

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosebank on Tuesday, 31st March 1925 at 8 p.m.

Present

Mr. Spencer Jones (Vice-President) in the chair, Messrs Cox, Jearry, Long, McIntyre, Reid, Schonegevel, Smith & Houghton (Hon. Sec.)
 messages were received from Dr. Halm and Mr. Forbes, regretting their inability to be present.

The Chairman expressed the hearty congratulations of the Council to Mr. Reid on his recent discovery of a new comet.

Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

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 of 3rd & 17th December 1924 from and 11th December 1924 and 13th March to the Secretary of the Johannesburg Centre regarding certain lapsed members and associates. The Council considered that the names of those persons who had never paid their first subscription should be removed from the list of members; other lapsed members could only be so dealt with if they were two years in arrears (Byelaw 3). The Secretary to the Johannesburg Centre should be informed accordingly.

Correspondence with Harvard College Observatory who had kindly placed the Society on their free list for publications.

Correspondence with the Chabot Observatory, Oakland, Cal., who wished to subscribe to the Society's Journal. The Council approved the arrangement which had been made.

Letter from the New Zealand Astronomical Society of 3 November. The Council approved the addition of this Society to the free list.
 Letter from the Director of Prague Observatory of 4 January. The Secretary was instructed to reply that it was regretted that the Society was unable, in view of the already large

free list to add that institution thereto.

Postcard from Dr. Moir of 17 December referring to the large number of good drawings of Mars which he had received. The Council agreed that no report would be required from Dr. Moir until the end of the Society's year, and that he should then send with his report a number of the best drawings (originals) of which it was hoped some would be published in the Journal.

Report of Journal Com.

The Secretary read letter to Mr Wood of 29 December and 3 February and his reply of 16 March. The Council recognized that Mr Wood had been very fully occupied at the Union Observatory but as sufficient funds were in hand or in sight, they desired that the next Journal should be published as early as possible.

Reviews

The question of the reviews of books sent to the Society was discussed and it was thought that the practice of sending all such books to the Editor for review might throw an undue burden on Mr Wood. The Secretary was instructed to submit any further books received to the Council who would decide as to a reviewer; and also to suggest to Mr Wood that assistance could be given in respect of any books which he had still on hand.

100 printed copies of Dr. Halm's address to the I.A.A.S. had been supplied by him and the Secretary was instructed to send them to members forthwith, and also to express the Council's thanks to Dr. Halm for his kindness.

The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary to the Natal Astronomical Association of 19 November stating that the 35 copies of Journal No. 4 supplied were sufficient.

Reference was made to enquiries which Mr Shence's ones had been instituting regarding the possibility of printing the Journal in England. It appeared however that no saving would result from such an arrangement.

Free List

The Free List for the Journal was discussed and it was thought that the list should be periodically revised. It was agreed that certain newspapers should be removed from the list, as it was doubtful whether they reviewed the Journal, very few copies of which had been sold to members of the public.

Financial Position

The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £14.7.2; a further £7 or £8 was expected from the ~~Winnipeg~~^{Cape} Centre and also a contribution from the Johannesburg Centre in respect of the March quarter. The balance included an amount of £1.5.9 as a halfshare of the profits to date from sales of "A Universal Sundial". The question of the preparation of a Balance Sheet (see page 60) was discussed, and it was thought after consideration that the existing form of financial statement was adequate. It was not thought possible to set down as assets any subscriptions due and unpaid.

Date of Presidential Address

It was reported that Dr. Halm had considered the matter and thought that the proper date for the Address would be when he vacated the office of President, i.e. at the Annual Meeting on 22 July. The Secretary was instructed to ask Dr. Halm if that date would be convenient.

International Astr. Union

Mr. Spence Jones stated that he & Dr. Halm had attended a recent meeting of the Council of the Royal Society of S. A. when the matter of the formation of a S. Afr. National Committee was laid before that Society. It appeared that the question had been considered some years ago, but nothing definite had resulted. The Royal Society would however now go into the matter and approach the Minister for the Interior as desired. Mr. Spence Jones stated that Dr. Roberts would represent S. Africa at the meeting of the Union at Cambridge in 1925.

Storage of
Society's
Records

Discussion took place with regard to the storage of the Society's records, and Mr. Jearcy stated that he was willing if necessary to provide accommodation for that purpose at his house.

Date of next
meeting

The next meeting (to consider the nominations for the next Council) will be held on the 22nd June, i.e. one month before the Annual Meeting of the Society.

The meeting then terminated.

J. Halm