

98-2 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society

held at the Conference Centre, Trinity College, Dublin at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 26th July, 1998.

- Present:** D. Stöffler (President), M. Drake (Vice-President), H. McSween (Past President), M. M. Grady (Secretary), J. Goldstein (Treasurer), A. Davis, W. Hartmann, G. Herzog, P. Jakes, H. Nagahara, L. Schultz, P. Warren, B. Zanda
- Guests:** G. Consolmagno, I. Sanders (item 5); F. Podosek, D. Sears, M. Lipschutz (item 6); J. Wood (item 7); B. French (item 8); L. Grossman (Treasurer-elect), G. Kurat (Vice-President-elect), T. McCoy, U. Reimold and E. Scott (Councillors-elect).

1. Minutes and approval of Agenda

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending, and welcomed members of Council-elect, present as observers.

1.2. The Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated, and were taken as read. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

2. President's Report

1.1. The President reported that only routine Society business had been transacted between March and July.

1.2. The President reported that the finances of the Society were in good order.

1.2. The President reported that the Society journals continued to be successful, and that there would only be a small increase in subscriptions in 1999, up to \$80 from \$75. Several subscriptions had also been donated to allow libraries in Eastern-bloc countries to receive *MAPS*.

1.3. The President reported that invitations for future meetings had been received from the Vatican City, Münster, Rio de Janeiro and Zurich.

1.4. The President reported that he had received a suggestion that a cheque should accompany the Leonard Medal.

3. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that only routine Society business had been transacted between March and July.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. The Treasurer circulated a report indicating that the finances of the Meteoritical Society (MS) were in good order (Annex I).

4.2. Next year, the Treasurer will be based at the University of Chicago. After some debate, it was agreed that there was no necessity for a new Deputy Treasurer to be appointed.

Motion: Council moves to continue the appointment of G. Herzog as Deputy Treasurer (Drake, seconded Zanda; unanimous).

4.3. The report of the Investment Committee (Annex II) was given verbally by the Treasurer and Lipschutz. Some concern was expressed that a large amount of money (~\$60k) had not yet been invested, but was still in a chequing account. This was partly due to the strength of the money market, and partly due to length of communication time between members of the committee. The rules of government of the Committee have been formulated, and will be circulated to Council (Annex III). The main decision so far made by the committee was that income from the investment would not be used to fund research directly, but for travel, *etc*.

5. Society Meetings

5.1. 1998: Dublin (Sanders): So far, the meeting organisation was going smoothly. Figures for pre-registered attendees were: 221 members, 26 non-members, 34 students, 19 student non-members and 85 guests, a total of 385. Some 214 oral presentations and 80 posters had been scheduled, and 24 student grants awarded.

5.2. 1999: Johannesburg (Reimold): Planning for the 1999 meeting is well under way. The first announcement will be circulated in August (Annex IV). Carolyn Shoemaker will give a major public lecture, supported by the Planetary Society. Reimold requested a waiver of abstract fees, to allow extra funding for student travel. The request was rejected, but it was suggested instead that \$8000 from Society funds be used to support additional student travel within Africa. It was recognised that this sum might not be returned to the Society. It is possible that the Endowment income could be used for this purpose.

Motion: Council moves to advance \$8000 to the Organising Committee to support travel of African students to the meeting (Drake, seconded Hartmann; unanimous).

Motion: Council moves to appoint the Programme Committee suggested by Reimold (Drake, seconded Warren; unanimous).

The President had received a letter from IAGC, offering \$2000 to co-sponsor a session on geo- and cosmothermometry. Reimold was happy to incorporate the session into his plans, and will correspond with the IAGC.

Motion: Council has reviewed the proposal of IAGC to co-sponsor a session at the Johannesburg meeting, supports it, and refers the proposal to the local Organising Committee for action (McSween, seconded Zanda; unanimous).

5.3. 2000: Chicago (Davis): The meeting will be in a conference hotel in downtown Chicago. It is anticipated that there will be a reception at the Field Museum, and possibly a boat trip on Lake Michigan.

5.4. 2001: Vatican City (Consolmagno): A formal invitation has been received from the Vatican, to hold the meeting at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (Annex V).

Motion: Council votes to accept the invitation from Vatican City for the dates of 10 -14th September 2001 for the annual meeting (McSween, seconded Stöffler; unanimous).

Motion: Council votes to accept the proposed Organising Committee, with the addition of the Vice-President and a member of the Chicago Organising Committee (Drake, seconded Warren; unanimous).

5.5. Future meetings: 2002: South California

2003: Three invitations, from Münster, Rio de Janeiro and Zurich, will be discussed at the March Council meeting. Drake noted that a new cosmochemistry facility is being built at Zurich, where the 2004 Goldschmidt meeting is being held.

Action: The President will contact the three institutions and request additional information, plus alternative dates.

6. Publications Committee

6.1. Podosek reported on the recent activities of the Publications Committee (PC; report attached at Annex VI).

Motion: Council moves to agree the recommendation of the Publications Committee, that the proposed new three year contract with Allen Press for *MAPS* is accepted (Grady, seconded McSween; carried unanimously).

6.2. MAPS: The Editor of *MAPS* produced a report (attached at Annex VII), which was circulated. The Editor reported that the cost of producing a paper copy of the Membership Directory had risen, and asked whether Council still felt there was a need for the Directory. Council assured the Editor that it most definitely would like publication of a paper copy of the

Directory every 2 years, as agreed. The Editor also reported the continuing generosity of the Barringer family in donating library subscriptions for the journal for Eastern-bloc countries. Council unanimously made an official vote of thanks to the Barringers for this action. Some discussion followed on the content and appearance of the Society's web-page.

Action: it was noted as a future action point that thought must be given by Council to the Society's web-image.

6.3. MAPS finances. Lipschutz presented an updated report of *MAPS* finances (Annex VIII), which showed that the journal is currently running a deficit of ~ \$8600, rather than the profit of ~ \$6000 predicted at the previous Council meeting. The change was partly a result of staffing problems, and partly a result of Volume 33 running to ~ 1200 rather than the 1000 which had been budgeted.

6.4 GCA: As a result of his ill-health, no report had been received from the Editor of *GCA*. Podosek confirmed that a report would be circulated to Council as soon as it was received by the Publications Committee.

7. Leonard Medal

7.1. Leonard Medal: The Chair of the Leonard Medal Committee (LMC), Wood, had submitted his report, which had been circulated to Council (Annex IX).

Motion: Council moves to accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, that the 1999 medal be awarded to G. Turner (Goldstein, seconded Grady; unanimous).

7.2. Nier Prize: The Chair of the LMC had submitted his report, which had been circulated to Council (Annex IX).

Motion: Council moves to accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, that the 1999 Nier Prize be awarded to B. G. Choi (Goldstein, seconded Grady; unanimous).

7.3. Fellows: The Chair of the LMC had submitted his report, which had been circulated to Council (Annex IX).

Motion: Council moves to accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, that Fellowships be awarded to the following members of the society: Bischoff, Bradley, Brearley, Dreibus-Kapp, Ebihara, Huss, Jull, T. Lee, Tomeoka, Zolensky (Drake, seconded Grady; 1 against; carried).

Action: The Secretary will assemble a list of Fellows of the Society, for inclusion in the files of the Leonard Medal Committee.

8. Barringer Medal

The Barringer Committee has concerns about the number of candidates being proposed (too few). A short report of the Committee, and guidelines for the nomination procedure will be included in the forthcoming Newsletter.

The Chair of the Barringer Medal Committee, French, had submitted his report, which had been circulated to Council (Annex X).

Motion: Council moves to accept the recommendation of the Barringer Medal Committee, that the 1999 medal be awarded to H. J. Melosh (Goldstein, seconded Grady; carried unanimously).

9. Any Other Business

9.1. The Secretary requested that items for the Newsletter should be submitted by 15th September 1998.

9.2. The Lunar and Planetary Institute requested an updated Meteoritical Society mailing list.
Action: The Treasurer will contact Lebecca Simons at the LPI to discuss how best to send the list.

9.3. Following the recent Pellas Memorial Workshop, Prof. E. Anders had approached Drake, with the suggestion that certain members of the Society would like to produce a permanent memorial to Paul Pellas. It was requested that members could make a donation to this memorial, *via* the Treasurer, with donations specified as “Pellas Memorial”. In the US, they would then be tax-deductible. A cheque for the amount raised would then be sent to the Director of the Musée d’Histoire Naturelle, towards a permanent meteorite exhibition.

Motion: Council proposes that designated funds donated in Pellas’ name be forwarded to Paris. (Drake, seconded McSween; unanimous).

9.4. It was reported by Drake that the Business Office of the Geochemical Society (which we support) is now a private company. Could the Society make better use of its services? The Treasurer will pass the information on to the Treasurer-elect.

9.5. No further information has been received regarding the alleged activities of Ron Farrell. Private information indicates that he was not formally charged. The President asked Drake to investigate this with the appropriate US authorities.

Action: Drake will attempt to find out from the Brazilian authorities and from the US Embassy in Rio de Janeiro what was the current situation regarding the thefts and the alleged thief.

There was no further business. Meeting closed at 5.35 p.m.

Monica M. Grady, 6th August 1998