

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosebank, on Friday the 7th March 1924 at 8 pm.

Present

Dr. Stalm in the Chair, Messrs Forbes, Jearry, Long, Reid, Schoneveld, Smith & Stroughton (Acting Sec.)

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. It was reported that the decision ~~taken~~ at the last meeting to issue no more copies of the Constitution per except on application by new members and Associates was taken in error, as about 200 copies of the Constitution still remained. It was decided to suspend the operation of the instruction given at that meeting until the number of copies in hand was reduced to 50. A correction was made in the figure given as the balance in the Treasurer's hands at the last meeting, the correct sum as per his statement being £40-14-6

Correspondence

The Secretary laid on the table the letters received and copies of those written by him since the last meeting. The following were considered:-

Letters dated 5th + 22nd November, 10th December 1923 and 1st January 1924 from Mr. A.O. Holcroft, East London, on various subjects. The Council ordered the correspondence to be recorded, Mr. Holcroft to be thanked and informed accordingly.

Letter of 16th November 1923 from Secretary, Thames Valley Centre, with acknowledgement of 23rd November. The Council decided that a warm expression of their thanks should be conveyed to the Committee of that Centre for their generous action in transferring a sum of £10 to the Society's funds over and

Letter of 7th Nov. from Secretary, Natal Astro. Assocn. The Council confirmed the Secretary's action in supplying to the Assocn. the ten extra copies of Journal No. 2 asked for.

→ above the remittances contemplated by the Constitution
 Letter (undated) from Commander J.A. Rupert Jones, F.R.S., Milford Haven, England, conveying an appreciation of the late Mr. Stough's paper on the Tides appearing in Journal No. 1. The Secretary was asked to read the letter at the Cape Centre meeting of the 12th Inst.

Letter of 21st December from Mr. H. S. Sauerthalor, ^{returning Council's Introduction} Walthamstow, and reply.

Letter of 23rd November to, and reply of 22 December from Prof. F. Schlessinger, Yale Observatory, regarding his visit to South Africa in July next.

Letter of 20th February to and reply of 14th Inst from President. The Council requested the Secretary to reply to Dr. Jones regarding his Presidential Address. If he cannot come to Cape Town it is hoped he will send the address to be read at the Annual Meeting.

A copy of the Journal of the Manchester Astronomical Society for 1920-22, of which a formal ack^t has been sent.

Journal
 Committee

The Secretary read communications sent to the Editor on the 1st November, 19th + 28th December, and the 30th January, and his reply received 7th Inst. The Council decided that their thanks should be conveyed to Mr Wood, + that various details regarding the matter for the Journal be brought to his notice. It was hoped that Journal No. 3 would be in members' hands by middle of April.

It was decided, after discussion, to leave the question of obtaining tenders for printing the Journal to the discretion of the Journal Committee. They were however recommended to approach Messrs Townsend, Taylor + Snareshall whose work had given satisfaction before; although slightly cheaper rates might be obtainable from other firms, the advantage lay with employing a firm of known reliability.

a letter dated 5th January from Messrs Cooke Doughton & Simons Cape Town, enquiring as to advertising rates was read, & the Secretary's reply.

Sundial
Sub-Committee

The Secretary reported that 1000 copies each of Dr. Holm's paper on the Universal Sundial and of the separate charts were received on the 11th December '23

The distribution and sale were as follows:-

Free Copies sent to 79 members

" " " 12 Institutions, etc.

" " " 19 South African newspapers.

82 Copies of the book sold for cash and

87 " " " placed with booksellers for sale or return; of the separate charts, 17 had been sold.

The Secretary was directed to send copies of the book to the Government Agricultural Colleges and also to place additional copies with booksellers, offering them at 6d. in 2/- discount.

Letters to & from Mr. J. R. Miller were read regarding the sundials which he had made to Dr Holm's design. After discussion it was decided that the Society could not agree to take over any of these Sundials, but they would do all in their power to further their sale. All members of the Cape Centre had been informed that the Sundials could be purchased from Mr. Miller at 33/- including packing and postage.

Financial
Position

The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £25.13.10. He was authorised to pay £1 to the Cape Centre Committee as rent for the room used for the Annual Meeting in July 1923, and 7/10^a to the Secretary as postage on the free copies of the Sundial book sent to members.

Secretarial
Duties

Mr H. P. Houghton, Acting Hon. Secretary, reported that he was willing to continue in that capacity to the end of the Society's year, but as he would probably have to leave Cape Town about July for some months, arrangements should be made for filling the post of Secretary after that date. He also referred to the lack of storage space for the Society's records, copies of journals, etc. Dr. Halm stated that he would suggest to Mr. A. Menzies, a junior member of the Royal Observatory Staff, that he might be willing to act as Assistant Secretary. It was also thought that the books in the Society's library might be loaned to the Cape Central Library, and that space might be found at 35 Water Street for the storage of some of the journals, etc.

The Secretary read extracts from two letters from Mr. T. Mackenzie

- (a) asking if the Br. Astronomical Assn. could be approached regarding certain formulae given in their Handbook for 1924, and
- (b) regarding the nominations for next year's Council.

The necessary action will be taken

The meeting then terminated.

A. W. Long

Chairman of the