

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S.A. Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town, on Monday 29th January, 1973, at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. G. Harding (in the Chair), Messrs. Allen, Bondietti, Churms Grimwood, Hurly, Larmuth, Orpen, Russo and Saville. Drs. Fairall and Wild.

Apologies for absence received from Professor Jarrett, Messrs. Bentley, Molyneux, Simenhoff and Turk.

Minutes of previous meeting held 20th November 1972, were taken as read and signed after the inclusion of Mr. Simenhoff's name among "Apologies for absence".

Matters arising: The questions of Subscriptions and the Essay Competition were dealt with later in the Agenda as special items.

G.A. Harding: On the motion of Mr. Hurly, Council congratulated Mr. Harding, one of the Society's Vice-Presidents on being awarded the degree of M.Sc (Honorary) by the University of Cape Town.

New Members:

Mr. P.J. Jackson, 501 Skyline House, Orange Street, Cape Town

Mr. J.G. Bosch, 27 Orchard Avenue, Bordeaux, Randburg, Tvl.

Mr. G.R. Marshall, 95 Ninth Road, Kew, Johannesburg

Mr. F. Mitchell, Shotley Lodge, Abel Road, Berea, Johannesburg

Mr. W.A. Rankine, P O Box 16, Borrowdale, Salisbury, Rhodesia

Mr. D. Sheridan, 270, Celliers Ave., Lyttelton, P O Verwoerdburg, Tvl

Mr. J.T. Stam, 11 Milner Road, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.

Mr. K.J. Juleff, 251 Mimosa Road, Blackheath, Johannesburg

Mr. G.E. Paxton, 250 Louisiana Street, Berario, Johannesburg

Mr. A.M. van Wijk, Magnetic Observatory of the CSIR, Hermanus, Cape

Finance: The following statement was presented by Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Orpen, and adopted - (see at end)

Expenditure was showing a marked increase, and it seemed that it would be necessary to draw on the monies on fixed deposit, falling due for repayment soon. Future sales of back numbers of M.N.A.S.S.A., payment of arrear subscriptions and the increased subscriptions proposed for 1973/74 should alleviate the position.

The receipt of \$10 from Dr. Evans was gratefully acknowledged.

Subscriptions: As recommended by the sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting, it was agreed that overseas members should be called upon to pay an additional R1 p.a. to meet the higher costs entailed. Dr. Fairall would inform the individual members concerned, also pointing out that in certain cases a double journey of "Sky and Telescope" was involved, e.g. the magazine is at the present time flown in bulk from U.S.A. to Holland, then transhipped to South

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MNASSA  
R1-1000

Africa, from whence distribution to a member in Europe or the Americas involved another lengthy sea voyage. Delivery would take place some weeks possibly after the magazine was available in local (to the member) bookshops.

Essay Competition: The report submitted by the sub-committee appointed to consider the matter is attached to these minutes. After a lengthy discussion it was adopted. The topic for the Junior Section was agreed on as:-

"Project Apollo"

Astronomy as a subject on a school's curriculum: There was unanimous agreement on the desirability of the adoption of Astronomy as a subject at schools. However, before writing to the Educational Authorities in South Africa, it could be advantageous to ascertain the practice in spheres outside South Africa. Mr. Rochford of Australia, now temporarily in South Africa might prove a source of information.

Correspondence from Mr. Bennett, Mr. Knipe, Mr. Muller and Mr. Overbeek, concerning the previous two items were read with appreciation for the opinions expressed and helped to guide Council in its discussions.

Miscellaneous: A letter received from the British Astronomical Association on the question of the observation of variable stars was read. Co-operation with observing was sought from members, and it was agreed that copies should be sent to Mr. de Kock, Director of the Society's Variable Star Section, and also to Mr. Overbeek and the Editor of MNASSA.

An information document dated November 1972 and received from the Joint Council of Scientific Societies indicated that the Astronomical Society could now join as an Associate Member. Agreed that no action be taken at the present time pending receipt of information regarding any benefits for the Society.

The Hon. Secretary had received a letter from "Trade and Technical Couriers (SA)" dated 25 January, asking the Society to assist, by circulating members, in finding a "recognised astronomer" to act as Tour Director for a group of 28 amateur and professional astronomers from U.S.A. touring South Africa next November. Agreed to circulate copies to Centres and Astronomical Observatories.

Mr. C. de Villiers had written in a letter of resignation. A plea that articles etc. submitted for publication in MNASSA had been severely edited or not published was contained in a lengthy annexure. Dr. Wild explained the policy of the Board whereby the increasingly high standard of MNASSA had to be maintained and many would-be contributors, and contributors had to accept the Board's decisions. Council wholeheartedly endorsed the policy of the Board. It was emphasised that worthwhile articles were always welcomed and a wish was expressed that more should come from the ranks of the amateurs. News from Centres would also help to make the Notes more attractive to members in general.

The meeting thereupon closed at 10.10 p.m.

  
CHAIRMAN

  
HON. SECRETARY

115/73

FORBES (ESSAY) COMPETITION

This annual competition is sponsored by the Council of the Astronomical Society for the stimulation of interest in astronomy amongst scholars. Prizes will be awarded for the three best written entries in each of two sections.

The funds for the prizes are mainly derived from a bequest to the Society by the late Mr. A.F.I. Forbes, a well-known amateur astronomer and comet discoverer.

SENIOR SECTION

Scholars over 15 years of age may submit one of the following as an entry to the competition:

- (i) An account of an astronomical project undertaken by the scholar as an individual or as a member of a group. Typical projects might be the construction of a small telescope, observations of a particular astronomical event, or a study of some common heavenly body. The entry will be judged not only on the quality of the written account and any accompanying diagrams, but also on the merits of the work performed.
- (ii) An essay or literature survey concerning any astronomical topic of the scholar's choice. In this case it is assumed that some background research or reading will be necessary and all sources must be quoted. Scholars are particularly warned against copying sections direct from textbooks, without quotation marks and proper acknowledgement.
- (iii) A detailed proposal for an astronomical project such as those in category (i) above. Entries will be judged with emphasis on planning and originality.

First prize: R10.      Second prize: R6.      Third prize: R4.  
In addition, winning entries of sufficiently high standard may be published in the monthly notices of the Society.

JUNIOR SECTION

Scholars under 15 years of age may submit an essay of not more than 1000 words on an astronomical topic which is changed annually. The topic for 1973 is:      ...PROJECT... "APOLLO".....

First prize: R6      Second prize: R4.      Third prize: R3.

GENERAL

The competition is open to scholars from duly registered schools in Southern Africa, as well as to Student Members of the Society.

Entries <sup>may</sup> be written in English or Afrikaans.

Entries from competitors in schools are to be submitted through the Principal of the School. No school may forward more than five entries in each section.

Entries should be sent to the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa, c/o the South African Astronomical Observatory, P. O. Box 9, Observatory, Cape. The closing date is May 31st, 1973.

The committee of judges will be appointed by the Council and will comprise professional astronomers, or members of the teaching staff of Universities or of Schools from which no entries have been received.

The results of the competition will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in July. The Society has the right to publish or read at any of its meetings any winning entry.

Prizes will not be awarded if no entries of sufficient merit are received. The judges reserve the right to vary the amount of prize money.

A.P. Free  
Samuel  
J. van der Merwe

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 29th JANUARY, 1973.

| <u>EXPENDITURE.</u>   | R. c.                                  | <u>RECEIPTS.</u>  | R. c.             |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for period July to December 1972  | 1043-87                                | Credit Balance at 1/7/1972                                      | 320-64            |
| Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A., March to December 1972  | 27 00<br>979-80                        | Subscriptions.  |                   |
| Cost of reprints of Articles in M.N.A.S.S.A., payment for some of which was received during the previous Financial Year | 26-79                                  | Arrears   | 13-20             |
| Expenditure in connection with the reproduction of Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.  | 8-25                                   | Current   | 2139-00           |
| Cost of production of Handbook for 1973   | 430-00                                 | Advance   | <u>57-80</u>      |
| Postage on publications, July to December 1972  | <del>184-19</del><br><del>811-19</del> | Entrance Fees   | 112-50            |
| Stationery & Equipment  | 23-14                                  | Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.  | 209-88            |
| Postage, other than above   | 21-54                                  | Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A. Back Nos.                                  | 100-25            |
| Cost of production of 1000 copies of Constitution.  | 90-97                                  | Sale of Handbooks   | 16-50             |
| Essay Competition Prizes  | 29-00                                  | Sale of back and extra nos. of "Sky & Telescope"                | 38-60             |
| Advertisements of McIntyre Award Presentation Meeting   | 19-90                                  | Donations   | 25-22             |
| Transferred to Savings Bank A/c., July & August 1972  | 700-00                                 | Advertisement in M.N.A.S.S.A.                                   | 2-00              |
| Bank Charges & Exchange Losses  | 44-96                                  | Interest on Building Society Shares                             | 7-75              |
| Credit Balance at 29/1/1973   | 226-37                                 | Interest on Fixed Deposit                                       | 37-50             |
|   | <u>R. 3855-78</u>                      | Commission on Cheques, Exchange gains and Airmail Postage Paid. | 24-94             |
|   |  | Withdrawn from Savings Bank A/c., January 1973                  | 750-00            |
|   |  |   | <u>R. 3855-78</u> |

The amount at present held in the Savings Bank is R50-00

The Balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R266-19, further interest amounting to R55-94 having been received during December 1972.

*Garrett Oshen*  
HON. TREASURER.