

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town on Monday 1975 February 3 at 8 p.m.

Present Mr. Hurly (in the chair) Mrs. Fairall and Thackeray. Messrs Bentley, Bondietti, Churms, Grimwood, G. Larmuth, C. Larmuth, Orpen, Overbeek, Papadopolous, Simenhoff, Turk and Russo. Messrs. Overbeek and Papadopolous, who attended from Johannesburg received a warm welcome.

Apologies for absence received from Dr. Wild, Dr. van Dugteren and Dr. Cousins.

Minutes of the previous meeting held 1974 November 19 read and confirmed.

Matters arising The question of the Forbes Essay Competition again received attention. It was noted that the competition would not be run in 1975 due to continuing lack of support. The possibility of making it more attractive by substantially increasing the prize monies was mooted, as well as an award to the school concerned. Council members were asked to consider the whole aspect of the Competition during the coming months. One other suggestion was the holding of the competition every two years instead of annually.

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

Associated Membership

Mrs J. Fossati
7A Pont du Gard
Beach Road
Mouille Point
CAPE TOWN 8001

Full Membership

Mr. J.J.P. deAlmeida
P O Box 3,
SASOLBURG 9570

Mr. A. deV Austin
37 Barkly Road
SEA POINT 8001

Mr. L. Bollini
414 Dorset Sq.,
Doris St.,
Berea
JOHANNESBURG 2001

Mr. R.M. Brine
30 Graaff Ave.,
Comet
BOKSBURG 1460

Mr. W.P.J. du Preez
High School
P O Box 20
CALITZDORP 6660

Mr. A.M. Fossati
7A Pont du Gard
Beach Road
Mouille Point
CAPE TOWN 8001

Mr. C.E.W. Foster
P O Box 1631
PIETERMARITZBURG 3200

Mr. L.E.G. Frost
C/o University of Cape Town
Private Bag
RONDEBOSCH 7700

Mr. W.H. Grimm
2 Willow Glen
Cor. 1st Avenue & Garden Road
Bordeaux
Randburg 2001

Mr. G.S. Hill
9 Ceramic
Boundary Road
GreenPoint
CAPE TOWN 8001

New Members (Contd.)

Mr. D.K. Knotwell
10 Buckingham Avenue
PIETERMARITZBURG 3201

Master R. van Wyk
31 Yente Street
KIMBERLEY 8301

Mr. M.J. McDonald
4 Glen Esk
PINELANDS 7405

Dr. G.L. Prosser
50 Ashby Road
PIETERMARITZBURG 3201

Mr. Papadopolous stated that contact by Centres with prospective new members was lost when application for membership was made direct to the Hon. Secretary in Cape Town. Mr. Russo promised to let Centres know immediately of new members in their particular areas. It was agreed that the Nomination Form could of advantage be altered in some ways, this being a matter for future action.

Finance

Mr Orpen presented the financial statement as follows:

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
	R. c.		R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope", July to December 1974	1024. 47	Credit Balance at 1.7.74.	354. 64
Cost of production of MNASSA, June to December 74.	1118. 54	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA	79. 87	Arrears	8-00
Expenditure on reproduction of back nos. of MNASSA	45. 72	Current	3246-00
Cost of production of Handbook for 1975	684. 38	Advance	<u>152-00</u>
Postage on publications, July 74 - January 75.	246. 94		3406. 00
Stationery & equipment	44. 86	Entrance Fees	87. 50
Postage, other than above	18. 57	Sale of MNASSA	468. 30
Essay Competition Prizes	14. 00	Sale of reprints of articles in MNASSA	70. 00
Transferred to "Plusplan" Savings A/c., August and September 1974	1500. 00	Sale of reproduced back numbers of MNASSA	157. 00
Bank charges	61. 39	Sale of Handbooks	60. 75
Credit Balance at 3.2.75.	432. 12	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	32. 10
		Donations	18. 00
		Interest on Fixed Deposit	82. 50
		Interest on Building Society Shares (Forbes Bequest)	8. 75
		Withdrawn from "Plusplan" Savings A/c., Febr. 75.	500. 00
		Commission on Cheques and airmail postage paid	25. 32
	<u>R 5270. 86</u>		<u>R5270-86</u>

An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of 9½%. The amount in the "Plusplan" Savings Account with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch, is now R1561-17.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R513-98, interest of R32-03 having been received during December 1974: of this R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%

Agreed to waive payment of the annual subscription of Sister P. Cooymans for one year without loss of publications; as a special concession.

Agreed that the Entrance Fee in respect of an application by Dr. G. Conradie for re-instatement as a member after 15 years, provided that at the time of resignation he had been a member in good standing.

Agreed that the Transvaal Centre could continue to receive publications with payment of a sum equal to the annual Society membership fee. This facility would be extended to other Centres.

Editorship of MNASSA The Chairman read letters from Dr. Wild in which he announced his resignation as Editor and gave suggestions for his possible successor(s). This news was received with great regret by Council, and a motion of appreciation for all the work he had so admirably done for MNASSA was passed unanimously. The possibility of Mr. Penfold of the S.A.A.O. coming on to the Editorial Board after the completion of his thesis for his Ph.D in July was noted, and Mr. Churms and Dr. Thackeray agreed to undertake the editorship temporarily until this date, with the power to to coop. This matter would be reviewed later in the light of existing circumstances.

MNASSA Dr. Thackeray and Mr. Overbeek read comments on MNASSA submitted by sundry Centres/members.

The general consensus of opinion was that the present high standard should be maintained but with the additional inclusion of less technical articles. News of astronomical projects undertaken by the professional astronomers, and any news of general interest e.g. visits by overseas professionals, who possibly could address Centres; would be appreciated by the amateur.

A suggestion to combine the monthly issues into pairs, as is now done with the January February issues and the November December issues was made. This would lessen the work of the Board and would be an advantage if there were a shortage of contributions. Additional issues could be made should the volume of material available for inclusion increase.

Costs of Typing Summary Volume of MNASSA (vols. 1-15)

Agreed to pay Mrs. Dobbie 50c per page for sections completed in 1974.

Agreed to pay 75c per page for typing undertaking after January 1, 1975 and that a page of tabular material count as two pages for purposes of calculating payment.

Durban Planetarium A letter received from Mr. Gray of the Natal Centre, giving details of a scheme to obtain a planetarium for Durban was read. This was very much in the embryo stage but it was plain that the whole concept was ambitious, visionary and worthy of commendation. Council was gratified to hear all this and the Hon. Secretary was directed to write a congratulatory letter to Mr. Gray.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Overbeek spoke of his visit to New Zealand, from where he brought greetings from the Astronomical Society of New Zealand. Variable star charts had been obtained from Mr. Bateson for use by members of the Variable Star Section in S.A. at a cost of R40-00, and the Hon. Treasurer was directed to refund this sum to Mr. Overbeek.

approval was also given to the printing of letterheads for the Variable Star Section.

Mr. Turk mentioned that Mr. Gray of Durban, who had the McIntyre telescope on loan was willing to insure against its loss by adding this instrument to the Centre's Insurance Policy. Mr. Turk would raise the question of insurance of the Society's other telescopes through Mr. Gray, who was employed in the insurance field.

Mr. Krumm had intimated that he would like to have back the "Krumm" telescope, and would replace the missing eyepieces. This was agreed.

Council was pleased to hear that during the week June 9th to June 14th there would be a series of 5-minute talks prepared by Mr. Gray on the subject "An Introduction to Astronomy". These would be broadcast on the English service of the S.A.B.C., from 6.55 a.m. to 7.00 a.m.

The meeting thereupon adjourned, the time being 11 p.m.



P.W. Russo
HON. SECRETARY