

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1986 November Monday 10 at 20h00 at S A A O
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Mr J H Spencer Jones, Vice President in the Chair, Professor A P Fairall, Dr I S Glass, Dr Peter Mack, Miss P Booth, Messrs J Bondiotti, P Briton, W L Combrinck, R Hurly, F N G Orpen (Hon. Treasurer), C R G Turk and the Hon Secretary H E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor M W Feast, Professor Brian Warner, Dr T Lloyd Evans and Mr A D B Cameron.

3. WELCOME TO MR PETER BRITON

The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to Mr Briton as an alternate for Mr J P G Cramb of the Natal Centre and who was attending his first meeting of Council.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1986 September 15 at 20h00 at S A A O, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. Their adoption was proposed by Professor A P Fairall and seconded by Mr R Hurly. All in favour and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) 3 APPOINTMENTS

(a) PRINCIPALS AND ALTERNATES : NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

It transpired that Mr G S Lake apparently no longer a member of the Society and, therefore, in terms of Article 10 of the Constitution no longer eligible to represent his Centre on Council. Mr J Churms, his alternate, to contact Mr Lake.

(b) BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr W L Combrinck agreed to accept the office of Business Manager to the Society in succession to Mr W C Bentley who had resigned due to ill-health. Council thanked Mr Combrinck for agreeing to undertake this somewhat intricate task.

(c) AUDITOR

Mr R Hurly agreed to approach Mr R G Glass to become the Society's Auditor in place of Mr W L Combrinck who had now taken over the duties of Business Manager.

(ii) PACKAGING OF M.N.A.S.S.A. AND SKY AND TELESCOPE

Mr R Hurly tabled quotations which he had obtained from the suppliers of plastic envelopes. A comparison with the price of ordinary envelopes revealed that they were 25% cheaper. After an indepth discussion it was decided that:-

- (1) Up-to-date quotations for ordinary envelopes be obtained.
- (2) The quotations for plastic envelopes obtained by Mr Hurly be handed to the Business Manager who would investigate all the costs involved including the charges levied by AMA.
- (3) Should the Business Manager conclude that the use of plastic envelopes was a viable proposition, he was authorised to proceed with them for a trial period of several months.

- (4) Depending on the outcome of the tests on SKY AND TELESCOPE, smaller covers of a similar material would be used for the despatch of M.N.A.S.S.A. to subscribers.

Details of costs will be given in the minutes of next Council Meeting.

(iii) IMPORT SURCHARGE

No reply had as yet been received from the Department of Customs

(iv) DATES OF ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

Mr J Spencer Jones had established the years of election of the following Honorary Members of the Society now living:

W C Bentley	1985	J H Oort	1949
A W J Cousins	1978	F N G Orpen	1981
D S Evans	1969	M D Overbeek	1978
Ch Fehrenbach	1965	R H Stoy	1969
G Heymann	1986	A G Velghe	1965
H E Krumm	1978	A J Wesselink	1978
A Menzies	1981	R v d R Woolley	1949

As the information in M.N.A.S.S.A. was inadequate, Mr Spencer Jones had to refer to back numbers of the Handbook. This deficiency should not be allowed to recur.

(v) LIST OF SOCIETY'S TELESCOPES

There was nothing to report as Mr Turk had not as yet joined the meeting.

(vi) FINANCE : LEGACY LATE MR I R H BRICKETT

As no decision was taken on how the legacy was to be administered, it was agreed to place the money on fixed deposit for the time being, and labelled THE BRICKETT FUND. As to how the money was to be administered would be discussed at the next meeting of Council.

(vii) COMPUTING SECTION

Mr M D Overbeek had kindly arranged a meeting of himself and two other members of the Transvaal Centre with Mr A S Hilton on 1986 September 20, as requested.

In a letter dated 1986 September 25, Mr Hilton informed the Hon. Secretary that he would be pleased to form a Computing Section and become its Director. The Hon. Secretary thereupon exercised the authority vested in him by Council informing Mr Hilton of his appointment as Director of a Computing Section of the Society.

Council confirmed the action taken by the Hon. Secretary.

In a subsequent letter (not dated) Mr Hilton thanked Council for his appointment. He looked forward to a long and rewarding appointment and would endeavour to maintain and promote the objectives of his Section.

(viii) HANDBOOK. - SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Council approved a revised proposal by Mr R Hurly that the subscription of the Handbook be increased from R3,00 to R4,00 per copy as production costs had risen from R2,30 to R2,86 per copy.

6. FINANCE

(a) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Hon. Treasurer presented his Financial Statement, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. It was proposed by Dr Peter Mack and seconded by Professor A P Fairall that it be accepted. All in favour.

(b) LIBRARY - INSURANCE POLICY

It was proposed by Dr Peter Mack and seconded by Mr R Hurly that the insurance policy on the Library be discontinued. All in favour.

(c) ASSA - MEMBERSHIP FEE - TRANSVAAL CENTRE

In a letter dated 1986 September 16 the Hon. Secretary of the Transvaal Centre stated that their Committee was of the opinion that the fees were not unreasonably high and that the membership fee at present was good value for money. They felt that every care should be taken not to jeopardise any beneficial arrangement that existed with the publishers of SKY AND TELESCOPE.

7. NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

MR L GREEN	P.O.Box 29042, Sandringham, JOHANNESBURG 2131
MR J MARSDEN	"Erin", 35 Palmiet Drive, WESTVILLE, NATAL 3630
MR R F POOLE	56 Pinegrove Road, SOMERSET WEST 7130
DR C J RADEMEYER	Marijistraat 141, Wonderboom, PRETORIA 0182

(Mr C R G Turk joined the Meeting at this juncture in the proceedings)

8. LIST OF SOCIETY'S TELESCOPES

Mr Turk said that he would report on this matter at the next Council Meeting.

9. CAPE - BINDING OF SKY AND TELESCOPE

It was noted that the Cape Centre intended binding volumes 81 to 86 of S&T

10. McINTYRE AWARD

Awards had been made on only two occasions, namely in 1971 and 1983. It was felt that the conditions were too restrictive and that its scope should be broadened. Members of Council were asked to consider how this might be effected.

11. FORBES BEQUEST - ESSAY COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS

Mr J Spencer Jones noted that the Essay Competition seemed to have fallen away in recent years and he felt that it might be resuscitated. To this end it was agreed to appoint a committee consisting of Professor A P Fairall, Dr I S Glass and Mr Peter Briton who would discuss among other matters the following:-

- (1) Back up the prize with something such as a star atlas
- (2) Raise the value of the prize
- (3) Choice of Topics
- (4) Decide on how best the schools might be circularised

12. NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK

Arising out of a remark that the Cape Astronomical Association, the first of its kind in South Africa, was founded in 1912, almost 75 years ago, prompted Dr Peter Mack to suggest that a National Astronomy Week should be organised by the Centres in 1987. Council accepted the suggestion. No details were discussed and the Hon. Secretary was requested to contact the Centres for their reaction to the idea together with any preliminary suggestions they might wish to put forward; replies to be received in time for the next meeting of Council

13. NEXT MEETING

Agreed to hold the next meeting of Council on 1987 February 2.

14. CLOSING

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h17

Date 1987 February 2

Chairman.....

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON
MONDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 1986

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

	R. c.		R. c.
<u>Subscriptions</u>		Debit balance B/Fwd 1/7/1986	214-92
Arrears	90-00	Subscription to "Sky & Telescope, July to October 1986	5009-73
Current	11802-00 +260-00	Cost of production of MNASSA, July and August 1986 (No.7+8)	531-86
Advance	<u>45-00</u> 12197-00	Despatch of publications, July to September 1986	138-36
Entrance Fees	110-00	Postage on publications, July to September 1986	885-53
Sales of M.N.A.S.S.A.	173-86	Stationery and printing	52-79
Sale of Summary Volume of MNASSA	30-00	Postage, other than above	52-58
Sale of Handbooks	250-22	Import surcharge on "Sky & Telescope", July to October 1986	523-70
Donations	9-08	General Sales Tax on "Sky & Telescope, July to October 1986	754-08
Interest on Fixed Deposit	14-17	Fire Insurance Premium	75-75
Interest on Current Account	35-33	Variable Star Charts	26-85
Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky & Telescope"	43-00	Transferred to 32 days Notice A/c.	6000-00
Transferred from 32 days' notice account	2000-00	Bank charges	63-34
Commission paid on cheques & drafts	2-80	Balance carried forward 10/11/1986.	554-77
Postage and airmail postage paid by M.N.A.S.S.A. subscribers	18-80		
	<hr/> <u>R.14884-26</u>		<hr/> <u>R.14884-26</u>

The balance shown consists of R331-42 in the Current Account and R223-35 in the Plusplan A/c. The balance in the McIntyre Award A/c. R4599-35, of which R4000 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

The Society also has an amount of R1000 on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society. The Balance in the 32 days Notice Account is now R14034-29

Garrett Cooper
HON. TREASURER.