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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town on Monday 1977 November 14 at 20h00.

Present Prof. B. Warner (in the chair) Dr. Wild, Messrs. Bentley, Duveen, C. Larmuth, G. Larmuth, Molyneux, Orpen, Roberts, Russo, Simenhoff and Turk.

Apologies for absence - Dr. Cousins and Dr. Feast. *J. Haskery*

Minutes of previous meeting held 1977 September 12, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, adopted and signed.

- Matters arising
- (a) Disposal of old books. Prof. Warner reported that nine incomplete volumes of Royal Society Transactions had been referred to Clarkes Booksellers, who offered R35 for them. The SAAO had a complete set in its library, and the University of Cape Town were not interested in purchasing them. Before considering accepting Mr Clarke's offer, Mr Saville, a Society member, who originally had expressed interest in the matter would be consulted and given first option.
 - (b) Agreed that Dr. Wild, Messrs. Roberts and Russo should dispose of various Society papers etc of no apparent value. These were occupying valuable space in the Lecture Room cupboards.
 - (c) The future of the Society Library was again debated. The bulk of the books were old and of no practical value, except perhaps in some cases from a historical point of view. Alternates were asked to put the matter to their Principals for suggestions before the next meeting. Dr. Wild and Mr. Turk were to give further thought to the matter and prepare lists of the books held.

Finance The following statement was presented by Mr Orpen.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
	R. c		R. c
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope, Jul. to Oct. 1977	1091-28	Credit Balance at 1.7.77.	68-88
Cost of production of MNASSA, May to Aug. 1977	525-43	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Expenditure of reproduction of Back Numbers of MNASSA	-65	Arrears	98-50
Advance towards cost of production of Summary Vol. of MNASSA back numbers	150-00	Current	4846-00
Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA	86-83	Advance	48-50
Addressing and despatch of publications, Jul.-Oct. 77	60-51		4993-00
Postage on publications, Jul.- Oct. 1977	173-04	Entrance Fees	47-50
Stationery & Equipment	132-55	Sale of MNASSA	318-60
Postage, other than above	25-43	Sale of reproduced Back numbers of MNASSA	37-58
15% Customs surcharge on "Sky & Telescope" June, July & Aug. 1977	102-00	Page charges for articles in MNASSA and sale of reprints	110-00
Insurance of Society's Telescopes	24-00	Sale of Handbooks	78-90
		Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	54-00
		Donations	8-00
		Interest on Fixed Deposit	50-00
		Interest on Building Socy. Shares (Forbes Bequest)	9-50
		Advertisement in MNASSA	2-00
		Refund of pro-rata share of Telescope Insurance	2-73
Car/Fwd	2371-72	Car/Fwd	5780-69

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	R. c	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	R. c
Bt/Fwd.	2371-72	Bt/Fwd	5780-69
Essay Competition Prizes	45-00	Commission on cheques, airmail postage paid and exchange gains	32-03
Transferred to "Plusplan" A/c. July 1977	1700-00		
Bank Charges and exchange losses	53-93		
Credit Balance at 14.11.77.	1642-07		
	<u>R5812-72</u>		<u>R5812-72</u>

The amount in the Society's "Plusplan" Account remains at ~~R2500-00~~ and ~~R1000-00~~ is still on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now ~~R1056-66~~. Bond interest of ~~R35-90~~ having been received during September. Of this ~~R1000-00~~ is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%

Mr Orpen mentioned that prior to August, the Society were assessed for payment of the 15% special customs levy on the full value of shipments of Sky & Telescope and not on the U.S.A. Domestic value; which now halved the duty previously paid. Agreed that efforts to obtain refund of excess payments be made. As a first step Mr Duveen would enquire about possible necessary formalities, eg Voucher of Correction.

Mr Orpen drew Council's attention to the fact that sale of the 1977 handbooks amounted to less than half of the 1976 issue. Mr Bentley to investigate the position. Books had been sent out for sale. By now (November) cash and all unsold copies should be to hand. Agreed that in future all issue in bulk and returns should be notified to the Treasurer.

Trust Fund Mr Turk reported on the present state of the Society Trust Fund, which was not making much headway. Suggested that Alternates should discuss this with their Principals.

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

Master A. Barnard
36 5th St
Marlands
Germiston 1401

Mr R.C. Billings
P O Box 14069
Reigerpark
Boksburg 1466

Mr P.J. Caulfield
1 Dundee Terrace
Rondebosch 7700

Mrs M. Fee
P O Box 65519
Benmore 2010

Mr A.K. Lambert
P O Box 279
Halfway House 1685

Mr L.A. Lucas
P O Box 721
LICHTENBURG 2740

Mr T.A. Nunn
P O Box 194
Middelburg 1050

Mr J.S. Sutherland
P O Box 280
Zomba
Malawi

Mr B. Verboom
18 Camp Street
Gardens
Cape Town 8001

Articles
in MNASSA

Dr Wild mentioned that non-payment for publication of articles in MNASSA only applied to members. Instances of the receipt of some worthy material from non-members, who appeared to be unaware of this had been received. The persons concerned could be a welcome addition to Society membership and Prof. Warner offered to approach them with a view to effecting this as an alternative to asking for payment.

Revised
Constitution

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to further consideration of the proposed amendments. The meeting adjourned at 22h15.

T.W. Russo
HON. SECRETARY

Brian Warner.

CHAIRMAN