

The Hon. Secretary was requested to write to Dr. D. S. Evans, Dr. R. H. Stoy and Dr. P. A. T. Wild thanking them for their services to MNASSA and explaining the reasons for Council's decision to restructure the Editorial Board.

The Chairman expressed Council's thanks to Dr. I. S. Glass, Mr. J. Spencer Jones and Mr. L. Combrink for their willingness to edit MNASSA.

(b) Publication Dates

These would be discussed early in 1985.

(ii) Minute No. 4 (iii) Stamps with an Astronomical Theme

Mr. J. Spencer Jones reported that South Africa would not be producing a set of stamps with an astronomical theme but that Ciskei would be issuing a set in 1986 to mark the return of Halley's Comet. He had supplied the relevant authorities with information on the comet and that the designs would be submitted to us for vetting in due course.

(iii) Minute No. 12: Election of Auditors

The names of Mrs. P. Kramer and Mr. L. Combrink had been accepted by the 1984 Annual General Meeting of the Society.

7. FINANCE

The Hon. Treasurer presented his Financial Statement, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. The statement was adopted.

It was noted that:-

- (1) The credit balance of R188-69 had been amalgated with R6050-00 in the Plusplan Account giving a total credit balance of R6238-69
- (2) It was agreed to transfer to transfer R1000 in the McIntyre Award Account to the United Building Society on fixed deposit for 12 months at 18% thus bringing the total sum of the Award in the UBS up to R3000 on fixed deposit.
- (3) The Hon. Treasurer informed Council that the Society would show a deficit in income over expenditure by the end of June 1985, due, mainly, to the effect of the unfavourable exchange rate of the Rand against the Dollar on the purchase price of Sky and Telescope. This led to a long and involved discussion. Although opinions differed as to the extent of the shortfall in revenue, it was clear that the Society was facing a financial crisis and that immediate and drastic action would have to be taken if a catastrophe were to be avoided.

It was decided to ask Mr. C. Turk to draw up a questionnaire to be sent to all members of the Society for their answers to one of the following alternatives :- Retain Sky and Telescope with a not inconsiderable increase in the subscription OR retain the present subscription and drop Sky and Telescope. The possibility was not overlooked that the final decision could have a profound effect on the membership of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary to write to all the Centres informing them accordingly and asking them to discuss the matter with their members.

8. New Members

The following were selected to the Society in terms of Art. 5(1) of the Constitution:-

Mr. C. D. ALLEN:	81 D. F. Malan Street, Parow North 7500
Mr. P. A. BROMLEY:	169 Frere Road, Glenwood, DURBAN 4001
Miss V. M. L. COOPER:	201 Dan Pienaar House, Anne Street, Sandringham, JBG., 2192
Mnr. D. L. CRONJE:	Piet Retiefstraat 25, STELLENBOSCH 7600
Mr. M. D. DENT:	372 Kings Highway, Lynwood, PRETORIA 0081
Mr. W. K. ESLER:	1 Evergreen Avenue, NEWLANDS, CAPE 7700
Mnr. E. KRITZINGER:	Postbus 14570, VERWOERDBURG 0140
Mr. G. M. MANSFIELD:	312 Dungarvan Avenue, Mondeor, JOHANNESBURG 2091
Mr. B. K. PECKHAM:	Private Bag X. 2220 (University of Venda) SIBASA 970
Ms K. RICHARDS:	Trebarwith, Riverbend, P. O. Box 1722, RANDBURG 2125

/New Members

Mr.V.E.TINDELL: 54 Kings Road, P.O.Box 62, BEDFORDVIEW, JHB. 2008
 Miss A.R.M.WELLER: c/o Physics Dept. University of Natal, P.O.Box 375,
 PIETERMARITZBURG 3200

Mr.F.W.VOLK: P.O.Box 58, EVANDER 2280
 Mr.N.WAKEFIELD: 13 Plantation Road, Eastleigh, EDENVALE 1610
 Ms G.ZIMMERMANN: P.O.Box 10622, JOHANNESBURG 2000

9. Correspondence

Lowveld Astronomical Club : White River

A letter dated 21 August 1984 was received from a Mr. Willem Fraser who was a member of the above club, enquiring whether the name of the club could be included in the Annual Yearbook of the Society. It was to be explained to Mr. Fraser that this could not be done as the club was not a Centre of the Society. Assuming, however, that they had at least 10 members, Council would be prepared to consider an application from them to become a duly constituted Centre of the Society.

Letter from Mr.P.I.van Blommenstein dated 1 August 1984

The following replies to his queries are included in these Minutes for the benefit of Members of Council:-

- (1) It was highly unlikely that the list of members of the Society would be published in MNASSA more than once every three years.
- (2) The present system of the delivery from the USA and the despatch to members of SKY AND TELESCOPE was adequate from all points of view.

10. Society's Telescopes : Insurance

Mr.C.Turk was in the process of re-insuring the Society's telescopes. It was complicated due to the fact no South African company was prepared to insure the instruments and that insurance had to be taken out in England via a local broker. When he had been supplied with their individual values he would proceed further with the matter.

11. Mac Millan Mail

Mr.J.Spencer Jones reported that this firm were giving up their mail order section.

12. Computing Section

Dr.Peter Mack intimated that he was hoping to establish a Computing Section in the Society. It was agreed that he should write an article for MNASSA requesting interested persons to contact him.

13. Advertising Rates

It was agreed that advertising rates be raised with immediate effect as follows:-
MNASSA

Full page	R50
Half page	R25
Quarter page	R12,50
Private Adverts	10 cents per word

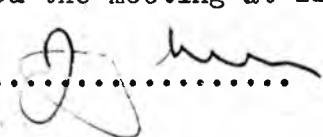
HANDBOOK

Full Back Page	R100
----------------	------

14. Closing

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h03

Date.....

Chairman.....


ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL MEETING: 24th SEPT., 1984.

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE:

	R. c..		R. c.
Balance Brought Forward 1/7/1984	3215-73	Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" including freight charges, July and August 1984	1674-58
<u>Subscriptions.</u>		Cost of production of MNASSA, October 1983 to April 1984	1638-73
Current	6860-00	Addressing and despatch of Publications	94-62
Advance	<u>57-50</u>	Postage on Publications	473-95
	6917-50	Stationery and printing	102-96
Entrance Fees	65-00	Postage, other than above	18-81
Sales of M.N.A.S.S.A.	138-73	General Sales Tax on "Sky & Telescope"	170-30
Sales of Handbooks, 1984	9-00	Fire Insurance Premium	50-50
Interest on Fixed Deposit	60-00	Long Service Award to Mr. Churns	43-95
Donation	2-00	Engraving Gold Medal	2-50
Airmail postage paid by M.N.A.S.S.A. Subscribers	2-25	Bank charges	40-89
Commission paid by MNASSA Subscribers and exchange gains	135-74	Credit Balance at 24/9/1984	6238-69
Interest on Current Account	4-53		
	<u>R.10550-48</u>		<u>R.10550-48</u>

The balance of R6238-69 shown consists of R188-69 in the Current Account and R6050-00 in the "Plusplan" A/c.

R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is R3023-73, of which R2000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

Garnett O'Leary
HON. TREASURER.