

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1991 April 8 at 20h00 at S.A.A.O.

Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Dr. I. S. Glass, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Miss P. Booth, Mrs. A. Joubert, Mrs. A. Strauss, Messrs J. Bondietti, A. D. B. Cameron, J. Churms, D. Duprez (Hon. Treasurer), M. G. Soltynski and the Hon. Secretary H. E. Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Brian Warner, Dr. T. Lloyd Evans, R. Hurly and Mrs. E. Willis.

Subsequent to the above meeting of Council, a letter was received from Mr Peter Briton explaining that he had every intention of attending the meeting but that his car had come to a standstill en route and refused to complete the journey to S.A.A.O. Explanation and apologies accepted.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of previous meeting of Council held on 1991 February 4, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. It was proposed by Miss P. Booth and seconded that they be accepted as a reliable record of the proceedings. Confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) MACLEAR'S BOTTLE; COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES-GROOTKLIPFONTEIN. Minute No. 5 (i)

The Hon. Secretary had written to Mr. George Hofmeyr, Director of the National Monuments Council, on 15 February 1991 as requested by Council and had handed him the letter in person. He was favourably impressed. Dr. J. Deacon, who had replied on 20 February 1991 on behalf of the Director, reported that her Council was very much in favour of commemorating the work of Lacaille and Maclear in the manner suggested by our Society.

Mr. A. D. B. Cameron tabled a letter dated 27 February 1991, copies of which he had sent to Messrs P. Briton and R. Hurly. He made the following salient points:-

- (1) The plaque for Lacaille's north terminal be a copy of that designed by Sir Herbert Baker commemorating LaCaille's achievements during 1751-1752. It is attached to the north/east wall of the Bank of Athens overlooking Garlicks in Exchange Place, Cape Town.
- (2) Maclear's plaque should be of similar design except that the sextant at the bottom right hand corner be replaced by Bradley's Sector. A sketch of the apparatus used in the measurement of the baseline to be inserted below the citation.
- (3) He agreed with Mr. R. Hurly's suggestion that a separate explanatory plaque be provided at each site outlining the history of the operation.

Mr. Cameron was accorded a vote of thanks. He would be discussing the matter further with the Director Mr George Hofmeyr in the near future. Mr. R. Hurly was optimistic that financial aid would be forthcoming from the Surveyors and the Royal Society.

(ii) SYMPOSIUM ON ASTRONOMY: Minute No.5(ii)

Arising out of correspondence between the President, Mr. Jose Campos, and the Chairman, Dr. Ian Glass, it was agreed to accept the President's proposal that the Symposium be held tentatively from 23-25 April 1992 at the South African Museum. It was also agreed that he proceed with the distribution of his leaflet/questionnaire to all members of the Society and that they be attached to the May issue of MNASSA. Extras were to be sent to the secretaries of local Centres for distribution among their non-members of the Society.

Mr. Campos was congratulated on his initiative and enthusiasm and for the thought he had brought to bear on a worthy event.

According to a letter from Mr. Jonathan Spencer Jones, 1992 had been designated International Space Year.

(iii) HONORARIA: Minute No.3(v)

The matter was held over to the next meeting as the proposals of the sub-committee were not available.

5. FINANCE

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. D. Duprez, presented his statement for the period 1990 July to 1991 March, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. Proposed, seconded and agreed the statement be accepted, with a vote of thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

Mr Duprez expressed the opinion that the current financial year would show a surplus of about R3000. He was less hopeful regarding 1992. Owing to an expected increase in expenditure due to increasing costs he envisaged a surplus of only R200. It might become necessary to reconsider an increase in the annual subscription.

6. MEMBERSHIP

(i) NEW MEMBERS

It was proposed by Mr. M. G. Soltynski and seconded by Mr. A. D. B. Cameron that the following applicants be elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| MR. M. J. CERFONTYN | De Bron Nr 4, Kenridge, 7550                   |
| MR. C. F. DUTOIT    | 4 Paul Kruger Str. Stellenbosch, 7600          |
| MR. A. MURRAY       | 8 Welgevallen Str. Stellenbosch, 7600          |
| MR. A. P. O'BRIEN   | 8 Burg Road, Rondebosch, 7700                  |
| MRS. A. SCHWAN      | P.O. Box 463, Thabazimbi, 0380                 |
| MR. A. SLOTEGRAAF   | 8 Forelle Close, Die Boord, Stellenbosch. 7600 |
| DR. A. SMIT         | 703 Seacliffe, Bantry Bay, 8001                |
| DR. L. STANNARD     | 281 Ocean View Drive, Sea Point, 8001          |
| MR. F. D. SWART     | P.O. Box 23, Vandyksdrif, 2245                 |
| MISS. E. WARREN     | 109 Lakeview Court, Main Road, Lakeside, 7951  |
| MR. A. VAN STADEN   | Uitzicht W/s 20, Viljoen Str. Bredasdorp. 7280 |

(ii) MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In addition to requesting Centre Representatives on Council to encourage non-members of the Society attending their meetings to join ASSA, it was agreed to ask Dr Ian Glass to write to the Astronomische Gesellschaft in Windhoek which was an institutional member of ASSA and Mrs A. Joubert to write to the Bulawayo Astronomy Club with a similar request.

(iii) GENERAL

- (1) The Membership Secretary reported that four suspended members had paid their subscriptions since the previous meeting of Council.
- (2) Mrs A. Joubert agreed to send receipts and cards to members domiciled

beyond the borders of the Republic. Local members would receive similar treatment on request.

- (3) The influx of new members and the late payments by standing members, both unknown quantities, made it difficult for the Hon. Treasurer to balance his orders for SKY&Telescope. He and the Membership Secretary agreed to discuss the matter to see if they could come up with a satisfactory solution to the problem.

7. ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Society's Representative on the Controlling Executive Committee of AS & TS, Mr M.D.Overbeek, in a letter dated 1991 March 13, reported that since they acquired the Observatory site AS & TS seems to be under going an identity crisis. The Executive Committee had decided to send a questionnaire to all societies asking them to express their views on the role they saw AS & TS playing in the future.

It came to light that no such questionnaire had as yet been sent out. It would be dealt with by Council on arrival.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting on 24 July 1991. The President, who lived in Durban, may decide where the meeting was to be, either Durban or Cape Town.

9. NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: 17 June 1991

- 10. CLOSING: There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h42.

DATE...1991 April 8

CHAIRMAN...I.S.Glan...

| ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA |            |                         |              |
|---|------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| INCOME                                  | AND        | EXPENDITURE             | JUL - MAR-91 |
| INCOME                                  |            | EXPENDITURE             |              |
| OPENING BALANCE                         | R5,768.69  | SKY & TELESCOPE         | 12,206.95    |
| SUBSCRIPTIONS                           | 30,022.50  | IMPORT DUTY             | 1,961.31     |
| SOCDDON                                 | 1,214.00   | CLEARING                | 4,957.25     |
| ENTRY FEES                              | 500.00     | POSTAGE ON PUBLICATIONS | 3,256.80     |
| MNASSA                                  | 1,121.17   | PRINT&DISTR.MNASSA      | 6,920.00     |
| HANDBOOK                                | 986.72     | PRINTING HANDBOOKS      | 3,650.00     |
| INTEREST                                | 745.40     | GENERAL POSTAGE         | 125.32       |
| TRUSTDON                                | 810.00     | PRINT&STATIONARY        | 1,437.75     |
| ADVERTISING                             | 63.50      | TRUSTDON                | 782.25       |
| BANK-32-DAY ACCOUNT                     | 9,000.00   | BANK CHARGES            | 142.10       |
| SUNDRIES                                | 145.00     | BANK-32-DAY ACCOUNT     | 12,000.00    |
|   | 0.00       | SUNDRIES                | 0.00         |
|   |            |                         |              |
|   |            | SURPLUS-(SHORTFALL)     | 3,137.25     |
|   |            |                         |              |
|   | R50,576.98 |                         | R50,576.98   |