

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1990 September 24 at 20h00 at S.A.O.
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Dr I.S. Glass, Vice-President, in the Chair.
Miss P.Booth, Messrs P.Briton, A.D.B.Cameron, D.Duprez (Hon.Treas.)
M.Soltynski, C.R.G.Turk and the Hon. Secretary H.E.Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Dr T.Lloyd Evans, Mrs A.Joubert
Messrs J.Bondietti, Jose Campos and J.Churms.

3. OFFICE-BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL FOR 1990/1991

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting held at S.A.A.O.
on 1990 July 25 at 20h00:-

President:	Mr Jose da Silva Campos
Vice-Presidents:	Dr I.S.Glass Dr T.H.Lloyd Evans Mr M.Soltynski
Council:	Mr M.D.Fraser Mr A.Hilton Mr M.D.Overbeek Professor W.Wargau
Hon.Secretary:	Mr H.E.Krumm
Hon.Treasurer:	Mr D.Duprez
Business Manager:	Vacant

4. PRINCIPALS AND ALTERNATES

As several Centres had not informed Council of their Principles it was
decided to leave this matter in abeyance until the next meeting of Council.
Centres are referred to Item 10 of the Constitution.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mrs A.Joubert was elected by Council to serve for another term of office.

6. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1990 June 18, copies of which
had been circulated, were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr M.Soltynski
and seconded by Mr A.D.B.Cameron that they be accepted as a reliable record
of the proceedings. Confirmed and signed.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) BUSINESS MANAGER: Minute No.5(i)

The matter was left in abeyance as there was nothing further to report.

(ii) LIGHT POLLUTION: Minute No.5(ii)

An amended memorandum on Light Pollution by Mr M.D.Fraser was tabled
for consideration. It was proposed by Mr D.Duprez and seconded by Mr
A.D.B.Cameron that it be accepted in its present form and that it be

released to the Press on behalf of the Society. The proposal was heartily endorsed by Council after thanking Mr Fraser for his contribution and congratulating him on his initiative. It was agreed to suggest to Mr Fraser that he might add the names and addresses of the Centre if further information was required.

(iii) A.S.S.A. ENDOWMENT TRUST (ASSET) - APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE: Minute No.8

Mr Peter Cramb informed Council that he was pleased to accept Mr C.R.G. Turk's proposal that he be appointed to the Board of Trustees

(iv) MACLEAR'S BOTTLE: Minute No.11

Mr A.D.B.Cameron reported that the bottle in question had been found. He described how he and his colleagues on 2 July 1990 had set out a square 2m x 2m, aligned north/south, symmetrically about the surveyed position of the north terminal of Maclear's Arc of Meridian at Aurora in the Northern Cape. The accuracy of the square was a bit uncertain and excavated without success. A 4 metre extension northwards exposed an ancient house foundation and 1,5 diameter ring of stones. Maclear mentions a ring of stones in his personal diary but not in his formal Report. The significance of the ring was uncertain. However the centre of the ring of stones was carefully excavated. The third layer of stones, 450mm down exposed Maclear's stone engraved by 1838^{Sr} and a further 50mm excavation found the bottle which Maclear had buried to mark the north terminal of his Arc of Meridian. (The find was suitably celebrated)

Maclear in his Report states that the north terminal of de la Caille's Arc of Meridian was probably in a stable attached to a house which no longer exists. This house is roughly 125 metres north/west of Maclear's terminal.

The matter of the commemorative plaques would be discussed at a later stage.

8. FINANCE

(i) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr D.Duprez, presented his statement for the period 1990 July 1 to 1990 August 31, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. It was proposed and seconded that it be adopted. All in favour with a vote of thanks to Mr Duprez. He mentioned that the 32-day account stood at R15310 and the current account at R11000.

The Hon.Treasurer also produced a copy of the 1989/1990 financial statement duly audited by the Society's auditor, Mr R.Glass. Agreed to write Mr Glass a letter of thanks c/o of his firm Messrs Penkin, Zeller and Karoo, with best wishes for the Jewish New Year.

(ii) OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary, Mrs A.Joubert, reported that 75 subscriptions were outstanding and that the despatch of SKY & TELESCOPE to them had been suspended until such time as their subscriptions had been paid, depending on the availability of copies of S&T.

In the light of her report it was decided to reduce the order for S&T from 460 to 430 with immediate effect.

(iii) HONORARIA: Minute No.6(iii)

Nothing to report as Committee appointed had not met.

9. NEW MEMBERS

It was proposed by Miss Pat Booth and seconded by Mr Peter Briton that the following applicants be elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

MR K.BRYANT	P.O.Box 96, Observatory, 7935
DR E.H.CLAASE	66 Riebeeck Street, Worcester, 6850
MR W.CLOETE	P.O.Box 418, Ermelo. 2350
MR J.N.CONRADIE	2 Strydom Street, The Reeds, Verwoerdburg, 0154
MR R.K.FISCH	6 Heidehof, Edgemoed, 7441
MR D.W.GILMAN	8 Kargather Court, Howick, 3290
MR K.J.H.JAGER	33 Harrodrylaan, Oakglen, Bellville, 7530
REV N.KRIEK	5 van Zyl Street, Britstown, 8970
MR H.A.KOTZE	9 Wenning Street, De la Haye, Bellville, 7530
MR F.J.LE ROUX(jnr)	75 Impala Road, Monument Park, Pretoria, 0181
MR R.B.MALHERBE	43 Fourteenth Avenue, Boston, Bellville 7530
MR H.H.McCONNELL	18 Acacia Avenue, Durbanville, 7550
MR C.MEIER	503 Zilverland, Barnes Street, Bloemfontein, 9301
MR J.P.ROGERS	20 Staines Road, Plumstead, 7800
MR E.SAGE	75 Welkom Str. Blue Horizon Village, Mitchellsplain, 7785
MR G.T.VILJOEN	P.O.Box 7993, Hennopsmeer, 0046
MR P.VAN RENSBURG	P.O.Box 428, Thabazimbi, 0380

CONFIRMED

10. FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE TWO OBSERVATORIES

According to a communication dated 1990 September 7 sent to the President of the Society by the Minister of National Education, Mr Gene Louw, Parliament had introduced legislation in terms of Law No.75 of 1990 to the effect that the Foundation for Research and Development (FRD) would secede from CSIR to become an independent statutory body.

The Minister required to be informed of the Society's attitude to the transfer of the South African Astronomical Observatory and the Hartbeeshoek Radio Astronomical Observatory to the FRD which now fell under the Department of National Education.

After a short discussion Council unanimously agreed to strongly support the transfer of the two observatories to the Foundation for Research and Development: Dr I.Glass to inform Mr Jose Campos who in turn would inform the Minister of Council's decision.

11. NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ASTRONOMY

Mr Jose Campos suggested that a symposium be held in Cape Town during April 1991. Council thanked and congratulated him for his proposal and agreed that it should be held in Cape Town. Council would appreciate more information from the President regarding the form it might take.

It was decided that the Chairman of the Cape Centre, Mr John Davison, be asked to investigate the matter further. Dr I.Glass would approach Professor Anthony Fairall of the University of Cape Town and Miss Pat Booth would contact Miss Almara Willis of the S.A.Museum. It was important that Professor M.Feast should be kept informed. Mr J.Campos to be informed of Council's reaction to this proposal.

12. JACK BENNETT'S AWARD

sister

Mr C.R.G.Turk had suggested to Mr Jack Bennett's/that an Award similar to that of the de Kock Award should be instituted in memory of her Brother, to be known as the Jack Bennett Award. She endorsed Mr Turk's suggestion

and would be delighted to see it implemented. Consideration will have to be given to the form of the Award in due course.

It was agreed that Jack Bennett's medals and awards should not be buried in the vaults of a bank but should be put on display for all to see. Professor W. Wargau of UNISA informed Mr Turk that he was giving the matter his consideration.

13. SLIDES: Minutes of Council Meeting 1990 April 23: Minute No.4(i)

The Membership Secretary, Mrs A. Joubert, reported in a letter to the meeting that she had received 145 replies to the questionnaire. 62 requested slides on a wide range of subjects. A number of members reported that they had their own large collection of slides. Mrs Joubert is in possession of all the details.

14. DISTRIBUTION OF YEARLY HANDBOOK TO SUBSCRIBERS

The Editor of the Handbook, Miss Pat Booth, supported a suggestion that the Business Manager should handle the distribution of the Handbook. Council decided that the suggestion should be implemented.

15. DEGRADEABLE PLASTIC ENVELOPES : S&T and MNASSA

In reply to a suggestion from the floor Council felt that the use of degradable plastic envelopes could be investigated.

16. NEXT MEETING: 26 November 1990

17. CLOSING: There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 21h55.

DATE. 26. Nov. 1990

CHAIRMAN. *J. H. ...*

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA			
INCOME	AND	EXPENDITURE	JUL - SEP 1990
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INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
OPENING BALANCE	R5,968.69	SKY & TELESCOPE	4,927.47
SUBSCRIPTIONS	24,960.00	IMPORT DUTY	681.90
SOCDON	986.50	CLEARING	2,048.99
ENTRY FEES	180.00	POSTAGE ON PUBLICATIONS	747.00
MNASSA	61.36	PRINT&DISTR. MNASSA	3,509.00
HANDBOOK	162.50	PRINTING HANDBOOKS	1,250.00
INTEREST	263.43	GENERAL POSTAGE	96.65
TRUSTDON	745.00	PRINT&STATIONARY	212.12
ADVERTISING	35.00	TRUSTDON	745.00
SUNDRIES	0.00	BANK CHARGES	64.25
	0.00	BANK-32-DAY ACCOUNT	12,000.00
	0.00	SUNDRIES	0.00
		SURPLUS-(SHORTFALL)	7,080.10
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