

93-2 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society

held at the Westin Hotel, Vail, Colorado at Noon on Sunday 18th July, 1993.

Present: H. Wänke (President), H. McSween (Vice-President), R. Hewins (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), E. Anders (past President), C. Chapman, M. Ebihara, J. Goswami, G. MacPherson, G. Manhès, D. Papanastassiou, T. Swindle.

Apologies: J. Arnold, P. Jakeš, D. Macdougall, D. Stöffler,

Guests: T. King, I. Ridley & P. Jones (item 4); M. Lipschutz, D. Sears (item 3, 5). R. Dietz (item 7)

1. President's Report

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending, and added that he had no specific items to report, but would address each issue as it arose.

1.2. The President asked Council if they would accept a change in the Agenda, to allow Dietz's report on the Barringer Award (item 7) to be given before item 2. Council accepted the change unanimously. (*Dietz's report will appear under item 7 in these minutes*)

2. Secretary's Report

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated, and the Secretary informed of several inaccuracies in the coverage of the report by the Publications Committee. The Secretary had prepared an amended version of the minutes, which was circulated.

Motion: that the amended minutes of the previous meeting be approved (Anders, seconded by Swindle; carried unanimously).

Matters arising:

(i) Gift for Pam Jones. A photograph of all attendees will be taken on Monday. Sears has prepared a frame for the photograph, which may be signed by everyone. In addition, the Organising Committee has purchased a gift of jewellery, which will be presented to Pam at the banquet, together with the photograph. It was felt that the Council should make some gesture of gratitude to Pam for all her efforts on the Society's behalf. Anders suggested that a testimonial be written for her. The suggestion was unanimously accepted, and Anders and Grady requested to "ghost-write" the letter for the President. [*The letter was written, and subsequently presented to Pam Jones at the banquet. After the Council meeting, the suggestion was made that Pam Jones be offered a Life-Membership of the Society. An informal straw-poll of most of the members of Council by the Secretary indicated that Council was deeply divided on the issue. It was therefore decided by the President that no such offer should be made without full discussion by Council.*]

(ii) Financial statement from Copenhagen meeting. The final balance of the Copenhagen meeting was announced as a surplus of ca. \$300. Much of the profits of the meeting had been used by the organisers to provide travel funds for scientists from Eastern-bloc countries to

attend the conference.

Discussion followed, fuelled by a suggestion from Anders that local Organising Committees (OC) should be encouraged to plan for a surplus from the annual meeting, for return to the Treasurer, given the parlous state of the Society's finances. McSween pointed out that OCs were already encouraged to keep registration fees at the minimum possible, and that the Society should not rely on a profit from its annual meeting to keep it solvent. It was agreed that local OCs should be aware of the concern of Council, and that the President, as an *ex officio* member of meeting OCs would discuss this issue with the OC when it arose.

3. Treasurer's Report

3.1. *Society finances*: Over the past 4 - 5 years, the Society has always shown either a small profit or small loss, indicating that the Society was on an even keel as a result of the substantial, and frequent, raising of membership dues. The profit shown last year was only due to the royalties from Pergamon. Without it, the Society would have sustained a loss of *ca.* \$1500. But payments for 1993 came in early, keeping the loss down.

Discussion followed. Lipschutz argued that finances would be at an acceptable level if the membership rates increase proposed in March were to be accepted. Anders suggested that membership rates be raised to \$85, with a reduction of \$35 for those whose institutions subscribed to *Meteoritics*. This suggestion was rejected by Council as unworkable, but it was suggested to Sears that he should write to members whose institutions did not subscribe, with the promise of a reduced rate for back issues, and the threat of increased subscription rates in the future.

Motion: That rates be raised to \$60 for full membership and \$35 for students (Anders, seconded by Swindle; carried unanimously).

Action: The increase in rates will be announced at the Business meeting on Thursday, and carried in the September issue of *Meteoritics*.

3.2. *Meteoritics*: Sears reported an increase by *ca.* 100% in the number of papers submitted to the journal so far this year, and noted that only \$1.50 of the membership subscription went to the Society - the remainder went to *Meteoritics*. The paper by Marvin, reviewing the history of the Society, appeared in the Abstract volume of *Meteoritics*, and had entirely been funded by donations.

Motion: Council moved a vote of thanks to all who had given financial support for the publication of Marvin's paper (Chapman, seconded Anders; carried unanimously).

Action: The Secretary is to request autographed reprints of the article, which will be sent to those who donated funds for its publication.

The cost of mailing *Meteoritics* to institutions overseas was discussed. The journal was sent air-mail to all institutions, without additional cost to them.

Motion: That a slip be placed into overseas institutional copies of *Meteoritics*, saying that it was sent to them *via* air-mail, at no extra cost. (Swindle, seconded Anders; carried unanimously).

Much discussion then followed, concerning the provision of subscriptions for colleagues in "soft currency" countries.

Action: Sears will discuss the issue with Dr Carlé Pieters, to find out how D.P.S. are addressing this issue, and will also supply the President with a list of institutions which had cancelled their subscriptions. The President will talk to Paul Barringer, to determine whether the Barringer Crater Company would be willing to provide some financial support for the project. The President will also announce to the membership at the Business meeting that members had the chance to purchase subscriptions for overseas colleagues

4. Society Meetings

4.1. 1993 - Vail (King, Ridley, Jones): 302 participants had pre-registered: 178 members
44 students
80 guests

So far, only 4 talks had been cancelled.

The local OC had raised \$27000 in sponsor money, of which \$13100 had been used for student travel. There was disappointment that several months of effort had been expended in the organisation of field trips, which had had to be cancelled due to low participation, despite expressions of interest on pre-registration circulars. The same experience had happened at the Monterey meeting two years previously.

Motion: Council advises meeting organisers that the organisation of field-trips in conjunction with annual meetings is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. However, past experience shows that field-trips in the U. S. often fail, owing to low participation. (Anders, seconded Chapman; carried unanimously)

Action: The Secretary will add the above statement to the guidelines for meetings.

4.2. 1994 - Prague (Jakeš): Petr Jakeš was unable to attend the meeting, but had submitted a report to the Secretary, which was read. The meeting will be held in the Congress Palace in the centre of Prague, and last from Monday 25th July to noon on Friday 29th July, with Wednesday afternoon free. There will be two parallel sessions of talks. All the meeting rooms, accommodation and social events will be based in localities readily accessible from a single metro line. There will be a pre-meeting field trip, lasting 3 days, to visit the moldavite strewn field in S. Bohemia.

Accommodation is being offered at a range of hotels, from *ca.* \$60 to *ca.* \$130. The Plenary session will be held in a suite of 14th century rooms, and it is hoped the banquet will be in Prague castle, but that is still under negotiation. The registration fee will be < \$195, and the first circular will be distributed shortly. The President announced that he had received the promise of \$2000 from IAGC to co-sponsor the meeting. Council expressed some concern over the composition of the Programme Committee.

Jakeš also raised the possibility of organising a summer school for graduate students in the week prior to the conference, on the theme "Meteorites and Planetary Sciences", with volunteer members of the Meteoritical Society giving lectures. There was much discussion of this topic by Council. It was not clear at what level the lectures should be pitched; would the students have to undergo a crash course in meteoritics? The suggestion that several public lectures be given instead was rejected on the grounds that both the audience and the aims of such an undertaking would differ from that proposed by Jakeš. Anders suggested that bound copies of the review papers from *Meteoritics* be sent for distribution, but Sears could not say how much this would cost. Generally, however, Council was not in favour of supporting this enterprise.

Action: the Secretary will write to Jakeš on the President's behalf, conveying the sentiments of Council.

4.3. 1995 - Washington D.C. (MacPherson): The proposed dates for the 1995 meeting are 11 - 15th September, somewhat later than usual, but not without precedent. The later date allows advantage to be taken of the facilities supplied by the Smithsonian Institution, which are unavailable earlier in the summer. The weather should also be more congenial. It is planned to hold the banquet in the History of Flight Gallery of the National Air and Space Museum on Thursday 14th

September. It is still too soon to set fixed budgets, but it is hoped that the registration fee will be around \$200. The sum of \$30000 has already been raised from NASA and the Smithsonian.

Motion: that Council accepts the suggested dates in September 1995 for the Washington meeting (McSween, seconded Chapman; motion carried unanimously)

4.4. 1996 - Münster (Stöffler): No progress to report.

4.5. Future meetings: Lipschutz reported that considerable interest had been expressed in Japan, in hosting a meeting. Dietz conveyed a general message from Gerardo Sanches-Rubio, to host a meeting in Mexico City.

5. Publications Committee Report (Macdougall)

In the absence of Macdougall, Lipschutz gave the report of the Publications Committee (PC), in the form of a letter from Macdougall.

5.1. Composition of the Publications Committee. All members of the PC, except Lipschutz, have agreed to remain in office until October, Macdougall in an acting capacity only. Lipschutz has resigned. Macdougall thinks that there is no need for a PC *per se*, given that *Meteoritics* practically looks after itself. He suggested that a 4-member GCA committee be formed, with 2 members from each society, to work closely with Faure. *Ad hoc* committees would then be appointed, when necessary, *e.g.* to negotiate the contract with Pergamon. Lipschutz disagreed with Macdougall's suggestion: he thought it was important that the PC remains in being, with duties outlined in the Meteoritical Society (MS) Bylaws, since these constitute the PC functions as agreed to by the MS and Geochemical Society (GS). There should be close co-operation between the Presidents of GS and MS. Wänke had spoken to Lindsley, President of GS, about the *ad hoc* committee the latter set up to report on publications. Lindsley regretted any misunderstanding, and gave Wänke a copy of a letter he had sent to all members of the PC in June, emphasising the importance of the PC. Wänke read out the letter to Council. Wänke then asked Lindsley to contact Macdougall, to ask him to remain on the PC, for a new term. It was not known whether or not he had done so.

5.2. Re-appointment of Faure as Executive Editor of GCA. Faure's term as Executive Editor (EE) of GCA finishes on December 31st 1994. According to our Constitution, the PC should report on the EE's performance 18 months before the end of his term (*i.e.* now). Lindsley suggested to Macdougall that the EE only be appointed for a 2 year term, rather than the usual 3 years, so that the EE contract finishes when the current Pergamon contract expires. The PC has some problems with the EE's performance, *e.g.* there is still an average delay of > 100 days between acceptance of a manuscript and its publication.

Much discussion took place on the above two issues, which are inextricably linked. An active PC must be appointed very soon, in order to carry out the review of the EE. But should we appoint (with the GS) a new chair of the PC, acceptable to both societies (perhaps asking Macdougall to suggest candidates to Wänke), or should the President ask the current PC to remain in office? Eventually, the following motion was tabled:

Motion: Council has full confidence in the current members of the Publications Committee, and requests that they continue their important work and remain in office for the duration of their terms (Anders, seconded McSween; carried unanimously).

Action: The President will write to current members of the PC and ask them to remain in office, and to review the performance of Faure.

6. Leonard Medal (Arnold)

The Chair of the Leonard Medal Committee (LMC), Jim Arnold, had submitted the recommendations of the committee (with some supporting documentation), that Al Cameron be awarded the Leonard medal, with Ted Ringwood as runner-up. Discussion of the relative merits of the two candidates followed.

Motion: that Council accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, and award the 1994 Leonard Medal to Al Cameron (McSween, seconded MacPherson; carried unanimously).

Some concern was expressed that sufficient documentation about the candidates was not received by Council in time for the Council meeting. The following motion was debated, to tighten up the procedure for submitting documentation from the LMC:

Motion: Council much prefers to ratify the Leonard Medal Committee's choice, rather than referring it back to the committee, as in 1991. Council therefore requests closer adherence to Art. 6 of the Bylaws and Art. A4 and B1, 2 of the "Rules Governing Organisation of the Leonard Medal Committee". Specifically:

1. In the final stages of the selection process, the committee shall consider only those candidates for whom "full nominations" (Rules A4, B1) are available that have been examined by the committee (Rules, B2).
2. The two nominations submitted to Council shall also be "full nominations".
3. These nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary at least 6 weeks before the Council meeting (Bylaws 6/3).
4. The committee will submit a list of its current candidate pool to Council (Rules, B8). (Anders, seconded Swindle; carried unanimously).

Action: The Secretary shall inform the Chair of the LMC of this decision.

7. Barringer Medal (Dietz)

The Chair of the Barringer Medal Committee reported that 9 candidates were currently under consideration for the award. Paul Barringer was contemplating investing an additional sum, to ensure continuance of the award. The initial investment of \$15000 now stood at \$15500.

The proposed candidate for the 1994 medal was Dr D. Roddy of U.S.G.S. Council had not been provided with any documentation regarding the nomination of this candidate. After some discussion, it was suggested that the nomination be referred back to the committee, to allow supporting documentation to be obtained. Dietz then produced the original nomination and seconds, which were read aloud to Council. Copies of the nomination were deposited with the Secretary.

Motion: that Council accept the recommendation of the Barringer Medal Committee, and award the 1994 Barringer Medal to Dr D. Roddy (McSween, seconded Anders; carried with 1 abstention).

8. Any Other Business

Goswami asked about funding for scientists from developing countries to attend meetings. Additional monies might be available from the IAGC, but the President must submit a list of names to the IAGC for consideration.

No further business. Meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Monica M. Grady
2nd August 1993