

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Royal Observatory, Cape Town, on the 22nd June, 1923, at 8 p.m.

Present D: Halm, Messrs: Cox, Dutton, Forbes, Long, McIntyre, Reid, Schonegevel & Smith
D: Halm as Vice-President took the chair.

Minutes The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Alternate The Secretary reported that, on his appointment to that Office, he had informed Mr. Worsell that he could no longer represent him on the Council, & that Mr. Worsell had thereupon appointed in writing Mr. W.H. Cox to be his Alternate.

Correspondence The Secretary laid on the table copies of the letters written by him since the last Meeting. The Secretary read correspondence that had taken place with the Secretary to the Johannesburg Centre in regard to certain matters requiring attention under the Constitution and in regard to the Journal. Consideration of points raised therein was deferred until a later stage of the proceedings.

The Secretary read a letter received from Mr. H. Sausenthaler, of Wakkerstroom, a prospective Member of the Johannesburg Centre, asking for the loan of books and other assistance in the study of astronomy.

The Vice-President in the chair undertook to reply to Mr. Sausenthaler's letter, and the Secretary was instructed to forward to

Mr. Sausenthaler on loan, "Loomis's Elements", from the Cape Centre Library, should the Committee of that Centre agree to this being done.

Journal.

A suggestion put forward by the Johannesburg Centre that the next issue of the journal should include a list of recent publications on Astronomy, with their prices and brief criticisms, was considered.

On the motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Reid, it was resolved

"That the publisher of any book considered to be suitable for the purposes of the Society be asked to supply a free copy for the purpose of review in the Society's journal, and that the Secretary be instructed to apply accordingly to the publishers of Professor Hales' book on 'The New Heavens'."

The Secretary reported that Senator D. Roberts had promised to put into the form of a paper for publication in the journal the narrative of his work as an amateur astronomer and observer of variable stars, which he sketched at a recent meeting of the Cape Centre, and to furnish this in time for inclusion (~~if funds permitted~~) in the next issue of the journal.

Interpretation
of Article XIV

The Secretary stated that claims by both Centres for votes to be allowed to certain Members who had paid their due subscription but were not included in a list of such Members furnished in compliance with the requirements of Art. XIV of the Constitution appeared to him to call for the Council's decision.

The Cape list was handed to him by the Cape Secretary, and the Johannesburg list had been posted, after the expiration of the time allowed by the Article. Subsequently, the Johannesburg Secretary had asked for the addition of the names of two Members who having paid their due subscription before the time limit had been inadvertently omitted from the list furnished; and the Cape Secretary had asked for the addition of a Member who had paid such subscription after the time limit.

Mr. Schonegevel spoke strongly in favour of latitude being allowed in giving effect to the Article. He moved that all Members who paid their due subscription before ballot papers must be issued should be eligible for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

There was no seconder, but the Vice-President in the chair pointed out that in any case Mr. Schonegevel's motion would have been out of order, as being inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

After considerable discussion, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Long, seconded by the Secretary

"That, notwithstanding the terms of Art. XIV, every Member who has paid his due subscription before the 12th June, 1923, be entitled to vote, and that such breaches of Art. XIV as have occurred in connection with the lists furnished under that Article be reported to the Annual Meeting for condonation in consideration of the fact that there has been a misunderstanding as to the date when such lists should be furnished."

The Vice-President suggested that Art. XIV should be amended at the first opportunity so as to express more clearly the intention of the Constitution as above defined.

D^r Halmis
Paper on
Sundial

Mr. Long reported that a tender of £20 had been accepted for ^{the} printing of D^r Halmis Paper on the Sundial, but that D^r Halmis wished to re-write the paper and to add a map, so that the cost of printing might be expected to be slightly more than £20.

The Vice-President briefly explained the changes that he proposed to make in the Paper, and stated that he hoped to obtain translation into Dutch free of charge.

The price of the publication was authorised to be 2/-, and the correspondence and accounts to be kept separately from the general correspondence and accounts of the Society.

On the motion of Mr. Long, seconded by the Secretary, the following Members were added to the Sub-Committee

E. Cohen, Esq.,
H. E. Houghton, Esq.

Nominations

The Secretary reported that so far he had received no nominations.

The Members present stated that they did not propose to proceed with any nominations until the evening of the 27th June, the latest time for handing them in, in order to see if any nominations arrived from Johannesburg.

Financial
Statement

The Treasurer produced a Statement of the Society's finances to date, showing a balance in

Hand of £7.12.9.

Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for 7.30 pm on the 25th July at No. 35 Wale Street.

J. Kain.
Vice-President