


Old telescopes never die!!



# Astronomical Society of Southern Africa



Historical Section






# The Historical Section

## Background

- # President of A.S.S.A. 1990-91: J da S. Campos.
- # 1992: Jonathan Spencer-Jones first director.
- # 1998: Chris de Coning.

# Goals



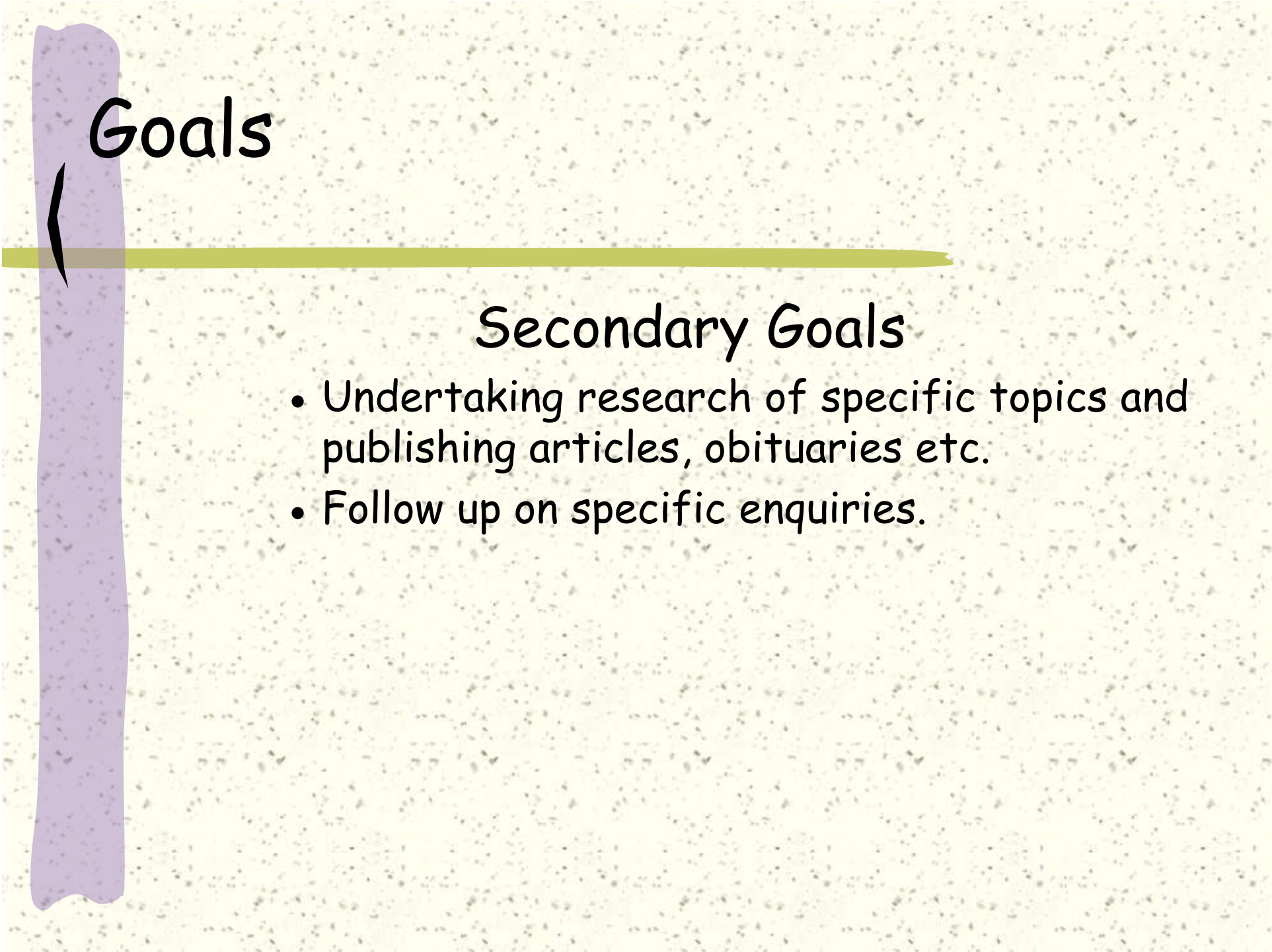
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## Primary Goal

- To identify; locate; and keep track of all objects of historical interest (telescopes & instruments; source material; and other remaining artefacts) and in extreme cases to rescue / acquire / restore the above.




# Goals



## Secondary Goals

- Undertaking research of specific topics and publishing articles, obituaries etc.
- Follow up on specific enquiries.

# Goals




## Additional Goals

- To initiate a program to digitise (scan in):
  - all previous copies of *MNASSA*;
  - minutes of the different Astronomical Society's meetings
  - old astronomical photographs (before the emulsions fade or damage)



# Goals



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Update

NASA scand in all peer review astronomical journals.

MNASSA.

[http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract\\_service.html](http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abstract_service.html)


# Archive

## Collections

- # A.S.S.A.
- # Friends of Boyden
- # Danie Overbeek
- # Prof. Celliers
- # Jan Hers
- # Magda Streicher
- # Peter Smits
- # Rupert Hurley



# Website



The database is available to all interested parties as a website.

[http://assa.sao.ac.za/html/39\\_historicalsection.html](http://assa.sao.ac.za/html/39_historicalsection.html)

# Website as Database

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To compile information about:

- # Places (Observatories; Impact craters)
- # People
- # Objects (Telescopes; Instruments; other)



# AAHS

- # In November 2005 - under the auspices of the Historical Section of ASSA - the first ever symposium concerning the History of Astronomy for the continent of Africa was held at the SAAO.