

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 1978 July 26 at 20h00 at the
S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town

Present Prof. B. Warner in the chair and about 30 members.

Apologies
for absence Miss P. Booth, Messrs Bennett, Bondiotti, Morresby and
Vincent.

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting, held in Durban on
1977 July 29, and which had appeared in MNASSA were taken
as read and adopted.

Matters
arising NIL

Annual Report
of Council for the year ended 1978 June 30 was read by Prof. Warner.
This appears as an annexure to these minutes.

Observing
Section
Reports were read by Mr C. Turk and will appear in MNASSA.
Occultation Section from Mr A.G.F. Morrisby
Nova Search Section from Mr J. Bennett
Comet & Meteor Section from Mr J. Bennett
Variable Star Section - not to hand

Finance The Financial Statement was presented by the Hon. Treasurer,
Mr G. Orpen and appears as an annexure to these minutes.
This was adopted on the motion of Dr. Feast, seconded by
Mr Rysdijk.

Auditors Messrs. Molyneux and G. Larmuth were re-appointed. Proposer
Dr A. Fairall and seconded by Mr C. Turk.

ASSA Endowment
Trust (Asset) Balance sheet as presented by Mr C. Turk also appears as
an annexure to these minutes.

Forbes Essay
Competition Eleven essays were received. These were judged by
Mr Spargo and Mr Rochford, and prizes awarded as follows:-
1st Prize S. Rabjohns of Rondebosch Boys High School,
Cape Town. R20,00.
2nd Prize R. Koefman of Hilton College Natal R10,00.
3rd Prizes P. Kent of Amanzimtoti High School, Natal
and
M. Huber of La Rochelle High School, Paarl were
placed third jointly and each awarded R5,00.


New Council
1978/79 The following were the only nominations received and were
therefore deemed elected.

President Mr R. Hurly
Vice
Presidents Prof. B. Warner
Dr. M. Feast
Mr. M.A. Gray
Members Dr. E. Baart
Mr. J. Hers
Mr. G. Muller
Mr. J. Vincent
Hon. Treas. Mr.G. Orpen
Hon. Secretary Mr. T.W. Russo

Prof. Warner then vacated the chair, and Mr Hurly conducted the rest of the meeting. ^{He} The first duty was to call on Prof. Warner to deliver his Presidential address. This was entitled "Some early Cape Astronomical Miscellanea" and was followed with absorbing interest by members privileged to be present. This appears elsewhere in MNASSA for the benefit of all.

Mr Hurly thanked Prof. Warner for his address, whereupon the meeting adjourned.

T.W. Russo
HON. SECRETARY



CHAIRMAN
25/7/79

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report of Council for the year ended 1978 June 30

Six Council meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 12 members/alternates.

Membership

The total membership as at June 30 was ⁵⁰⁷~~475~~ of whom ³⁰ are still suspended for non-payment of their 1977/78 subscriptions. Comparative figures for 1977 June 30 are 533 with 50 suspensions. After the period of grace ^{4.4} were removed from the membership roll.

The inflow of new members has to a large extent compensated for the loss through suspension or resignation.

Publications

Forbes Essay Competition

The topic "Astronomical Instruments" was chosen for the 1978 competition ... entries were received from ⁶ schools, a slight improvement on the position twelve months ago.

The name of the prize winners and the adjudicator's report appears separately.

Gill Medal

No award has been made.

McIntyre Fund

No award has been made, although ^{two} ~~one~~ proposal is receiving attention.

Finance

In view of an anticipated loss over the year's transactions, Council felt compelled to recommend an increase in the annual rate of subscription from R12 to R15. This would be effective from 1978 July 1. As members have been informed in MNASSA the Society cannot escape from the general escalation

in the costs of postage, printing, stationery etc. plus the increase in the price of "Sky & Telescope".

The Society Trust Fund has been duly established, and the balance standing to its credit is R.....

Proposed Revised Constitution

Much time has been devoted to proposals put forward by Mr Turk and his committee ^{with regard to} of certain clauses and the elimination of possible anomalies were their prime consideration. The stage has now been reached where an agreed revision is ready for a further scrutiny by out of town members of Council before submission to members of ASSA in general.

Personal

The Society suffered a tragic loss on 21 February through the death of

Dr A. ^{D.}Thackeray while returning from an observing stint at the observatory at Sutherland, (obit in MNASSA)

Dr Thackeray was a zealous and loyal member of the Society and was regular in his attendance on Council meetings as representing the Editorial Board of MNASSA. *a Council Member & a Past President*
An obituary appears in MNASSA Vol 37 Nos 3 & 4.

The vacancy created has not yet been filled and this is a matter for some concern.

Acknowledgements

The Directors of Observing Sections and the many members who have participated in the various observing fields are to be commended. The presentation of aspects of Astronomy over the radio, TV, and in the Press has without doubt stimulated the interest of many, and the regular inflow of new members is no doubt a result of this. Many members have individually been instrumental in bringing others into the Society.

Committees of the various Centres are thanked for their part in the activities of the Society. Special mention should be made of the Natal Centre for the very successful four day convention held at Mooi River in Natal during... *May 1978*

A full report has been received by Council, and it is expected that this will supply interesting reading for members through MNASSA.

Congratulations to the organizing committee; Dr Campbell, Mr Gray and others.

Thanks are due, ^{especially} to the Director of the S.A. Astronomical Observatory for facilities afforded both Societies to the University of Cape Town for valued assistance in the production of MNASSA.

Heise

President

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1978.

EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS.

R. c.

R. c.

Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" for the year	3777-36
Cost of production of MNASSA, May 1977 to April 1978	1738-04
Expenditure on reproduction of Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	7-53
Expenditure on production of Summary Volume of Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	150-00
Cost of reprints of articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	170-58
Cost of production of Handbook for 1978	1208-53
Addressing and despatch of publications	181-28
Postage on publications(current)	561-65
Postage on MNASSA Back Nos.	19-36
Stationery and equipment	195-54
Postage, other than above	67-46
15% Import Surcharge on "Sky & Telescope", June 1977-March 1978.	286-20
Essay Competition Prizes (R45) and Circulars	55-21
Insurance of Society's Telescopes, 1977 & 1978	48-48
Fire Insurance Premium	20-20
In Memory of late A.D. Thackeray	10-00
Transferred to "Plusplan" A/c., July 1977	1700-00
Bank Charges	137-48
Credit Balance at 30/6/1978	80-13

Credit Balance at 1/7/1977 68-88

Subscriptions.

Arrears	98-50	
Current	5194-00	
Advance	<u>313-50</u>	5606-00

Entrance Fees 127-50

Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A. 1114-80

Sale of reproduced Back Numbers of M.N.A.S.S.A. 248-69

Page charges for articles in M.N.A.S.S.A. and sale of reprints 150-50

Sale of Handbooks 518-50

Sale of back and extra nos. of "Sky & Telescope" 150-32

Donations 14-00

Advertisements in MNASSA 2-72

Pro-rata share of Telescope Insurance paid by Centres 6-03

Interest on Building Society Shares (Forbes Bequest) 19-00

Interest on Fixed Deposit 100-00

Interest on "Plusplan" Savings Account 163-81

Withdrawn from "Plusplan" A/c. February-June 1978 2000-00

Commission on cheques, airmail postage paid and exchange gains 124-28

R.10415-⁰³~~13~~

R.10415-⁰³~~13~~

An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of 10%. An amount of R500 was held in a "Plusplan" Savings Account with the Standard Bank, Heeregracht Branch at 30th June 1978. This amount varies according to requirements; during the first half of the Financial Year it was R2500-00. The interest rate 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 Society's telescopes are also insured against all risks under Lloyd's Policy no. DCP no. 278 with the firm of Hogg Robinson of Durban. The Centres which have telescopes on loan to them pay a pro rata share of the premium.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R1220-91 (of which R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of 10%). There has been no award during the year.

Hon. Treasurer

Garrett O'Keefe

Hon. Auditor

*Julius Gert
K. J. J. J.*

ADDENDUM

As mentioned in an Addendum to the Financial Statement for the year ended 30th June 1977, certain amounts had been advanced to Dr. P.A.T. Wild, of the Department of Astronomy, University of Cape Town, for the purpose of producing a Summary Volume of the older Back Numbers of MNASSA, which are not considered suitable for reproduction in full. As shown, a further amount of R150 was advanced to him during the 1977/1978 year. Dr. Wild has again submitted details of the amounts expended by him on typing and stationery, and he had a balance of R22-88 on hand at the close of the Financial Year.

ASSA ENDOWMENT TRUST (ASSET)

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1977.

Trust Capital	260-10
Creditors : (Interest-Free Loans)	<u>35-00</u>
	<u>R 295-10</u>

Represented by:

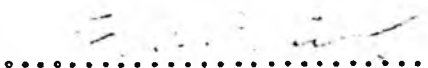
Investments:	267-44
United Building Society 9,5% Shares	100-00
" " Savings A/c	1-00
Nedfin Bank Ltd., Savings Account	<u>166-44</u>
Excess of Expenses over Income	<u>27-66</u>
	<u>R 295-10</u>

Income and Expenditure Account
For the Period to 31st December, 1977.

Income:	
Dividends and Interest received	3-80
Deduct Expenses:	31-46
Postages	1-64
Stationery	8-32
Legal Costs	<u>21-50</u>
Excess of Expenses over Income:	<u>R 27-66</u>

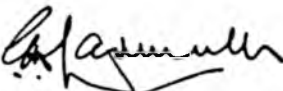
- Notes
1. United Building Society Indefinite Period Paid-Up Shares can be converted to Fixed Period Shares in multiples of R100-00 subject to minimum holding of R500-00 at any time. Holding of R100-00 @ 9,5% from 23 Aug 1977.
 2. The expenses of the Trust were met from the interest-free loans which will be repaid out of income as soon as possible.


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Trustee


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Secretary

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASSA ENDOWMENT TRUST

I have examined the above balance sheet and income and expenditure account which in my opinion respectively give a true and fair view of the state of the ASSA Endowment Trust's affairs as at 31st December 1977, and of its income and expenditure of the period ended on that date.


G.H. Larmuth.
Honorary Auditor.