

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 27th January 1965 at 8.00 p.m.

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

The Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 4th November 1964 were read and confirmed, after the following amendment: Apologies for absence: Dr. Fuhr was away in Europe.

Library: The Library Committee reported one meeting since last Council meeting, and that the sorting of foreign periodicals was not yet completed.

Council agreed to a grant of 20 Rand for Library shelving.

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

Statement of Financial Statement as on 27th January, 1965

Expenditure	R. c.	Receipts	R. c.
Subscriptions to "Sky and Telescope" for period July to December, 1964	400 18	Credit Balance 1/7/65	341 33
Cost of production of MNASSA for period July to December, 1964, and of Handbook	296 40	Subscriptions	
Postage on "Sky and Telescope" and MNASSA for above period and on Handbook	73 50	Arrears 27 90	
Stationery	74 18	Current 1194 00	
Postage, other than above	7 67	Advance <u>10 00</u>	1231 90
Essay Competition Prizes	16 50	Entrance Fees	32 50
Addressograph Plates	2 73	Sale of MNASSA	92 53
Material for repairs and improvements to epidiastroscope	3 88	Sale of Handbooks	2 20
Bank charges	8 59	Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky and Telescope"	5 10
Credit Balance at 27/1/65	833 12	Donations	3 00
		Interest on Building Society Shares	5 50
		Commission on Cheques	2 69
	<u>R 1716 75</u>		<u>R 1716 75</u>

Garrett Orpen
Hon. Treasurer

Council members were reminded that the cost to the Society of "Sky and Telescope" was up by 5 American cents from January 1, 1965.

The following whose names have appeared in MNASSA were elected Members:

Mr. R. D. Morris, 8th Floor, Motor and General Building, 4 Loop Street, Cape Town.

Mr. G. C. Jacobs, "Broadacres", P. O. Bryanston, Transvaal

Mr. R. H. Dungey, 33 Pretoria Road, Rynfield, Benoni, Transvaal

Mr. F. Gildenhuis, 372 Highland Road, Kensington, Johannesburg

The election of Mr. G. Guth, 133 8th Street, Orange Grove, Johannesburg as an Associate of the Transvaal Centre was confirmed.

Entrance fees and subscription had been received from Mr. P. A. E. Dungey, 15 Lisbon Court, Woburn Avenue, Benoni, Transvaal, but in the absence of a Nomination Form duly completed, the election as a member could not be proceeded with.

Minutes of the Transvaal Centre Committee meetings held on the 5th August 1964 and 7th October 1964, were read by Mr. Lagerweij, and the contents noted with approval by members, who appreciated the activities of that centre.

Essay Competition: Subject for 1965 "The Moon", with prizes as before, and competitors to be asked to give sources of information.

Professor Mönning's report on Scientific Organisation: Comments on the Report had been received from the Cape and Transvaal Centre Committees, from Drs. Stoy, Evans, Cousins, Thackeray, Messrs Smits, Orpen, Lagerweij, Bruwer and Morrisby.

Mr. Lagerweij presented each member with a summary of the comments received, grouped under 9 headings. After studying this summary, Council decided that a consolidated reply be sent to the Prime Minister's Office.

On discussion, items 1, 2, and 3 of the Mönning Report were agreed to.

Item 4:

- (a) Eminent scientists should be invited to do advanced work in South Africa for some years, to stimulate research.
- (b) A National Academy of Sciences should be started in this country.
- (c) Annual meetings of astronomers should take place.
- (d) There should be direct association between universities and observatories.

Item 5 was agreed to.

Item 6: The National Committee on Astronomy was criticised for inaction.

A proposal by Mr. Churms that no mention be made of the above Committee was defeated, those voting for the motion being Messrs Churms, Russo, Meadows and Menzies.

Item 7: The need of up-to-date equipment for a South African observatory was stressed, specifically the need for a large modern reflecting telescope.

Item 8 and 9 were agreed to.

Mr. Lagerweij was accorded a vote of thanks for his labour in forming a digest of the comments sent in by Council members, and was asked to draft the consolidated Report.

The meeting ended at 10.50 p.m.

A. Menzies

Hon. Secretary

A. Lagerweij
17.2.1965