

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1973.

<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	R. c.	<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for the Year 1985-10		Credit Balance at 1/7/1972	320-64
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A., March, 1972 to May, 1973	1385-74	<u>Subscriptions.</u>	
Cost of reprints of Articles in M.N.A.S.S.A., payment for some of which was received during the previous year	26-79	Arrears	13-20
Expenditure on reproduction of back nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	8-25	Current	2304-50
Cost of production of Handbook, 1973	432-16	Advance	<u>188-80</u>
Postage on publications	353-24	Entrance Fees	187-50
Stationery & Equipment	182-07	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	651-47
Postage, other than above.	39-84	Sale of reprints of Articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	15-00
Cost of production of 1000 copies of Constitution	90-97	Sale of reproduced Back Numbers of M.N.A.S.S.A.	100-25
Essay Competition Prizes	29-00	Sale of Handbooks	332-90
National Youth Week Science Slide-rule Prize.	10-00	Sale of back & extra nos. of "Sky & Telescope"	74-80
Advertisements of McIntyre Award Presentation Meeting	19-90	Sale of surplus copies of Royal Observatory 150th Anniversary Booklet	0-70
Fire Insurance Premium	4-00	Donations	29-22
Transferred Savings Bank A/c., July & August, 1972.	700-00	Advertisements in MNASSA	2-00
Bank Charges and Exchange Losses	71-64	Interest on Building Society Shares	15-50
Credit Balance, 30th June 1973	794-41	Interest on Fixed Deposit	75-00
		Savings Bank A/c. Interest	19-45
		Withdrawn from Savings Bank A/c. January 1973	750-00
		Withdrawn from Fixed Deposit, March 1973	1000-00
		Commission on Cheques, Exchange gains and airmail postage paid	32-18
	<u>R.6113-11</u>		<u>R.6113-11</u>

The Society has an amount of R50-00 in a Savings Bank Account with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch.

The Society also stands possessed of four shares in the S.A. Permanent Building Society to a total value of R200-00; per Certificate C.15578, dated 18/5/1960, and of equipment and apparatus insured against fire under Policy 134760, dated 27/2/1961, in the amount of R1000-00 with the Southern Insurance Society.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R332-62, no award having been made during the year.

*in Auditor's*

*M. R. ...*

*M. R. ...*

*Garrett Orpen  
Hon. Treasurer*

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE SESSION 1972/1973

Five Council meetings were held during the year with a consistent average attendance of 12 members and alternates out of a possible maximum of 17.

MEMBERSHIP totalled 463, of whom 32 have been suspended through non-payment of subscriptions. At 30 June 1972 the number of members was 411 of whom 13 were still suspended. So while there was a healthy growth in membership figures, the position as regards persons not fulfilling their obligations to the Society has deteriorated. Nearly 70 subscriptions were outstanding at the end of last October, and although many paid up subsequently, members should bear in mind that much unnecessary work was involved for the Treasurer and much additional postage incurred.

PUBLICATIONS

The Editorial Board has consisted of Dr. P.A.T. Wild (as Editor of MNASSA), Dr. A.P. Fairall (assistant Editor for MNASSA, Editor of the Handbook and in charge of distribution of all publications), Mr. J. Churms (assistant Editor for material from the South African Astronomical Observatory) and Mr. Rupert Hurly (Assistant Editor for Centre and Amateur activities).

During the year a new feature entitled "Amateur Notes" was introduced; following a competition in which all members of the Society were invited to take part, this feature will be renamed " XX  
" and will have its own editors for the 1973/74 session.

The monthly circulation of MNASSA - apart from those sent to members - has remained at about 130 copies; in view of steadily rising printing costs it is important that this figure be increased substantially. It is hoped that the 1973/74 Editorial Board will find the time and opportunity to conduct a vigorous sales campaign. Revenue from back number sales (now showing an accumulated excess of income over expenditure of about R50) and from advertising (typically R50 per year) also needs to be built up.

A new record number of 1500 copies of the "Astronomical Handbook for Southern Africa" was printed for 1973, appropriately showing the domes of the new S.A.A.O. station at Sutherland on the cover. Almost the entire stock has now been disposed of, the resulting revenue from outside sales being almost sufficient to cover the whole production cost. The editor wishes to thank those members who contributed to production and/or circulation, especially Mr. C. Larmuth for eclipse calculations, Mr. G.R. Atkins for moonrise/moonset calculations, Mr. R. Hurly for publicity, and Prof. A.H. Jarrett who purchased 350 copies for distribution from the Boyden Observatory.

Redistribution of "Sky and Telescope" has continued fairly smoothly, though regrettably with increased cost to the Society and its members. The new system, whereby the magazines are airfreighted to Holland and posted to us from there by surface mail, appears to be operating satisfactorily but without any improvement in speed; we still normally receive issues for a particular month in the early days of the following month.

FORBES ESSAY COMPETITION

In order to stimulate interest in this competition the practice of setting a specific topic for the Senior Section was not followed this year.

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XX not yet decided upon.

Scholars over 15 years of age were invited to submit one of the following as an entry to the Competition:-

- (1) An account of an astronomical project undertaken by the scholar as an individual or as a member of a group. Typical projects could be the construction of a small telescope, observations of a particular astronomical event, or a study of a heavenly body.
- (2) An essay or literature survey concerning any astronomical topic of the scholar's choice.
- (3) A detailed proposal for an astronomical project such as those in (1) above.

In the Junior section the topic set was "Project Apollo".

It is regretted that only 7 entries were received as compared with 17 last year, and 32 in the previous year. It is difficult to understand the reason for the decline in interest in the competition. All four Departments of Education were contacted with a view to the publication of details of the Competition in the Gazettes issued to schools.

In one case we had full cooperation. In another, there was no backing from the Department but a list of schools in that particular Province was furnished for direct contact by the Society. In a third case nothing more than an acknowledgement was received. In the fourth case the Department found it impossible to approve of the Competition.

Circulars concerning the competition were sent direct to schools which had previously forwarded entries, to the Planetariums, to the various Society's Centres and to individuals for distribution.

The results and adjudicators' remarks are given in a separate report.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Council reluctantly decided that these should be increased to R8.00 p.a. with effect from 1 July 1973. For some time Sky and Telescope has been costing the Society about R1 per year more per member. There had also been an increase in postage rates, and the cost of printing MNASSA had also been increasing. The Society had been bearing the increased costs from its reserves but it was now considered imperative that the individual member should make his contribution.

#### ASTRONOMY IN THE SCHOOLS

Council has been considering ways and means of influencing the Authorities to introduce Astronomy as a subject in the Schools' curriculum. Nothing definite can be reported at this stage.

#### FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Council again contributed the cost of one of the prizes to be awarded during the Ninth National Youth Science Week, to be held in Pretoria in July 1973.

#### GILL MEDAL

No proposal for an award was received.

#### MCINTYRE AWARD

No proposal for an award was received.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The Society endeavours to assist members, prospective members and non-members on astronomical matters raised, generally through correspondence. However it is through the Centres and the Observing Sections that interest

in Astronomy is stimulated. Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the work done by the Directors of the Observing Sections and the Committees of the Centres.

Articles on Astronomical subjects also appear in several newspapers. These are much appreciated, and the writers are to be congratulated and thanked.

The Society is also indebted to the Business Manager - Mr. Bentley the Hon. Treasurer - Mr. Orpen, who has now completed 23 years in this office, the Public Relations Officer - Mr. Hurly and the Editorial Board for the compilation of the Monthly Notes - the Annual Handbook and the despatch of the publications to individual members. In this connection a special vote of thanks is due to Professor Warner of the University of Cape Town. The high standard of the Society's publications and their regular distribution together with Sky and Telescope are largely dependent upon members of the Astronomy Department, of which he is the Head.

Mention should also be made of the facilities for meetings afforded by the Director of the S A Astronomical Observatory.



PRESIDENT



HON. SECRETARY