeek
Hon. Secretary Mr T. W. Russo
Hon. Treasurer Mr G. Orger

Miscellaneous

Professor Jarrett then left the Chair and Mr Sterling presided for the rest of the meeting.

After thanking the retiring President and Council Members for their services during the year, he remarked that his first duty in his new office was the pleasant one of calling upon Professor Jarrett to deliver his address.

Presidential Address

Professor Jarrett then gave the address, which was entitled "The Night Sky".

This was a comprehensive study of night sky phenomena other than starlight, including a history of the various discoveries in this field and the development of methods of detection and observation. Some excellent colour slides were shown.

At the conclusion of the lecture the Chairman thanked the speaker, who was loudly applauded.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr Moldaschl of Harrismith showed an interesting series of colour slides of astronomical subjects taken with a 35 mm camera mounted on his 3-inch refractor.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

J. Bennett
Acting Hon. Secretary

read + accepted

K. J. Sterling

25.7.1973

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE SESSION 1971/1972

Five Council meetings were held during the year with a consistent attendance of 12 to 14 Cape Town members and alternates for out-of-town members, unable to be present.

MEMBERSHIP as at 30th June 1972 totalled 411 of whom 13 remain suspended through non-payment of subscriptions. Council must again draw members' attention to the much unnecessary work involved for the Treasurer and additional costs of postage incurred by reason of the delay of many members in meeting their dues to the Society promptly. In September publications were withheld to some 38 members, this figure being decreased to the one mentioned above over the last eight months. Last year's figures were 353 members with 11 suspensions.

PUBLICATIONS

The Editorial Board has consisted of Dr. P.A.T. Wild (as Managing Editor), Dr. A.P. Fairall (as Assistant Editor and Distribution Manager), Mr. J. Churms (as Assistant Editor for material from the Cape Observatory) and the late Mr. H.C. Lagerwey (who took particular responsibility for those aspects of MNASSA concerned with amateur activities). The Board records its tribute to Mr. Lagerwey for his tremendous contribution to its various activities.

Orders for back numbers of MNASSA continue to be received from time to time, resulting in a small contribution to Society funds. Reprint orders and advertising sales have helped to offset the steady increase in production costs. Postage costs have jumped alarmingly, and to keep them to a minimum we have further trimmed the number of exchange and complimentary copies distributed. This has reduced the number of copies sent on individual order to about 130. Close on 400 copies are now sent to members, so that the total circulation has been maintained at about 530.

Dr. Fairall, as Editor of the Society's HANDBOOK, has achieved a record distribution of over 900 copies for 1972. The extensively improved and enlarged HANDBOOK is attracting many new customers, and we predict a distribution of 1200 copies or more for 1973. This increased circulation is proving a very valuable source of funds and of new membership for the Society, and has made it unnecessary to ask for any increase in membership fee to cover the cost of Society publications.

The assistance rendered by the following members in compiling the HANDBOOK is very much appreciated i.e., Mr Atkins, the late Mr. Weinberg, Mr Larmuth (Senior) and Mr Larmuth (Junior).

.../

Bulk delivery of "Sky and Telescope", for redistribution to members, has been beset with problems due to dock strikes, postal delays and price increases. This important service has so far been maintained without any increased cost to members, but it seems unlikely that this can be avoided indefinitely.

ASTRONOMICAL ARTICLES IN THE PRESS The regular publication of popular articles in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg newspapers is continuing.

FORBES ESSAY COMPETITION A total number of 17 essays from 9 schools was received, being made up of 8 in the Senior Section and 9 in the Junior Section.

This is a considerable decrease on last-year's figure of 32 and 35 of the year before.

The subjects chosen for the competition were:-

"Understanding the Universe" in the Senior Section

"As I see the stars" in the Junior Section.

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

GILL MEDAL No proposal for an award was received.

McINTYRE AWARD Council unanimously decided to make a joint award of R400 to the four authors of "Herschel at the Cape". The names of the recipients were:

Dr D S Evans
Mrs B Evans
Dr T Deeming
Dr S Goldfarb.

all who are resident in the U.S.A.

However advantage was taken of Dr and Mrs Evans brief return to South Africa for a personal presentation at a meeting of the Cape Centre held on June 14th. Prof. A. Jarrett, President of the Society made a special trip from Bloemfontein to Cape Town to officiate, a gesture which was very much appreciated.

CONSTITUTION Copies are in the process of a re-printing, and in due course all members will be in receipt of an up-to-date issue.

ASTRONOMY SUMMER SCHOOL /...

ASTRONOMY SUMMER SCHOOL In conjunction with the Extra - Rural Department of the University of Cape Town, morning and evening sessions were held in Cape Town from 7th to 11th February. These were very well attended. The presence of up-country members and talks by Dr Andrews of Pretoria, Prof. Gledhill of Grahamstown in addition to those of local speakers from Cape Town were very much appreciated.

This very successful event was by way of marking two important anniversaries in connection with the Society viz. the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa and the 60th anniversary of the inauguration of the Cape Astronomical Association. It was a pleasure to welcome Dr. D Gordon Mills of Rondebosch, Cape, who was instrumental in calling a first meeting of astronomically minded folk way back in 1912.

Council again sponsored one of the prizes awarded for the annual National Science Week Competitive examination held under the auspices of the Foundation for Education Science and Technology.

It is with regret that Council was informed of the death of Mr H C Lagerwey. He served on Council for many years, and was closely associated firstly with the Transvaal Centre then latterly with the Cape Centre.

Similarly the passing of Mr I Weinberg left a gap hard to fill. He was a consistent attendant at Council Meetings, and rendered invaluable service in the compilation of the HANDBOOK.

Suitable obituaries have appeared in MNASSA.

It is difficult to single out all who have put in efforts both small and large in the interests of the Society, but mention should be made of Mr. Bentley, Business Manager of MNASSA, Mr. Orpen now completing 22 years as Hon. Treasurer, Mr Hurly as Public Relations Officer, Secretary Mr. Russo and the Director of the S A Astronomical Observatory for affording many facilities for Society Meetings.

The Society as a whole is deeply indebted to the Committees of local Centres in stimulating interest in astronomy in their respective areas and to the Directors of observing sections.

This will be the first occasion under the revised Art. XII of the Constitution that the Annual General Meeting will be held in one Centre only, and thanks are due to the Bloemfontein Centre for organizing the meeting to be held 26 July under the Chairmanship of Prof. Jarrett, Director of Boyden Observatory and the out going President of the Society.

PRESIDENT

Alan H. Jarrett

L. P. ...

HON. SECRETARY

90 Malan Street
Riviera,
Pretoria.

11th August 1972.

Dear Mr. Russo,

Enclosed are the Minutes of the recent Annual General Meeting at Bloemfontein ^{at} which I was asked to act as Secretary.

Please change or shorten them in any way you like, if they don't sound right or are too verbose.

Professor Jarrett's address was difficult to summarise in a few lines - perhaps you would be so kind as to "vet" that part of the minutes. (Should I have put "airglow" for night sky emission?)

We were sorry to hear of your wife's illness. I do hope things are going better now, and that she will make a speedy recovery.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,
Jack Bennett

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	<u>R.3732-25</u>		<u>R.3732-25</u>

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The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R181-82, an award of R400 having been made and R50 having been utilised for travelling expenses for the Society President who presented it.

Garrett Oshes
Hon. Treasurer.

HON. AUDITORS.

[Handwritten signatures]

New Council. Session 1972/73

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Vice-Presidents Mr G. A. Harding, Prof. A. H. Jarrett,
Dr P. A. T. Wild
Members Mr R. Hurly,
Dr A. D. Thackeray
Mr C. Papadopoulos
Mr M. D. Overbeek
Hon. Secretary Mr T. W. Russo
Hon. Treasurer Mr G. Orpen

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The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.


Acting Hon. Secretary.