

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council meeting held 1978 February 13 at the S A Astronomical Observatory Cape Town at 20h00.

Present Prof. Warner (in the chair) Dr Feast, & Dr. Wild, Messrs Bentley, Deuveen, Hurly, C Larmuth, G. Larmuth, Orpen, Rijsdyk, Russo, Simenhoff, Turk.

Apologies for absence noted as from Dr. Cousins, Dr. Thackeray, Messrs Armstrong, and Wolterbeek.

Minutes of Council meeting held 1977 November 14 adopted after the inclusion of Dr. Thackeray's name among "Apologies for absence".

Matters arising Dr. Wild reported that the Library cupboards had been tidied and the books suitably re-arranged and listed. The question of the future of the library was debated at length. It was suggested that all books, apart from "Sky & Telescope" and MNASSA, should be disposed of, and it was noted that there were interested parties in this move. Mention was also made of the fact that the library originated from the collection of the original Cape Society before the national body was formed.

However in view of the fact that Mr N. Saville had agreed to undertake the issue and receipt of books it was agreed that the matter be deferred for a trial period to see to what extent the facilities would be used. Mr. Rijsdyk offered to assist Mr. Saville.

Prof Warner mentioned that there were two old books of no particular value as reading matter, but from an historical aspect of much interest and should be preserved preferably in the safe keeping of a national library. It was agreed that the S A Public Library in Cape Town should be approached in this regard. The books in question were:- Astronomy by Sir John Herschel - (Cabinet Encyclopaedia Edition) containing the signature of John Fairbairn and LOOMIS Introduction to Practical Astronomy, containing signature of Josias E de Villiers.

Minutes At the inception of the imposition of the 15% Customs levy on imports assessment was erroneously based on the landed value of Sky & Telescope and not on its Domestic value in U.S.A. Mr Orpen and Mr Bentley were directed to investigate the procedure for recovery of any sums for the period of two months in question.

Matters arising The question of the non-payment for articles in MNASSA by non-members was left over for the next meeting.

Finance The following financial statement was presented by the Treasurer and adopted.

However in view of the fact that Mr N. Saville had agreed to undertake the issue and receipt of books it was agreed that the matter be deferred for a trial period to see to what extent the facilities would be used. Mr. Rijsdyk offered to assist Mr. Saville.

Prof Warner mentioned that there were two old books of no particular value as reading matter, but from an historical aspect of much interest and should be preserved preferably in the safe keeping of a national library. It was agreed that the S A Public Library in Cape Town should be approached in this regard. The books in question were:- Astronomy by Sir John Herschel - (Cabinet Encyclopaedia Edition) containing the signature of John Fairbairn and LOOMIS Introduction to Practical Astronomy, containing signature of Josias E de Villiers.

ExpenditureReceipts

R. c.

R. c.

Subscription to "Sky &
Telescope", July - December
1977 2636-92

Cost of production of MNASSA
May-December 1977 1254-30

Expenditure on reproduction
of Back numbers of MNASSA 0-65

Advance towards cost of
production of Summary
Volume of MNASSA Back numbers 150-00

Cost of reprints of articles
in MNASSA 120-65

Part cost of Handbook 1978 500-15

Addressing & despatch of
publications, July-Dec.'77 108-68

Postage on publications, July
to December 1977 322-92

Stationery & Equipment 165-14

15% Customs surcharge,
July -December 1977 163-20

Postage, other than above 33-77

Insurance of Society's
Telescopes 24-00

Essay Competition Prizes 45-00

Transferred to "Plusplan"
A/c., July 1977 1700-00

Bank charges & exchange
losses 86-06

Credit Balance at 13.2.78. 587-27

R 6898-69

Credit Balance at 1.7.77. 68-88

Subscriptions

Arrears 98-50

Current 5026-00

Advance 62-50 5187-00

Entrance Fees 82-50

Sale of MNASSA 665-90

Sale of reproduced Back
numbers of MNASSA 41-90

Page charges for articles
in MNASSA and sale of
reprints 150-50

Sale of Handbooks 133-90

Sale of back and extra nos.
of "Sky & Telescope" 100-00

Donations 8-00

Advertisement in MNASSA 2-00

Interest on Fixed Deposit 100-00

Interest on Building Soc.
Shares (Forbes Bequest) 9-50

Refund of pro-rata share
of Telescope insurance 2-73

Withdrawn from "Plusplan"
A/c. February 1978 300-00

Commission on cheques, air-
mail postage paid and
exchange gains 45-88

R 6898-69

The amount in the Society's "Plusplan" Account at date is R2200-00, and R1000-00 is still on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R1142-06, Fixed Deposit interest of R50-00 and Bond interest of R35-51 having been added during December 1977. Of this R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit

(Sgd) Garrett Orpen
HON. TREASURER

General discussion on financial matters then followed. Production of the 1978 Handbook cost very much more than previously. This was due to unfortunate circumstances. The target date for its publication was set for December 31. This was achieved, but at the expense of withdrawing the printing from the overloaded U.C.T. Printing Department and transferring it to another printing firm. Overtime over a particularly busy time had to be employed. A private payment of R500 towards the extra cost had been made, but the general opinion of the meeting was that acceptance of this was not proper and created a bad precedent, and that the incorrect value of the handbooks would be reflected in Councils, books. The matter was left over for the next meeting.

In anticipation of a further increase in the cost of "Sky & Telescope", these will now be supplied to the Planetarium at 90c each for the monthly bulk order.

In the case of Dr Koefman, who wished his membership to be transferred to his son, a fresh nomination form would be required. Payment of entrance fee would be waived.

The Hon. Treasurer then presented a statement of estimated income and expenditure to 30 June next. From this it appeared that the Society could have a deficit of nearly R800 on the year's transactions. Costs were not coming down, and to meet the situation an increase in subscription from R12 to R15 was proposed by Mr Duveen and seconded by Mr Rijdsdyk. Alternates of Centre Representatives were asked to write to their Principals for views on this increase. The matter was urgent as members would have to be advised well before the start of the next financial year, viz July 1. It was desirable that notification should appear in the next issue of MNASSA.

New members

The following were elected subject to publication of names in MNASSA and no objections being received.

Mr K.C. Clayton P O Box 1463 PRETORIA 0001	Mr R.L.Man P O Box 8961 Verwoerdpark ALBERTON 1453	Mr P.C. Watts 5 Claybank Rd Windsor Park GWelo
Mr A.E. Cooper 3 Stonechat Lane Borrowdale Salisbury	Mr C.R. Millar P O Box 132 PALAPYE Botswana	Mr H.N.S. Wiechers 563 Dakota Ste ELARDUSPARK 0181
Mr B.F. Erasmus 14 McHardy Ave Cassandra KIMBERLEY 8301	Dr A.L. Saffery P O HEMLOCK 1173 E. Tvl.	
Mr I.R.A. Green P O Box 23640 JOUBERT PARK 2044	Mr C.A. Stewart C/o 51 - 8th St LINDEN 2195	
Mr R.H. Nathan 12 Cavendish Hts Cavendish Rd BELLVILLE 7198	Mr P.I. van Blommestein 24 Oppenheimer Ave Cassandra KIMBERLEY 8301	
Mr I.M. Leask 25B Northcliff Ave WESTVILLE 3630	Mr H. Venter 25 Hendrik Verwoerd Rd Ext 16 WITBANK 1035	

Honorary
Members

There were vacancies which could be filled. This item was to be put on the agenda for next Council meeting.

Variable
Star
Section

Mr J. Hers, the Acting Director had received a formal invitation from Frank Bateson to attend the Variable Star Colloquium in New Zealand in November.

In certain cases travel funds are available (to a maximum of 50% of the total cost) from CSIR and Mr Hers was hoping that some financial assistance would be forthcoming should he accept the invitation.

Council agreed that Mr Hers should get moral support for this visit. There was no doubt that he and through him the Society's Variable star section would benefit greatly from his attendance at this symposium. Agreed that Dr Thackeray, to whom Mr Hers had originally written, should inform him of this and also that Council would ask C.S.I.R. to consider sympathetically any representations made.

Mr A.N. Kelly of Krugersdorp N. had received an invitation to attend the General Assembly of the International Union of Amateur Astronomers to be held in August 1978 in Dublin Ireland. He hoped to present a paper dealing basically with the role of the amateur Radio Astronomer, observational techniques and programmes etc.

Mr Kelly was anxious for some assistance towards his travelling expenses. Unfortunately Council does not have funds available for aiding members to travel to the many world wide conferences which take place. While agreeing that Mr Kelly was the best man to represent the Society in this branch of amateur astronomy and deserved all the moral support he could get, there was little that the Society could do. He was to be informed accordingly.

Time was running out and it was obvious that the agenda could not be completed. There was little time available to discuss the admirable efforts by the Natal Centre in arranging the astronomical symposium at Mooi River for 3rd - 7th May 1978. It was understood that mention of it would be made in the current issue MNASSA. However the best wishes of Council go to Natal for successful and inspiring meetings, with congratulations to the organizers.

The meeting adjourned until Monday March 20.

T.W. Russo
HON. SECRETARY

20/3/78
B. Warner
CHAIRMAN

K.F. HURLEY