

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Council Meeting held 1978 March 20 at the S.A. Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town at 20h00.

Present Mr Hurly (in the Chair), Dr Feast, Messrs Bentley, C. Larmuth, G. Larmuth, Rijsdyk, Simenhoff, Turk, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams of Johannesburg.

Apologies for absence noted as from Prof. Warner, Dr. Wild, Messrs. Armstrong, Molyneux, Orpen, Roberts and Russo (in hospital). *Duven* *J. Russo*

Dr. Thackeray: The Chairman asked members of Council to stand for a moment in memory of Dr. Thackeray who recently lost his life in a tragic motor accident. The Secretary was asked to write to Mrs. Thackeray offering the condolences of Council. Obituaries had already appeared in local papers, and the London Times and further obituary notices were planned for Nature, The Royal Astronomical Society, MNASSA, Sky & Telescope and the S.A. Journal of Science.

Minutes of the Council meeting held 1978 February 13 were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising (a) A letter offering the two books mentioned in the previous minutes was read and also the letter of thanks from Dr Robinson of the S.A. Public Library.

(b) Mr Bentley handed over to Mr Hurly the necessary forms for completion in connection with the 15% customs levy on the imports of Sky & Telescope.

(c) The question of non-payment for articles in MNASSA by non-members was left over as Prof. Warner was not present to report on the success or otherwise which he had had in persuading these contributors to become members.

(d) It was agreed that Mr. Rijsdyk and Mr Saville would look after the library. The library would be open on Cape Centre meeting nights. Although it was felt that it was not necessary to publish a list of books the librarians have been asked to draw up a notice for publication in MNASSA so that other members of the Society may know that they can borrow books under certain conditions. Mr Rijsdyk asked for permission to purchase locks and install them on the library cupboards. This was enthusiastically agreed to.

(e) A letter from Dr. Hewitt was read. In it he stated that should Mr. Hers apply for travel funds this request would be considered on its merits in the normal way and that the letter from Council on behalf of Mr Hers would be passed on to the department concerned and to Dr. Feast for comments.

Finance Due to Mr Orpen's absence there was no formal financial statement but a letter addressed to the secretary made the following points:

- 1) Total receipts since last report : R39: Total expenditure R1057
- 2) R500 had to be drawn out of the Plusplan Account to pay for Jan. and Feb. Sky & Telescope, postage and despatch.
- 3) A further R300 will have to be drawn out to pay for MNASSA (R291)
- 4) A rough estimate for the rest of the year is:-

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
S & T	R1400	Handbook	R500
Customs	160	MNASSA	500
Bal. HB	500	Subs & E.F's	200
Post & despatch	220	Sundries	50
MNASSA	700	Plusplan	1200
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	R 2980		R 2450

Leaving a shortfall of R530 to be borrowed from the U.B.S. on the Fixed Deposit; but it will be much worse if we don't get in some more Handbook revenue.

(5) Much as he is against increases, Mr Orpen, could see no alternative but to ask for an increase in subscriptions to R15.

Mr Turk seconded by Mr Larmuth moved that Mr Orpen ^{or} ~~and~~ the Secretary be given permission to sign any forms necessary to raise the loan on the UBS Fixed Deposit. Agreed.

Bushman

After discussion and the reading of letters from the principals on the subject of the increase of the subscription, Mr Rijsdyk, seconded by Mr Larmuth moved that the subscription for 1978/79 should be increased to R15. Agreed.

Mr Hurly presented a quotation for next years handbook (1200 copies) from Pivot Press (Pty) Ltd for R1116 (93c per copy). Mr Larmuth thought that a keener quotation might be obtained and he was requested to look into the matter.

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

Mr R H Nathan
12 Cavendish Hts.
Cavendish Rd
Bellvue 2198

Mr R J Koefman
59 Krantzview Road
KLOOF Natal 3600

Mr R N Brenchley
P O Box 1219
SALISBURY

Mr W J Byrne
11 Blue Marlin
14 Currie Street
EAST LONDON 5201

Mrs B Meyerowitz
11 North Avenue
Riviera 2196

Causative Living Foundation
5 Arundel Crescent
Stirling
EAST LONDON 5201

Honorary members After discussion it was decided that principals, especially Centre representatives after consultation with their committees, be asked to submit names for consideration by Council before June 10.

Editors of MNASSA No decision was taken and this was left over to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Other business (a) It was decided (subject to Prof Warner being available) that 26th July would be the date of the A.G.M. to be held at Cape Town.

(b) Council meetings would be called on April 10 to discuss mainly the constitution, and on June 19 to prepare annual report and consider nominations for office bearers in preparation for the AGM.

(c) A letter from the S.A. Consulate in Milan, Italy requesting material from the Hoba meteorite was read. It was decided to post the letter on to the museum in Windhoek and to send a copy of the covering letter to the enquirer.

(d) It was decided not to appoint another auditor to replace the late Mr. Raphealy as it was felt that auditors should preferably be appointed at the AGM.

Constitution

Mr Turk reported that most of the work on the proposed new constitution had been completed. After discussion five points which needed Council approval or amendment were dealt with. The appendices to the constitution were left over to be dealt with on April 10.

The meeting closed at 22h50.

J. Churms
ACTING SECRETARY

Brian Warner
CHAIRMAN