

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosebank, on Monday 12th March 1928 at 8 pm.

Present Dr Roberts (President) in the Chair, Dr Stencel Jones, Capt Cameron-Swan, Messrs Cox, Forbes, King, Mason, Schragevel, Skewes, Smith & Houghton (Hon. Sec.)

Minutes The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Members & Associates Mr Schragevel reported that Professor Plummer had not paid his arrears of subscription. The Secretary said that he had written as directed to Messrs Giffen & Cousins & the Mrs Haden, and had received no reply. The Council ordered the names of those persons to be removed from the list of members & Associates.

Correspondence The Secretary laid on the table the letters received & copies of those written since the last meeting. Dr Jones read a letter from Prof. Frank Schlesinger, Yale University Observatory, asking whether he might join the Society & offering to send the "Yale Transactions" for the Society's library: a nomination form has been sent to him and Dr Jones & Dr Roberts were prepared to propose him for membership.

The following letters were also considered:

Letter from Engelhardt Observatory, Koenigsberg, wishing to exchange publications: the Secretary was instructed to express regret that it was not possible to extend the Society's free list.

Letter of 14th Jan. to Mr H. Wood & his reply: the Council confirmed the Secretary's action in offering their congratulations to Mr Wood on his appointment as Union Astronomer.

Letter of 5th February from Mr. C. F. Weiker, Durban, sending photos of the American Observatories at Bloemfontein: the Secretary was instructed to invite Dr. Parastevopoulos to join the Society.

Jackson-
Smith
wedals
Mrs Reid

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs Reid stating that her husband appreciated the Council's good wishes and

that his health was improving somewhat. Dr Jones stated that Mr Reid's health was far from good. Mr Reid had received the Jackson-Gwilt Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society awarded in recognition of his cometary discoveries and observations. Dr Jones had expressed to the R.A.S. the Society's pleasure & had stated that Mr Reid had been instrumental in securing Messrs Skjellum, Enson, & Madhwayt and other workers. The Secretary was instructed to convey the Council's congratulations and best wishes to Mr Reid.

Financial Position

The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £6.1.9; he has paid £30 on account of the last Journal and £12.0.6 was still due to the printers & small sums to Dr Halm and himself. He expected to receive some fee from the Cape Centre at the end of the quarter, but no remittance had been received from the Johannesburg Centre. The Secretary was instructed to remind that Centre of their obligations under the Constitution.

Donations

Captain Cameron-Swan kindly offered a donation of £2 towards the cost of the Journal, the gift was received with appreciation.

Books Received

The Secretary reported the following books received for review: "Astronomy" by Russell, Dugan & Stewart; "Star Patterns" by Sedington; "Outline of Stellar Astronomy" by Doig; "Modern Astronomy" by Matheson; & "The Universe of Stars" (Harvard).
In view of Dr Jones's absence over several months, the Council appointed Mr Cox as Asst. Editor to act during that period.

Cost of Printing

Mr Long reported that he had interviewed the printers regarding the cost of the last Journal, but they were unable to reduce their charge apart from an allowance of 10^s 6^d in respect of defective brass plates inserted in some copies.

Mr Long had obtained a superior proof of the plate from the Cape Times that also asked Messrs HORTON for quotations, but after discussion it was agreed that there would be no advantage to be gained from changing the present printer, Messrs Townsend Taylor & Snashall.

Report from
Natal Astr.
Assocn

Mr Forbes suggested asking the Natal Astronomical Association if they would care to send a brief report of their work for the next journal. The Secretary was instructed to write accordingly.

Presidential
address
and Annual
Meeting

The Chairman said he was quite willing to come to Cape Town for the Annual Meeting on the 25th July 1928 & proposed to give an address on "Alpha Centauri: its Orbit, Parallax, etc." The Council cordially approved.

Computing
Section

The Secretary read a letter of Mr Mackenzie advocating the formation of a Computing Section of which Mr Jones & he were willing to be Director and Secretary respectively. Mr Long also referred to letters from Mr Mackenzie and said that some computing work had been done for many years & he thought it might be recognised by the Society in the manner proposed. He stated that Messrs I. E. Wood, Wilson & Sroughton were willing to join, and also Mr A. H. Wood of Rhodes University College, Grahamstown (who was using the reflector used by Prof. Schwarz) was ~~now~~ willing to join the Society and the Section. After discussion the Council appointed Mr Jones as Director, Mr Mackenzie as Secretary and those mentioned above with Mr Long as members of the Computing Section. Mr Sroughton thought that Mr Zelle of Windhoek would be willing to join. The Council agreed that circulars should be sent to all members and associates inviting them to join the Section; these could be sent with notices of meetings circulated by the Centres. Other Circulars would be sent from time to time to persons interested; expenses and postage would

to be paid by the Society but printing could not be allowed
in view of the cost. Mr Long was willing to send
interim notes of important discoveries, events etc to the
Cape Times.

Notes in Cape
Times

Attention was made of the delay in publishing Mr Long's
monthly notes and it was felt that members should
write to the Editor complaining of the inconvenience caused.
Mr Smith undertook to explain the matter to the
Editor personally.

The meeting then terminated.

AW Long
Chairman

22/6/28