

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council meeting held on Thursday 1977 June 16 at 20h00, at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town.

Present Mr. Hurly (in the chair) Dr. Cousins, Dr. Wild, Messrs Bondietti, Churms, G. Larmuth, C. Larmuth, Orpen, Roberts, Russo and Turk.

Apologies for absence noted from Prof. Warner, Dr. Thackeray, Dr. Feast, Messrs Bentley and Simenhoff.

Minutes of previous meeting held 1977 May 2, which had been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

- Matters arising
- (a) 15% Customs Levy. From reports it would appear that this could be of a temporary nature. In the meanwhile the Society had to pay this additional charge, although representations for exemption had been made. Mr. Duveen reported that by rights this levy should be assessed on the Domestic Value in the United States and not on the value as was currently invoiced, this including transport costs and packaging. Mr. Bentley and Mr Orpen to collaborate to get the necessary certificate from the Publishers.
 - (b) Revised Constitution dealt with as a separate item.

Endowment fund Mr. Turk reported that the Deed had been drawn up, and registration was expected within the next 10 days.

New Council 1977/1978 Only sufficient nominations were received, and a ballot was therefore not necessary. The Council for 1977/1978 would be constituted as follows:-

- President Prof. B. Warner
- Vice Presidents Mr S. Booysen
Mr R.F. Hurly
Dr M. Feast
- Members Mr A. Gray
Mr J. Vincent
Mr G. Muller
Dr E.E. Baart
- Treasurer Mr G. Orpen
- Secretary Mr T. Russo

Finance Mr. Orpen presented the financial statement to date. This was adopted. It was estimated that Revenue would have exceeded expenditure by R740 at end of June. It should also be noted that the Customs Levy would only have applied for 3 months of the year.

An estimate for the coming year 1977/78 shows a credit of only R13,00. Details are given at the end of the Minutes. Mr. Orpen was empowered to place further monies from the McIntyre Award Account on Fixed Deposit up to R550.

MNASSA Competition Dr. Thackeray had reported 2 non-members as prizewinners, in which case a free issue of MNASSA for one year would be given. Dr. Thackeray said that it now appeared that both these entrants were members and were entitled to cash prizes of R6 each. Approved by Council.

A second competition was being planned for Christmas 1977, and it was proposed to offer two prizes only, one junior and one senior, each of one year's subscription to MNASSA. This was agreed.

New Members

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

Mr H.D. Fox
22 First Avenue
Lambton
Germiston 1401

Mr P. Meda
96, 12th Avenue
Edenvale 1610
(from 1.7.77)

Mr E.S. Richardson
128 Albert Street
Waterkloof 0181

Annual Report of Council

A draft report was submitted by the Hon. Secretary for scrutiny and was adopted after amendments.

Summary Vol of MNASSA

Dr. Wild to receive R50 from the Hon. Treasurer towards continuing costs of producing this volume. A breakdown of expenses incurred to date to be given to Mr. Orpen.

Natal Centre

Extracts from the June 1977 news letter were read for information of those present. Council was gratified at the arrangements being made for the Society's Annual General Meeting by this Centre acting as hosts.

Royal Society

was celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation. The Hon. Secretary was directed to write a letter of congratulation.

Revised Constitution

A fresh draft embodying further ideas received since the last meeting.

To go through it all, clause by clause, would be a mammoth task for Council, and obviously could not be done in one meeting. A time limit for discussion was set by the Chairman, and this period was fruitfully used to consider the first five clauses. Debate was postponed at the lapse of the specified time.

"Old" Books in Cupboard in Lecture Room

Mr. Turk stated that Mr. Saville was interested in acquiring some of these books, which had been stored for a considerable time. No decision was reached as regards disposal. The University could be interested as well, and the question of the value of some of the old publications could be obtained from the Bookseller Clarke of Long St. Cape Town. Mr. Bondietti to investigate.

The next meeting was fixed for Monday September 12.

The meeting adjourned at 22h30.

L. M. ...

R. V. ...

Financial Statement for Presentation to Council Meeting, 16th June, 1977

<u>Expenditure</u>	R. c.	<u>Receipts</u>	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope", July 1976-April 1977	2791-21	Credit balance at 1.7.76.	360-43
Cost of production of MNASSA May 1976-April 1977	1447-87	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Expenditure on MNASSA Back Numbers	5-68	Arrears 8-00	
Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA	159-85	Current 5207-50	
Cost of production of Handbook for 1977	538-51	Advance <u>172-00</u>	5387-50
Addressing and despatch of publications, June '76-May '77	150-26	Entrance Fees	142-50
Postage on publications, June '76-May '77	463-05	Sale of MNASSA	864-83
Stationery and equipment	31-27	Sale of back numbers of MNASSA	97-00
Postage, other than above	67-43	Page charges & reprints of articles in MNASSA	322-50
Repayment of Loan (made on security of Fixed Deposit)	895-00	Sale of Handbooks	196-60
Interest on above loan	18-65	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	95-80
Transferred to Plusplan A/c., Jul. Aug. & Sept. 1976	1500-00	Donations	6-35
Special Customs duty on Imports (paid i.r.o. March)	60-00	Advertisements in MNASSA	8-00
Grant to inaugurate Endowment Trust	30-00	Interest on Fixed Deposit	100-00
Prizes MNASSA Centre Piece Xmas competition	12-00	Interest on Building Soc. shares (Forbes Bequest)	19-00
Fire Insurance Premium	20-00	Withdrawn from Plusplan A/c. Feb. - April 1977	1000-00
Bank Charges and Exchange losses	112-89	Commission on cheques, airmail postage and exchange gains	93-69
Credit balance at 16.6.1977.	390-53		
	<u>R8694-20</u>		<u>R8694-20</u>

An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society for two years at an interest rate of 10%, and the amount in the "Plusplan" A/c with the Standard Bank, Heeregracht Branch is R1000-00 at date (plus interest amounting to R108-13). The balance in the McIntyre Award A/c is now R998-15, Savings Bank interest of R13-56 having been added in March 1977 and Bond interest of R36-30 in June 1977. Of this amount R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%.

Further Notes: As we started the Financial year with a cash balance of R360-43, Plusplan A/c of R500 and Fixed Deposit of R1000-00, against which R900-00 had been borrowed, we had an effective balance of R960. It appears that we should end the year with R1000 Fixed Deposit and at least R700 in the Plusplan A/c, in which case revenue will have exceeded expenditure by R740.

Appended is an estimate of expenditure and receipts for 1977/78.

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
	R.		R.
"Sky & Telescope"	3270	Subscriptions	5400
15% Import Surcharge	491	Entrance Fees	140
MNASSA (May-April)	1550	MNASSA	800
Handbook	800	Gains on reprints, etc.	100
Despatch of publications	170	Handbook	500
Postage on publications	475	"Sky & Telescope"	60
Stationery	200	Advertisements	10
Postage, other	70	Interest on Building Society	19
Insurance	70	Interest on Fixed Deposit	100
Sundries	100	"Plusplan" interest	100
Bank charges	120	Commission, etc.	100
	<u>R 7316</u>		<u>R 7329</u>

(Sgd.) Garrett Orpen
HON. TREASURER

Dear Theo,

~~Herewith~~ ^{2/8/77} the Minutes as promised.
My Secretary has just finished typing them
out for me and I have asked her to send them
off right away (whilst I am on one of my
frequent business trips. On my return I will
write more fully to you. Delightful meeting you
and hope that you got home safely.

Andrew
ANDREW



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