

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town on Monday April 7, 1975 at 8 p.m.

- Present Mr Hurly (in the Chair) Messrs Duveen, C. Larmuth, G. Larmuth, Molyneux, Orpen, Turk, Roberts and Russo
- Apologies received from Messrs Bentley, Bondietti, Churms, Simenhoff, Papadopolous and Dr. Cousins
- Minutes of previous meeting held February 3, 1975 taken as read and agreed.
- Matters arising
- (a) Insurance on telescopes. Mr. Turk had no progress to report.
  - (b) Krumm Telescope. Eyepieces, which appeared to be those reported missing, had been found.
- Finance The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Orpen, presented the following financial statement:-

	<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
	R	c		R
				c
Subscriptions to "Sky & Telescope", July 1974 to April 1975	1807	27	Credit balance at 1/7/1974	354-64
Cost of production of MNASSA, June to December 1974	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	3311-00
Cost of production of Handbook for 1975	684	38	Advance	<u>190-00</u>
Postage on publications July 1974 to February 1975	276	94	Entrance Fees	110-00
Stationery & equipment	44	86	Sale of MNASSA	600-95
Postage, other than above	24	51	Sale of reprints of articles in MNASSA	130-00
Essay Competition Prizes	14	00	Sale of reproduced Back numbers of MNASSA	157-00
Transferred to "Plusplan" Savings A/c., Aug. & September 1974	1500	00	Sale of Handbooks	81-20
Bank Charges	94	06	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	32-10
Credit Balance at 7.4.75.	451	50	Sale of La Caille booklet	-50
			Donations	34-94
			Interest on Fixed Deposit	82-50
			Interest on Building Soc. Shares (Forbes Bequest)	8-75
			Withdrawn from "Plusplan" Savings A/c., Feb. & Apr. 1975	1000-00
			Commission on cheques and airmail postage paid	<u>40-07</u>
	R6141	65		R 6141-65

An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of  $9\frac{1}{2}\%$ . The amount in the "Plusplan" Savings with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch, is now R1061-17.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R569-75, fixed deposit interest of R22-50 having been credited recently and interest on capital amounting to R33-27 having been received during March 1975. Of this R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%.

New  
Members

The following were elected subject to the proviso that the names published in MNASSA and that no objections be received.

Mr L.E. Alberts  
23 Millvale  
Loxton Road  
MILNERTON C P  
7405

Mr C.L. Jooste  
23 Ryde Place  
DURBAN NORTH 4001

Mr. J L Bishop  
9 Alphonse Road  
Annaty Bank  
TOKAI 7800

Mrs M.E. Norman  
302 Herschel Oaks  
Herschel Road  
CLAREMONT 7700

Mr. J.J. Breytenbach  
P O Box 61400  
MARSHALLTOWN 2107

Mr J.P.W. Rowe  
P O Box 96  
TSHANENI  
Swaziland

Dr. G. Conradie  
Habichtsburg  
Barbourne Road  
LAKE SIDE 7945

Mrs E.M. Wilde  
310 Monthaven  
605 Currie Road  
DURBAN 4001

Mr. W.R. Douglas  
4 President Street  
Jansen Park  
BOKSBURG 1460

Miss Annemarie Wulff  
22 Oxford Road  
OBSERVATORY  
7900

Associate  
membership

The correct interpretation of the Constitution in regard to this class of membership was raised by Mr Duveen. Conflicting views were expressed and there appeared to be some dissatisfaction about their status. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs Duveen Turk, G. Larmuth and Molyneux was appointed to look into the whole question of membership and report back at the next meeting.

Financial  
assistance  
for MNASSA

In a communication dated 14th February, a copy of which had been circulated to all members (and alternates) of Council, and which had been addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Wild proposed:-

- (a) That an application be made to the Department of National Education
- (b) That it be made in the first instance only for an ad hoc grant to assist in the publication of the Summary Volume (vols. 1-XV)
- (c) That the application be for a grant of R500 and a guarantee of up to a further R500 to cover the eventuality of the project failing to cover its costs from sales.

The basic conditions under which ad hoc grants are granted were considered by Council. Several points appeared to require clarification, and in view of Dr. Wild's absence from the meeting it was decided to defer discussion until the next meeting when it was hoped Dr. Wild could be present to clear any obscure aspects.

Despatch of  
publications

In a letter dated 14th March addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Fairall intimated that increasing professional and personal commitments had forced him to inform Council that he could no longer carry on as distribution manager nor could he undertake the production of next year's handbook. Council accepted the position sympathetically, and expressed its sincere thanks for all the time and effort put in by Dr. Fairall over the past five years, and for the high standard of the Handbook for which he was responsible. The matter was then open for discussion

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HUNTER

PLEASE CONVEY TO DR R H STOY THE GOOD WISHES OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF S A ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT. HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE SOCIETY IS REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE, AND WE WISH BOTH HE AND MRS STOY MANY YEARS OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

RUSSO  
8.4.75

⊕  
RG0 HERMONCEUX  
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under two headings:- Despatch of publications and Compilation of handbook.

Despatch All aspects were fully discussed and several suggestions made, eg (1) despatch to be handled on a regional basis, each Centre being responsible for a quota, (2) a team of members to meet once a month to handle the despatch (3) a person on retirement to do the work for a fee.

Mr Larmuth stated that there were firms in Cape Town who could undertake the packing and addressing for a reasonable monthly fee. This information was favourably received, and Mr. Larmuth was asked to make detailed enquiries as to cost and procedure. Obviously with new members, suspended and re-instated members and change of addresses a certain amount of work would still require to be undertaken by a member or members of the Society.

Handbook

Messrs C. and G. Larmuth expressed their willingness to continue assisting in its compilation. Mr. Hurly agreed to accept overall responsibility for publication. It was desirable to retain the services of Dr. Fairall in an advisory capacity until the next handbook was issued, and Mr Hurly undertook to have discussions with Dr. Fairall about this.

A letter received from Mr. Overbeek of the Transvaal Centre was read. The Centre wished to place on record its thanks for the splendid work done by Dr. Fairall. This was followed by suggestions as to how to handle the despatch of publications and also an offer to appeal for assistance for the handbook from the local members.

Miscellaneous

- (a) Agreed that Council should send a congratulatory cablegram to Dr R.H. Stoy on the occasion of his retirement.
- (b) Mr Duveen presented an interesting letter reporting on the progress made by the Midlands Centre in Pietermaritzburg.
- (c) Mr Molyneux promised to investigate the position as regards aluminizing mirrors by private firms in Cape Town. This was the outcome of representations made by Mr Duveen, who reported that the Planetarium in Johannesburg was no longer aluminizing.
- (d) The next Council Meeting would take place in mid May.

The meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

T.W. Russo  
HON. SECRETARY

  
CHAIRMAN