

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Monday 5th March 1962 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Smits (in the Chair), Drs. Stoy, Evans, Cousins, Fuhr, Messrs. Orpen, Krumm, Meadows, Raphaely, Russo, Bondiotti, Churms and the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Smits thanked Mr. Russo on behalf of the Council, for deputising as Hon. Secretary for February 1962.

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 22nd January 1962 were read and after amendment, confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes, the Hon. Secretary read a letter received from Mr. Venter, who expressed his willingness to act as Director of the Comet and Meteor Observing Section.

Council unanimously elected Mr. S. C. Venter Director of the Comet and Meteor Section, with Mr. Bennett as Assistant Director.

A letter received from H.M. Astronomer giving details of Society property stored at the Royal Observatory, was read by Mr. Smits. Mr. Orpen reported that a Fire Insurance Policy had been taken out for 600 Rand to cover the above.

Dr. Evans, as Secretary of the sub-committee reported on its activities. The sub-committee consisting of Messrs Krumm, Meadows, Smits and Stoy, with Evans as secretary, had met twice, on 1962 February 3, and on February 10. A discussion on costs and circulation of MNASSA had resulted in recommendations that the ordinary subscription rate be R2 - 50 per annum (agency price R2 - 00); that, in general persons and institutions on the free list be now asked to subscribe; that new individual (direct paying) subscribers should pay R2 - 50 at once and that booksellers be informed that the new rate would apply from 1962 January 1. Notices to this effect should be circulated as appropriate and consideration given to an effort to raise new subscription. If an improved return from MNASSA could be secured the question of proposing an increase in the Society's subscription need not be considered immediately.

A memorandum on a new class of membership was adopted by the sub-committee. After amendments by the sub-committee and a discussion in Council of the choice of an appropriate name for this class of member the following is the substance of the memorandum as adopted by Council:-

South Africa is frequently visited by astronomers from overseas who on their return to their own countries wish to retain an active connection with the Society. The class of ordinary membership is hardly appropriate in such a case and in particular such persons cannot conveniently exercise voting rights or take part in Centre activities. Council therefore proposes amendments to the constitution to have the effect of creating a special class of member to be known as "Corresponding Members" of the Society. Corresponding Members must be active astronomers of repute, normally resident outside Southern Africa, who have expressed a desire to maintain an association with the Society. They will be elected by Council and will pay as subscription an amount equal to the ordinary subscription rate for MNASSA and will receive all the publications of the Society. They will have the right to address Council at any time by correspondence, and to publish scientific contributions in MNASSA. Council will, as occasion arises, consult them on matters of international importance. During temporary residence in South Africa (defined as residence for a period of less than three years), corresponding members assume the status of full ordinary

members of the society without increased subscription, with the right to vote and to hold office and to continue to receive the publications of the Society only.

To give effect to these changes the following constitutional amendments are necessary

Article III: After 'Honorary Members' insert 'Corresponding Members'

Article III: After paragraph 3 insert

"Corresponding Members shall receive the publications of the Society; shall have no centre or council voting rights except during temporary residence in South Africa, but shall have the right to address council by correspondence, to be consulted by Council on Astronomical matters of international concern, and to publish scientific contributions in MNASSA. During temporary (i.e. not over three years) residence in Southern Africa they shall automatically become full ordinary members of the Society, shall have voting rights of such members and be eligible for election to any office in the Society.

Insert Article X bis Title changed to Honorary Members and Corresponding Members.

Corresponding Member shall be elected by Council from time to time from among active astronomers of repute normally resident outside Southern Africa, who have expressed a wish to be actively associated with the work of the Society.

Article XI 1(c) Renumber this as 1(d) and insert:

1(c) Corresponding Members shall pay a subscription equal to the ordinary subscription rate for MNASSA and shall receive all publications of the Society. During temporary residence in Southern Africa their subscription to the Society shall not be increased and they shall continue to receive only the publications of the Society. If a temporarily resident Corresponding Member elects to ~~form~~ *join* a Centre he shall be liable to that Centre for the ordinary Centre subscription.

The sub-committee recommended that the Society support a proposal by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science to hold an Astronomical symposium on July 6. The title would approximate to "Astronomy in South Africa". H.M. Astronomer would take the Chair and invited speakers would be

- (a) Mr. Hewitt or a nominee to deal with both visual and radio satellite tracking.
- (b) A representative of the E.S.O. organisation.
- (c) Thackeray on astronomical advantages of the Southern Hemisphere.
- (d) Cillie on Astronomical education.
- (e) Evans to wind up.

Mr. Churms moved that the proposals on a new class of member be referred to the Principals of Alternates. This was seconded by Mr. Russo, and defeated on a show of hands.

Mr. Meadows, seconded by Mr. Orpen, proposed that the sub-committee's report be accepted. This was agreed to, nem. con.

Dr. Evans reported that two computing classes had been held.

The Financial Statement, presented and read by Mr. Orpen, was as follows:

Statement for Presentation to Council Meeting held on 5th March, 1962

Expenditure	R.	c.	Receipts	R.	c.
Subscription to "Sky and Telescope for period April to December 1961	576	79	Credit Balance at 1/7/61	46	13
Cost of production of MNASSA, July 1961 to February 1962, and of Handbook	371	23	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
			Arrears	29	75
			Current	1273	00
			Advance	<u>24</u>	<u>70</u>
				1327	45
Postage on and wrapping and despatch of MNASSA, Handbook and "Sky and Telescope July 1961 to February 1962	80	00	Entrance Fees	52	75
Stationery	12	70	Sale of Back and Extra Numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	2	10
Postage, other than above	8	00	Sale of MNASSA	52	70
Essay Competition prizes	12	00	Sale of Handbooks	1	80
Addressograph Plates	3	76	Sale of Booklets by Mr. Donald McIntyre	0	85
Purchase of Duplicator	264	00	Sale of copies of "A Universal Sundial"	1	20
Insurance (Fire) Premium on Society's Property at the Royal Observatory	1	05	Donations	3	64
Bank Charges	12	62	Interest on Building Society Shares	5	75
Credit Balance at 5/3/62	163	46	Commission on Cheques	2	24
	<u>R 1496</u>	<u>61</u>		<u>R 1496</u>	<u>61</u>

It should be noted that, in addition to the credit balance shown, an amount of R 200-00 is held on fixed deposit by the Standard Bank, A.B.C. Branch, Cape Town, and that the Forbes Bequest of R200-00 is invested in building society shares on which the rate of interest is now 6%. It is, however, proposed to withdraw the amount on fixed deposit at the end of March, as it is expected that income for the financial year will be less than expenditure, including the cost of the new Duplicator. It is, nevertheless, expected that receipts will be sufficient to cover expenditure in future years, provided there is no significant increase in the cost of "Sky and Telescope" or of the production of M,N.A.S.S.A.

Garrett Orpen

Hon. Treasurer

The statement was adopted in full, by the meeting.

Orpen Dr. Evans said that back numbers of "Sky and Telescope" might be sold to Blackwell's of London. Mr. Raphaely suggested their sale to schools.

The following whose names have appeared in the Monthly Notes were declared elected as Members:

Mr. F. Anderson, 4 Palm Avenue, Worcester.

Mr. K. C. Bayman, P.O. Box 23, Benoni, Transvaal.

The following was elected a Member subject to his name appearing in the Monthly Notes and no objection being received within one month:

Mr. R. Cohen, 9 Piet Joubert Street, Monument Township, Krugersdorp, Tvl.

The election as Student Member was confirmed of
Mr. David Rick, 13 Prentice Road, Greenside, Johannesburg.

Dr. Fuhr offered to distribute copies of the Forbes Essay Competition sheets to Peninsula schools, the Council accepting with thanks.

A letter from the Library of Congress, U.S.A., was read to the meeting. The Library requested that their address be taken off the M.N.A.S.S.A. Mailing List.

Dr. Evans and the Hon. Secretary were asked to draft a reply to the letter. The Library requested the supply of a sample copy of the Handbook.

The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

R. H. Stoy
21.5.52

A. Menzies
Hon. Secretary