

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the
Astronomical Society of S. Africa held at the
Weston Church School, Rosebank, on Wednesday
the 24th October 1923 at 8 pm.

Present Messrs Cox, Epton, Forbes, Houghton, Jeay, Long,
McIntyre, Reid and Smith.

The Secretary reported Dr. Halpin's inability to
attend the meeting.

By the general wish of those present, the Chair
was taken by Mr. McIntyre.

Minutes The minutes of the last meeting were read and, after
a correction had been made in the minute relating
to the free issue of Journals, were confirmed.

The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr.
Worsell & Dr. Inoir inviting acceptance of their
re-appointment as Directors of the V.S. & Mass
sections respectively, but that he had received no
reply from either. The Council decided that, in the
circumstances, acceptance might be assumed.

The Secretary reported that the donation of £5
promised by the Natal Astro. Assocn. had been
received. He read the Assocn's ^{accompanying} letter & the reply
sent by him.

Correspondence The Secretary laid on the table copies of letters
written by him since the last meeting.

Letters from the President, dated 22nd August,
the 4th & 22nd September, on various subjects, were
read to the meeting, also the replies sent by the
Secretary to the last two communications.

also an enquiry by Mr. J. Alan Stiles, M.P.S., a representative of the Chaldean Society, as to the membership & publications of the Society, and the reply sent thereto.

The Secretary reported the receipt of communications from the Secretaries to the Cape & Jhbog. Centres notifying the election of 14 new members & 2 Associates, amongst the former being the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister (General J.C. Smuts, C.H., C.D.), & the resignation of one member and two Associates.

Also the receipt of further letters from Mr. A.O. Holcroft, of East London, relative to a paper written by him on "Orbits from a visual standpoint", also respecting a lunar halo that he had observed. His correspondence was ordered to be recorded, Mr. Holcroft to be thanked & informed accordingly.

Report of
Journal
Committee

The Secretary reported that the second number of the Journal was issued on 3rd October, 500 copies having been printed at a cost of about £30, & 1000 copies of the loose leaflet authorised in the minutes of the last meeting (page 31) at a cost of £2.17.6, and that, subject to the approval of the Council, the price of the Journal to non-members had been made 1/6 & to members & Associates, 1/-. Copies had been sent free to the following:-

50 Cape members.

24 Johannesburg members,

5 Public Institutions (in compliance with the requirements of the Copyright Act 1916)

and in anticipation of the Council's adoption of the proposed "Free List" to:-

15 Observatories

12 Societies & Associations,
21 Newspapers & Journals,
and also, in anticipation of the Council's
approval, a free copy to each member
of the Natal Astron. Assocn., amounting to 24
copies or more, in consideration of the
donation of £5 received from that Association.

The following Resolution was passed, on a division
"That the price of the Journal to non-members
be 1/6, & to members & Associates, 1/-".

The following Resolution was agreed to, unanimously.
"That the action of the Committee
in supplying free copies of Journal No. 2 to
the Natal Astronomical Association be approved."

Books for
review

The Secretary reported that in response to enquiries
written in pursuance of the Resolution passed
at the meeting of the 22nd June 1923 (p. 16),
complimentary copies of Prof. Hale's "New Heavens"
and Prof. W. H. Pickering's "Stars" (1921) had been
received from the publishers of these books
and passed to the Editor for review. Suitable
acknowledgments had been sent. Also that he
had made similar applications in respect of the
Rev. C. Whyte's "Our Solar System & the Stellar
Universe", & Mr. Charles Nordmann's "The Kingdom
of the Heavens", & was awaiting replies.

Proposals for
next Journal

The Secretary read a letter, dated 1923 Oct. 10th,
from the Editor containing his suggestions for the
composition of the next Journal, which the
Committee proposed should be published before the
1st January next. The Council approved

all Mr. Wood's suggestions, and subject to his concurrence, of the following items being added thereto:

"The Sky in January",

Tables showing the times of sunrise & sunset ^{at} Capetown, Whamcebung & Durban for the four months ending 1924 April 30; both to be contributed by Mr. A. W. Long, F.R.S.;

A note as to variable star observations made during the last year by Mr. J. F. Skjeltorp, late Director of the Section;

A List of members & Associates, with their addresses, (the names & addresses of members and Associates subsequently elected to be published in succeeding journals as occasion arises.)

As regards the Editor's suggestions in connection with the impending arrival of the newly appointed H.M. Astronomer at the Cape, Mr. Cox was requested to obtain a photograph of Mr. Spence-Jones and to write a short notice of his astronomical career; but Mr. Wood was to be informed that it is thought most unlikely that there would be time before going to press to secure any contribution from Mr. Spence-Jones himself.

Suggestions
for furthering
circulation
Journal

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. J. D. Stevens, Chairman of the Committee of the J. C. Centre and a Vice-President of the Society, submitting for consideration certain suggestions for furthering the circulation of the Journal.

The Secretary observed that Mr. Stevens' letter appeared to be in response to a suggestion made by him on the 19th June last that the J. C. Committee might wish copies of the Journal to be supplied to them for disposal by sale.

The Council dictated replies, seriatim, to the J. C.

Committee's suggestions, and instructed the Secretary to add that certain members of the Cape Centre had purchased a few extra copies for re-sale and that the Council trusted that members of the Joby. Centre would do the same. They also requested the Journal Committee to take into consideration the suggestion made with regard to the title page of Journals.

Free list Journal

The Council adopted the Free list for the Journal as proposed by the Journal Committee with certain additions as shown in the Appendix to these minutes. (page 42)

Report of Sundial Committee

Mr. Long reported that Dr. Halm had completed the revision of his paper on the Sundial; that the first proof had been read, & that publication should take place sometime next month; that it had been decided, on the ground of expense, not to publish a Dutch translation; that 1000 copies would be ordered, & the charge of 2/- a copy authorised by the Council would be adhered to, but that it was proposed to issue separately the two charts for the dial faces at 6d. a pair.

Treasurer's Financial Statement

The Treasurer reports a balance in hand of $\begin{matrix} 40.14.6 \\ \text{---} \\ 111.11.111 \end{matrix}$, including receipts from sales of Journal No. 1. - 7/- & of Journal No. 2. - £1.3/-. From this balance there would shortly be payable about £33 in respect of Journal No. 2 & the accompanying leaflet.

* See page 43

The Secretary was instructed to thank certain anonymous donors of amounts totalling £10

to the Society's funds.

The Treasurer's expenditure of 7/9 on a rubber stamp was approved.

Copies of Constitution

The Secretary, having reported that only 23 copies of the printed Constitution now remained, was instructed not to issue further copies free, except on application by new members & Associates.

Donations to Society's Library

It was resolved, nem. con., that the thanks of the Council be accorded to E. Cohen, Esq., for the donation to the Society's Library of a copy of "Astronomical & Geographical Essays" by George Adams, 1812; & to the Union Observatory for a complete set of the Annual Observations Circulars.

Resignation of Secretary

The Secretary having tendered his resignation on removal to Bradford, a letter from Dr. Halm ~~was~~ expressing appreciation of his work for the Society was read, and the Council passed a unanimous resolution thanking his Duties for his very valuable services & accepting his resignation with regret.

No new appointment was made but, at the Council's request, Mr. H. Houghton agreed to act as Secretary until the next meeting.

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J. Halm

Journal Free List

added at Council Meeting 23 June 1924

A.C.D. Crommelin, B.A., D.Sc., F.R.A.S.,

55 Ulundi Road, Blackheath, London, S.E.3.

Prof. J. Hussey,

University of Michigan,

Detroit, Mich., U.S.A.

Secretary General, Societe d'Astronomie d'Anvers,

~~23 Rue Thiers, Paris~~ Antwerp, Belgium.
rue du Lion de Flandre, 1,

Hon. Sec., N.S. Wales Branch, B.A.A.,

.Kurrawyba, Upper Spit Road, Mosman, Sydney, N.S.W.

31st March 1925

Hon. Secretary, N.Z. Astronomical Society, ^{Donner} ~~Master~~ Obs.

~~Kelburn~~ Wellington, N.Z.

~~Dr W. L. Allen~~
~~Lytle Observatory,~~
~~Johannesburg~~