

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE. 1975.

EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS.

	R. c.		R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for the Year	2201-30	Credit Balance at 1/7/1974.	354-64
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A., June 1974 to April 1975	1859-57	<u>Subscriptions.</u>	
Cost of reprints of articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	79-87	Arrears	24-00
Expenditure on reproduction of Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	7-22	Current	3403-00
Expenditure on production of Summary Volume of Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	250-00	Advance	<u>401-00</u>
Cost of production of Handbook for 1975	684-38		3828-00
Addressing and despatch of publications	70-99	Entrance Fees	152-50
Postage on publications	388-31	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	971-05
Stationery and equipment	82-91	Sale of reprints of articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	130-00
Postage, other than above	53-41	Sale of reproduced Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	193-32
Essay Competition Prizes	14-00	Sale of Handbooks	358-60
Variable Star Charts	40-00	Sale of back and extra nos. of "Sky & Telescope"	60-30
Fire Insurance Premium	4-00	Sale of La Caille booklet	0-50
Transferred to "Plusplan" Savings A/c., Aug & Sept. 1974.	1500-00	Donations	37-88
Bank Charges	136-32	Interest of Building Soc. Shares (Forbes Request)	18-25
Credit Balance at 30/6/1975	88-67	Interest on Fixed Deposit	82-50
		Interest on "Plusplan" Savings Bank Account	106-91
		Withdrawn from "Plusplan" A/C., February, April and June 1975	1100-00
		Commission on cheques and airmail postage paid	66-50
	<u>R. 7460-95</u>		<u>R. 7460-95</u>

16 An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of 10%. An amount of R950-00 was held in a "Plusplan" Savings A/c. with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch: this amount fluctuates according to requirements, but remained at R2050-00 from September 1974 to February 1975. The rate of interest is 8%.

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.15778, dated 18/5/1960, and of equipment and apparatus insured against fire under Policy A.01/01314, dated 27/2/1961, in the amount of R1000-00 with the Southern Insurance Association.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R607-66 (of which R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of 10%). There has been no award during the Year.

HON. AUDITORS.

HON. TREASURER.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICAReport of Council for the year ended 1975 June 30

Six Council meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 14 members/alternates out of a possible 18.

MEMBERSHIP

Numbers are still growing and the total membership as at 30 June was 507 of which 24 still remain suspended through non-payment of subscriptions. The number in default on 31st October 1974 was 90. A year ago membership totalled 500 and 24 members were written off after repeated requests for arrear subscriptions. Once again members are reminded of the unnecessary additional work and expenses incurred through members not meeting their obligations promptly. Subscriptions fall due on the 1st July each year, and there is a time lapse of 3 months before suspension, during which members who do not eventually pay receive publications gratis. Reminders are sent out by the Hon. Treasurer resulting in an unwarranted call on our heavy postage account.

PUBLICATIONS

The Editorial Board in July 1974 was unchanged from that which handled the publications during the previous session. Dr. Wild edited MNASSA (with Messrs. Churms and Hurly responsible for CENTROPICE) while Dr. Fairall edited the HANDBOOK and was in charge of distribution of publications.

In response to requests from Dr. Wild and Dr. Fairall to spread their work loads, several persons were approached and agreed to serve as corresponding editors on the Editorial Board, while Messrs. George and Charles Larmuth took on the despatching of MNASSA to overseas subscribers. At the end of 1974 Dr. Wild was forced, by new duties at the University, to resign as Editor of MNASSA. Prof. Thackeray and Mr Churms agreed to fill the breach and during the first half of 1975 have gradually taken over full

responsibility for the production of our Society journal. Dr. Wild is continuing the work of editing the Summary of Volumes 1 to 15 and the handling of orders for other back numbers (vols.16 to 33).

Early in 1975 pressure of work forced Dr. Fairall to resign both as Editor of the Handbook and as despatcher of publications. The latter task has now been delegated to a commercial despatching agency, while Mr. Hurly has taken over the Handbook, with help promised by the Larmuths and Dr. Fairall. Mr. Hurly would very much appreciate member's suggestions for additions or improvements to the Handbook.

Costs of printing the Society publications rose steeply during the year, partly due to a more adventurous editorial policy, but mostly because of increased printing costs. It will be necessary to watch the situation closely in forthcoming months and to increase prices or economise on production as necessary. Handbook sales continue to increase from year to year, as does membership of the Society. Overseas sales of MNASSA have also risen.

The nominal publication date of MNASSA has been changed to the 15th of each month, the better to match the usual time of arrival of Sky and Telescope (which takes 6 weeks to reach us by the new air/sea route, as compared with 4 weeks by the old sea route!)

FORBES ESSAY COMPETITION

Owing to the decreasing number of entries, only 7 in 1974, a competition was not held this year. The question of its resumption in 1976 will be considered by the incoming Council.

GILL MEDAL

No proposal for an award was received.

NOVA SEARCH SECTION

Mr. J. Bennet's offer to undertake directorship was gratefully accepted.

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VARIABLE STAR SECTION

After many years of loyal and outstanding service Mr. R.P. de Kock relinquished the directorship of this section. Council is happy to announce that Mr. Overbeek agreed to take over from Mr. de Kock.

1975 CONFERENCE OF THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS - July 9 to July 11

An invitation has been received to attend this conference, at which Dr. Wild will represent the Society.

DURBAN PLANETARIUM

Mr. Gray of the Natal Centre announced details of a scheme whereby the establishment of a Planetarium for Durban was envisaged. This was still very much in the embryo stage. Nevertheless the whole concept is ambitious, visionary and worthy of commendation. The outcome is awaited with interest.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Overbeek, while on a visit to New Zealand, contacted this Society and conveyed our greetings to them. These were reciprocated.

AAVSO : OFFICIAL'S VISIT

Mr. Charles Scovil and Mr. Clint Ford, President and Secretary respectively of the AAVSO visited South Africa at the invitation of Mr. D Overbeek, Director of the Society's Variable Star Section. Interesting lectures were arranged at some Centres, and these were very much appreciated.

RADIO TALKS ON THE SABC

Mr. Gray of Durban is to be congratulated on the interesting series of Astronomical talks given on the radio for a week in June.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the work done by Directors of Observing Sections and the Committees of individual Centres. Authors of articles on astronomical subjects, which appear in the newspapers

are to be congratulated and thanked. It is difficult to set down a complete record of the many members who by their individual efforts do so much for the Society. However the following should be mentioned here:

Mr. Bentley, the Business Manager (assisted by Mr. Charles Larmuth)

Mr. Orpen, the Hon. Treasurer, now completing his 25th year in office

Mr. Hurly, Public Relations Officer

Dr. Wild, Dr. Fairall, Mr Churms, Mr. Hurly and Dr. Thackeray for work on the Editorial Board.

A special vote of thanks is due to Prof. Warner, head of the Department of Astronomy at the University of Cape Town, for making a generous amount of staff time available to the Society; also to the Director of the South African Astronomical Observatory for the facilities for meetings afforded at that institution.

*L. H. S. S.
Hon Secretary
30/6/75*