THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING,
2 JULY, 1977

The Annual Meeting of the Society was called to order at 1427 hours on Saturday, 2 July, 1977, in the Lecture Hall of the McLaughlin Planetarium, Toronto, Ontario, with the president, Dr. Alan Batten in the chair. One hundred sixteen members were in attendance.

1. Remarks by the President
Dr. Batten extended a warm welcome to the delegates. He reported that the following members had passed away during 1976 and led the meeting in a moment of silent tribute in their memory:

- Mr. Curtis Anderson (U.S.A.)
- Mr. Kenneth E. Chilton (Hamilton)
- Dr. John F. Heard (Toronto)
- Mr. Francis P. Morgan (Montreal)
- Mr. Frank Page (Edmonton)
- Rev. Père Paul Bernier, O.P. (Quebec)
- Mr. Joe D. Talley (U.S.A.)

Dr. Batten reported that he had visited about half of the Society’s Centres and expressed the desire to visit the other half during the remainder of his term as president. He thanked all those who had helped with the operation of the Society, giving particular mention to our auditor, Mr. Morris Altman; our solicitor, Miss Donna Haley; and our executive secretary, Miss Rosemary Freeman.

Dr. Batten announced the establishment of the J. F. Heard Memorial Fund and invited contributions from the membership. The fund would be used to pay for the publication in the Society’s JOURNAL of editorials written by Dr. Heard for the David Dunlap Doings. Donations should be made payable to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, J. F. Heard Memorial Fund. Donations will be tax deductible and a receipt will be issued for tax purposes.

The president also announced the establishment of the Kenneth E. Chilton Memorial Prize, to be awarded annually for an outstanding achievement by an amateur astronomer. The criteria for eligibility for this award will be presented to Council in September, and it is hoped to be able to award the prize for 1977 at the 1978 General Assembly.

President Batten expressed his appreciation to Dr. John Percy and his committee for their hard work in producing the report dealing with the finances and future goals of the Society. This report was considered later in the meeting.

2. Consideration and Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Mr. John Howell and seconded by Michael Holmes that the minutes of the 1976 Annual Meeting be adopted as published in the JOURNAL, Vol. 70, No. 4, August, 1976. Carried.

3. Consideration of Correspondence

There was no correspondence.
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4. Consideration of the Reports of the Council, Officers, and Committees

(a) Report of the National Secretary. Moved by Mr. D. J. FitzGerald and seconded by Mr. Harlan Creighton that the Report of the National Secretary be adopted as published in the Supplement to the Journal, April, 1977. Carried.

(b) Report of the National Treasurer. Moved by Mr. Peter Broughton and seconded by Mr. Paul Brown that the Report of the National Treasurer be adopted as published in the Supplement to the Journal, April, 1977. Carried.

Mr. Broughton expressed concern that financial statements had not been received from certain Centres despite numerous requests. He suggested that the Life Membership Grants be withheld from such Centres until a financial statement was received. A number of other penalties were also suggested from the membership. In an informal show of hands, the majority of members present supported the idea of the implementation of a penalty.

The treasurer expressed his gratitude to the auditor, Mr. Morris Altman, and to our executive secretary, Miss Rosemary Freeman, for their competent, dedicated assistance.

(c) Report of the Historical Committee. Dr. Arthur Covington, the chairman, expressed his pleasure at the growing interest in the Society in historical matters and hoped that the trend would continue.

(d) Report of the Editor of the National Newsletter. Mr. Harlan Creighton, editor, expressed his appreciation to all members who had contributed in any way to the Newsletter in the past year, particularly to members of the editorial committee: Ralph Chou, Dr. J. D. Fernie, Nick Fraser, Norman Green, Paul Deans, Bill Ireland, and Richard McDonald. He noted that he would be retiring as editor at the end of the year and that Mr. Norman Green was retiring as of the August issue, after more than five years on the editorial staff. Mr. Ralph Chou, assistant editor, noted that the Newsletter did not receive copies of some of the Centre newsletters and asked that all Centres send a copy of each issue of their newsletter to the editorial office.

Mr. Del Stevens (Winnipeg Centre) expressed satisfaction with the present content of the Newsletter.

(e) Report of the Finance Committee. Mr. Peter Broughton, chairman, reported that the financial arrangements resulting from the sale in July 1976 of the building and property at 252 College Street fell largely to the finance committee, of which the late Dr. J. F. Heard was chairman. The obvious amount of thought and work this involved is clear evidence of Dr. Heard’s active participation in the affairs of the Society right up to the time of his death. The loss of his wise leadership is already felt by this committee and especially by its present chairman.

By a decision of the Finance Committee, subsequently endorsed by National Council, the proceeds of the sale of 252 College Street were put in a building fund $80,000 was invested in 9½% guaranteed investment certificates, $85,000 was held in an 11% first mortgage on the property, and the balance of the net proceeds of the sale was held in cash in a savings account. Out of the building fund, expenses directly relating to the housing of the Society, primarily rent and relocation expenses, were to be paid.

The status, as of December 31, 1976, of this fund as well as the Northcott and Paterson Funds is presented in the audited financial statements of the Society.

Respecting the Walter J. Helm Endowment Fund, which is held in trust by the Society, the year-end book value of the fund was $160,240. Earnings amounting to $14,686.65 were paid to the Governors of the University of Toronto for the benefit of the David Dunlap Observatory, in accordance with the terms of the will of the late Walter J. Helm.

Mr. Broughton reported that subsequent to the period covered by the report, the mortgage
has been paid off in full and this money has now been invested in stocks and bonds. Also, Dr. D. A. MacRae, Director of the David Dunlap Observatory, has been appointed to the Finance Committee as an advisor.

(f) Comments re Annual Reports of the Centres. Mrs. Ann Scott, a Toronto Centre delegate, questioned the accuracy of two statements in the Annual Report of the Toronto Centre, as published in the Supplement to the Journal. She indicated that the work of the General Assembly planning committee had not been "greatly slowed by the untimely departure for California by Mr. Ian McLennan" as stated in the report. Further, she noted that membership in the Toronto Centre is not continuing to fall, is now in excess of 600, and is not the lowest in ten years. In reply, the Toronto Centre's Secretary, Mr. Ralph Chou, noted that the report in question had been presented by him to the Annual Meeting of the Centre last autumn, at which time it was approved by the membership in accordance with the by-laws.

He noted that the information contained in the report was based on Centre records and was entirely correct at the time of presentation and approval by the membership.

(g) Roll-Call. A roll call of the Centres revealed that every Centre was represented.

5. Amendments and Additions to By-Laws.

Moved by Dr. Ian Halliday and seconded by Mr. Ralph Chou that the following amendment to the Society’s By-Laws be sanctioned by the membership:

Be it enacted by the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and it is hereby enacted as By-Law No. 4 of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (herein called the Society) as follows:

The first sentence of Paragraph 13(f) of By-Law Number 1 of the Society is hereby repealed and the following sentence is hereby enacted in substitution therefor:

"The Executive Committee shall consist of the President (who may delegate another member of Council to act in his place), the two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Editor and two other members of the Council who shall be appointed at the first meeting of Council following the annual meeting."

Carried, with seven opposed.

6. Election of Officers of the Society

Mr. George Ball and Mr. G. N. Patterson, appointed as scrutineers at the Council meeting of 30 June, 1977, reported the results of the ballot as follows:

| Approval | 552 |
| Not Approved | 4 |
| Spoiled | 20 |
| Total | 576 |

As the result of the Ballot, Dr. Helen S. Hogg was elected Honorary President by acclamation, and Mr. D. J. FitzGerald was elected National Secretary by acclamation.

Moved by Mr. Ralph Chou and seconded by Mr. Peter Ashenhurst that the ballots be destroyed. Carried.

Dr. Batten announced that a committee of Council was going to be set up to review the election procedures in the Society and that it was hoped to have a report for the next General Assembly.
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7. Election of Auditors

Moved by Mr. Peter Broughton and seconded by Mr. Gregory Bailey that Mr. Morris Altman be appointed the Society's Auditor. Carried.

8. Other Business

(a) Report of the Committee on Future Goals and Finances

The committee's chairman, Dr. John R. Percy, outlined the reasons behind the formation of the committee and summarized the processes used in compiling the report, a copy of which is available to any member on request. He thanked all those who had made contributions to the report. He noted that there was a clear need for better communications within the Society, greater understanding, and more participation by members of different backgrounds, interests and geographical locations. At the same time, the committee's studies revealed a great strength in the Society.

Dr. Percy stated that although National Council had received the report, many of the specific recommendations had not yet been acted upon, but would be considered by Council in the near future. However, he noted that Council had already acted in three main areas. First, action was being taken to increase general revenues through the sale of additional Observer's Handbooks. Second, approval in principle has been given for the establishment of a Building Fund and a Local Project Fund. The income from the Building Fund would be used to pay the rental and other operating costs of the present National Office, and the fund would be invested "as soon as possible in a suitable income producing property, with a view to it becoming the future national office of the Society". The income from the Local Projects Fund would provide grants to finance worthwhile capital projects of the Centres. Finally, a Budget Committee would be established to prepare an annual budget for the consideration and approval of Council.

A lengthy discussion followed, with action being taken as follows:

Moved by Mr. Peter Broughton and seconded by Mr. Gregory Bailey that the recommendations of Section 5 of the report be implemented. Carried, with 15 opposed.

Moved by Rev. Gordon Craig and seconded by Mr. Paul Brown that the report be referred to Council for consideration and action. Carried.

(b) Re: Motion by Mr. Jay Anderson and Mr. Ken Hewitt-White Deferred from the 1976 Annual Meeting

The chairman re-opened discussion on this motion, which read as follows:

Moved by Mr. Jay Anderson and seconded by Mr. Ken Hewitt-White that:

1. A proportion of the investment income generated by the money received from the sale of the national headquarters be reserved for the member Centres.

2. That that portion shall be $85,000 of the $185,000 sale price.

3. That the disposition of this income shall be for capital expenditures among the Centres only, and shall not be used for administration or social functions.

4. That the amounts to be distributed shall be determined by the National Council, upon receipt of requests from each Centre but, over the course of the years, an attempt shall be made to apportion the sums distributed according to each Centre's representation on Council.

5. That any unused portion of the aforementioned investment income shall be incorporated back into the fund at the end of the fiscal year.

6. Since the full amount of the $185,000 will not be realized for several years, and since Council has not indicated any interest in immediately spending the $100,000 down pay-
ment, the Council is strongly encouraged to begin disbursing the income realized from the initial payment, in the proportion 85/185, with the lesser amount to apply to this programme.

7. That this motion shall only be amended at a General Assembly meeting or by polling and receiving a vote from all of the Centre representatives.

Mr. Gregory Bailey, delegate from Winnipeg Centre, asked that the following statement be recorded in the Minutes:

1. Winnipeg Centre disassociates itself from the motion tabled last year by a then individual member of the Centre;
2. Winnipeg Centre further regrets any embarrassment that may have been caused by said motion and the delivery thereof;
3. Further that it is the position of Winnipeg Centre to urge each and every delegate to defeat the motion in question.

After discussion, the motion was voted on and defeated unanimously.

(c) Comments by the Chairman of the Property Committee

Mr. Cyril Clark, chairman, reviewed the reasons for the decision to sell the property and building at 252 College Street. He stated that the building was old and in a deteriorative condition. Extensive repairs to the plumbing, roofing, and wiring, as well as to other facilities, were urgently needed and would have cost between $20,000 and $30,000 to complete.

(d) Date of Next General Assembly. The next General Assembly will be hosted by the Edmonton Centre and held in Edmonton, Alberta, May 19 to 21, inclusive.

(e) Sky and Telescope. Mr. Norman Sperling, a member of the editorial staff of Sky and Telescope requested that all Centres send him a copy of their newsletter. He also asked to receive any Canadian news contributions.

(f) Motion of Thanks. Moved by Mr. Harlan Creighton and seconded by Mr. Ralph Chou that the membership express its appreciation to Dr. Batten for his substantial efforts of our behalf during the past year. Carried.

(g) Duty on Telescopes. It was suggested that a representation be made to the federal government, requesting the removal of import taxes on astronomical telescopes.

(h) Motion of Thanks. Moved by Dr. Ian Halliday and seconded by Mr. Paul Brown that a vote of thanks be extended to the McLaughlin Planetarium, the Ontario Science Centre, and the Toronto Centre General Assembly Committee for a most enjoyable General Assembly. Carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1655 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Harlan Creighton,
Recorder

NEW SERVICE AWARDS

The Service Award was established in 1959 and, on recommendation of a special committee of the National Council, is presented to members who have performed outstanding service to a Centre or to the National Society.