

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held 1972 November 20 at 8.00 p.m. at the South African Astronomical Observatory, Cape.

Present: Mr. Harding (in the Chair), Drs. Cousins, Fairall and Wild. Messrs. Bentley, Bondiotti, Churms, Grimwood, Larmuth, Molyneux, Orpen, Turk and Russo.

Apologies for absence received from Prof. Jarrett, Messrs Hurly and Papadopoulos.

Minutes of previous meeting held 1972 September 25, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and adopted with one amendment; viz. the inclusion of Mr. Bentley's name among the apologies for absence.

Matters arising (a) Mr. Molyneux reported that he had ascertained that the cost of binding books for the Society's library would be R5 per volume. Mr. Bondiotti remarked that the Salesian Institute at one time had charged R3 per volume. Dr. Wild said that the Globe Trading Rulers and Bookbinders had done some binding recently for the U.C.T. at R2.50 per volume. In view of the range of prices quoted, Mr. Molyneux agreed to investigate further and report back at the next meeting. Mr. Turk also had a possible source in mind.

(b) Agreed to advertise for sale in MNASSA back numbers of "Sky and Telescope". The price would be 20c per copy plus postage.

(c) The question of increased subscriptions was debated. Sky and Telescope was now costing 10c (USA) extra per copy, i.e. about R1 per year per member. The cost of MNASSA was also going up, and it was agreed that the additional costs should now be borne by members by way of increased subscriptions. It had to be remembered that the situation was not static, and there was every prospect that costs of publications would continue to rise. On the motion of Mr. Orpen, seconded by Mr. Turk, it was decided that annual subscriptions for full members would be R8 per year as from 1973 July 1. A Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Fairall, Dr. Wild and Mr. Bondiotti was formed to consider the question of members residing outside Southern Africa. Postage involved was considerable and a factor to be considered, perhaps on a regional basis.

(d) on the motion of Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Molyneux, it was agreed that subscriptions for MNASSA should be R5 p.a. (which includes postage) as from 1973 January 1. Those who had already paid would not be called upon to pay the additional charge.

(e) Essay Competition. The decrease in the interest shown was commented upon, and some discussion, led by Dr. Fairall, on a possible change in the scope of the competition followed. One possibility was to continue setting an essay for junior entrants, and also for the seniors, but in regard to the latter class, to allow entrants to describe an astronomical project on which he or she was engaged instead of confining the entrant to a set subject. Dr. Wild and Dr. Fairall and Mr. Bondiotti agreed, as a sub-committee, to investigate the matter, to formulate any required change in the Rules of the Competition, and to report back to the next Council Meeting. Members of Council, not present, would be asked to forward their comments to the Hon. Secretary.

Following on this, regret was expressed that Astronomy as a subject did not appear on the Curriculum for Schools. This was left over for discussion at the next meeting, and members of Council not likely to be present would also be asked to comment on this aspect.

Handbook Dr. Fairall reported that the Handbook would be ready for issue within a few weeks. This year 1500 would be printed.

Finance The following statement, presented by the Treasurer, was adopted on the motion of Mr. Larmuth, seconded by Dr. Fairall.

Quarant
29/11/73.

