

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town on Wednesday 1975 June 18 at 8 p.m.

Present Dr Wild in the chair, Drs. Cousins, Fairall and Thackeray, Messrs. Bentley, Churms, Duveen, Hurly, Orpen, Roberts, Russo, Simenhoff and Turk.

Apologies for absence received from Messrs. Bondiotti, G. Larmuth, C. Larmuth, Molyneux and Papadopolous.

Minutes of the meeting held 1975 May 20 read and confirmed.

- Matters arising
- (a) Despatch of Publications. This has now been taken over by the firm "Afric Mail Advertising", beginning with the May issues of "Sky & Telescope" and MNASSA.
 - (b) Insurance on Society's Telescopes. Mr. Turk spoke to this. The plan was to cover "fixed" telescopes for the cost of replacement of eye-pieces only. A more comprehensive cover for portable telescopes was envisaged. Arrangements would be made through Mr. Gray of Durban.
 - (c) Associate membership. Mr. Turk asked that this item could be left over for the next meeting. Letters had gone to Centres asking for their viewpoints.
 - (d) MNASSA. A discussion on costs of production took place, and it was affirmed that the present method, taking all factors into account was the most reasonable. The composite volume covering Vols. I-XV was about 1/3 way through and there was a prospect of the typing proceeding at a speedier rate. The money allocated for Dr. Wild's disbursements was reported to be in trust in a Savings Account. The amount was R257, and not R250 as authorised at the previous meeting, an adjustment of R7 in settlement of expenses incurred being necessary.
 - (e) Fumigation. Mr. Churm's reported that a quotation for R77 to fumigate the Lecture Room had been received. Although the SAAO had offered to pay one half, this was still higher than the limit set at the previous meeting. It was suggested that library books should be treated by hand sprays after Centre meetings by volunteers. Mr. Turk was authorised to buy $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen aerosol cans of insecticide.
 - (f) Agreed that Mr. Hirst should be informed that full membership could be resumed from July 1 next should he so desire it. Entrance fee would be waived.

New Members The following were elected subject to the usual proviso of publication of names in MNASSA and no objection being received within the specified period.

Dr. P.D. Bennewith
104 Philadelphia
164 Hamilton St
Arcadia
PRETORIA 0002

Mr. A.H. Botha
Research Laboratory
P O ENSTRA 1561

Mr. A. Tuckwell
4-16th Avenue
FISHHOEK 7975

Mr. M.L. Greyvensteyn
215 Hyde Gate
Hyde Park
JOHANNESBURG 2001

Mr. E.B. Taylor
26 Mitchell Ave,
Alan Manor
JOHANNESBURG 2001

Finance

The Hon. Treasurer presented the following financial statement.
Statement for Presentation to Council Meeting held on 18th June 1975

<u>Expenditure</u>	R c	<u>Receipts</u>	R c
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for the year	2201-30	Credit balance at 1.7.74.	354-64
Cost of production of MNASSA June 1974 to April 1975	1889-57	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Cost of reprints of Articles in MNASSA	79-87	Arrears	24-00
Expenditure on reproduction of back nos. of MNASSA (Summary Volume)	250-00	Current	3403-00
Cost of production of Handbook for 1975	684-38	Advance	<u>323-50</u>
Postage on publications July 1974 to May 1975	383-31	Entrance Fees	3750-50
Addressing and despatch of publications, May 1975	10-99	Sale of MNASSA	145-00
Stationery and equipment	77-70	Sale of reprints of Articles in MNASSA	971-05
Postage, other than above	51-99	Sale of reproduced back numbers of MNASSA	130-00
Essay Competition Prizes	14-00	Sale of Handbooks	193-32
Variable star charts	40-00	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	358-60
Fire Insurance Premium	4-00	Sale of La Caille booklet	32-10
Transferred to "Plusplan" Savings A/c., August and September 1974.	1500-00	Donations	-50
Bank charges	121-06	Interest on Fixed Deposit	34-94
Credit balance at 18.6.75.	36-54	Interest on Building Soc. Shares (Forbes bequest)	82-50
		Interest on "Plusplan" Savings A/c.	18-25
		Withdrawn from "Plusplan" Savings A/c, February, April and June 1975	106-91
		Commission on cheques and Airmail postage paid	1100-00
			66-40
	<u>R 7344-71</u>		<u>R 7344-71</u>

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 Account with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch is now R950-00.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R607-66 (of which R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%), Savings Bank interest of R4-64 having been added in March and bond interest of R33-27 in June.

Mr Orpen was asked to consider the question of commission on country cheques, and bank charges on payments from overseas, and the possible recovery of the additional charges from overseas subscribers by means of an increased subscription. However where overseas payments were made in Rands there was no loss to the Society. Authority was given for the Handbook to cost R1,00 in future when sold out of hand. It was considered that the 50 cents charged hitherto was too low for the value received, and costs of production were increasing.

Mr. Patrick Moore was to be approached to see if he would care to be a corresponding member of the Society.

New Council for 1974/75. Only sufficient nominations to fill the positions had been received, and the following therefore would be announced at the Annual General Meeting on June 23 as constituting the new Council

<u>President</u>	Dr. P. Wild
<u>Vice Presidents</u>	Mr. S. Booysen Mr. C. Papadopolous Prof. B. Warner
<u>Members of Council</u>	Mr. M. Overbeek Mr. M. Gray Mr. R. Hurly Dr. M. Feast
<u>Hon. Secretary</u>	Mr. T.W. Russo
<u>Hon. Treasurer</u>	Mr. G. Orpen
<u>Proposed by</u>	Mr. J.D. Laing
<u>Seconded by</u>	Mr. J. Churms

Report of Council for the year ending June 30.

A draft report prepared by the Hon. Secretary and Dr. Wild was considered and after amendments and additions adopted.

Hon. Members It was some time since Council had appointed an Honorary Member, and members were reminded that they must not lose sight of the fact that there was this avenue open by which the Society could honour persons rendering special services to Astronomy.

Editorial Board

to be confirmed by the new Council is presently as follows:- Dr. Thackeray and Mr. Churms to share main editorial duties; Mr. to assist with Centrepiece. The question of co-opting further members, and three possibles were mentioned, would be left to the Board's discretion.

Miscellaneous Confirmed that the Annual General Meeting would be held in Johannesburg on Wednesday July 23, and that Mr. Papadopolous would deliver his presidential address.

Appreciation was expressed of the Radio talks delivered by Mr. Gray of Durban. They were enjoyed very much by those who had been privileged to hear them.

Agreed that Godfrey Christians and Fred Esau of UCT staff should receive recognition of their services over the past 7 or 8 years in assisting with the Society's publications, by letters from the Hon. Secretary and the following payments:- G. Christians R20 and F. Esau R10.

Mr. Duveen again raised the matter of the Natal Midlands Centre wanting a telescope, should one be available. Mr. Turk stated that the Refractor was the only one free at present. Mr. Duveen would write to Maritzburg informing them of the position. Any costs of transport and insurance would be borne by the Centre.

A letter from Mr. Maasdorp of Port Elizabeth was read. This notified the holding of the first of a series of lectures to be presented as a memorial to the late Mr. J.C. Bentley. Mr. Bentley had been a prominent member of the Society and Council was gratified to hear of this series, which was being sponsored by the Port Elizabeth Peoples' Observing Society. The Hon. Secretary was directed to

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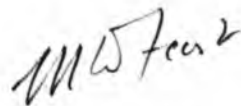
write for details of the talks given for possible inclusion in MNASSA.

Agreed that old issues of Sky & Telescope where held in large quantities could be disposed of at 5c a copy in order to reduce demands on the limited storage space available. Other back issues would still be sold at 20c each.

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.



Hon. Secretary



pr Chairman