

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa
Hon. Treasurer's Report to Council
on 9th September 1996

The Past Year

What a blessing for all concerned that the past year is now over! And first of all, congratulations to Cliff, Audrey, Brian (and his brother) for putting our membership list and Mnassa subscribers on to a scientific footing with systems that now monitor and control our affairs.

The attached financial results for the year illustrate what has been achieved, with a surplus of more than R15000, thus wiping out the deficits of the previous two years and giving us a modest accumulation of funds of R5000.

The Annual Accounts

All the financial information and supporting documents were in the hands of the hon. auditors within a month of year end, including a copy of attached statements.

It is understood that they have made no material changes to these unaudited figures and a final audited draft will be tabled at the meeting for approval by Council and signature by the hon. President and Treasurer.

Figures of note in the Income Statement are the increase in subscriptions by R27000 and in Mnassa and Handbook receipts by more than R12000. Expenses are not strictly comparable between the two years, as the change to direct mailing of Sky and Telescope at the half year has distorted the picture. The Balance Sheet shows a healthy cash position, brought about by advance subscriptions from about 200 members.

The Year Ahead

It goes without saying that the big imponderable in the current year is the Rand/Dollar exchange rate. For most of the past year, the rate was steady at R3.65/\$1, whereas it is currently at R4.50 and has been higher.

Assuming no increase in the dollar price of S&T, the extra cost of say, 85 cents SA for the annual subscription of \$41 is R35 per annum per member, or R11000 for the total estimated membership. Bang goes our surplus!


Colin Gray

Bergvliet

September 1996

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 1996

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	30 JUNE 1996		· 30 JUNE 1995	
Surplus at 1 July	Deficit	11420	Deficit	4747
Net surplus for the year		<u>15861</u>	Deficit	<u>10898</u>
		4441	Deficit	15645
 Funds transferred from McIntyre		 210		 4225
Accumulated funds		<u>4651</u>	Deficit	<u>11420</u>

REPRESENTED BY

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash resources			
32 days notice account	31405		17173
Plusplan account	<u>22367</u>		<u>8437</u>
		53772	25610

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Owing to Asset	1180		465
Subscriptions in advance	42140		36565
Expenses not funded	<u>5801</u>		<u>-</u>
		49121	37030

NET CURRENT ASSETS

	R <u>4651</u>	Deficit	R <u>11420</u>
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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
 INCOME STATEMENT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1996
 (unaudited)

INCOME	1996		1995	
Subscriptions		73040		45919
Interest		2804		1017
Entrance fees		820		952
Mnassa Sales		13754		3029
Handbook Sales		4032		2531
Advertising		200		174
Donations		7592		3375
Asset receipts		<u>1180</u>		<u>465</u>
		103422		57462
EXPENDITURE				
Sky & Telescope	46133		26564	
Forwarding & Clearing	2605		4571	
Surcharge & VAT	4628		10171	
Mnassa production	16594		7865	
Handbook production	4324		3524	
Postage on S&T	3884		9118	
Postage on Mnassa	2234		2311	
Printing & Stationery S&T	803		1332	
Printing & Stat. Mnassa	236		146	
Bank charges	1147		397	
General postages	2793		637	
Honoraria	1000		1000	
Owing to Asset	1180		465	
Sundry expenses	<u>-</u>		<u>259</u>	
		<u>87561</u>		<u>68360</u>
NET SURPLUS		<u>15861</u>	NET DEFICIT	<u>10898</u>

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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
 CASH RECONCILIATION
 AT 30 JUNE 1996
 (unaudited)

	1996		1995	
Cash at 1 July				
32 day notice account	17173		10690	
Plusplan account	8437		-	
Current account	-		3224	
Fixed deposit	<u> </u>		<u>3000</u>	
		25610		16914
 Add				
Surplus for the year	15861			
Funds from McIntyre	210		4225	
Owing to Asset	1180		465	
Subscriptions in advance	42140		36565	
Expenses not funded	<u>5801</u>	<u>65192</u>	<u> </u>	<u>41255</u>
		90802		58169
 Less				
Deficit for the year	-		10898	
Outstanding cheque paid	-		50	
Paid to Asset	465		1261	
Subscriptions in advance	<u>36565</u>	<u>37030</u>	<u>20350</u>	<u>32559</u>
 Cash at 30 June		<u>53772</u>		<u>25610</u>

B

20 Nerine Ave
Pinelands
7405, South Africa

Tel: (021) 531-5250

11th June 1996

The Secretary
ASSA
12 Redgum Avenue
THORNTON
7460


Dear Mr. Skinner

We wish to nominate the following persons for election to the offices as shown for the year 1996/97:-

President	A. Hilton
Vice Presidents	Dr. R.S. Stobie M.D. Overbeek Prof. B.C. Raubenheimer
Members of Council	Dr. D. Smits P. Von Blommestein T.W.E. Budge T.P. Cooper
Hon. Secretary	B. Skinner
Hon Treasurer	C.D. Gray

All the above have indicated their willingness to stand.

Yours faithfully


.....
C.R.G. Turk.


.....

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa
c/o SAAO, PO Box 9, Observatory 7935



1 July 1996

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
1995 - 1996
REPORT OF COUNCIL

Council met on four occasions since the last A G M with an average of eleven persons present at each meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Total membership was 411 as at 1 July 1996 compared with 455 a year earlier. To date 51 of these members have opted for the reduced subscription. The reduced number of members can most probably be ascribed to the far higher cost of our subscriptions.

FINANCE

Our Hon Treasurer, Mr Colin Gray is thanked for his efforts again this year. His efforts have been bedevilled by inflation due mainly to the Rand/Dollar exchange rate. The Hon Treasurer thanks members for their early subscription renewals. Thanks also to the numerous members who have once again made donations to the ASSA. These will all be acknowledged in MNASSA in due course.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Council appointed Mr Cliff Turk as business Manager this year. We have computerised our membership records and this has improved the efficiency of dealing with membership queries and MNASSA subscription renewals. All members receiving Sky & Telescope have a subscription number. By quoting this number, subscription queries can now be addressed directly with Sky & Telescope on the Internet or via either the Hon Secretary or Business Manager.

MNASSA

Council wishes to thank the Editor Mr Auke Slotegraaf for providing members with an informative publication that keeps them up to date with developments in astronomy. The Bloemfontein Symposium Proceedings made up a large part of the 1996 volume. Thanks also to the Bloemfontein Centre for subsidising the publication of these Proceedings.

ANNUAL HANDBOOK

Council expresses sincere thanks to Miss Pat Booth for her production of the Annual Handbook. Miss Booth is assisted by the Directors of the observing sections who provide valuable information for all amateur observers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Council wish to thank the following persons or institutions for assistance during the past year:

Dr Robert Stobie, Director of SAAO, for the use of meeting facilities at SAAO.

Special thanks to the staff of SAAO for forwarding post to me at U.C.T. and Penny Dobbie of the University of Cape Town Astronomy Dept for assisting with Society publications.

Council extend their appreciation to the Directors of the Observing Sections for collating Astronomical research by amateur astronomers.

The Centres who assisted the professional astronomical fraternity with public viewing nights at the different observatories are commended for their efforts.

FINALLY

I wish to thank all who contributed to the work of the Society this year and apologise for not being able to mention them by name.



BRIAN SKINNER
(Hon Secretary)

July 1996

Date: Tue, 4 Jun 96 23:35 EET
To: "Brian Skinner" <BASBS@BREMNER.UCT.AC.ZA>
From: auke@aztec.co.za (Auke Slotegraaf)
Subject: Late obs.sec report

Deep-sky Observing Section
Annual Report - 1995/1996

In an attempt to encourage deep-sky observing, a catalogue of comet-like objects discovered by the late Jack Bennett is distributed by the section to members and interested parties.

To increase awareness of the Bennett list a southern version of the famous Messier list an article was written for the Southern Sky magazine, an Australian publication. The article, which appeared in the May-June 1995 issue elicited good response, so that the Section is now in the rather odd position of - apparently - having more members outside the ASSA contributing observations, than is the case locally.

The Bennett list is also available on the Internet; temporarily from <ftp://ftp.seds.org/incoming/>, or from links reachable from the URL <http://www.seds.org/~spider/>.

Work continues on upgrading the existing observing manual; the assistance of M Brazelle is gratefully acknowledged.

Two deep-sky reviews were published and sent to interested members; irregular Nightfall columns appeared in MNASSA, discussing local and international contributions.

ASSA members Brazelle, Brown, Finlay and Volschenk are thanked for their contributions.

Correspondence with section members in general has been regrettably low, in great part due to increasing demands on the Director's available time. Anyone who is interested in taking over the running of the section is urged to contact the director at PO Box 608, Stellenbosch, 7599.

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Auke Slotegraaf : auke@aztec.co.za : mnassa@sao.ac.za : Tel/Fax
+27+21+8873427
PO Box 608, Stellenbosch, 7599, South Africa : B+ E+ F- G- H- I- L+ M+ N+
Q1+ Q2+
First Ghost Atlas of S.Africa : '82 Kawasaki 550 LTD : Pink Floyd
aficionado
Deep-sky observer : Dungeon Master : Origins and functions of paranormal
belief
The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do
nothing

ASSA ENDOWMENT TRUST (ASSET)

Trustees Report to the 1996 AGM of ASSA

The Trust regrets that it appears from the minutes of the 1995 AGM of ASSA that its report for the year ended 1994 went missing somewhere. Thus the accounts for the two years 1994 and 1995 are appended hereto.

Donations received during 1994 were inflated by late receipt of some of those made during 1993 (via ASSA Treasurer) and those for the current year are satisfactory. Income has increased from 1994 to 1995 even though a large amount of money was held in the savings account instead of being placed on higher earning investments. This was because it was foreseen that ASSA would have a cash shortage at the end of the year for which the Trust was able to provide a R5000 loan. This loan was repaid in full on 6 January 1996.

The Trust has continued to make its annual grant of R1000 to the Society and looks forward to being able to increase the amount in the future. It is hoped that there will be an increase in donations to the Trust which is now into its 20th year of building funds to support astronomy in Southern Africa.

Donations to the Trust are retained in a capital account and can never be disposed of unless the Trust is wound up. The income earned by the donations is the source of the Trust's distributable reserve from which grants are made.

Further information regarding the Trust can be found in "Centrepiece" in MNASSA for October 1977 under the title "What is Asset?"

Cliff Turk
Secretary.

20 Nerine Ave
7405 Pinelands.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMET AND METEOR SECTION FOR 1995

The year 1995 proved to be a bumper one for the Section. Several bright comets made appearances, and the discovery of comet Hale-Bopp has caught the attention of the astronomical community in no uncertain manner. Several meteor showers were well observed, though the prolific outburst of the alpha Monocerotids in November was missed due to country-wide cloud.

I now provide a summary of observations made during 1995. Observations of meteor showers were sent to the International Meteor Organisation (IMO), and reports of comets were sent to the International Comet Quarterly (ICQ).

Meteor Showers

1995 saw a gratifying increase in interest in meteor showers. Seven showers were observed by 12 observers. The observations are summarised in Table 1. Specific shower details are summarised below:

pi Puppids

Cooper observed this shower, which shows periodic outbursts, the last being in 1977 and 1982. In 1995 the shower again proved to be inactive.

eta Aquarids

At the Third ASSA Symposium held in Bloemfontein, Cooper presented a summary of activity of this shower based on southern hemisphere observations from 1986 to 1995. These observations included his own and those of Nico Kriek, Harry Mitchell and Colin Henshaw from southern Africa. The results indicated a maximum activity around May 4 with ZHR typically 60 meteors/hour.

kappa Pavonids

In July we were fortunate to host astrophysicist Peter Jenniskens from NASA, who predicted a possible outburst of this shower, last seen in 1986. The Pretoria Centre stationed two teams at Hartbeeshoek and Tiegerpoort each with two camera batteries and visual observers. The predicted outburst did not occur, but both teams obtained successful photos and plots of the July sporadic activity. The Section wishes to express gratitude to Dr David Block, through whom the contact with Dr Jenniskens was made.

alpha Capricornids

This shower, well renowned for its slow, bright yellow meteors, showed higher than normal activity in 1995. Enhanced rates on July 29/30 were observed in Europe, USA and by Tim Cooper in South Africa. The rates normally show a mere trickle, but on this night the ZHR was as high as 15/hour. Full moon will hamper any follow up observations in 1996.

Orionids

The Pretoria Centre observed this shower as part of its October Practical meeting, with six observers staying on until the early morning, and three observers making hourly counts. A generated rate profile based on observations by Mauritz Geysler, Michael Poll and Tim Cooper indicated a ZHR of about 40/hour just before morning twilight on October 21. Other mornings were clouded out.

The year ended cloudy and wet, washing out the outbursts of the alpha Monocerotids and Leonids, and the Geminids.

Fireballs

Six fireball reports were received. Details of the observations are given in Table 2. The event on January 4 was observed by a Natal farmer during daylight, reporting a gas-blue flame and one second trail. The duration was about 2 seconds and there was no associated sound. Four days later Trevor Gould reported a fireball of 5 second duration which left a white smoky trail which lasted about 2 seconds. The object fragmented. On February 8 John van Blommestein observed a brightly coloured object of 2-3 second duration which fragmented into about 10 pieces. Orange, red and purple were reported. Peter van Blommestein witnessed a similar event on April 10 emanating from Orion. Of 4 second duration, the white fireball broke into three pieces. The event reported by Sonia Enke on June 4 was witnessed by two visiting German astronomers, who described the colours as green and red, as it moved from Vela to Pavo. Finally, Brian Skinner and Cliff Turk observed a silver/white fireball from the Cederberg on October 21. The duration was 3-4 seconds.

Comets

Seven comets were observed by the Section in 1995. Considerable interest has been aroused by comet Hale-Bopp, and by year end three comets reached brighter than magnitude 6.

Comet Takamizawa (C/1994 J2), Clark (71P) and d'Arrest (6P)

These comets were CCD imaged by Andre van Staden. Comet Takamizawa was imaged during January and February, in the latter case when the comet was about magnitude 15. Comet Clark was imaged in July showing a 5' tail and several curved jets within the coma. Comet d'Arrest was imaged in October at about magnitude 10.

Comet Hale-Bopp (C/1995 O1)

This comet was well observed visually by Mike Begbie and Tim Cooper, who both made magnitude estimates and estimates of comatic size and condensation, and imaged by Andre van Staden, Mauritz Geysler and Tony Viljoen. The comet brightened slowly to about magnitude 9.8 before entering the solar glare in November.

Comet Bradfield (C/1995 Q1)

Notification of the discovery of this comet was received from Patricia Whitelock of SAAO on August 18. Nearly the entire sub-continent was blanketed in cloud and none of the regular observers could secure any early measurements. Louis Barendse, Fanie Hartmann and Tim Cooper reported visual observations for a few days with the comet at around magnitude 5.5, before the comet headed into the solar glare. After perihelion, the comet remained inaccessible for southern observers.

Comet de Vico (122P)

Tim Cooper reported the only visual observations of this recovered comet, which reached magnitude 5 in October.

Comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 (73P)

This comet underwent an outburst in September, and became some 7 magnitudes brighter than predicted. Jannie Smit was probably the first to record it visually on October 3 when it passed through one of his variable star fields. The comet was extensively observed visually, with reports by Tim Cooper, Magda Streicher, Danie Overbeek, Brian Skinner, and Peter van Blommestein. Dozens of CCD images, some of exceptional quality were made by Andre van Staden and Mauritz Geysler.

Conclusion

The year ended on a very wet and cloudy note, such that very few observations were possible in the last three months. Despite this fact, there was a most satisfying return of observations on seven meteor showers, six fireballs and seven comets. I would like to heartily thank those members who contributed observations for their efforts in 1995.

T P Cooper

Observer	Total Hours Observation	Shower	Hours Observed
Cooper T P	33.8	Pyxids	1.0
		π Puppids	4.0
		η Aquarids	12.4
		κ Pavonids	6.8
		α Capricornids	5.0
		β Hydrusids	1.0
		Orionids	3.6
Mitchell H	10.3	η Aquarids	10.3
Jenniskens P	6.0	κ Pavonids	6.0
Stanley Adams S	6.0	κ Pavonids	6.0
Robinson N	5.0	κ Pavonids	5.0
Poll M	3.0	Orionids	3.0
Viljoen A	3.0	κ Pavonids	3.0
Viljoen L	3.0	κ Pavonids	3.0
Geyser M	2.5	Orionids	2.5
van Blommestein P	2.3	Unspecified	2.3
Kriek N	1.3	η Aquarids	1.3
Overbeek D	1.0	κ Pavonids	1.0
Total	77.2		

Table 1 Summary of Meteor Shower Observers 1993

Date of Fireball	Name of Reporter	Visual Magnitude	Time of Observation UT	Start Coordinate 1950.0	End Coordinate 1950.0
1995 Jan 4	Stuart McLean	?	-08h00	not given	not given
1995 Jan 8	Trevor Gould	-6	19h55	not given	not given
1995 Feb 8	John v.Blomstn	-4	18h43	not given	not given
1995 April 10	Peter v.Blomstn	-4	18h39	not given	not given
1995 June 4	Sonia Enke	-6	21h17	20h20, -57°	08h50, -56°
1995 Oct 21	Brian Skinner	-3	21h25	22h30, 25.2°	20h15, 35.4°

Table 2 Details of Reported Fireballs

Hi Brian,

I did something really stupid ! On Saturday my dad asked me to e-mail this report to you. I cut your e-mail address from one of your previous e-mail letters and pasted it with the prefix "From:". No wonder MAILER-DAEMON@uctmail.uct.ac.za was confused !

Regards,
Andy.

ASSA/IOTA Planetary Occultation Programme. Director's Report for 1995

Planetary Occultations.

A number of appulses and some dubious occultations were reported. A CCD camera with computer interface was used for the first time. None of the events was suitable for monitoring with the Edenvale photometer. The following are thanked for their always welcome reports: T Cooper, F de Jager, Sonja Enke, B Fraser, M Geysler, T Lloyd Evans, H Lund, J Smit, T Turner, C Turk and P van Blommestein.

- #1 Jan 17, PPM 122559 by 654 Zelinda: Cloud reported from Edenvale, Fish Hoek, Johannesburg, Newlands, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark.
- #2 Feb 02, PPM 193294 by 764 Gedania: Misses reported by T Cooper in Benoni, T Turner in Fish Hoek, D Overbeek in Edenvale, T Lloyd Evans in Rondebosch and F de Jager in Vanderbijlpark. Pretoria had cloud.
- #3 Feb 06, DM+18 2290 by 257 Silesia: Cloud reported from Benoni, Edenvale, Fish Hoek, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark.
- #4 Cancelled.
- #5 Feb 19, PPM 161072 by 593 Titania: Cloud reported from Edenvale, Fish Hoek and Johannesburg.
- #6 Cancelled.
- #7 Mar 5, PPM 100205 by 791 Ani: Misses reported by T Cooper in Bredell, D Overbeek in Edenvale, H Lund in Johannesburg and J Smit in Pretoria.
- #8 Mar 10, DM-26 2824 by 241 Germania: Cloud reported from Bredell, Edenvale, Fish Hoek, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Simon's Town.
- #9 Mar 19, DM-24 3743 by 23 Thalia: F de Jager reported a questionable disappearance probably due to dew, in Piquetberg and J Smit reported a miss between cloud. Fish Hoek and Simon's Town had cloud.
- #10 Apr 2, DM-36 2563 by 324 Bambergia: Misses reported by T Turner in Fish Hoek, H Lund in Johannesburg, T Lloyd Evans in Rondebosch and F de Jager in Vanderbijlpark. Simon's Town had cloud.
- #11 Apr 4, PPM 157429 by 35 Leukothea: Miss reported by H Lund in Johannesburg. Fish Hoek and Simon's Town had cloud.
- #12 May 1, PPM 293470 by 115 Thyra: Cloud reported from Bredell, Edenvale, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Simon's Town.
- #13 May 3, 5223 00024 by 18 Melpomene: J Smit in Pretoria reported an appulse at approximately the right time. In Edenvale D Overbeek had a dubious miss. Simon's Town had cloud.
- #14 May 26, DM-06 3827 by 74 Galatea: Misses reported by T Turner in Fish Hoek, T Lloyd Evans in Rondebosch, J Smit in Pretoria and F de Jager in Vanderbijlpark. Johannesburg and Simon's Town had cloud.
- #15 May 27, PPM 265607 by 271 Penthesilia: Misses reported by T Turner in Fish Hoek who only observed from UT 0208 onwards, by H Lund in Johannesburg, T Lloyd Evans in Rondebosch and J Smit in Pretoria.
- #16 Jun 22, DM-11 5402 by 704 Interamnia: In Bredell, T Cooper had a miss. D Overbeek in Edenvale started a minute after the predicted time and observed a dubious appulse a few minutes late. Fish Hoek and Simon's Town had cloud.
- #17 Jun 28, DM-26 2791 by 535 Montague: In Edenvale, D Overbeek had a miss. Simon's Town had cloud.
- #18 Jul 8, PPM 160114 by 618 Elfriede: From Bredell, T Cooper reported a miss

- as did D Overbeek from Edenvale. Fish Hoek had cloud.
- #19 Jul 13, DM-23 2551 by 241 Germania: From Pretoria, J Smit reported an appulse at approximately the right time. Fish Hoek had cloud.
- #20 Jul 23, PPM 297783 by 94 Aurora: Misses reported by T Turner in Fish Hoek, D Overbeek in Edenvale, H Lund in Johannesburg, J Smit in Pretoria, F de Jager in Vanderbijlpark and Sonja Enke in Windhoek.
- #21 Jul 23, 1440 01954 by 145 Pholus: The star's faintness and low altitude defeated five observers.
- #22 Jul 29, PPM 238493 by 492 Gismonda: In Edenvale D Overbeek saw two momentary disappearances immediately after UT 00 47 21.4, possibly due to atmospheric causes. From Erasmia, M Geysler reported that he had observed a miss, using a CCD camera. The time resolution was too coarse to give meaningful results but it should be noted that CCD cameras can provide valuable last minute astrometry. In Johannesburg, H Lund observed a miss. Simon's Town and Fish Hoek had cloud.
- #22A Aug 11, GSC 6826 by 1992 QBI: Misses were observed by T Cooper in Bredell and D Overbeek in Edenvale. There was not enough time to distribute a general notice to observers.
- #23 Aug 16, 6384 00037 by 121 Hermione: In Edenvale, D Overbeek observed an appulse about three minutes early. Several observers received their notices too late, by courtesy of the SA Postal Services. Simon's Town had cloud.
- #24 Aug 16, DM-06 4393 by 357 Ninina: Misses were observed by T Cooper in Bredell and F de Jager in Vanderbijlpark. Simon's Town had cloud.
- #25 Aug 21, DM+20 0505 by 248 Lameia: A miss was observed by H Lund in Johannesburg and a miss after UT 0303 was observed by D Overbeek in Edenvale.
- #26 Aug 23, Lick5 1406 by 10 Hygiea: Appulses a few minutes early were observed by T Cooper in Bredell, D Overbeek in Edenvale and J Smit in Pretoria. In Johannesburg, H Lund observed a miss. In Vanderbijlpark F de Jager observed from UT 2018 and observed a miss.
- #27 Aug 26, DM-17 6704 by 166 Rhodope: Cloud was reported from Bredell, Edenvale, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark.
- #28 Aug 31, PPM 203264 by 983 Gunila: In Edenvale, Johannesburg and Pretoria, D Overbeek, B Fraser and J Smit observed through intermittent cloud and saw no occultation. Bredell had cloud.
- #29 Sep 2, PPM 208223 by 99 Dike: In Edenvale and Windhoek, D Overbeek and Sonja Enke had misses.
- #30 Sep 2, PPM 237570 by 173 Ino: In Edenvale and Pretoria, D Overbeek and J Smit observed an appulse several minutes early.
- #31 Sep 19, PPM 20740 by 83 Beatrix: In Johannesburg and Pretoria H Lund and J Smit observed misses.
- #32 Nov 6, Lick5 3795 by 210 Isabella: Cloud was reported from Bredell, Edenvale, Fish Hoek, Johannesburg and Vanderbijlpark.
- #33 Dec 20, PPM 226526 by 375 Ursula: In Bredell, T Cooper observed a miss. Vanderbijlpark had cloud.

Grazing Occultations

The Natal Midlands Centre organised an expedition to observe the graze of NZC 2497 on 1995 30 23. Cloud spoiled the attempt.

The Pretoria Centre, assisted by Johannesburg Centre members observed the graze of SAO 145382 at Pyramid. Seven stations were manned but only the northernmost two stations obtained significant timings. The apparently excessive north shift of the track has been reported to IOTA who provided the prediction.

Stations: 7

Consistent Observations: 4

Observers: L Barendse, T Cooper (Leader), H Homer, H Lund, D Overbeek, M Pohl, P Prinsloo, J Ryn Zeevardt.

The Cape Centre attempted the graze of ZC 1271 on 1995 11 14.

For some reason, the team was unable to use the IOTA predictions but an appeal over Internet produced a prediction from Toshio Hirose of the Japanese Lunar Observers' Group.

Various factors mitigated against a successful outcome. Nevertheless, the Centre is to be congratulated for making a valiant attempt and I wish them well for the next attempt.

Stations: 5

Observers: D Duprez, R Hurly, J Joubert, B Skinner and C Turk.

Total lunar Occultations

Due to the lack of a reliable time service and the sad fact that positional astronomy has a low glamour value compared with spectacular Hubble Space Telescope pictures, cometary impacts and similar space extravaganza, the number of occultation observers and observations has continued to shrink. I again urge ASSA members to encourage young observers who want to involve themselves in real astronomy, to attempt total occultation observing. Predictions can always be made available for a given station if an aspiring observer shows sufficient interest.

Observer	Disappearances	Reappearances
MD Overbeek	31	3
J Smit	69	11
P van Blommestein	61	0

ASSA ENDOWMENT TRUST (ASSET)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1995

1994		R - c
	<u>Trust Capital:</u>	
8 990.54	Balance at 31st December 1994	10 251.04
<u>1 260.50</u>	Donations received during the year	<u>535.00</u>
R10 251.04		R 10 786.04
	<u>Distributable Reserve:</u>	
<u>14 444.56</u>	Balance of Income and Expenditure Account	<u>16 358.35</u>
R24 695.60		R <u>27 144.39</u>
	<u>Represented by:</u>	
	Investments:	
1 700-00	United Bank Indef Period Deposits	Nil
20 000-00	United Bank Fixed Deposits	20 000.00
660-00	ABSA Bank Ltd. Equity Shares (at cost)	760.00
Nil	Loan to ASSA	5 000.00
	Savings Account:	
	United Bank	<u>1 384.39</u>
<u>2 335.60</u>		R <u>27 144.39</u>
R24 695.60		

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 1995

	<u>Income:</u>	
2 680.61	Dividends and interest received	2 913.94
	<u>Deduct Expenses:</u>	
	Bank service charges	0.15
<u>1 000.45</u>	Grant to ASSA	<u>1 000-00</u>
R 1 680.16	Excess of Income for the year	R 1 913.79
<u>12 764.40</u>	Excess of Income from previous year	<u>14 444.56</u>
R14 444.56		R <u>16 358.35</u>

Notes:	United Fixed Deposits:	
	13.30% p.a. maturing 8 Oct 98	R 4 000-00
	14.25% p.a. maturing 8 Oct 98	R 8 000-00
	11.45% p.a. maturing 29 Apr 99	R 8 000-00
	ABSA Bank Ltd. Equity Shares(cost)	R 760-00
	(Market value R 6 929.00)	----
		R <u>20 760-00</u>

ASSA ENDOWMENT TRUST (ASSET)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1994

1993		R - c
	<u>Trust Capital:</u>	
8 978.54	Balance at 31st December 1993	8 990.54
<u>12.00</u>	Donations received during the year	<u>1 260.50</u>
R 8 990.54		R 10 251.04
	<u>Distributable Reserve:</u>	
<u>12 764.40</u>	Balance of Income and Expenditure Account	<u>14 444.56</u>
R21 754.94		R 24 695.60
	<u>Represented by:</u>	
	Investments:	
1 700-00	United Bank Indef Period Deposits	1 700.00
18 000-00	United Bank Fixed Deposits	20 000.00
660-00	ABSA Bank Ltd. Equity Shares (at cost)	660.00
	Savings Account:	
<u>1 394.94</u>	United Bank	<u>2 335.60</u>
R21 754.94		R 24 695.60

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 1994

	<u>Income:</u>	
2 641.16	Dividends and interest received	2 680.61
	<u>Deduct Expenses:</u>	
1.30	Bank service charges	0.45
<u>1 000.00</u>	Grant to ASSA	<u>1 000.00</u>
R 1 639.86	Excess of Income for the year	R 1 680.16
<u>11 124.54</u>	Excess of Income from previous year	<u>12 764.40</u>
R12 764.40		R 14 444.56

Notes:	United Indef period Deposits:	
	Account No. 4656-7102	R 1 700-00
	United Fixed Deposits:	
	13.30% p.a. maturing 8 Oct 98	R 4 000-00
	14.25% p.a. maturing 8 Oct 98	R 8 000-00
	11.45% p.a. maturing 29 Apr 99	R 8 000-00
	ABSA Bank Ltd. Equity Shares(cost)	R 660-00
	(Market value R 3 828.00)	-----
		R 22 360-00

20 Nerine Ave
Pinelands
7405, South Africa

Tel: (021) 531-5250

11th June 1996

The Secretary
ASSA
12 Redgum Avenue
THORNTON
7460


Dear Mr. Skinner

We wish to nominate the following persons for election to the offices as shown for the year 1996/97:-

President	A. Hilton
Vice Presidents	Dr. R.S. Stobie M.D. Overbeek Prof. B.C. Raubenheimer
Members of Council	Dr. D. Smits P. Von Blommestein T.W.E. Budge T.P. Cooper
Hon. Secretary	B. Skinner
Hon Treasurer	C.D. Gray

All the above have indicated their willingness to stand.

Yours faithfully


.....
C.R.G. Turk.


.....

ASSA Owned Telescopes and their location.

1. Unitron 6 x 50mm Rich Field Elbow Refractor
Table-top alt-azimuth mounting with clear circles and levelling bubbles.
Very portable but insufficient power for occultations.
Presently held by Curator of Instruments
2. Unitron 102mm Refractor (Lawrence telescope)
Equatorial Mount with circles. $f 15$, $f 1 = 1500\text{mm}$. Four 0.965-inch eyepieces
plus one 1.25-inch eyepiece and adaptor to take either size.
Rather flimsy wooden tripod.
Presently on loan to Mr. R. Noack of Table View.
3. 64mm Refractor (McIntyre telescope)
Adequate wooden tripod with simple alt-azimuth mounting. Gives erect image. Probably a British Admiralty pattern with leather over brass.
Presently on loan to Mr. J. Davison of Rondebosch.
4. Ross 83mm Refractor (Roberts telescope)
Originally the property of RAS and on loan to Senator Roberts of Lovedale.

The RAS formally donated the instrument to ASSA in a letter on 29 June 1984.
Heavy wooden tripod with brass alt-azimuth mount. Brass tube & fittings.
Six 1.25-inch eyepieces and various coloured filters.
Presently on loan to Natal Midlands Centre.
5. 150mm Newtonian Reflector
Equatorial head but no tripod. Finder approx 7 x 20, four 0.965-inch eyepieces (3 Kelner: 25, 12.5 & 6mm, plus Orthoscopic: 4mm)
Presently on loan to Mr. A Slotegraaf, Director of Deep Sky Section.
6. 125mm Refractor (Harold Krumm Telescope)
Equatorial mount with circles on steel pier. Clockwork drive. 6 eyepieces plus numerous attachments. Needs renovation. Council currently investigating a permanent home for it.
Presently held by Curator of Instruments.
7. N.B. Deletion of 102mm Cooke Refractor
This telescope which was included in the list published in MNASSA 46, p 94 had been in store at SAAO for some years. Subsequent searches showed it to have been purchased by the Cape Centre many years ago and there was no record of it having been transferred to the Society. It has therefore been returned to the Cape Centre.

Notes regarding the borrowing of telescopes

1. All applications for the loan of telescopes should be addressed to the Curator of Instruments ASSA, PO Box 9, Observatory, 7935.
2. The borrower shall be responsible for all costs of packing and carriage.
3. The borrower undertakes to keep any telescope borrowed in good order, fair wear and tear excepted. Any defects, if beyond fair wear and tear, shall be made good by the last borrower, unless Council decide otherwise.
4. Borrowers are requested to make provision for any telescope(s) held by them under their personal all risks insurance policy. The Curator will provide a guide to the value of the telescope(s).
5. The Curator may at his discretion request the return of any telescope.
6. The Curator may at his discretion request a written report on the condition of any telescope and/or the use to which it is being put.

Cliff Turk
Curator of Instruments
2nd November 2001