



The Astronomical Society

OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The Society was founded as the "Cape Astronomical Association," on 8th November, 1912.

Ordinary meetings of the Society are held on the second Wednesday of each month, (except January and February) at 8 p.m., in the premises of the British Medical Association, 35, Dale Street, Cape Town.

The Council will welcome any offer by members or friends to read papers on Astronomical subjects at these meetings.

Questions and correspondence on Astronomical subjects are invited and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 100, Cape Town.

LIST OF FOUNDATION MEMBERS.

Mr. W. H. Cox.	Mr. A. Pilling.
" S. A. Davies.	* " W. Reid.
Miss A. Glossop.	* Hon. Dr. A. W. Roberts,
Dr. J. K. E. Halm, F.R.S.E.	F.R.S.E.
Mr. S. S. Hough, M.A., F.R.S.	Mr. J. Sangster.
" R. T. King.	* " H. W. Schonegevel.
Miss H. C. Long.	* " J. F. Skjellerup.
Mr. A. W. Long, F.R.A.S.	Miss E. Smith.
Dr. J. Lamt.	* Mr. E. J. Steer.
Mr. D. Gordon Mills.	* " J. Williams.
Mr. A. Milne.	

An asterisk denotes that the person named is still a member of the Society.

The Astronomical Society of South Africa.

RULES.

NAME.

1. The name of the Society is "The Astronomical Society of South Africa."

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2. The headquarters of the Society shall be at Cape Town.

OBJECTS.

3. The objects of the Society are :—
 - (a) To encourage the study of the science of astronomy in all its branches.
 - (b) To establish an association of observers and students.
 - (c) To organise Observing Sections.
 - (d) To disseminate current astronomical information and to encourage a popular interest in astronomy.
 - (e) To hold periodical meetings for the purpose of lectures, the reading of papers and discussions.
 - (f) To publish such matter as may be deemed advisable by the Council of the Society.
 - (g) To form a library of astronomical literature for the use of members and associates.
 - (h) To acquire a collection of lantern slides for use at the meetings of the Society and for loan or hire at the discretion of the Council.
 - (i) To afford members and associates not possessing astronomical telescopes, the opportunity of practical observation.

CONSTITUTION.

4. The Society shall consist
 - (a) Of an Honorary President,
 - (b) Of not more than four Honorary Vice-Presidents,
 - (c) Of not more than ten Honorary Members,
 - (d) Of Ordinary Members,
 - (e) and of Associates.

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MEMBERSHIP.

5. Honorary Members shall be appointed by the Council, shall be exempt from all fees and subscriptions, but shall have right to vote at any of the meetings of the Society.

6. Candidates for election to membership must be proposed two members of the Society.

7. Candidates for election as associates must be proposed seconded by either members or associates.

8. The names and addresses of candidates for election shall be handed to the Hon. Secretary for consideration by the Council, who shall, if they approve, submit the candidates for election to the next following meeting of the Society.

ADMINISTRATION.

9. The Society shall be governed by a Council consisting of:— A President, two Vice-Presidents, an Hon. Secretary, an Hon. Treasurer, an Hon. Librarian, Directors of Sections, and our members or associates; provided that at no time shall more than three associates be members of Council.

10. The Council shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, and shall have sole management, control and disposition of the affairs, property, and funds of the Society, and shall have the power to fill, for the unexpired term, any vacancy that may occur in any of the offices of the Society, or its own body.

11. The Council shall meet once a quarter, or more often as may be necessary, to transact the business of the Society. Five members of the Council shall form a quorum.

12. The Council shall have power to suspend or expel any member or associate guilty of infringement of the rules or of misconduct; provided that such person shall have the right of appeal to a general meeting of the Society, at any time within three months after such action by the Council. The decision of the general meeting will be final.

13. The Council shall have the power to frame Bye-Laws, which shall be subject to confirmation at a general meeting of the Society.

14. It shall be competent for the Council to appoint, from time to time, members of the Society residing in other centres to act as local Hon. Secretaries.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

15. Subscriptions to the Society shall be as follows:—
 - (a) Members, One Guinea per annum.
 - (b) Associates, Half a Guinea per annum.
 - (c) Members and associates residing more than twenty-five miles from headquarters, shall pay half the ordinary subscriptions.
 - (d) Young persons under twenty years of age and students may become associates, and shall pay a subscription of five shillings per annum.
16. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and shall become due on 1st July of each year, but anyone joining in the latter half of the Society's year, shall only be liable to half that year's subscription.
17. Any person being two years in arrear in payment of subscription, and failing to pay same within a month of due notification, shall cease to be a member or associate of the Society.
18. Any person wishing to withdraw from the Society shall give notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary, and shall pay all fees and subscriptions due.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

19. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in June in each year, to receive the report of the Council, the Treasurer's financial statement, and the reports from Directors of Observing Sections; to elect Officers and the Council, Directors of Observing Sections, and an Auditor, and to transact any other legitimate business.
20. Special General Meetings of the Society may be convened by order of the Council.
21. Special General Meetings shall be convened on receipt of a requisition, signed by not less than five members or associates. Notice of any such meeting must be given not later than fourteen days prior to the date thereof.

ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS.

22. The Society may alter or amend its rules or Bye-laws at any Annual General Meetings or Special General Meeting called for that purpose; provided that notice of such alteration be handed to the Hon. Secretary at least one month prior to such meeting. The Secretary shall give members not less than fourteen days notice of the proposed alteration. Ten members shall form a quorum.

VOTING.

23. (a) Only members shall have the right to vote on proposals to alter the rules.
- (b) No alteration of the rules can be made unless two thirds of the members present vote in favour of such alteration.
- (c) Members and associates shall have equal voting power on all other matters, which shall be decided by a majority, the chairman having a casting vote in the event of a tie.

BYE-LAWS.

DISCOVERY OF A COMET.

1. When a member discovers an object which he supposes to be a comet, he must at once advise the Director of the Comet Section, giving approximate position, by letter or post card addressed to P.O. Box Cape Town, so that steps may be taken to verify the discovery and circulate the information to the world's observatories. The Director undertakes to present the member's claim to the discovery in the proper quarter. It would be well, if possible, in addition, for the member to get into touch with the Royal or Union Observatory or with the Director by wire or 'phone so that no opportunity may be missed of securing the three necessary observations for the computing of the orbit of the comet.

LIBRARY.

2. All books and periodicals belonging to the Society, shall be under the care of the Hon. Librarian who shall loan them to members or associates free of charge.

3. Books and periodicals may only be borrowed from or returned to the Library when the Hon. Librarian or some person duly authorised by him, is present.

4. Any person borrowing a book or periodical must sign for the same in the book provided for the purpose.

5. No book or periodical may be retained by the borrower for more than one month, and in case more than one person desires the same work, such shall not be retained by any person for more than fourteen days.

6. The Hon. Librarian shall keep a list of persons desiring a particular work and shall issue it according to the priority of the names of such persons.

7. Borrowers are responsible for the safe custody of works borrowed by them and must make good to the Society any loss or damage incurred in connection with such borrowing.

8. All purchases of books and periodicals shall be made by a committee of three (one of whom shall be the Librarian) out of funds allocated from time to time by the Council for such purposes.

LANTERN SLIDES.

9. The lantern slides belonging to the Society shall be under the care of the Hon. Librarian who shall loan them to members and associates free; provided no charge is made for admission to the lecture for which they are required.

10. When slides are loaned for a lecture for which there is an admission charge, members and associates shall pay a fee of 1d. per slide.

11. Slides may be loaned to persons who are not members or associates of the Society at the discretion of the Hon. Librarian; such persons shall pay a fee of 2d. per slide, when a charge is made for admission to the place of exhibition, and a fee of 1d. per slide if no charge is made.

12. All borrowers shall pay 2/- to replace each slide that may be broken while in their possession.

13. All borrowers shall pay all charges incurred in conveying the slides from and returning to the Society's Headquarters.

14. Slides must be returned to the Hon. Librarian within 24 hours of the time of exhibition, provided they can be delivered by hand. Should it be necessary to send by rail or post, slides must be dispatched on the day following lecture and notice of dispatch posted to the Hon. Librarian at same time.

15. Should the slides be required for a second lecture, borrower must receive the sanction of the Hon. Librarian to retain them before the time at which they are due to be returned.

16. The Council shall appoint a sub-committee of three who shall, with the Hon. Librarian, have authority to make special slides from time to time to add to the Society's collection.